

Brian Duffield

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Highly experienced and versatile IT professional specializing in technical documentation with a keen focus on Developer and API Documentation. Experienced in the docs-as-code approach to developer documentation. Passionate about developer support including clear API docs, accurate code snippets, and working sample apps. More than 15 years of experience as a professional writer and manager, working in the Enterprise and Cloud software industry. Proven ability to create accurate documentation for highly technical audiences as well as general software users. Demonstrated talent for working on multiple projects, with multiple stakeholders, under demanding deadlines. Thoroughly familiar with Agile software development environment and documentation's role within it.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Staff Technical Writer

(Developer and API Documentation)

Okta Canada
Sept 2020 - current

Joined a small Developer Documentation team, within the Infodev department of Okta, to support guides, concepts, release notes, and API reference material on developer.okta.com using a docs-as-code approach to documentation; specifically focusing on documentation and sample code for Okta's implementation of webhooks (inline hooks and event hooks).

- Developed all documentation for the developer site in Markdown using the Visual Studio Code editor, Git, GitHub; developer site was generated using VuePress.
- Built out the [webhook documentation](#) creating sample projects using the 3rd party site Glitch.com to support the external code; created guides and samples using the ngrok and Hookdeck utilities.
- Created and supported the [Okta glitch team site](#) with code samples for Okta hooks.
- Member of [okta-developer-docs](#) public GitHub repo, reviewed and responded to developer issues and PR requests; my GitHub profile: [brianduffield-okta](#).
- Led efforts to engage with the dev community regarding the documentation site; triaged feedback tickets, monitored internal channels and external sites (MacAdmins) for product and documentation issues; liaised directly with power users on the MacAdmins site to make updates and provide feedback to management.
- Supported multiple engineering teams with regular feature and API support including the Okta webhook products, universal directory, rate limits, system log, event types, error messages, authentication policies, and IGA (Identity Governance).
- Migrated existing API content (in Markdown) to use an updated OAS3 standard using Redocly platform; assisted the migration and drafted content in YAML format for the new site.
- Assisted with developer site front-end support when required, including CSS and scripting.
- On behalf of the department, investigated the use of AI tools with technical communication; personally used AI to create devops scripts to improve the team's delivery and processes (automated 404 testing and creation of Event Type csv file).
- Tested the product and code (webhooks, especially); tested sample apps; tested APIs (Postman); logged bugs, proposed design solutions for products and APIs.
- Provided support for the Okta API Release Notes, released weekly and monthly.
- Assisted with SDK documentation for various repositories and sample apps in multiple languages, including Node.js, Angular, and Java.

Product Documentation and Training Manager
(Tier1 Financial Solutions Application Suite)***Tier1 Financial Solutions***
Oct 2018 - Apr 2020

Promoted to documentation manager supporting existing and new products developed on the Salesforce CRM. Content developed by the team included user guides, online help, and release documentation for end-users, administrators, deployment teams, and developers, as well as training modules. (Tier 1 Financial Solutions is now a part of SS&C Technologies, Inc.)

- Managed a team of four writers to support multiple Tier1 products on rapid release and patch cycles.
- Transitioned original team's disparate Microsoft Word and Excel templates into a standardized MadCap Flare project template and stylesheet.
- Delivered a Product Documentation Team roadmap to executive management, which included goals to improve the product, product documentation, and delivery.
- Created initial drafts of critical developer documentation for Tier1's new development platform, Tier1 Ellipsis Framework.
- Worked closely with UX manager, and team, to standardize the Tier1 application suite's labeling and microcopy, as well as contributed to UX Design Style Guide.
- Managed team to design and create the product training modules delivered to the Tier1 Academy team using D2L library management system (LMS).

Senior Product and Documentation Specialist
(ACE Tempo and ACE Investment Calendar)***Tier1 Financial Solutions***
Jan 2018 - Oct 2018

Hired into a small financial software company to provide documentation and help support for several product lines built on Salesforce CRM and serving the Capital Markets.

- Developed release documentation within an Agile software development environment using Broadcom Rally; engaged in daily standups, sprint planning, story grooming, user story creation, and retrospectives.
- Delivered User Guide, Release Notes, and What's New content in PDF format, per release; uploaded user guide content in MadCap Flare TopNav format to Tier1's Knowledge Portal.
- Assisted QA team in ad hoc product testing, logging bugs, as well as proposing product design improvements to Product Management team.
- Worked on other documentation projects, as requested, including configuration/API documentation, marketing copy, and internal process guides.

Product and Documentation Specialist
(PulseCloud EHR / Pulse Mobile)***Pulse Systems, Feb 2016 - Dec 2017***

Worked on a small team of technical communication professionals to provide documentation and online help support for Pulse Systems' healthcare software.

- Developed documentation within an Agile software development environment using JIRA; participated fully in sprint planning, daily standups, feature planning, pointing sessions, user story creation, and retrospectives.
- Modernized Pulse Cloud's online help system by implementing a MadCap Flare TopNav format, including customized JavaScript; integrated our help files with development in GIT for source control.
- Proposed an architectural improvement to the product by de-coupling the online help from the development builds; worked with technical architecture team to implement.
- Focused aggressively on improving the product, logging over 200 bug and enhancement tickets for PulseCloud, improving functionality and addressing UI/UX issues.

Documentation Manager**Oracle Canada, Mar 2006 - Jun 2015****(Oracle Fusion Middleware / Oracle Fusion Applications / Siebel CRM Platform / Oracle Mobile)**

Managed documentation teams within Oracle focused on developer and platform documentation. Content included installation, development, customization, server admin, tools, security, APIs, help systems, and mobile frameworks. See: <https://docs.oracle.com>.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Technical writing and graphics tools including Visual Studio Code, Markdown, VuePress, MadCap Flare, Adobe FrameMaker and Structured FrameMaker, and Adobe Acrobat.
- Project management experience with Confluence, wikis, JIRA, and Rally; experience with Agile tools and methodology; experience with source-control systems Git, SVN, and SDL.
- [Certified Okta Professional](#)
- Salesforce CRM – Classic and Lightning; Salesforce Trailhead Adventurer status (19 badges); Tier1 Financial Solutions AFR configuration and Ellipsis Framework experience.
- Internet design experience with XML, HTML, HTML5, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, and other scripting languages; knowledge of relational databases and SQL, including experience with Oracle standard, XE, and MySQL databases.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author of ARMA (American Record Management Association) technical report on mobile communications and security (*Mobile Communications and Records and Information Management* - ARMA TR-20-2012 – ISBN ISBN: 978-1-936654-08-6, published in 2012).
- LinkedIn Article: [Help When You Need It](#).
- Published in *National Post*, *Globe and Mail*, *Society of Technical Communications (STC) Intercom Magazine*, and other publications.

EDUCATION

- Computer Science Certificate – Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario
- Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) – Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario
- Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) – Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia