

Vivian Hood

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Profile

I create content that that smooths the way for users. I distill technical complexities into a clear, accessible documentation, presented in whatever modality suits your needs, whether that is text, graphics, diagrams, videos, or API references and developer guides.

Experience

Senior Technical Writer, Genesys Cloud Services, Inc. (2005- present)

Created deployment guides, user manuals, help files, integration guides, and videos for a wide range of software types including:

- Traditional servers, UIs, and databases deployed in a customer environment
- Cloud-based services on running on AWS and Azure or deployed in Docker containers and managed using Kubernetes
- Products deployed in a hybrid model, with both on-premises and cloud components.

Working methodologies

- Comfortable with Agile workflows
- Familiar with the use of content management services.
- Experienced in using GitHub, Jenkins pipelines, and a docs-as-code approach to publishing documentation
- Experienced in documenting on a wiki-based documentation platform

Achievements

Created and continue to build the documentation set for a new high-profile product, consisting of two Help files for hybrid deployments (one for customers one for internal users), a Deployment and Operations Guide for hybrid deployments, and a set of user documentation for a cloud-only version of the product with a different user interface, workflow, and functionality. This documentation has received numerous accolades from users.

Mentored junior writers to improve their writing skills and, crucially, to reinforce the need for a customer-centric focus in all writing projects.

Liaised effectively with Professional Services and Customer Care to improve documentation quality, resulting in fewer customer contacts and less time required for troubleshooting.

Performed in-depth technical editing of developer documentation, taking loosely-sketched or preliminary drafts from developers and revising for completeness, clarity, and correctness, as well as polishing the structure and style. This project includes collaboration with developers and professional services colleagues who do not normally work directly with a technical writer.

Brought together subject matter experts to review expert-level integration documentation which resulted in a fruitful collaboration and an innovative new solution for a use case critical to important customers.

Technologies and Tools

Wiki markup

Jira

Aha

Markdown

GitHub

SourceTree

Atom

Jenkins

Bitbucket

HTML/CSS

Lucidchart

Camtasia/Snagit

WordPress

FrameMaker

RoboHelp

REST API documentation - Swagger, wiki-based OpenAPI-compliant REST documentation

Postman

Courses and Certifications

- Complete Agile Scrum Fundamentals Course + Certification by Maurizio Rubio, founder of AgileKB
- Tom Johnson's API documentation course (<https://idratherbewriting.com/learnapidoc/>)
- "Learn API Technical Writing: JSON and XML for Writers" and "Learn API Writing 2: REST for Writers" by Peter Gruenbaum, President, SDK Bridge

Portfolio

<https://github.com/Vivianblithe/Vivianblithe>

Education

A.B. - Mount Holyoke College

M.A., PhD - University of California, Berkeley

References

Available upon request