Tools and Technologies for Tech Writers 2020

Week 7

reStructuredText

Notices

This document was prepared as a handout for the Middlesex Community College Tools and Technologies for Technical Writers class, Winter semester 2020.

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Contents

reStructuredText resources

reStructuredText

Markup Syntax and Parser Component of DocUtils

https://docutils.sourceforge.io/rst.html

The official site with all the official information about reStructuredText.

Sphinx

https://www.sphinx-doc.org/en/master/index.html

An open source tool set for producing output from reSturcturedText. You can install this locally.

Read the Docs

https://readthedocs.org

A free site for hosting Sphinx projects. You can connect a GitHub repository to this site and it will automagically build your output for you.

Online reStructuredText editor

http://rst.ninjs.org/#

Useful real-time editor/tester of your reST content. Great for experimenting to see if your markup is doing what you expect.

Week 7 Homework

Document how to start a project in reST using Sphinx.

I'm going to recommend you document how you're doing this particular homework assignment. This will give you good practice documenting some setup procedures, potentially some command line tools, and help you understand what you're doing.

Make a new folder in the Homework folder and provide reStructuredText files with the source for output. I can generate output for you if necessary.

Extra Credit

Make an account on https://readthedocs.org, connect it to a new GitHub repo you make with your reST homework in it, and send me the URL to your generated output.

Extra Extra Credit

Transform your content yourself using Sphinx locally.

My first reST project

I have never used reST until I started preparing this class.

I had tried to work with someone else's reST project in the past, so I had Python and Sphinx installed.

Python 3: https://www.python.org/downloads/

To install Sphinx: https://www.sphinx-doc.org/en/master/usage/installation.html

1. I made an account on https://readthedocs.org/.
2. I made a new public GitHub repository, https://github.com/ZoeLawson/mcc_read_the_docs.
3. I cloned my new mcc_read_the_docs locally and used `sphinx-quickstart` to start a new Sphinx project locally. I just accepted all defaults.
4. I made a new reST file and added it to the `index.rst` file.
5. I committed and pushed my changes to GitHub.
6. I made a new project on readthedocs and connected it to the new repo.

Read the docs automatically builds the content. Once the build completes, I can go and see the output: https://mcc-rest.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html.

Read the Docs

zoelawson17 ▼

Projects >
MCC_reST

View Docs

Overview | Downloads | Search | Builds | Versions | ⚙ Admin

Your documentation is building

You'll be able to view your documentation in a minute or two, once your project is done building.

Versions

| latest | Edit |

Build a version

latest ▼

Build version

Repository
https://github.com/ZoeLawson/mcc_read_the_docs.git

Project Slug
mcc-rest

Last Built
No builds yet

Maintainers

Badge
docs unknown ⓘ

Tags
Project has no tags. Add some in your project settings.

Project Privacy Level
Public

Short URLs
mcc-rest.readthedocs.io
mcc-rest.rtfd.io

Default Version