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rdoc



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RDoc produces HTML and online documentation for Ruby projects.

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## RDoc - Ruby Documentation System

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## Description¶ ↑

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RDoc produces HTML and command-line documentation for Ruby projects. RDoc includes the `rdoc` and `ri` tools for generating and displaying documentation from the command-line.

## Generating Documentation¶ ↑

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Once installed, you can create documentation using the `rdoc` command

```
$ rdoc [options] [names...]
```

For an up-to-date option summary, type

```
$ rdoc --help
```

A typical use might be to generate documentation for a package of Ruby source (such as RDoc itself).

```
$ rdoc
```

This command generates documentation for all the Ruby and C source files in and below the current directory. These will be stored in a documentation tree starting in the subdirectory `doc`.

You can make this slightly more useful for your readers by having the index page contain the documentation for the primary file. In our case, we could type

```
% rdoc --main README.rdoc
```

You'll find information on the various formatting tricks you can use in comment blocks in the documentation this generates.

RDoc uses file extensions to determine how to process each file. File names ending `.rb` and `.rbw` are assumed to be Ruby source. Files ending `.c` are parsed as C files. All other files are assumed to contain just Markup-style markup (with or without leading `'#'` comment markers). If directory names are passed to RDoc, they are scanned recursively for C and Ruby source files only.

To generate documentation using `rake` see [RDoc::Task](#).

To generate documentation programmatically:

```
gem 'rdoc'
require 'rdoc/rdoc'

options = RDoc::Options.new
# see RDoc::Options

rdoc = RDoc::RDoc.new
rdoc.document options
# see RDoc::RDoc
```

## Writing Documentation ¶ ↑

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To write documentation for RDoc place a comment above the class, module, method, constant, or attribute you want documented:

```
##
# This class represents an arbitrary shape by a series of points.

class Shape

  ##
  # Creates a new shape described by a +polyline+.
  #
  # If the +polyline+ does not end at the same point it started at the
  # first pointed is copied and placed at the end of the line.
  #
  # An ArgumentError is raised if the line crosses itself, but shapes may
```

⋮ README.rdoc

---

```
def initialize polyline
  # ...
end

end
```

The default comment markup format is the RDoc::Markup format. TomDoc, Markdown and RD format comments are also supported. You can set the default comment format for your entire project by creating a `.rdoc_options` file. See RDoc::Options@Saved+Options for instructions on creating one. You can also set the comment format for a single file through the `:markup:` directive, but this is only recommended if you wish to switch markup formats. See RDoc::Markup@Other+directives.

Comments can contain directives that tell RDoc information that it cannot otherwise discover through parsing. See `RDoc::Markup@Directives` to control what is or is not documented, to define method arguments or to break up methods in a class by topic. See `RDoc::Parser::Ruby` for directives used to teach RDoc about metaprogrammed methods.

See `RDoc::Parser::C` for documenting C extensions with RDoc.

To determine how well your project is documented run `rdoc -C lib` to get a documentation coverage report. `rdoc -C1 lib` includes parameter names in the documentation coverage report.

## Bugs ¶ ↑

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See `CONTRIBUTING@Bugs` for information on filing a bug report. It's OK to file a bug report for anything you're having a problem with. If you can't figure out how to make RDoc produce the output you like that is probably a documentation bug.

## License ¶ ↑

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RDoc is free software, and may be redistributed under the terms specified in `LICENSE.rdoc`.

## Warranty ¶ ↑

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Releases 84

 v6.6.0 Latest  
last month

+ 83 releases

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## Packages

No packages published

Used by 693k



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## Languages

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