Writing docs

A beginners guide to writing documentation

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What you should do

- Stop me if anything is unclear

- Ask questions

About me

- Write the Docs

- Read the Docs

What we'll cover

- Why write docs

- What technology

- What to write

Why Write Docs

You will be using your code in 6 months

You want people to use your code

You want people to help out

It makes your code better

You want a (better) community

You want to be a better writer

What Technology

Simple is best

Plain Text

Basic Example

```
Resources
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* Online documentation: http://docs.writethedocs.org/
* Conference: http://conf.writethedocs.org/
```

Basic Example

RESOURCES

- Online documentation: http://docs.writethedocs.org/
- Conference: http://conf.writethedocs.org/

Version Controlled

Canonical

README.md

markdowntutorial.com

Moving beyond a single file

docs/ with files

Sphinx

See: http://write-the-docs.rtfd.org/sphinx

What to write

See: write-the-docs.rtfd.org/oss

Who are you writing for?

What problem your project solves

Small code example

Major Features

Installation Instructions

Tutorial

Links to code and issues

Any other way to get support

A license!

Reference: http://choosealicense.com/

Changelog

Cookbook*

Community Information*

Design Document*

Contributor information*

Conclusion

- Why write docs

- What technology

- What to write

Resources

- http://producingoss.com/en/getting-started.html

- http://docs.writethedocs.org/

- http://jacobian.org/writing/great-documentation/

Interested?

- Thinking about starting a doc meetup
- groups.google.com/group/write-the-docs

THIS IS A LIVING DOCUMENT

- It will be edited and live on

- Other people can give this talk

- Create an intermediate & advanced talk

Questions & Feedback

- Here and now

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