



Style guide and syntax reference

Announcements

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November 06, 2019

This PDF was generated from <https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/announcements/style-and-syntax.html> on April 21, 2020. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

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Style guide and syntax reference

We've updated our [Contributor's guide](#) to cover style and syntax for NetApp Docs stored in GitHub.

NetApp.com

NetApp Cloud Docs

English

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[Style for NetApp docs](#)

AsciiDoc reference

Style guide for NetApp docs

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09/20/2019 | Contributors

Our style is informal: conversational and empathetic, but to the point. Follow these guidelines when writing content for NetApp docs.

Write conversationally

Don't be so formal. Be friendly and empathetic. Speak like you're explaining something to a friend or colleague. Writing in a conversational tone helps you connect with your audience.

Example

Rather than this: "If you experience issues with Cloud Tiering, you can view the health status on the Cluster Dashboard to determine why the error occurred. The health reflects the status of the ONTAP system and the Service Connector."

Do this: "Failures can happen. When they do, Cloud Tiering displays a "Failed" health status on the Cluster Dashboard. View the status to get information about the failure."

On this page:

- Write conversationally
- Get to the point by focusing on the user's goal
- Create pages that focus on a goal or a specific topic
- Use simple words
- Use less words
- Use visuals as much as possible
- It's okay to use contractions
- Avoid passive sentences
- Create scannable content
- Organize content around the user's goal
- Bonus tip

We started storing some of our content in GitHub for several reasons. One important reason was to enable contributions from our community. NetApp docs are better because of feedback from you—our customers, partners, and NetApp employees.

One way to provide feedback is by editing the source content that's stored in GitHub:

Backing up data to Amazon S3

[Edit on GitHub](#) [Request doc changes](#)

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To help you submit content updates, we added the following to our [Contributor's guide](#):

Style guide for NetApp docs

Follow this lightweight guide to understand the style of NetApp docs: conversational and empathetic, but to the point.

AsciiDoc reference

Follow this reference to learn AsciiDoc syntax, which is a lightweight markup language, similar to Markdown.

We hope that you find these resources helpful and take part in contributing to NetApp documentation. If you'd rather not edit the source content directly, you can still provide your feedback by clicking **Request doc changes**. We'll review your feedback and take it from there.

Happy contributing!

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