

ASCIIDOC FOR BEGINNERS



CHINMAYA S. RATHORE

AsciiDoc for Beginners

Chinmaya S. Rathore



walnutpublication
.com

INDIA • UK • USA

Table of Contents

Dedication	iii
Preface	v
Acknowledgments	vii
How to Use this Book	ix
Some Background Information	ix
Book Conventions	x
Download Sample Files from Companion Website	x
Quick Summary of Book Chapters	xi
Appendices	xiv
1. Introduction	1
1.1. A New Way to Create Documents	1
1.2. Moving Beyond Word Processing Software	2
1.3. What is AsciiDoc ?	3
1.4. How does AsciiDoc Document Creation Work ?	5
1.5. How to Get Started	6
1.6. Editing Documents in VS Code	8
1.7. Chapter Summary	9
1.8. Try it Yourself Exercises	10
2. Installing the AsciiDoctor Toolchain	13
2.1. Installing AsciiDoctor on Windows 11	13
2.2. Installing AsciiDoctor on Linux	16
2.3. Installation on MacOS	19
2.4. AsciiDoctor Podman/ Docker Container Install On Linux	21
2.5. AsciiDoctor Podman / Docker Container Install On Windows 11	28
2.6. AsciiDoctor Podman / Docker Container Install On MacOS	28
2.7. Chapter Summary	29
3. The Visual Studio Code Workflow: Live Preview AsciiDoc Documents	31
3.1. What is VS Code ?	31
3.2. VS Code and AsciiDoc Document Creation	31
3.3. Installing VS Code	33
3.4. A Quick Guide to Creating AsciiDoc Documents in VS Code	35
3.5. Generating HTML and PDF Output	39
3.6. Switching Off VS Code 'Quick Suggestions'	40
3.7. Live Preview Style in VS Code	42

3.8. VS Code Install and Setup on 32 bit MX-Linux Libretto.	43
3.9. Installing the Bookmark Extension	47
3.10. Activating GitHub Copilot in VS Code	48
3.11. VS Code is Primarily a Code Editor.....	50
3.12. Chapter Summary.....	50
4. Essential AsciiDoc Markup.....	51
4.1. The AsciiDoc Document.....	51
4.2. Basic Text Formatting Markup	52
4.3. Table of Contents.....	64
4.4. Section Numbers.....	65
4.5. Links.....	66
4.6. Quotes	69
4.7. Admonitions.....	70
4.8. Images	71
4.9. Chapter Summary.....	81
4.10. Try it Yourself	82
5. Substitutions and Footnotes.....	83
5.1. Substitutions	83
5.2. System Defined Attributes	87
5.3. Footnotes.....	88
5.4. Inserting Footnotes Using Substitution	91
5.5. Chapter Summary.....	92
5.6. Try it Yourself	92
6. Inserting Audio and Video in HTML Output	93
6.1. Inserting Audio and Video in HTML Output	93
6.2. Inserting Videos	96
6.3. Controlling the Video Display with More Attributes	103
6.4. Audio and Video Inserts in PDF and EPUB Files	103
6.5. Chapter Summary.....	105
6.6. Try it Yourself	105
7. Creating and Using Delimited Blocks	107
7.1. About Delimited Blocks.....	107
7.2. Comment Block.....	108
7.3. A Listing Block.....	110
7.4. A Verse Block.....	113
7.5. Literal Block.....	115
7.6. Example Block.....	116

7.7. Sidebar Block	118
7.8. Passthrough Block	121
7.9. Source or Code Blocks	123
7.10. Chapter Summary	124
7.11. Try it Yourself	124
8. Conditional Processing	125
8.1. Why Conditional Processing ?	125
8.2. Conditional Directives in AsciiDoc	125
8.3. Testing for System Defined Attributes	138
8.4. Important Considerations while Writing Conditionals	138
8.5. Chapter Summary	139
8.6. Try it Yourself	139
9. Using Icons in Your Document	141
9.1. Working with Icons	141
9.2. Altering the Size of Icons	142
9.3. Altering the Color of Icons (only for HTML Output)	143
9.4. Using Icons as Bullets in a List	143
9.5. Flipping and Rotating Icons (HTML Only)	144
9.6. Icons from Other Libraries (Only for PDF Output)	144
9.7. FI Icon Names	147
9.8. Using your own Image Icons	148
9.9. Missing Icons !	153
9.10. Chapter Summary	155
9.11. Try it Yourself	155
10. Syntax Highlighting for Code	157
10.1. A Touch of Class!	157
10.2. The Syntax Highlighting Sequence	158
10.3. Installing Syntax Highlighters	158
10.4. Adding the Syntax Highlighter Attribute	161
10.5. Adding Code Blocks in Running Text	161
10.6. Rendering the AsciiDoc File with Highlighted Code	162
10.7. Adding line numbers to code blocks	163
10.8. Code Highlighting in EPUB3	165
10.9. Chapter Summary	167
10.10. Try it Yourself	168
11. Tables	169
11.1. Basic Table Syntax	169

11.2. Controlling the Table Width and Column Widths	173
11.3. Justifying Table Cell Contents	173
11.4. CSV Format for Tables and Some Other Handy Tricks	174
11.5. Importing a Excel CSV File	176
11.6. Chapter Summary	177
11.7. Try it Yourself	177
12. Inserting Citations and Creating Styled Bibliography	179
12.1. A Little Background	179
12.2. Installs	180
12.3. Creating a BibTeX File in Zotero	182
12.4. Adding Attributes	183
12.5. Inserting Keys in a BibTeX File	185
12.6. Adding Citations	186
12.7. Rendering Bibliography and Citations to HTML	187
12.8. Some Important cite:<key> Markup Variations	189
12.9. Rendering to PDF	189
12.10. Single Bibliography from Multiple AsciiDoc Documents	191
12.11. Chapter Summary	192
12.12. Try it Yourself	193
13. Creating a Book Index	195
13.1. Some Starting Notes	195
13.2. Creating an Index	196
13.3. Hyperlinked Index	206
13.4. Creating a Composite Index Across Multiple AsciiDoc Files	207
13.5. Some Common Sources of Errors While Creating a Book Index	209
13.6. Chapter Summary	212
13.7. Try Out Yourself	213
14. Math Equations	215
14.1. Writing Math Equations	215
14.2. Creating HTML Output for Equations using AsciiDoctor	217
14.3. Creating PDF Output for Equations using AsciiDoctor-PDF	221
14.4. Using AsciiDoctor-Mathematical	222
14.5. The Workaround to Equation Numbering in PDF Output Using AsciiDoc Markup	223
14.6. Chapter Summary	228
14.7. Try It Yourself	229
15. Overriding the Default AsciiDoctor-PDF Theme for Some Useful Styling Tweaks	231
15.1. Extending or Overriding the Default AsciiDoctor-PDF Theme	231

15.2. Centering Figures and Captions	232
15.3. Adding a Rounded Border around Figures or Images.....	234
15.4. Changing Default Base Fonts in Rendered PDF Documents.....	235
15.5. Changing Background of Blocks	240
15.6. Changing the Color of Headings in PDFs	241
15.7. Extending Default PDF Theme for Print Documents.....	241
15.8. Chapter Summary	241
15.9. Try it Yourself	242
16. Multi-Page HTML Output	243
16.1. Why Multi-Page ?	243
16.2. Chunking the HTML Output from AsciiDoctor	243
16.3. Installing the AsciiDoctor-Multipage Extension	246
16.4. Using the AsciiDoctor Multipage Extension.....	246
16.5. A Worked Example Showing Chunking	247
16.6. Chapter Summary	252
16.7. Try it Yourself	252
17. Creating a Single Document from Multiple AsciiDoc Files.....	255
17.1. Bringing it all Together	255
17.2. Organizing Your Folder Structure	261
17.3. Moving and Reorganizing Content is Super Easy.....	264
17.4. Including External Source Code Files	265
17.5. Extracting and Including line Ranges.....	266
17.6. Conditional Includes	267
17.7. Positioning the Table of Contents.....	270
17.8. Uploading Your HTML Document on a Website	271
17.9. Chapter Summary	274
17.10. Try it Yourself	274
18. Generating EPUB 3 Files.....	277
18.1. Why EPUB ?	277
18.2. Installing AsciiDoctor-EPUB3.....	278
18.3. Verifying the Install	279
18.4. Creating an EPUB Using AsciiDoctor-EPUB3	279
18.5. Piecing up an EPUB from Individual Chapters	280
18.6. Compiling EPUBs from More Detailed Folder Structures.....	284
18.7. Editing EPUB Files	284
18.8. Structure of an EPUB File	284
18.9. Chapter Summary	285

18.10. Try it Yourself	285
19. Converting AsciiDoc Files to MS Word and MS Word files to AsciiDoc.....	287
19.1. Converting an AsciiDoc file to MS Word.....	287
19.2. Converting in a Normal AsciiDoctor Install (Non-Docker).....	287
19.3. AsciiDoc to MS Word Conversion	288
19.4. Converting from a Docker Container on Linux.....	289
19.5. AsciiDoc to MS Word or MS Word to AsciiDoc Using Pandoc Docker Image	290
19.6. Dealing with Possible Pandoc Generated Errors	292
19.7. Converting Word Documents to AsciiDoc.....	293
19.8. Evaluating Conversion Accuracy from MS Word to AsciiDoc	296
19.9. Pandoc on Linux on 32 Bit Machines.....	297
19.10. Chapter Summary	298
19.11. Try it Yourself	298
20. Book Writing in AsciiDoc	301
20.1. Citing Figures, Tables , Examples and Sections.....	301
20.2. Setting up a Page Size for your Print Copy.....	305
20.3. Setting up Margins for Printed Books	306
20.4. Headers and Footers	308
20.5. Screen, Print and Prepress Modes	311
20.6. AsciiDoc PDF Theme for Darker Font Color for Printing.....	315
20.7. Page Numbering for Front Matter and Body Text	316
20.8. Prefixing Level 1 Headings With 'Chapter'.....	316
20.9. Adding Front Cover and Back Cover Images	317
20.10. Changing the Color of Headings for Full Color Printing or On-Screen Reading	318
20.11. Including Front Matter in the Book.....	320
20.12. Creating an Appendix	321
20.13. Creating a Glossary of Key terms	323
20.14. Book Parts	323
20.15. How to Include PDFs in Your AsciiDoc Documents	325
20.16. Helpful Tips for Creating and Editing Book Content	326
20.17. Chapter Summary	328
20.18. Try it Yourself	329
Epilogue	331
Appendix A: Explanation of Commands Used in Command Line Install of AsciiDoctor	333
A.1. Installing Ruby	333
A.2. Installing AsciiDoctor	334
Appendix B: Create a Shell Script to Start AsciiDoctor Docker Container	337

Appendix C: Installing Podman and AsciiDoctor Docker Image on Windows.	341
C.1. Installing Podman CLI.	341
C.2. Installing and Running the Podman Desktop	345
C.3. Pulling Docker Images Using Podman Desktop.	349
C.4. Starting and Stopping the Podman Machine	351
C.5. Troubleshooting Podman Desktop	352
Appendix D: Some Useful Podman Commands.	353
Appendix E: The VS Code Cheatsheet and Some Helpful Hacks	357
E.1. Some Useful VS Code Keyboard (and Mouse) Shortcuts	357
E.2. Spell Checking the Entire Document	358
E.3. Dealing with Heading Level Mismatch Errors	359
E.4. The Bookmark Extension Panel	359
Appendix F: AsciiDoctor Online Resources	361
F.1. AsciiDoc Language Home	361
F.2. AsciiDoctor Writers Guide	361
F.3. Important AsciiDoctor Documentation Pages	361
F.4. Cheat Sheets	362
F.5. Forums	362
F.6. On GitHub.	363
Glossary of Key Terms.	365
Index	371