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ASCIIDoctor to Browser Viewing

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Version 2.1b, 03/19/2019

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This is a simple NODE project to be called from the command line to read an ADOC file and launch a browser with the HTML version of the ADOC file.

The project will use `asciidoctor.js` and `Chromium`. The goal is an EXE file that can do the generation.

A PDF version of this document is available at this link

1. Overview

The ASCIIDoctor tool chain requires Ruby and GEM's to be installed. After any change to the ADOC file the ASCIIDoctor command is needed to generate the HTML. A browser must then either be opened and or pointed to the generated HTML file.

The ASCIIDoctor.JS can be installed as an extension to the Chrome browser and the ADOC file can be opened directly using the `ctrl+O` keys.

One of the advantages of this approach is that as the ADOC file is saved the HTML in the Chrome browser is automatically updated. There is no need to run the ASCIIDoctor GEM to generate the HTML file.

Not all users have or use the Chrome browser, so this solution may not work in all cases.

ASCIIDoctor.JS does a good enough job for rapid viewing of ADOC files, for more precision the ASCIIDoctor GEM should be used.

2. Introduction

This ADOC2VIEW would be a command line utility that could be run from PowerShell, File Explorer or called from other programs.

The optional parameter would be the name of the ADOC file to process. The lack of a parameter would show a list of all the ADOC files in the current directory.

The result would be a Chromium browser would be opened and the ADOC file would be processed into an HTML file and displayed.

One of the purposes for this utility is to learn how to use Chromium for NODE based applications.

3. Project Build

This ADOC2View will be as simple a NODE CLI application as possible.

3.1. ASCIIDoctor.JS

This project uses Opal to transpile Asciidoctor, a modern implementation of AsciiDoc, from Ruby to JavaScript to produce asciidoctor.js. The asciidoctor.js script can be run on any JavaScript platform,

including Node.js, Nashorn and, of course, a web browser.

Reference: https://asciidoctor.org/docs/asciidoctor.js/

User Manual: https://asciidoctor-docs.netlify.com/asciidoctor.js/

GitHub Repository: https://github.com/asciidoctor/asciidoctor.js/

Install in the project with

```
npm install --save asciidoctor.js
```

3.2. Chromium

node-chromium allows you to easily add Chromium binaries to your project and use it for automation, testing, web scraping or just for fun.

The main benefit of using Chromium is that it doesn't include all the proprietary modifications made by Google, thus it's more lightweight and more suitable for automation purposes

Reference: https://www.npmjs.com/package/chromium

Chromium developer docs: https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromium/src.git/+/HEAD/docs/README.md

Install in the project with the command below, there are quite a few dependancies and includes binaries.

```
npm install --save chromium
```

4. Document History

Table 1. Document History

Date	Version	Author	Description
03/19/2019	V2.1b	JHRS	Initial version