

Style Guide

This document defines the styles, vocabulary usage, and content formatting for Sui documentation. Entries are in alphabetical order. A style guide is never finished. Expect continued iterations to add additional styles, additional information to existing styles, and infrequently a change to an existing style.

Reference works for making content accessible:

Don't use color or special symbols to add emphasis to text. Screen readers are designed to interpret bold () and italic () in web pages.

Add captions and alt text that describe the image for someone using a screen reader. What are the important details in the image that someone using a screen reader can't see?

Use alt text to describe what the image shows. Use the caption to explain why the image is meaningful in the context of the page.

An image is not a substitute for text; images should only supplement text. Do not rely on an image to convey information not in text form. For example, an image of a table of values does no one any good if the image fails to display for a host of possible reasons.

Spell out a term or phrase on first use in a topic, followed by the acronym in parentheses. Then use the acronym for subsequent mentions.

Example

You can mint non-fungible tokens (NFTs) using your Sui Wallet. To view an NFT after you mint it, click the NFTs tab of your wallet.

Alerts add emphasis to information. Use Admonitions, a Docusaurus feature, to indicate the alert is a Note, Tip, or Caution. The explanation in the alert must be a complete sentence and use sentence case.

Use Note to add emphasis to information that the reader should know, but could be overlooked when scanning a topic or document. Provide information that prevents users from getting stuck.

The system processes updates only once every 24 hours at UTC 00:00.

Use Tip to give the reader advice that might be helpful, such as a best practice.

Change your home directory after installing the IDE.

Use Caution when the information could cause the user to lose data or to start over. If you instruct a user to delete something, warn them about what happens when they delete it.

Backup your configuration files before you delete your network.

Do:

Use sentence capitalization for section headings, table cells/headers, list items, captions, alt text, and error messages.

Capitalize proper nouns. [Proper nouns](#).

Always capitalize the first word of a new sentence, even when the word is normally lower case, such as Web3 vs web3.

Don't:

Don't use all uppercase for emphasis, use bold instead. (IMPORTANT vs Important)

Don't use bi-capitalization / internal capitalization unless it is part of a brand, such as YouTube or DreamWorks.

Don't capitalize the spelled-out form of an acronym unless it's a proper noun, such as HyperText Markup Language (HTML).

When words are joined by a slash, capitalize the word after the slash if the word before the slash is capitalized.

Example

Country/Region

Turn on the On/Off toggle.

For title capitalization, follow these guidelines:

Use inline code in a sentence to refer to functions and other code pieces. Use codeblocks to show larger sections of a program. All code should be written exactly as it appears in a code editor, so that other people can copy and paste it from documentation directly into a code editor. Do not use images to show code.

Use backticks (``) around individual code within a sentence, which will format it as code in markdown. Do not use quotes, emphasis, or any other formatting to distinguish code from surrounding text.

The display::new call creates a Display .

Use the text before a codeblock to describe what the codeblock does. Use text after the codeblock to point out particular elements in the code and how they work. Do not use codeblocks as a substitute for descriptive text. Codeblocks help readers understand descriptive text in the documentation.

Initiate a codeblock in markdown with three backticks (```).

Example

Use Active voice whenever possible. Active voice is direct, clear, and uses fewer words. Passive voice is often less clear, awkward, and uses more words.

Example

Active: She installed the software.

Passive: The software was installed by her.

Use present tense verbs with the appropriate mood.

There are three grammatical moods:

Use indicative verbs most of the time in conceptual content.

Use imperative verbs for tasks, procedures, and instructions.

Example

Use second person in most cases.

Example

You used to could view transaction history in Sui Explorer.

Rather than:

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Use present tense whenever possible. Use future tense (something will happen) only for events that occur on a future date, such as a product release or trade show.

Do not use future tense when describing a product, or providing guidance in tasks. From the user perspective, it is the present for them when they follow the steps in a task. Consider the example of saving a file.

Example present tense

Click Save to save the updated file.

When you click Save, your device writes the changes to disk.

To save a file after you modify it, click Save.

Example future tense

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While this is technically accurate, it separates the person from the object of the action. This makes it more difficult to parse the sentence for ESL speakers, and is harder to localize.

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In this example, when will the file be written to disk? It happens immediately upon clicking Save. If you check the timestamp on the file, the time reflects the moment at which you clicked Save, not a time after that moment.

Do use serial commas.

Example

Rachael Ray finds inspiration in cooking, her family and her dog.

It is much more clear to use:

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Example

You must install Cargo, Rust, Docker, and the Sui CLI to create a Sui node.

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Use enough words in headings and titles to make it easy to know which link to click on a search results page. One word titles (Installing) do not provide enough information to determine the contents of a topic.

Users search for information to complete a specific task, so help them identify the topic that helps them by using descriptive titles. For example, Get Started . Get started with what? If there are multiple products or programs available it could be anything.

Get Started with Sui is better, but users want to get started with a specific task or user journey with Sui. Instead of Get Started with Sui , describe the specific task or journey, such as Create a Sui Full Node or Sui Validator Guide . Use Get Started as a heading on the Documentation landing page to categorize tasks for new users.

This is a Topic Title

Use sentence casing for section headers.

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Do not use code styling in section headings. Instead, use regular font in the heading and code styling in the content.

Example:

Only use images and screenshots to supplement and help explain text. Images do not replace text. Readers should be able to understand the documentation without the images. However, images can help readers understand the text more clearly.

Use .png when possible, otherwise use .jpg

Images should be at least 400 pixels wide. If an image looks blurry when uploaded, try making a new image in higher resolution.

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You can create flowcharts and similar images directly in Markdown.

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Use a list for a series of items or steps instead of writing them as a sentence. Introduce the list with a description of the list elements ending in a colon (:).

Instead of:

The Build section of the documentation includes topics about: Building with Sui, Using the CLI to Start a Network, Creating Smart Contracts, Sui Tutorial, and Sui Examples.

Use:

The Build section of the documentation includes the following topics:

Use a numbered list when:

Use bulleted lists to list more than two pieces of related information, such as links or terms, that don't need to be in a specific order. Optionally, use a bulleted list for only two items to include a description of the items in the list. Use sentence capitalization in lists, and use punctuation consistently for all list items. Do not use an ending period unless the list item includes a full sentence.

Sui Explorer used to support the following browsers:

Use a term list to define terms or concepts.

Term: A description of the term.

DAG: A directed acyclic graph (DAG) is a data modeling or structuring tool typically used in data architectures.

Use initial / sentence capitalization in list items.

Write out numbers less than 10

Example

The folder contains seven files.

Use digits for larger numbers.

Example

The folder contains 24 files.

In body text, use numbers consistently if using both numbers less than and greater than 10.

Example

One folder contains 7 files, and the other contains 24 files.

For ease of reading, use both words and numbers when you use two numbers for different things together.

Example

The folder contains twenty 12-page documents.

Don't start a sentence with a numeral. Instead, add a qualifier or spell out the number.

Example

At least 20 pieces of candy fell off the table.

Twenty pieces of candy melted.

Measurements should be written as numerals.

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The server processes 2 terabytes of data in 8 milliseconds.

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Include the .mdx extension when creating internal links so that they also work from the source file in GitHub.

Use the topic title of the target topic as the link text for the link in a list or "Learn more" sentences. Do not use a URL as the link text.

To learn more, see [Examples of Sui Smart Contracts](#).

Use keywords from the target topic title when using links inline.

Before you install Sui, make sure to install the [prerequisites](#).

Introduce a procedure with an infinitive verb. Format procedures using a numbered or ordered list.

To get the latest version of the Sui Wallet extension:

When you provide instructions to press keyboard keys, such as Press Enter to continue, use uppercase for the key name and format the key name as bold text.

Capitalize proper nouns throughout.

Proper nouns include:

Example

Sui Wallet

Product names are proper nouns. Capitalize all words of a product name. When referring to a product, use only the product name without "the". When referring specifically to a Sui wallet, use Sui Wallet or Ethos Wallet and not just wallet. Users likely have multiple wallets, and we want to make it clear which wallet. Use wallet generically when referring to the concept of a wallet.

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There are several types of wallets to choose from.

Never share the recovery passphrase for your wallet with anyone.

The Sui network supports the following wallets:

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Center align labels in the Heading row. Left align strings of text. Center align values and Xs or checkmarks.

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or label of the UI element, including capitalization. Do not include special characters, such as ellipses, if included in the element label.

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To open a different file, click File > Open File.

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Click More Transactions to open the Transactions page.

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Example

See the Install topic in the Validator guide for more information.

You can also just refer to a topic by title where it makes sense. See Installing Sui for more information.

Optionally use contractions to provide a more conversational tone. It's OK to use them inconsistently. Be mindful that they can be confusing to non-native speakers.

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Use initial / sentence capitalization in list items.

Write out numbers less than 10

Example

The folder contains seven files.

Use digits for larger numbers.

Example

The folder contains 24 files.

In body text, use numbers consistently if using both numbers less than and greater than 10.

Example

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For ease of reading, use both words and numbers when you use two numbers for different things together.

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The folder contains twenty 12-page documents.

Don't start a sentence with a numeral. Instead, add a qualifier or spell out the number.

Example

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Measurements should be written as numerals.

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To learn more, see [Examples of Sui Smart Contracts](#).

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Proper nouns include:

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Acronyms

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To learn more, see [Examples of Sui Smart Contracts](#).

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When you provide instructions to press keyboard keys, such as Press Enter to continue, use uppercase for the key name and format the key name as bold text.

Capitalize proper nouns throughout.

Proper nouns include:

Example

Sui Wallet

Product names are proper nouns. Capitalize all words of a product name. When referring to a product, use only the product name without “the”. When referring specifically to a Sui wallet, use Sui Wallet or Ethos Wallet and not just wallet. Users likely have multiple wallets, and we want to make it clear which wallet. Use wallet generically when referring to the concept of a wallet.

Example

There are several types of wallets to choose from.

Never share the recovery passphrase for your wallet with anyone.

The Sui network supports the following wallets:

Example

Sui Wallet

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To open a different file, click File > Open File.

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See the Install topic in the Validator guide for more information.

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Describe the section.

Describe the additional entry.

Indented example for the section. (Normal text, indented)

Alerts

Alerts add emphasis to information. Use Admonitions, a Docusaurus feature, to indicate the alert is a Note, Tip, or Caution. The explanation in the alert must be a complete sentence and use sentence case.

Use Note to add emphasis to information that the reader should know, but could be overlooked when scanning a topic or document. Provide information that prevents users from getting stuck.

The system processes updates only once every 24 hours at UTC 00:00.

Use Tip to give the reader advice that might be helpful, such as a best practice.

Change your home directory after installing the IDE.

Use Caution when the information could cause the user to lose data or to start over. If you instruct a user to delete something, warn them about what happens when they delete it.

Backup your configuration files before you delete your network.

Do:

Use sentence capitalization for section headings, table cells/headers, list items, captions, alt text, and error messages.

Capitalize proper nouns. [Proper nouns](#).

Always capitalize the first word of a new sentence, even when the word is normally lower case, such as Web3 vs web3.

Don't:

Don't use all uppercase for emphasis, use bold instead. (IMPORTANT vs Important)

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Initiate a codeblock in markdown with three backticks (``).

Example

Use Active voice whenever possible. Active voice is direct, clear, and uses fewer words. Passive voice is often less clear, awkward, and uses more words.

Example

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Use present tense verbs with the appropriate mood.

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Do use serial commas.

Example

Rachael Ray finds inspiration in cooking, her family and her dog.

It is much more clear to use:

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You must install Cargo, Rust, Docker, and the Sui CLI to create a Sui node.

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Use initial / sentence capitalization in list items.

Write out numbers less than 10

Example

The folder contains seven files.

Use digits for larger numbers.

Example

The folder contains 24 files.

In body text, use numbers consistently if using both numbers less than and greater than 10.

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One folder contains 7 files, and the other contains 24 files.

For ease of reading, use both words and numbers when you use two numbers for different things together.

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The folder contains twenty 12-page documents.

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You can mint an NFT directly from your Sui Wallet.

Avoid using slashes in place of “and” or “or”, such as True / False or True/False. Use True or False, or True | False in code documentation.

If you do use a slash, include a space between the term and slash.

When using fractions, use no spaces, for example 3/4.

Use US English spelling in source content.

Capitalize the first word in the heading. Center align the text. Bold labels in the Header row.

Center align labels in the Heading row. Left align strings of text. Center align values and Xs or checkmarks.

Follow style guidelines for regular body text.

Format UI elements, such as field labels, button names, and menu commands, in bold text. Always match the exact text or label of the UI element, including capitalization. Do not include special characters, such as ellipses, if included in the element label.

Example

*To open a different file, click **File > Open File**.*

Example

*Click **More Transactions** to open the Transactions page.*

Add text and create a link to a site or URL. Provide the URL only when a reader needs to copy it, such as in example code or configuration files.

Refer to pages in the documentation set as “topic”s. A “guide” can comprise many related topics.

Example

See the Install topic in the Validator guide for more information.

You can also just refer to a topic by title where it makes sense. See Installing Sui for more information.

Optionally use contractions to provide a more conversational tone. It's OK to use them inconsistently. Be mindful that they can be confusing to non-native speakers.

Describe the section.

Describe the additional entry.

Indented example for the section. (Normal text, indented)

Grammar

Use Active voice whenever possible. Active voice is direct, clear, and uses fewer words. Passive voice is often less clear, awkward, and uses more words.

Example

Active: She installed the software.

Passive: The software was installed by her.

Use present tense verbs with the appropriate mood.

There are three grammatical moods:

Use indicative verbs most of the time in conceptual content.

Use imperative verbs for tasks, procedures, and instructions.

Example

Use second person in most cases.

Example

You used to could view transaction history in Sui Explorer.

Rather than:

We used to could view transaction history in Sui Explorer.

Use present tense whenever possible. Use future tense (something will happen) only for events that occur on a future date, such as a product release or trade show.

Do not use future tense when describing a product, or providing guidance in tasks. From the user perspective, it is the present for them when they follow the steps in a task. Consider the example of saving a file.

Example present tense

Click Save to save the updated file.

When you click Save, your device writes the changes to disk.

To save a file after you modify it, click Save.

Example future tense

Your changes will be saved when you click Save.

While this is technically accurate, it separates the person from the object of the action. This makes it more difficult to

parse the sentence for ESL speakers, and is harder to localize.

When you click Save, the file will be written to disk.

In this example, when will the file be written to disk? It happens immediately upon clicking Save. If you check the timestamp on the file, the time reflects the moment at which you clicked Save, not a time after that moment.

Do use serial commas.

Example

Rachael Ray finds inspiration in cooking, her family and her dog.

It is much more clear to use:

Rachael Ray finds inspiration in cooking, her family, and her dog.

Example

You must install Cargo, Rust, Docker, and the Sui CLI to create a Sui node.

Use descriptive titles that include keywords to help readers find the information. Use shorter titles in the navigation pane.

Use enough words in headings and titles to make it easy to know which link to click on a search results page. One word titles (Installing) do not provide enough information to determine the contents of a topic.

Users search for information to complete a specific task, so help them identify the topic that helps them by using descriptive titles. For example, Get Started . Get started with what? If there are multiple products or programs available it could be anything.

Get Started with Sui is better, but users want to get started with a specific task or user journey with Sui. Instead of Get Started with Sui , describe the specific task or journey, such as Create a Sui Full Node or Sui Validator Guide . Use Get Started as a heading on the Documentation landing page to categorize tasks for new users.

This is a Topic Title

Use sentence casing for section headers.

This is a section heading

Do not use code styling in section headings. Instead, use regular font in the heading and code styling in the content.

Example:

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Example

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Product names are proper nouns. Capitalize all words of a product name. When referring to a product, use only the product name without "the". When referring specifically to a Sui wallet, use Sui Wallet or Ethos Wallet and not just wallet. Users likely have multiple wallets, and we want to make it clear which wallet. Use wallet generically when referring to the concept of a wallet.

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Write out numbers less than 10

Example

The folder contains seven files.

Use digits for larger numbers.

Example

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Example

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To learn more, see [Examples of Sui Smart Contracts](#).

Use keywords from the target topic title when using links inline.

Before you install Sui, make sure to install the [prerequisites](#).

Introduce a procedure with an infinitive verb. Format procedures using a numbered or ordered list.

To get the latest version of the Sui Wallet extension:

*When you provide instructions to press keyboard keys, such as **Press Enter** to continue, use uppercase for the key name and format the key name as bold text.*

Capitalize proper nouns throughout.

Proper nouns include:

Example

Sui Wallet

Product names are proper nouns. Capitalize all words of a product name. When referring to a product, use only the product name without “the”. When referring specifically to a Sui wallet, use Sui Wallet or Ethos Wallet and not just wallet. Users likely have multiple wallets, and we want to make it clear which wallet. Use wallet generically when referring to the concept of a wallet.

Example

There are several types of wallets to choose from.

Never share the recovery passphrase for your wallet with anyone.

The Sui network supports the following wallets:

Example

Sui Wallet

Example

You can mint an NFT directly from your Sui Wallet.

Avoid using slashes in place of "and" or "or", such as True / False or True/False. Use True or False, or True | False in code documentation.

If you do use a slash, include a space between the term and slash.

When using fractions, use no spaces, for example 3/4.

Use US English spelling in source content.

Capitalize the first word in the heading. Center align the text. Bold labels in the Header row.

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Follow style guidelines for regular body text.

Format UI elements, such as field labels, button names, and menu commands, in bold text. Always match the exact text or label of the UI element, including capitalization. Do not include special characters, such as ellipses, if included in the element label.

Example

*To open a different file, click **File > Open File**.*

Example

*Click **More Transactions** to open the Transactions page.*

Add text and create a link to a site or URL. Provide the URL only when a reader needs to copy it, such as in example code or configuration files.

Refer to pages in the documentation set as “topic”s. A “guide” can comprise many related topics.

Example

*See the **Install** topic in the Validator guide for more information.*

You can also just refer to a topic by title where it makes sense. See [Installing Sui](#) for more information.

Optionally use contractions to provide a more conversational tone. It's OK to use them inconsistently. Be mindful that they can be confusing to non-native speakers.

Describe the section.

Describe the additional entry.

Indented example for the section. (Normal text, indented)

Procedures / Tasks / Instructions

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Slashes

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Tables

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Example

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Example

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UI elements

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URLs and web addresses

Add text and create a link to a site or URL. Provide the URL only when a reader needs to copy it, such as in example code or configuration files.

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Word choice

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Describe the section.

Describe the additional entry.

Indented example for the section. (Normal text, indented)

New section template (Heading 2)

Describe the section.

Describe the additional entry.

Indented example for the section. (Normal text, indented)

Reference Style Guides