

Documentation By, and For, Developers

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Acknowledgement of Country

San Francisco Bay Area Peninsula
Ancestral home of the Ramaytush Ohlone

Who Are the Docs For?

If nobody is reading them, there is no reason to write them.

Example: Configuration Management

- ▶ Ansible
- ▶ Salt
- ▶ Puppet

You

Look out for number 1!

Team

Context

Contributors

People working on the core

Contributors

People working on the core (for first time)

Developers

People building on the code

Developers

People building on the code plugins

Users

- ▶ Writing YAML files
- ▶ Debugging YAML files

Hats, not People

Everyone plays multiple roles!

Personas

- ▶ Specific
- ▶ Concrete

What Do They Know?

(And remember)

What Do They Want?

Not bedside reading

What Are They Missing?

Next step

What Are They Looking For?

- ▶ Keywords
- ▶ Search terms

Quickstart

Generic guide

Quickstart: Good For

Making something work

Quickstart: Bad For

Troubleshooting

Tutorial

A specific path

Tutorial: Good For

Common use-case

Tutorial: Bad For

Advanced use-cases

Example

Documented sample

Example: Good For

Copy-paste

Example: Bad For

Non-specific use case

Reference

What does each thing mean/do

Reference: Good For

Answering specific questions
Troubleshooting

Reference: Bad For

Getting started fast

Actually F

FAQ: Good For

Common stumbling blocks

FAQ: Bad For

Advocacy

Screenshots

Rol

Diagrams

- ▶ Great: Relationships
- ▶ Good: Structure
- ▶ Bad: Control flow

Tables

Lists

- ▶ Bullet
- ▶ Number
- ▶ Title

Examples

Self-contained vs. Succint

Paying Rent

Why is this sentence here?

Why is this word here? ?

Why is this word here?

Feedback

Robots don't read

Accuracy

Be concrete, be correct

Redundant

Do Repeat Yourself

Organized

Order
Cohesion

Clear Titles

Is this what I need?

Learning Flow

Now, draw the rest of the owl

Unambiguous

Technical terms are useful

Keep Scope

Who is this for?

What are they trying to do?

What Not To Do

Comic relief

Fancy Words

Thusly, this API could be utilized in the denounment of your function...

Assumptions

You already know...

Insult

Simply, all you need to to do is just pass a prime argument.
Obviously, Mersenne primes are not a good idea here...

Verbose

count: How long to count for.
This should be a number between 1 and 5.
For example, 6 would not be a valid argument.
Neither would 0.
The number 9 is right out!

Terse

count: The count

Inexact words

count: The bound of the count

Tangents

count: Number between 1 and 5 to count to. The performance here depend on exactly how you define big-O notation. In general, there are several ways to define big-O which are not completely equivalent.

Rationalize

count: A number from 1 to 5. Limiting the upper bound of the implementation much simpler, and few people need to count to higher numbers.

Mislead

count: Any number is supported here.

Language Native

- ▶ JavaDoc
- ▶ Rust docs
- ▶ Etc.

Sphinx

- ▶ Integration with (some) language native
- ▶ Long-form prose
- ▶ Semantic mark-up

MkDocs

- ▶ Easier to get started
- ▶ Less functionality

Continuous Integration

- ▶ Minimum: Build
- ▶ Medium: Lint/checks
- ▶ Awesome: Generate with link

Example Testing

Partial line selection

Development Flow

Doc change in same patch?

In or Out?

- ▶ Reference
- ▶ Tutorials
- ▶ Guides
- ▶ Who is authoring?

Final Thoughts

- ▶ Just do it
- ▶ You'll suck
- ▶ You'll get better

Take Aways

- ▶ Who?
- ▶ What?
- ▶ How?