How to use Markdown in Blogspot posts

If your blog is hosted on running Blogspot and you want to use Markdown[1] for your posts, here's how to do it and future-proof your writing in the process.

1. Write your posts in a text editing program *on your computer* and save them *on your computer*. (I use a `yyyy-mm-dd post title.txt` format)

2. Then copy and paste the text into the online Markdown processor[2] and click `Convert` to generate HTML. (Set "Filter" to "both" for extra typographic goodness.)

3. Finally, copy and paste the HTML into a new post in Blogspot.

This has two advantages. First, it future-proofs your blog. No matter what happens, if Blogger ever gets shut down or becomes undesirable to use for any reason, in ten years you'll still have a very useable copy of all your writing. Second, a text-editing program is much less likely to crash than your browser. This approach eliminates the risk of a browser crash causing you to lose large amounts of work.

Getting Blogspot to play nice with your Markdown-generated HTML

This is the area people seem to have trouble with, but it's really quite simple.

1. In Blogspot, go to `Settings` tab, then the `Formatting` section. Set "Convert Line Breaks" to `No`.

2. In your New Posts,

   - Make sure you are using the "Edit HTML" tab
   - Under "Post Options" (at the bottom) make sure
     - "Edit HTML Line Breaks" is set to `Use <br /> tags`
     - "Compose Settings" is set to `Interpret typed HTML`

It's that simple really. Now you can paste in your Markdown-generated HTML without getting extra linebreaks or other wierdnesses.

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1. http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/basics
2. http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/dingus