Writing an Awesome README File

Having a README file is crucial for any project in GitHub, GitLab, or any other version control platform. This guide is intended to help you on creating a fabulous README file for all the projects, class activities, and homework assignments that you will create in the Boot Camp as part of your public, professional portfolio.

A good README helps showcase your skills and abilities, so it is worth the time and effort to write a strong README. A well-written README could give you a competitive advantage and even help you land your dream job!

The Anatomy of a README File

While there are many recommendations from industry and academia on what might be included in a README, everyone agrees that you always include a README of some kind in the root folder of your repo. Regardless of the project complexity, the README helps others understand what your repo is for and how they can use it.

In all the repositories that you create in the Boot Camp, at minimum, you should include the following sections in the README file.

```
# Project Title

Just after the title, introduce your project by describing attractively what the
project is about and what is the main problem that inspires you to create this
project or what is the main contribution for the potential user of your project.


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## Technologies

Describe the technologies required to use your project such as programming
languages, libraries, frameworks, and operating systems. Be sure to include the
specific versions of any critical dependencies that you have used in the stable
version of your project.
```

Installation Guide

In this section, you should include detailed installation notes containing code blocks and screenshots.

Examples

This section should include screenshots, code blocks, or animations showing how your project works.

Usage

This section should include screenshots, code blocks, or animations explaining how to use your project.

Contributors

In this section, list all the people who contribute to this project; since you may want to be reached by recruiters or potential collaborators, include your contact e-mail, and optionally your LinkedIn or Twitter profile.

License

When you share a project on a repository, especially a public one, it's important to choose the right license to specify others what they can and can not do with your source code and files. Use this section to include the licence you want to use.

If you are not sure about what license you may use for your project, you can use the choosealicense.com website to decide which license fits your interest.

For projects hosted in GitHub, you may read the "Licensing a repository" article on the GitHub help to understand the implications of not choosing a license for your project.

If you are creating a repository to share a report or writing document, you may want to omit the technologies, installation guide, examples, and usage sections, but not the other sections.

The README Files Maturity Model

Depending on the stage of your project, or how detailed you want to go while writing a README file, the recommendations from the README Maturity Model may help you to boost your README files.

Additional Resources

If you want to learn more about writing awesome README files, you may want to go through the following websites:

- Awesome README. A curated list of awesome READMEs.
- Standard Readme. A standard style proposal for README files.
- Art of README.. This article talks about the origins of README files and about what they do, why they are an absolute necessity, and how to craft them well.
- How to write a good README for your GitHub project? This article discusses good practices of writing README files and includes a few examples.