Release Notes

Release notes are a key component of software documentation. They allow users to understand how the software has changed and what they can expect from the newer release. Release notes enable users to answer an important question: 'Why should I care?' They can advocate key enhancements in the software and demonstrate how it can add value to the customer's business. Release notes are a powerful component that could drive product sales and retain existing customers.

What should it include?

- New features and enhancements
- Resolved issues
- Known issues
- Limitations (Unpopular opinion)
- Compatibility matrix

Who cares?

- Customers:
    o Are the previous issues fixed?
    o What's new? Is it worth upgrading?
- Support:
    o Must be aware of resolved issues, known issues, and limitations to be able to assist customers.
- Technical Writers:
    o Need to be able to document them succinctly.

Proposed release notes

- Release notes for Product XX.XX
- What's new
    - o New features
    - o Enhancements
    - o Important links
- Resolved issues
    - o List of issues resolved with reference to previous versions
- Known issues
    - o List of known issues for the current version
- Limitations
    - o List of limitations for the current version
- System requirements
- Product overview
    - o Product Editions and Offerings
    - o Installations links
    - o Upgrade links
    - o Uninstall links
- Product Compatibility
    - o Support for the product
    - o Compatibility matrix