

Build or Contribute to Documentation with a Git-based Workflow

FREE UP YOUR TIME OR GIVE A LITTLE BACK: A CASE FOR DOCUMENTATION



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Overview



Why bother?

- Authors and consumers

What are the options?

Our choice: ReadTheDocs

Course outline



Document Your Own Software



Provide awesome “out-of-box” experience

Encourage use – *proper* use

Avoid questions – *repeat* questions

Don't be a bottleneck

Document Someone Else's Package



Give a little back in a low risk way

Help others like yourself

Improve the package as a whole

Great way to get started with OSS

Documentation Options



Wiki: Baked in on many hosting platforms, but no real workflow / approval



Roll your own: Ultimate flexibility, but re-inventing wheel

DocFX

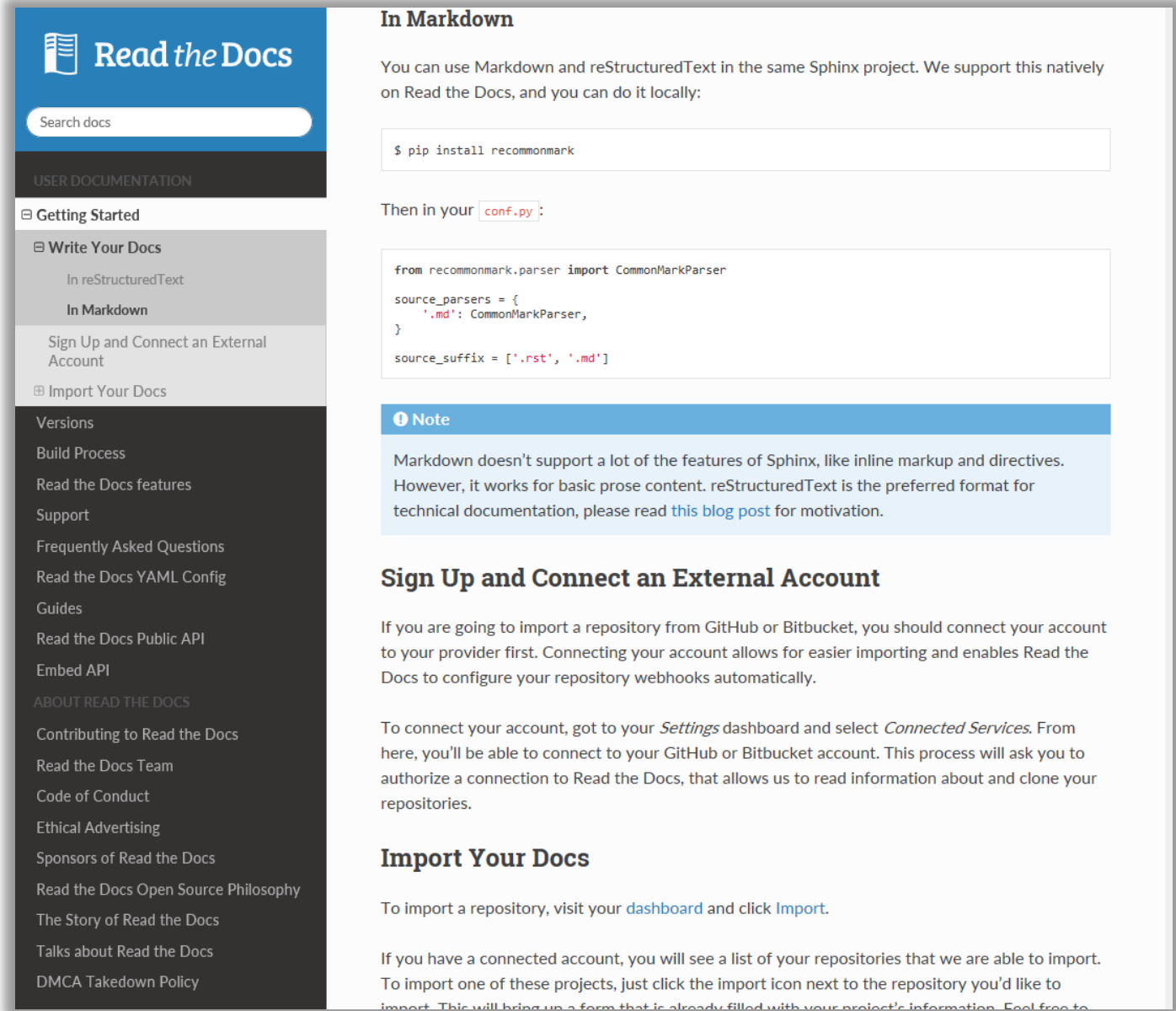
Good for .NET, figure out your own hosting

 Read *the* Docs

Goldilocks platform – right flexibility, right control, right in-the-box features



Built-in search
Easy to navigate
Code embedding
Different “note”
callouts
Mobile friendly



Read the Docs

Search docs

USER DOCUMENTATION

- Getting Started
 - Write Your Docs
 - In reStructuredText
 - In Markdown**
 - Sign Up and Connect an External Account
 - Import Your Docs
- Versions
- Build Process
- Read the Docs features
- Support
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Read the Docs YAML Config
- Guides
- Read the Docs Public API
- Embed API
- ABOUT READ THE DOCS
 - Contributing to Read the Docs
 - Read the Docs Team
 - Code of Conduct
 - Ethical Advertising
 - Sponsors of Read the Docs
 - Read the Docs Open Source Philosophy
 - The Story of Read the Docs
 - Talks about Read the Docs
 - DMCA Takedown Policy

In Markdown

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`:

```
from recommonmark.parser import CommonMarkParser

source_parsers = {
    '.md': CommonMarkParser,
}

source_suffix = ['.rst', '.md']
```

Note

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.

Sign Up and Connect an External Account

If you are going to import a repository from GitHub or Bitbucket, you should connect your account to your provider first. Connecting your account allows for easier importing and enables Read the Docs to configure your repository webhooks automatically.

To connect your account, got to your *Settings* dashboard and select *Connected Services*. From here, you'll be able to connect to your GitHub or Bitbucket account. This process will ask you to authorize a connection to Read the Docs, that allows us to read information about and clone your repositories.

Import Your Docs

To import a repository, visit your [dashboard](#) and click [Import](#).

If you have a connected account, you will see a list of your repositories that we are able to import. To import one of these projects, just click the import icon next to the repository you'd like to import. This will bring up a form that is already filled with your project's information. Feel free to



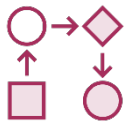
Rest of the Course



Build ReadTheDocs site locally



Create some content using ReStructured Text



Establish and leverage a workflow for updates



Beyond ReStructured Text, Hosting Alternatives

