

Docco: Feature Showcase

Welcome to this demonstration of Docco's capabilities.

1 Key Features.....	1
1.1 Frontmatter	2
1.1.1 Supported Fields	2
1.2 Translation Support with POT/PO Files	2
1.3 General Directive Rule	3
1.4 Inlined Content.....	3
1.4.1 Arguments.....	3
1.4.2 Recursive Inlining	4
1.5 Table of Contents	4
1.6 Page Layout Directives	4
1.6.1 Page Breaks	5
1.6.2 Landscape Orientation	6
1.6.3 Back to Portrait	7
2 Headers & Footers	7
2.1 Configuration	7
2.2 CSS Requirements.....	7
2.3 Example Files.....	8
3 Python Code Execution	8
4 Markdown examples	9
4.1 Images with styling	9
4.2 Tables	9
4.3 More Markdown Examples.....	10
5 Conclusion	10

1 Key Features

This document demonstrates Docco's core capabilities:

- Inline file inclusion with placeholder substitution
- Table of contents generation
- Page layout directives (page breaks and orientation changes)
- Headers and footers with directive support
- Multi-language support
- Python code execution

1.1 Frontmatter

YAML frontmatter at the beginning of the document (between `---` delimiters) configures document processing:

```
---
css:
  - "css/page.css"
  - "css/toc.css"
languages: EN DE FR
---
```

1.1.1 Supported Fields

css - CSS stylesheet(s) for PDF styling. Can be:

- Single file (string): `css: "style.css"`
- Multiple files (inline array): `css: ["page.css", "theme.css"]`
- Multiple files (multiline list):

```
css:
  - "css/page.css"
  - "css/toc.css"
```

Paths are relative to the markdown file. Additional CSS can also be provided via the CLI `--css` argument, which overrides frontmatter styles.

1.2 Translation Support with POT/PO Files

Docco supports professional translation workflows using POT (Portable Object Template) and PO (Portable Object) files. Extract translatable strings from your markdown with:

```
docco extract myfile.md -o translations/
```

This generates a `myfile.pot` file containing all translatable strings. Translators can then create language-specific `.po` files and build translated PDFs with:

```
docco myfile.md --po translations/de.po -o output/
```

This approach provides integration with professional translation tools and services. See the [POT/PO Translation Workflow](#) for complete details.

header and **footer** - HTML files for page headers and footers with placeholder and directive support:

```
header:
  file: "header.html"
  title: "My Document"
  author: "John Doe"
footer:
  file: "footer.html"
  title: "My Document"
```

The file key is required and specifies the HTML file path (relative to the markdown file). All other keys are placeholders that replace `{{key}}` in the HTML file. Header/footer files support all directives (lang, inline, python), enabling dynamic content like dates and language-specific text. See the [Headers & Footers](#) section for details.

1.3 General Directive Rule

Directives can appear anywhere in the document, including in the middle of lines. However, directives inside code blocks (both inline ``code`` and fenced blocks) are **protected** and will not be processed. This allows you to show directive syntax as examples in documentation without triggering them.

1.4 Inlined Content

The inline directive embeds external markdown files with placeholder substitution.

Syntax: `<!-- inline:"foobar.md" key1="value1" key2="value2" -->`

1.4.1 Arguments

All attributes after the path are placeholders. For example, `author="Docco Team"` replaces `{{author}}` in the inlined file. Arguments are optional. Spaces around the inline keyword and colon are accepted. See example below:

This content is inlined, with arguments.

Author: Docco Team Date: 2025-10-26

1.4.2 Recursive Inlining

Inlined markdown files can themselves contain inline directives, allowing for multi-level composition (up to a maximum depth of 10 levels to prevent infinite recursion). This enables modular document structures where content can be composed from multiple nested files.

1.5 Table of Contents

The `<!-- TOC -->` directive generates a hierarchical table of contents with automatic numbering (1, 1.1, 1.2, etc.).

Use `<!-- toc:exclude -->` before a heading to exclude it from the TOC and remove its numbering.

1.6 Page Layout Directives

1.6.1 Page Breaks

This section starts on a **new page** using the `<!-- page break -->` directive.

1.6.2 Landscape Orientation

This section uses **landscape orientation** with the `<!-- landscape -->` directive, providing more horizontal space for wide content.

Q1 Revenue	Q1 Expenses	Q1 Profit	Q2 Revenue	Q2 Expenses	Q2 Profit	Q3 Revenue	Q3 Expenses	Q3 Profit	Q4 Revenue	Q4 Expenses
\$50,000	\$35,000	\$15,000	\$55,000	\$37,000	\$18,000	\$62,000	\$40,000	\$22,000	\$71,000	\$45,000

1.6.3 Back to Portrait

This section returns to **portrait orientation** using the `<!-- portrait -->` directive.

2 Headers & Footers

Docco supports page headers and footers using HTML files with full directive support. Headers and footers are processed through the same pipeline as the main document, allowing for:

- Placeholder substitution
- Dynamic content with `<!-- python -->` directives
- File inclusion with `<!-- inline -->` directives

2.1 Configuration

Headers and footers are configured in the frontmatter:

```
header:
  file: "header.html"
  title: "Docco Feature Showcase"
  author: "Docco Team"
footer:
  file: "footer.html"
  title: "Docco"
```

The file key specifies the HTML file path. All other keys are placeholders that replace `{{key}}` in the HTML file.

2.2 CSS Requirements

Headers and footers require CSS to position them on the page using CSS Paged Media. Example:

```
@page {
  margin-top: 2.5cm;
  margin-bottom: 2.5cm;
  @top-center {
    content: element(header);
  }
}
```

```
@bottom-center {
    content: element(footer);
}
}
```

See `examples/css/header_footer.css` for a complete example.

2.3 Example Files

Header (`header_showcase.html`):

```
<div style="text-align: center; color: #666;">
    {{title}} - {{author}}
</div>
```

Footer (`footer_showcase.html`):

```
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;">
    <span>{{title}} - Generated: <!-- python -->
import datetime
print(datetime.datetime.now().strftime("%Y-%m-%d"))
    <!-- /python --></span>
    <span class="page-number"></span>
</div>
```

3 Python Code Execution

The `<!-- python -->` directive executes Python code and inserts the stdout output into the markdown. This is useful for generating dynamic content.

The output can contain other directives (markdown, inline files, etc.).

Important: Python code execution is disabled by default for security reasons. Use the `--allow-python` flag to enable it.

Syntax: `<!-- python -->code<!-- /python -->`

Example - a loop that outputs digits

This code:

```
print("_", end='')
for i in range(10):
```



```
print(i, end='')
print("_", end='')
```

Returns: 0123456789

4 Markdown examples

Docco relies on [MarkdownIt](#) for rendering markdown to HTML. It fully supports the [Commonmark specs](#) extend with table support. In addition, the [\(block\) attributes](#) plugin is installed.

4.1 Images with styling

Add images using the normal Markdown way, and use {} add style(s) to the images. For example:

```
{.icon}
```

Defines an image with CSS class icon. The style is defined in css/fancy.css. The result:



Or define the style directly: `{style="width:2cm"}`



4.2 Tables

Markdown tables are supported for organizing tabular data:

A	B	C
Table	with borders	inside

A	B	C
Table with borders outside		

A	B	C
Table without borders		

4.3 More Markdown Examples

Check 'm out: <https://markdown-it.github.io/>

5 Conclusion

This document demonstrates all Docco's capabilities.