

# Getting Started with Sphinx

Sphinx is a powerful documentation generator that has many great features for writing technical documentation including:

- Generate web pages, printable PDFs, documents for e-readers (ePub), and more all from the same sources
- You can use reStructuredText or [Markdown](#) to write documentation
- An extensive system of cross-referencing code and documentation
- Syntax highlighted code samples
- A vibrant ecosystem of first and third-party [extensions](#)

## Quick start video

This screencast will help you get started or you can [read our guide below](#).

## Sphinx & Read the Docs



## Quick start

Assuming you have Python already, [install Sphinx](#):

```
$ pip install sphinx
```

Create a directory inside your project to hold your docs:

```
$ cd /path/to/project  
$ mkdir docs
```

Run `sphinx-quickstart` in there:

```
$ cd docs
$ sphinx-quickstart
```

This quick start will walk you through creating the basic configuration; in most cases, you can just accept the defaults. When it's done, you'll have an `index.rst`, a `conf.py` and some other files. Add these to revision control.

Now, edit your `index.rst` and add some information about your project. Include as much detail as you like (refer to the [reStructuredText syntax](#) or [this template](#) if you need help). Build them to see how they look:

```
$ make html
```

Your `index.rst` has been built into `index.html` in your documentation output directory (typically `_build/html/index.html`). Open this file in your web browser to see your docs.

## Your Sphinx Project

### Navigation

[Version 2.x](#)

[Version 1.x](#)

### Quick search

 

## Your Sphinx Project's documentation!

You have successfully built your first Sphinx project. Now you can continue to write your project's documentation so that others can use it.

Now you can:

- Add more documentation, additional `*.rst` files and code samples
- Link your documentation directly to your source code
- Customize your Sphinx output with themes

## Indices and tables

- [Index](#)
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*Fig. 1 Your Sphinx project is built*

Edit your files and rebuild until you like what you see, then commit your changes and push to your public repository. Once you have Sphinx documentation in a public repository, you can start using Read the Docs by [importing your docs](#).

### ⚠ Warning

We strongly recommend to [pin the Sphinx version](#) used for your project to build the docs to avoid potential future incompatibilities.

## Using Markdown with Sphinx

You can use Markdown and reStructuredText in the same Sphinx project. We support this natively on Read the Docs, and you can do it locally:

```
$ pip install recommonmark
```

Then in your `conf.py`:

```
extensions = ['recommonmark']
```

### ⚠ Warning

Markdown doesn't support a lot of the features of Sphinx, like inline markup and directives. However, it works for basic prose content. reStructuredText is the preferred format for

technical documentation, please read [this blog post](#) for motivation.

## External resources

Here are some external resources to help you learn more about Sphinx.

- [Sphinx documentation](#)
- [RestructuredText primer](#)
- [An introduction to Sphinx and Read the Docs for technical writers](#)