

DocFX Unity Documentation Generator

A simple tool to generate API documentation for Unity projects using DocFX.

Features

- Generates API documentation from C# code
- Creates PDF documentation
- Provides local preview server
- Supports GitHub Pages deployment
- Includes .gitignore rules for local builds
- Unity-specific documentation templates and styles

Quick Start

1. Install DocFX using Chocolatey:

```
choco install docfx
```

Or follow the installation guide at <https://dotnet.github.io/docfx/index.html>
(<https://dotnet.github.io/docfx/index.html>)

2. Copy the `Documentation` folder and `build.ps1` to your project's root directory
3. Configure your documentation:

- a. Update `Documentation/docfx.json`:

```
{
  "sitemap": {
    "baseUrl": "https://yourusername.github.io/YourRepository/"
  },
  "globalMetadata": {
    "_appName": "Your Project Documentation",
    "_appTitle": "Your Project Documentation",
    "_enableSearch": true
  }
}
```

- b. Modify `Documentation/filterConfig.yml`:

```
apiRules:
- include:
  uidRegex: ^YourNamespace
  type: Namespace
```

Replace `YourNamespace` with your project's root namespace.

4. Add the following rules to your `.gitignore` file:

```
# Ignore local DocFX generated files
Documentation/_site/ # Generated website files
Documentation/api/   # Generated API documentation
Documentation/obj/    # DocFX temporary files
```

These rules prevent locally generated documentation from being committed to your repository. This is important because:

5. Documentation should be generated by GitHub Actions for deployment
6. Prevents repository bloat
7. Avoids conflicts between local and CI-generated files
8. Generate documentation by running:

```
powershell -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File build.ps1
```

This will:

- Generate API documentation
- Create PDF files
- Start a local preview server at <http://localhost:8080> (<http://localhost:8080>)

Note: Due to .gitignore rules, the generated files will be available locally but won't be committed to the repository. The official documentation will be generated and deployed by GitHub Actions.

Unity-Specific Setup

This generator is specifically configured for Unity projects and includes:

- Unity-friendly documentation templates
- Proper handling of Unity-specific types and namespaces
- Integration with Unity's XML documentation format

GitHub Pages Setup

1. Setup GitHub Actions:

- Copy `.github/workflows/documentation.yml` from this repository to your project's `.github/workflows/` directory
- If the `.github/workflows` directory doesn't exist, create it first
- Commit and push the changes

2. Configure GitHub Pages:

- Go to your repository's Settings
- Navigate to Pages section
- Set the following:
 - Source: Deploy from a branch
 - Branch: gh-pages
 - Folder: / (root)
- Wait for GitHub Actions to complete the deployment
- Your documentation will be available at <https://yourusername.github.io/YourRepository/>

Local Development Structure

Basic structure for local development and testing:

```
YourProject/
├── Documentation/           # Documentation source files
│   ├── api/                # API documentation (generated, git-ignored)
│   ├── _site/              # Generated website (git-ignored)
│   ├── _pdf/               # Generated PDFs (git-ignored)
│   ├── docfx.json          # DocFX configuration
│   ├── filterConfig.yml    # API filter rules
│   ├── toc.yml             # Table of contents
│   └── index.md            # Documentation home page
├── .gitignore              # Git ignore rules
└── build.ps1               # Build script
```

This is the minimal structure needed for local documentation generation and preview.

Complete Project Structure with GitHub Pages

When setting up GitHub Pages deployment, your project structure will expand to include GitHub Actions workflow:

```
YourProject/
├── .github/
│   └── workflows/          # GitHub Actions workflows
│       └── documentation.yml # Documentation generation workflow
├── Documentation/         # Documentation source files
│   ├── api/               # API documentation (generated, git-ignored)
│   ├── _site/              # Generated website (git-ignored)
│   ├── _pdf/               # Generated PDFs (git-ignored)
│   ├── styles/             # Styles for pdf generation
│   ├── templates           # Design template
│   ├── docfx.json          # DocFX configuration
│   ├── filterConfig.yml    # API filter rules
│   ├── toc.yml             # Table of contents
│   └── index.md            # Documentation home page
├── .gitignore              # Git ignore rules
└── build.ps1               # Build script
```

This structure includes everything needed for both local development and automated deployment.

File Management

- **Source Files:** Templates, configuration files, and markdown content are tracked in git
- **Generated Files:** The following are generated locally but ignored by git:
 - Documentation/_site/ : Generated website files
 - Documentation/api/ : API documentation
 - Documentation/obj/ : DocFX cache and temporary files
- **GitHub Pages:** Documentation is automatically generated and deployed by GitHub Actions

Troubleshooting

Common issues and solutions:

1. PDF Generation Fails

- Make sure wkhtmltopdf is installed
- Check if your documentation contains valid markdown

2. API Documentation Missing

- Verify your namespace in filterConfig.yml
- Ensure your C# files have proper XML documentation comments

3. GitHub Pages Not Updating

- Check GitHub Actions workflow runs
- Verify gh-pages branch exists and is configured correctly

4. Unity Scripts Not Appearing

- Make sure scripts have proper XML documentation comments
- Check if namespace matches filterConfig.yml settings
- Verify script files are included in the build

PDF Generation Details in Github Pages

This project's PDF documentation generation requires a custom approach due to limitations with DocFX's native PDF tools. Instead of using DocFX's built-in methods, we generate the PDF manually by combining individual HTML files. This does not apply to the local pdf generation, it uses docfx pdf in build.ps1.

The current workflow:

Combines each HTML file from the API documentation into a single api_combined.html file. Uses wkhtmltopdf to convert this combined HTML file into Documentation_api.pdf and the main documentation (index.html) into Documentation.pdf. This workaround was implemented after attempts to use DocFX's standard PDF generation methods failed to produce a complete document, especially for API reference pages. Despite efforts to use the DocFX server and toc.yml file, issues such as missing content and connection errors persisted.

Feel free to check out our GitHub Issue for more details and discussion on this approach or suggest alternatives!

License

This project is licensed under the MIT License - see the [LICENSE \(LICENSE\)](#) file for details.

Contributing

Contributions are welcome! Feel free to submit issues and pull requests.

Acknowledgments

- [DocFX \(https://dotnet.github.io/docfx/\)](https://dotnet.github.io/docfx/) for the documentation generation engine
- [Unity \(https://unity.com/\)](https://unity.com/) for the game engine
- [DocFxForUnity \(https://github.com/NormandErwan/DocFxForUnity\)](https://github.com/NormandErwan/DocFxForUnity) - guide for DocFX integration with Unity
- [UnityFX \(https://github.com/code-beans/UnityFX\)](https://github.com/code-beans/UnityFX) for Unity documentation style and templates