**Purpose: (from** <http://www.sphinx-doc.org/en/master/intro.html> **)**

This is the documentation for the Sphinx documentation builder. Sphinx is a tool that translates a set of [reStructuredText](http://docutils.sourceforge.net/rst.html) source files into various output formats, automatically producing cross-references, indices, etc. That is, if you have a directory containing a bunch of reST-formatted documents (and possibly subdirectories of docs in there as well), Sphinx can generate a nicely-organized arrangement of HTML files (in some other directory) for easy browsing and navigation. But from the same source, it can also generate a PDF file using LaTeX.

The focus is on hand-written documentation, rather than auto-generated API docs. Though there is support for that kind of documentation as well (which is intended to be freely mixed with hand-written content), if you need pure API docs have a look at [Epydoc](http://epydoc.sourceforge.net/), which also understands reST (360-F01).

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| **Step** | **Major Activity** | **References, Forms and Details** |
| **1** | Download and install sphinx, using one of the following:  **Linux (general):** use a **package manager** to install python3-sphinx or python-sphinx  **Debian/Ubuntu:**  apt-get install python3-sphinx  **RHEL,CentOS:**  yum install python-sphinx  **Windows:**  pip install -U sphinx | * Use pip to install Python packages from [PyPI](https://packaging.python.org/glossary/#term-python-package-index-pypi) |
| **2** | Typesphinx-build --version  **at a command prompt** | * Should see version number of the Sphinx package if installation successful |
| **3** | Create a sphinx documentation directory, and move into it. | * When using quickstart (step 4), the files will be built by default in the current directory |
| **4** | At a command prompt, issue:  sphinx-quickstart  Answer each question asked. Be sure to respond:   * Project name * Project version * path to the source directory * path to the build directory * “yes” to **autodoc** extension * “yes” to **Make.bat** file (Windows) or **Makefile** (Linux) | Sphinx comes with a script called **sphinx-quickstart** that sets up a source directory (step 3 above) and creates a default conf.py with the most useful configuration values from a few questions it asks you.  If you accepted the defaults it will create a source directory with   * **conf.py** – configuration responses * **index.rst** - a master document * **\_build** directory (presently empty)   There is also an automatic “API documentation” generator called **sphinx-apidoc**; see [sphinx-apidoc](http://www.sphinx-doc.org/en/master/man/sphinx-apidoc.html) for details. |
| **5** | First build of documents:  sphinx-build -b html  <sourcedir> <builddir> | * sourcedir is the [source directory](http://www.sphinx-doc.org/en/master/glossary.html#term-source-directory), and * builddir is the directory in which you want to place the built documentation. * the [-b](http://www.sphinx-doc.org/en/master/man/sphinx-build.html#cmdoption-sphinx-build-b) option selects a builder; in this example Sphinx will build HTML files |
| **6** |  |  |