

MkDocs Documentation Service Configuration

This document provides comprehensive guidance for configuring and managing the MkDocs documentation service within the HX Infrastructure.

Overview

MkDocs is integrated as part of the Operations services tier, providing automated documentation generation and deployment capabilities. The service uses the Material theme and supports GitHub Pages deployment with comprehensive validation and monitoring.

Architecture

Service Integration

```
graph TB
    subgraph "Documentation Service"
        MkDocs[MkDocs Service]
        Material[Material Theme]
        Plugins[Plugins & Extensions]
    end

    subgraph "Infrastructure Services"
        Git[Git Repository]
        GitHub[GitHub Pages]
        Actions[GitHub Actions]
    end

    subgraph "Operations Services"
        Monitoring[Prometheus/Grafana]
        Backup[Backup System]
        Logging[Centralized Logging]
    end

    MkDocs --> Material
    MkDocs --> Plugins
    MkDocs --> Git
    Git --> GitHub
    Git --> Actions
    Actions --> GitHub

    MkDocs --> Monitoring
    MkDocs --> Backup
    MkDocs --> Logging
```

Component Architecture

- **MkDocs Core:** Static site generator with Python-based configuration
- **Material Theme:** Modern, responsive theme with advanced features
- **Plugin Ecosystem:** Search, minification, social cards, git integration
- **Deployment Pipeline:** GitHub Actions or direct gh-deploy integration
- **Monitoring Integration:** Health checks and performance metrics

- **Backup System:** Automated configuration and content backups

Configuration Structure

Role Defaults Location

```
role_defaults/operations/defaults/mkdocs.yml
```

Environment Templates

```
env_templates/  
├── development/mkdocs.yml    # Development-optimized settings  
├── test/mkdocs.yml          # Testing and validation settings  
└── production/mkdocs.yml    # Production-optimized settings
```

Validation Rules

```
vars_validation/mkdocs_validation_rules.yml
```

Core Configuration Variables

Required Variables

Variable	Type	Description	Example
mkdocs_project_root	string	Absolute path to MkDocs project	/opt/docs/material-portal
mkdocs_git_repo	string	Git repository URL	git@github.com:hana-x/docs.git
mkdocs_site_name	string	Documentation site name	HX Infrastructure Documentation

Essential Optional Variables

Variable	Type	Default	Description
mkdocs_version	string	latest	MkDocs version to install
mkdocs_material_version	string	latest	Material theme version
mkdocs_site_url	string	""	Public site URL
mkdocs_deploy_method	string	actions	Deployment method
mkdocs_build_strict	boolean	true	Enable strict build mode

Environment-Specific Configuration

Development Environment

Optimized for rapid development and testing:

```
# Development-specific overrides
mkdocs_build_strict: false      # Allow warnings
mkdocs_dev_server_enabled: true # Enable live preview
mkdocs_social_enabled: false   # Disable social cards for speed
mkdocs_analytics_provider: ""  # No analytics in development
mkdocs_backup_enabled: false   # No backups needed
```

Test Environment

Balanced configuration for validation:

```
# Test-specific overrides
mkdocs_build_strict: true      # Strict validation
mkdocs_social_enabled: false   # Disable for speed
mkdocs_backup_retention_days: 7 # Shorter retention
mkdocs_monitoring_enabled: true # Enable monitoring
```

Production Environment

Full-featured, performance-optimized:

```
# Production-specific overrides
mkdocs_build_strict: true          # Strict validation required
mkdocs_social_enabled: true        # Enable social cards
mkdocs_analytics_provider: "google" # Enable analytics
mkdocs_monitoring_enabled: true    # Full monitoring
mkdocs_backup_enabled: true        # Automated backups
mkdocs_performance_build_parallel: true # Parallel builds
```

Theme Configuration

Material Theme Features

The Material theme provides extensive customization options:

```
mkdocs_theme_features:
# Content features
- content.code.copy          # Copy code blocks
- content.tabs.link          # Link content tabs
- content.tooltips           # Enhanced tooltips

# Navigation features
- navigation.footer          # Footer navigation
- navigation.indexes         # Section index pages
- navigation.sections        # Collapsible sections
- navigation.tabs            # Top-level tabs
- navigation.top             # Back to top button

# Search features
- search.suggest             # Search suggestions
- search.highlight           # Highlight search terms
- search.share               # Share search results
```

Color Schemes

Supports both light and dark modes:

```
mkdocs_theme_palette:
# Light mode
- media: "(prefers-color-scheme: light)"
  scheme: default
  primary: indigo
  accent: indigo
  toggle:
    icon: material/brightness-7
    name: Switch to dark mode

# Dark mode
- media: "(prefers-color-scheme: dark)"
  scheme: slate
  primary: indigo
  accent: indigo
  toggle:
    icon: material/brightness-4
    name: Switch to light mode
```

Plugin Configuration

Core Plugins

Search Plugin

```
- search:
  lang: ["en"]
  separator: '[\\s\\-]+'
```

Minification Plugin

```
- minify:
  minify_html: true
  minify_js: true
  minify_css: true
  htmlmin_opts:
    remove_comments: true
```

Social Cards Plugin

```
- social:
  enabled: true
  cards: true
  cards_layout_options:
    background_color: "#1976d2"
```

Git Integration Plugin

```
- git-revision-date-localized:
  enabled: true
  type: "timeago"
  timezone: "UTC"
  locale: "en"
```

Markdown Extensions

Comprehensive set of extensions for rich content:

```

mkdocs_markdown_extensions:
  # Core extensions
  - admonition           # Call-out boxes
  - attr_list            # HTML attributes
  - def_list             # Definition lists
  - footnotes            # Footnote support
  - md_in_html           # Markdown in HTML
  - toc:                 # Table of contents
      permalink: true

  # PyMdown extensions
  - pymdownx.details     # Collapsible details
  - pymdownx.emoji:      # Emoji support
      emoji_index: !!python/name:material.extensions.emoji.twemoji
      emoji_generator: !!python/name:material.extensions.emoji.to_svg
  - pymdownx.highlight:  # Code highlighting
      anchor_linenums: true
  - pymdownx.superfences: # Advanced code blocks
      custom_fences:
        - name: mermaid
          class: mermaid
          format: !!python/name:pymdownx.superfences.fence_code_format
  - pymdownx.tabbed:      # Content tabs
      alternate_style: true

```

Deployment Configuration

GitHub Actions Deployment

Recommended for production environments:

```

mkdocs_deploy_method: "actions"
vault_mkdocs_github_token: "{{ vault_mkdocs_prod_github_token }}"

```

GitHub Actions Workflow

The system automatically generates a workflow file:

```
# .github/workflows/gh-pages.yml
name: Deploy MkDocs site
on:
  push:
    branches: [ "main" ]
permissions:
  contents: write
jobs:
  build-deploy:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - uses: actions/checkout@v4
      - uses: actions/setup-python@v5
        with:
          python-version: "3.x"
      - name: Install dependencies
        run: |
          pip install mkdocs mkdocs-material mkdocs-material-extensions
      - name: Build and deploy
        run: mkdocs gh-deploy --force
```

Direct gh-deploy

For simpler setups:

```
mkdocs_deploy_method: "gh-deploy"
```

Validation and Quality Assurance

Validation Rules

The system includes comprehensive validation:

Repository URL Validation

```
def validate_mkdocs_git_repo(repo_url):
    github_ssh_pattern = r'^git@github\.com:[a-zA-Z0-9_-]+/[a-zA-Z0-9_\.]+\\.git$'
    github_https_pattern = r'^https://github\.com/[a-zA-Z0-9_-]+/[a-zA-Z0-9_\.]+(?:\.\.git)?$'

    if re.match(github_ssh_pattern, repo_url) or re.match(github_https_pattern,
repo_url):
        return True, "Valid GitHub repository URL"
    else:
        return False, "Invalid repository URL format"
```

Theme Configuration Validation

```
def validate_mkdocs_theme_configuration(theme_config):
    if theme_config.get('name') == 'material':
        features = theme_config.get('features', [])
        if 'navigation.tabs' in features and 'navigation.sections' in features:
            return True, "Valid Material theme configuration"
    return True, "Theme configuration is valid"
```

Build Validation

Strict mode validation ensures content quality:

```
mkdocs_build_strict: true # Fail on warnings
```

This catches:

- Broken internal links
- Missing referenced files
- Invalid configuration syntax
- Plugin configuration errors

Monitoring and Health Checks

Health Check Script

The system includes a comprehensive health check script:

```
./scripts/health_check_mkdocs.sh
```

This validates:

- Configuration file syntax
- Project structure integrity
- Dependency availability
- Git repository accessibility
- Build process functionality
- Deployment configuration

Monitoring Integration

MkDocs integrates with the monitoring stack:

```
mkdocs_monitoring:  
  enabled: true  
  health_checks:  
    build_status: true  
    site_availability: true  
    deployment_status: true  
  metrics:  
    build_time: true  
    site_size: true  
    page_count: true
```


Backup and Recovery

Automated Backups

```
mkdocs_backup:
  enabled: true
  schedule: "0 2 * * *" # Daily at 2 AM
  retention_days: 30
  include:
    - "docs/"
    - "mkdocs.yml"
    - ".github/"
    - "overrides/"
```

Manual Backup

```
# Create configuration backup
make backup-config

# Create MkDocs-specific backup
./scripts/backup_config.sh --type config --env prod
```

Performance Optimization

Build Performance

```
mkdocs_performance:
  build:
    parallel: true # Enable parallel processing
    cache_enabled: true # Enable build caching
  assets:
    compression: true # Compress assets
    minification: true # Minify HTML/CSS/JS
```

Content Delivery

- **Static Site Generation:** Pre-built HTML for fast delivery
- **Asset Optimization:** Minified CSS, JS, and optimized images
- **Social Card Generation:** Automated Open Graph images
- **Search Index:** Client-side search with optimized index

Security Configuration

Content Security Policy

```
mkdocs_security:
  csp:
    enabled: true
    directives:
      default_src: ["'self'"]
      script_src: ["'self'", "'unsafe-inline'"]
      style_src: ["'self'", "'unsafe-inline'"]
      img_src: ["'self'", "data:", "https:"]
```

File Permissions

```
mkdocs_security:  
  file_permissions:  
    directories: "0755"  
    files: "0644"  
    executables: "0755"
```

Troubleshooting

Common Issues

Build Failures

Symptom: MkDocs build fails with validation errors

Solution:

1. Check configuration syntax: `make check-syntax`
2. Validate variables: `make validate-mkdocs`
3. Review build logs for specific errors
4. Test locally: `mkdocs build --strict`

Deployment Issues

Symptom: GitHub Pages deployment fails

Solution:

1. Verify GitHub token permissions
2. Check repository settings (Pages source)
3. Review GitHub Actions logs
4. Validate workflow file syntax

Theme Issues

Symptom: Material theme features not working

Solution:

1. Verify Material theme version compatibility
2. Check feature configuration syntax
3. Review plugin dependencies
4. Test with minimal configuration

Diagnostic Commands

```
# Validate MkDocs configuration  
make validate-mkdocs  
  
# Run comprehensive health check  
./scripts/health_check_mkdocs.sh  
  
# Test build locally  
cd /opt/docs/material-portal  
mkdocs build --strict  
  
# Check deployment configuration  
make validate-prod
```

Best Practices

Content Organization

1. **Logical Structure:** Organize content in clear hierarchies
2. **Consistent Naming:** Use consistent file and directory naming
3. **Cross-References:** Use relative links for internal references
4. **Asset Management:** Store images and assets in organized directories

Configuration Management

1. **Environment Separation:** Use environment-specific configurations
2. **Version Pinning:** Pin specific versions in production
3. **Validation:** Always validate before deployment
4. **Backup:** Maintain regular configuration backups

Performance Optimization

1. **Image Optimization:** Optimize images before adding to documentation
2. **Content Caching:** Leverage build caching for faster builds
3. **Minimal Plugins:** Only enable necessary plugins
4. **Asset Minification:** Enable minification in production

Security Considerations

1. **Token Management:** Store GitHub tokens securely in Ansible Vault
2. **Access Control:** Limit repository access appropriately
3. **Content Review:** Review content before publication
4. **Regular Updates:** Keep MkDocs and plugins updated

Integration Examples

Basic Setup

```
# inventories/group_vars/operations.yml
mkdocs_project_root: "/opt/docs/hx-portal"
mkdocs_git_repo: "git@github.com:hana-x/infrastructure-docs.git"
mkdocs_site_name: "HX Infrastructure Documentation"
mkdocs_site_url: "https://docs.hana-x.ai"
mkdocs_deploy_method: "actions"
```

Advanced Configuration

```
# Production environment with full features
mkdocs_theme_features:
  - content.code.copy
  - content.tabs.link
  - navigation.footer
  - navigation.indexes
  - navigation.sections
  - navigation.tabs
  - navigation.top
  - search.suggest
  - search.highlight

mkdocs_plugins:
  - search
  - minify
  - social
  - git-revision-date-localized

mkdocs_extra:
  analytics:
    provider: "google"
    property: "G-XXXXXXXXXX"
  social:
    - icon: fontawesome/brands/github
      link: "https://github.com/hana-x/infrastructure"
```

Migration Guide

From Legacy Documentation

1. **Content Migration:** Convert existing documentation to Markdown
2. **Structure Mapping:** Map old structure to MkDocs navigation
3. **Asset Migration:** Move images and assets to docs directory
4. **Link Updates:** Update internal links to new structure
5. **Validation:** Validate migrated content with strict builds

Version Upgrades

1. **Backup:** Create full backup before upgrade
2. **Test Environment:** Test upgrade in non-production environment
3. **Dependency Check:** Verify plugin compatibility
4. **Configuration Review:** Review configuration for deprecated options
5. **Validation:** Run full validation suite after upgrade

This documentation provides comprehensive guidance for implementing and managing MkDocs within the HX Infrastructure. For additional support, refer to the troubleshooting section or consult the official MkDocs and Material theme documentation.