AsciiDoc for quality documentation

Being able to create digestible and professional documentation has been a passion of mine throughout my entire IT career. It was something I learned through my first job I had here in Switzerland. Eventually I started to enjoy practicing it and today I keep sharpening that skill regulary.

For me the ability to create good documentation with quality content is strongly depending on the tools you have at your disposal. Like the importance of a good knife for a surgeon. I have used and tried several tools like Evernote, MS Word, Confluence, Adobe Illustrator/InDesign and Joplin over the years. The past years I have been focusing on Markdown and recently I discovered AsciiDoc. I find it takes Markdown to the next level addressing various aspects like:

* Available editors and extensions to create and live-preview content
* Ability to integrate with toolchains like GitHub for collaboration across teams and organizations
* Ability to automatically generate different output formats for various target groups and media platforms.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

I am very impressed with AsciiDoc and how seamlessly you can integrate this for yourself or in a team setup or collaboration with clients. Yes, there is a small but manageable learning curve to address getting started. In my opinion the best IDE setup is Visual Studio Code with the AsciiDoc extension. There are also several spellchecking extension assisting with flagging typos. There is also a good number of articles, videos and sample files that will get you a flying start. You will also need to download the necessary converters to create the target format from the adoc file. I needed two smaller AsciiDoc projects before I was conformable with the syntax. I am confident it will take a while before I will be looking for a different setup. AsciiDoc provides me with the necessary structure, speed and tooling I need to produce quality documentation for any audience or target platform where I want to leave something behind in writing.