

# The Linux Kernel documentation

This is the top level of the kernel's documentation tree. Kernel documentation, like the kernel itself, is very much a work in progress; that is especially true as we work to integrate our many scattered documents into a coherent whole. Please note that improvements to the documentation are welcome; join the linux-doc list at [vger.kernel.org](mailto:vger.kernel.org) if you want to help out.

## Licensing documentation

The following describes the license of the Linux kernel source code (GPLv2), how to properly mark the license of individual files in the source tree, as well as links to the full license text.

- `ref:kernel_licensing`

**System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-master\Documentation\[linux-master] [Documentation]index.rst, line 28);  
[backlink](#)

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## User-oriented documentation

The following manuals are written for *users* of the kernel – those who are trying to get it to work optimally on a given system.

**System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-master\Documentation\[linux-master] [Documentation]index.rst, line 36)

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```
.. toctree::
   :maxdepth: 2

   admin-guide/index
   kbuild/index
```

## Firmware-related documentation

The following holds information on the kernel's expectations regarding the platform firmwares.

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```
.. toctree::
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   firmware-guide/index
   devicetree/index
```

## Application-developer documentation

The user-space API manual gathers together documents describing aspects of the kernel interface as seen by application developers.

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```
.. toctree::
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   userspace-api/index
```

## Introduction to kernel development

These manuals contain overall information about how to develop the kernel. The kernel community is quite large, with thousands of developers contributing over the course of a year. As with any large community, knowing how things are done will make the process

of getting your changes merged much easier.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-master\Documentation\[linux-master] [Documentation]index.rst, line 74)**

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```
.. toctree::
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   process/index
   dev-tools/index
   doc-guide/index
   kernel-hacking/index
   trace/index
   maintainer/index
   fault-injection/index
   livepatch/index
```

## Kernel API documentation

These books get into the details of how specific kernel subsystems work from the point of view of a kernel developer. Much of the information here is taken directly from the kernel source, with supplemental material added as needed (or at least as we managed to add it â€” probably *not* all that is needed).

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-master\Documentation\[linux-master] [Documentation]index.rst, line 96)**

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```
.. toctree::
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   driver-api/index
   core-api/index
   locking/index
   accounting/index
   block/index
   cdrom/index
   cpu-freq/index
   ide/index
   fb/index
   fpga/index
   hid/index
   i2c/index
   iio/index
   isdn/index
   infiniband/index
   leds/index
   netlabel/index
   networking/index
   pcmcia/index
   power/index
   target/index
   timers/index
   spi/index
   wl/index
   watchdog/index
   virt/index
   input/index
   hwmon/index
   gpu/index
   security/index
   sound/index
   crypto/index
   filesystems/index
   vm/index
   bpf/index
   usb/index
   PCI/index
   scsi/index
   misc-devices/index
   scheduler/index
   mhi/index
   tty/index
   peci/index
```

## Architecture-agnostic documentation

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```
.. toctree::
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   asm-annotations
```

## Architecture-specific documentation

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-master\Documentation\[linux-master] [Documentation]index.rst, line 154)**

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```
.. toctree::
   :maxdepth: 2

   arch
```

## Other documentation

There are several unsorted documents that don't seem to fit on other parts of the documentation body, or may require some adjustments and/or conversion to ReStructured Text format, or are simply too old.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-master\Documentation\[linux-master] [Documentation]index.rst, line 167)**

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```
.. toctree::
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   tools/index
   staging/index
   watch_queue
```

## Translations

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-master\Documentation\[linux-master] [Documentation]index.rst, line 178)**

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```
.. toctree::
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   translations/index
```

## Indices and tables

- [ref`genindex`](#)

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