

# CheapIndex

Looking for a fast, plug&play, one-page script for a wiki, landing page or README?

## CheapIndex offers

- PHP-based: works with older versions
- Create and update content effortlessly: one single markdown file
- Drag and drop setup: No installation
- Zero dependencies: no Composer, no libraries or frameworks required
- Responsive design: built with [PicoCSS](#) for a sleek, modern look on any device
- Lightweight and easy to deploy: open source

## Just do

1. Download the latest [CheapIndex Core](#) under 35 KB zip
2. Unzip and edit ? configure settings in index.php and write content in index.md
3. Drop files ? place both files in your target directory

## Settings "all what you need"

The most common settings and the style file are located in the CheapIndex Basic version's index.php as PHP variables. Of course, you can edit the entire file freely. It's a script and open source.

## Set basics

Set the basic page information in the meta fields. These variables are also used to partly configure your social media visibility including [Open Graph](#) tags. The default template features 'Made with CheapIndex' branding.

```
$set_title = 'Made with CheapIndex - A script for landing page, wiki, readme';
$set_description = 'Grab it now and get to work';
$site_author = 'CheapIndex';
$site_name = 'CheapIndex';
$set_keywords = 'CheapIndex, markdown to HTML, landing page, static site, wiki, parser';
$site_language = 'en';
$favicon_url = 'https://anyplanet.org/cheapindex/assets/favicon.ico';
```

## Developer profile

If you have a GitHub account, its data can be fetched and the page header can be used as a profile card.

```
$show_profile_header = true;
$github_username = 'CaseyCommit';
$set_realname = 'Casey Commit';
```

## Set page typography and background color

You can use most of the fonts offered by GDPR friendly [Bunny Fonts](#). Set your font by assigning its name (Ubuntu, Lato, Inter) to the `$set_font` variable. 'sans-serif' will be used by default. The page background color is changed using HTML color code.

```
$set_font = 'Lato';
$set_backgroundcolor = '#e6f2ff';
$set_dark_backgroundcolor = '#2d2d2d';
```

In dev mode it's set to a fixed value but adjustable

```
:root { --pico-font-family: sans-serif; }
```

## Set time format and default timezone

The page footer shows the timestamp of when the content (index.md) was last updated. With these settings, you can override the Unix timestamp and set a custom timezone. For more information [php.net/date](https://www.php.net/date)

```
$dateFormat = 'd M Y H:i';
date_default_timezone_set('Europe/Helsinki');
```

## Customize footer

By default, the footer is a sticky footer, defined within the CSS settings. You can configure the footer data by assigning values to variables or by commenting out specific lines. These variables allow you to modify the information shown in the footer

```
$print_timezone_footer = 'EEST, UTC+3';
$print_contact_footer = 'Your Info';
```

## Social media sharing

Configure a stylish social media preview image. Use the [Facebook Sharing Debugger](#) or [LinkedIn Post Inspector](#) to ensure your preview looks perfect.

```
$set_social_media_preview = 'https://anyplanet.org/cheapindex/assets/Made-with-CheapIndex-social-media-preview.png';
```

## Forms and iframe

Embed external content effortlessly with the `<iframe>` tag. For the best form experience, simply copy and paste a form embed code from [Google Sheets](#) or [Tally.so](#). We recommend Tally because their free tier offers exceptional styling and customization.

```
<iframe src="https://tally.so/embed/FORM_ID" width="100%" height="500" frameborder="0"></iframe>
```

When writing a Markdown document, always wrap HTML tags like `<iframe>` in backticks ( ` ` ) to display them as text. Otherwise, Markdown will execute the code and embed the element directly into your page.

## Hero sections built using only markdown

Hero banner. A self-contained content block where the image remains inside the content container, while the background color extends to both edges of the viewport on screens wider than 1280px, creating a structured yet visually expansive presentation.

```
<div class="hero">
  ![Hero](hero.webp)
</div>
```

Add text below the image in the same section

```
<div class="hero">
  
  <div class="hero-caption">
    Lorem ipsum and what ever you want
  </div>
</div>
```

Full-bleed hero banner. A self-contained content block where the image stretches edge to edge across the full viewport width. Commonly used for impactful opening visuals that immediately grab attention.

```
<div class="herofull">
  ![Hero](hero.webp)
</div>
```

## Coder's delight. Code snippets you actually need

You can enable line numbers for code blocks by setting true/false

```
$enable_line_numbers = true;
```

Use [NOTE] and [WARN] tags to easily create modern info boxes. You can tweak the colors and the default template follows [Material Design](#) guidelines.

```
$color_note_bg = '#e3f2fd'; // Blue 50
$color_warn_bg = '#fffde7'; // Yellow 50
```

Use true for offline coding (local CSS), false for online deployment (CDN CSS).

```
$local_dev_mode = false;

Path to a local file

$local_pico_css = 'assets/pico.min.css';
```

Built-in smart anchor routing. For example, using ##contact in your markdown automatically generates an accessible H2 tag and link.

```
'contact' => '#contact',
'about'   => '#about',
'info'    => '#info'
```

You don't need to create longer `<h2 id="contact">Contact</h2>`

`http://localhost:8080/#contact`

`https://www.domain.com/directory/#contact`

To use URL/link without # tag you need to setup rewrite-mode on the server. More information "ReWriting for Apache and Nginx" can be found [here](#)

## File permissions

Finally, check that the permissions are correct

```
# Set permissions
chmod 644 index.php

# Set owner (replace 'youruser' with your username)
chown youruser:www-data index.md

# Give owner and group write permission
chmod 664 index.md
```

## The current state and the future is bright

CheapIndex is a fast, write-drop-go tool for wikis, landing pages, READMEs, and portofolios. One file, no builds, no dependencies. Platform-independent, works on Linux, Windows, macOS or any system with PHP support. Just write your page with Markdown syntax and drop it into the folder.

The parser is inspired by [Markdown](#) and [CommonMark](#) but doesn't strictly follow their grammar - it works through regex-based replacement instead. It supports a practical subset of features and includes custom extensions like [NOTE] and [WARN]. Please note that full compatibility with CommonMark or [GitHub Flavored Markdown](#) is not guaranteed.

Already today, you can use CheapIndex as a publishing tool that works seamlessly with manually exported .md files from Dropbox and Notion. This enables collaboration and teamwork within those platforms.

Open source and shared under the permissive [MIT license](#). Stay tuned for more exciting features and enhancements in upcoming versions...

## Contact

We value your privacy. Information submitted through this form is processed by Tally.so on our behalf. We only use the data to respond to your inquiries. For more details, see [Tally's GDPR compliance](#).

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**End of the file. Have a nice day**