

Guide: Progressive Outline

1 Function documentation

This section details all the parameters available for the progressive-outline function.

Option	Type	Effect & Expected Values
level-X-mode	string	Defines the visibility of level X (1, 2, or 3). Values: "all", "current", "current-parent", "none".
layout	string	Switch between "vertical" (default) and "horizontal" rendering.
separator	content str	Separator displayed between items in horizontal layout. Ignored in vertical mode.
text-styles	dict	Styles passed to #text (fill, weight, etc.). You can also use a float (e.g., 0.5) as a shortcut to inherit the active style with that opacity.
spacing	dict	Controls vertical space (v-between-X-Y), horizontal indentation (indent-X) and horizontal gap (h-spacing).
show-numbering	bool	Enables or disables the display of heading numbering.
numbering-format	str func auto	Typst numbering format (e.g., "1.1") or custom function. If auto, respects global heading settings. Default: auto.
match-page-only	bool	If true, considers a heading active if it is on the same page, regardless of its Y position. Useful for sidebars.
filter	func	A callback function (heading) => bool to programmatically include or exclude headings.
marker	content dict func	Content displayed before the item. Can be static, a dict by state, or a function (state, level) => content.
clickable	bool	Enables clickable links on headings. Defaults to true.
max-length	int dict	Maximum length of titles before truncation. Ex: 20 or (level-1: 15, level-2: 30). Defaults to none.
use-short-title	bool dict	If true, uses short titles defined via #metadata("...") <short> immediately following headings. Default: false.

2 Layout Modes

progressive-outline supports two main layout modes: "vertical" (the default, based on a grid) and "horizontal" (based on a stack).

2.1 Vertical Layout

This is the default mode, optimized for sidebars and roadmap slides. It supports complex indentation and vertical spacing between different levels.

2.2 Horizontal Layout

The horizontal mode is ideal for headers, footers, and breadcrumbs. Elements are placed side-by-side and can be separated by custom content.

```
progressive-outline(  
  layout: 'horizontal',  
  level-1-mode: 'current',  
  level-2-mode: 'current',  
  separator: ' > ',  
  show-numbering: true  
)
```

Horizontal Breadcrumb

[2 Layout Modes](#) > [2.2 Horizontal Layout](#)

```
progressive-outline(  
  layout: 'horizontal',  
  level-1-mode: 'all',  
  level-2-mode: 'none',  
  separator: [ | ],  
  spacing: {h-spacing: 1em}  
)
```

Horizontal Navigation Bar

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3 Navigation & Interactivity

By default, the outline is interactive: clicking on a section title navigates directly to the corresponding slide in the PDF.

```
progressive-outline()
```

Non-clickable Outline

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In some print-focused or strict layout scenarios, you might want to disable this interactivity.

```
progressive-outline(  
  clickable: false  
)
```

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4 Visibility

This section covers the level-X-mode parameters.

4.1 The ‘current-parent’ mode

The current-parent mode is the most powerful: it only displays the “siblings” of the current element. This allows you to see the plan of the current section without being distracted by other chapters.

```
progressive-outline(  
  level-1-mode: 'all',  
  level-2-mode: 'current-parent'  
)
```

Visibility Demonstration H2

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4.2 Isolation via 'current' mode

If you want an ultra-minimalist rendering, the current mode hides everything except the exact entry where you are located.

```
progressive-outline(  
  level-1-mode: 'current',  
  level-2-mode: 'none'  
)
```

Isolated Visibility Demonstration

Visibility

4.3 Deep nesting (Level 3)

For complex structures, you can enable Level 3. Using current-parent will show siblings at the current depth.

4.3.1 Deep Component A

4.3.2 Deep navigation test

```
progressive-outline(  
  level-2-mode: 'all',  
  level-3-mode: 'current-parent'  
)
```

Level 3 Siblings

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5 Style Customization

The function allows you to modify the appearance of headings based on their state (**completed**, **active**, or **inactive**).

5.1 The 3-state system

By default, headings can be in one of three states:

- **completed**: The heading has already been passed.
- **active**: This is the current heading.
- **inactive**: The heading is yet to come.

```
text-styles: (
  level-1: (
    active: (fill: eastern, weight: 'bold'),
    completed: (fill: gray.lighten(50%)),
    inactive: (fill: black)
  )
)
```

Past, Present, Future

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5.2 Advanced Opacity & Inheritance

Instead of redefining the full style for `inactive` or `completed` states, you can use smart inheritance to adapt the `active` style.

5.2.1 The Float Shortcut (Clone & Fade)

Pass a number (0.0 to 1.0) to automatically clone the active style and apply transparency. 0.2 means 20% opacity (very faint), 1.0 means fully opaque.

```
text-styles: (
  level-1: (
    active: (fill: red, weight: 'black'),
    inactive: 0.2, // Future: very faint
    (20%)
    completed: 0.5 // Past: semi-
    transparent (50%)
  )
)
```

Auto-Fade Shortcut

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5.2.2 Partial Inheritance (Mix & Match)

You can also use a dictionary with an opacity key. This allows you to inherit the active color (faded) while overriding other properties (like weight).

```
text-styles: (
  level-1: (
    active: (fill: blue, weight: 'black'),
    inactive: (
      opacity: 0.5, // 50% of active
      color
        weight: 'regular' // But force
        regular weight
      )
    )
  )
)
```

Fade + Weight Change

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6 Customizable Markers

You can add visual indicators (icons, arrows, etc.) before each item using the `marker` parameter.

6.1 Static Marker

The simplest usage is to pass a single content element (like a symbol) that will be used for all items.

```
progressive-outline(
  marker: sym.triangle.filled.small
)
```

Static Symbol

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6.2 State-based Markers (Dictionary)

You can define different markers for active, inactive, and completed states using a dictionary.

```
progressive-outline(  
  marker: (  
    active: sym.arrow.r,  
    completed: sym.checkmark,  
    inactive: sym.circle.small  
  )  
)
```

State Indicators

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6.3 Dynamic Markers (Function)

For total control, pass a function (state, level) => content. This allows you to vary markers based on depth level and status.

```

progressive-outline(
  marker: (state, level) => {
    if level == 1 { sym.star.filled }
    else if state ==
'active' { sym.arrow.r }
    else { sym.circle.filled.tiny }
  }
)

```

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6.4 Marker Alignment

Use the spacing parameter to fine-tune layout:

- **marker-gap:** Space between marker and text (default 0.5em).
- **marker-width:** Fixed width for the marker container (useful for alignment).

```

progressive-outline(
  marker: (active: sym.arrow.r),
  spacing: (
    marker-gap: 1em,
    marker-width: 1.5em
  )
)

```

Aligned Markers

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7 The anti-jitter mechanism

Anti-jitter ensures that switching from a thin font to a bold one doesn't move the text. We use a ghost box to reserve the maximum space required.

```

text-styles: (
  level-1: (
    active: (weight: 'black', fill:
eastern, size: 1.2em),
    inactive: (weight: 'light', fill:
gray, size: 1.2em)
  )
)

```

Stability Test H1

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7.1 Colors and decorations

Each level can have its own rules for colors, italics, or bold.

```

text-styles: (
  level-2: (
    active: (style: 'italic', fill: blue,
    weight: 'bold'),
    inactive: (fill: luma(200))
  )
)

```

Creative Style H2

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8 Fine-grained spacing management

The spacing dictionary sculpts the rhythm.

8.1 Inter-level spacing

You can define the exact space between an H1 heading and an H2 heading, or between two headings of the same level.

```
spacing: (  
  v-between-1-1: 2em,  
  v-between-1-2: 1.2em,  
  v-between-2-2: 0.8em,  
  v-between-2-1: 1.5em  
)
```

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8.2 Horizontal indentation

Indentation defines the offset to the right for each depth level.

```
spacing: (  
  indent-2: 3em,  
  indent-3: 6em  
)
```

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9 Numbering system

The function relies on Typst's native engine.

9.1 Complex hierarchical formats

The numbering-format parameter accepts all standard Typst models (1, a, i, I, A).

```
show-numbering: true,  
numbering-format: 'I.a.1. '
```

Legal Format

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9.2 Advanced textual prefixes

To use long words like "Chapter" without errors, pass a function. This prevents Typst from interpreting letters like 'a' or 'i' as numbering models.

```
show-numbering: true,  
numbering-format: (...n) => 'Chapter ' +  
numbering('1', ...n) + ' : '
```

Secure 'Chapter' Prefix

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10 Filtering Content

The filter parameter allows you to programmatically include or exclude headings from the outline. It expects a callback function (heading) => boolean.

The heading object passed to the filter contains standard properties (level, body, label, counter) as well as context properties: parent-h1 and parent-h2.

10.1 Label-based filtering

In this document, the current section “Filtering Content” has been tagged with the label <hidden>.

```
progressive-outline(level-2-mode: 'none')
```

Standard Outline (No Filter)

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```
progressive-outline(  
  level-2-mode: 'none',  
  filter: h => h.label != <hidden>  
)
```

Filtered Outline (Label)

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10.2 Logic-based filtering

You can also filter based on any heading property. Here, we filter the list to **keep only** the section named "Visibility".

```
progressive-outline(  
  level-2-mode: 'none',  
  // Keep only the heading named  
  'Visibility'  
  filter: h => h.body == [Visibility]  
)
```

Filtered Outline (Content)

- Visibility

Here, we create a custom rule: show all Level 1 headings, but show Level 2 headings **only** if they belong to the "Visibility" section.

```
progressive-outline(  
  level-2-mode: 'all',  
  filter: h => h.level == 1 or  
    (h.level == 2 and h.parent-h1.body ==  
     [Visibility])  
)
```

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10.3 Recursive filtering

The filtering logic is recursive: if a parent heading (e.g., a Section) is excluded by the filter, all its children (Subsections and Sub-subsections) are automatically hidden as well, even if they would have passed the filter individually.

```
// Hiding a parent automatically hides its
children
progressive-outline(
  level-2-mode: 'all',
  filter: h => h.label != <hidden>
)
```

Recursive Hiding

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11 Advanced Behavior

11.1 Page-based matching

In contexts like sidebars, the outline is rendered in the page margin or background before the slide content. This can cause the active heading detection to fail because the content is technically "after" the sidebar in the document flow.

Setting `match-page-only: true` solves this by considering any heading on the current page as "active", ignoring precise vertical positioning.

match-page-only: true

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12 Title Truncation

For very long titles that might break the layout (especially in sidebars or breadcrumbs), you can use the `max-length` parameter to automatically truncate the text.

12.1 Global Truncation

Setting `max-length` to an integer applies the limit to all heading levels.

```
progressive-outline(  
  max-length: 20  
)
```

Global Truncation (Max 20 chars)

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12.2 Per-level Truncation

You can also pass a dictionary to define different limits for each level.

```
progressive-outline(  
  max-length: {level-1: 10, level-2: 30}  
)
```

Granular Truncation

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12.3 Horizontal Truncation

This is particularly useful for horizontal breadcrumbs to ensure they don't overflow the page width.

```
progressive-outline(  
  layout: 'horizontal',  
  max-length: 15,  
  separator: ' > '  
)
```

Truncated Breadcrumb

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13 Short Titles

Sometimes automatic truncation is not enough, and you want to display a completely different (shorter) text in the outline while keeping the full descriptive title in the content.

You can define a short title by placing a `#metadata("...") <short>` element immediately after the heading.

13.1 Basic Usage

By default, `use-short-title` is `false`. To use your manual short titles, you must set it to `true`.

```
progressive-outline(  
  use-short-title: true,  
  level-1-mode: 'current',  
  level-2-mode: 'current-parent',  
  level-3-mode: 'current-parent'  
)
```

Using Manual Short Titles

Short
Example
Configuration

13.2 Disabling Short Titles

If you want to ignore the metadata and force the original titles, keep `use-short-title: false` (the default).

```
progressive-outline(  
    level-1-mode: 'current',  
    level-2-mode: 'current-parent',  
    level-3-mode: 'current-parent'  
)
```

Original Titles (Default)

Short Titles

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You can also control this per-level: `use-short-title: (level-1: true, level-2: false)`

14 Additional information

It is optimized to work within presentation themes (like `progressive-outline`), but can be used in any standard Typst document.