

# Docco: Feature Showcase

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## 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.