









Source Code Management Using Git & GitHub

Technical Documentation





Getting Started with Sphinx

Sphinx is a powerful documentation generator that has many great features for writing technical documentation including:

- Generate web pages, printable PDFs, documents for e-readers (ePub), and more all from the same sources
- You can use restructured Text or Markdown to write documentation
- An extensive system of cross-referencing code and documentation
- Syntax highlighted code samples
- A vibrant ecosystem of first and third-party extensions

To install sphinx its mandatory to have python software installed in your pc.

Assuming you have Python already, install Sphinx:

pip install sphinx

Create a directory inside your project to hold your docs:

cd /path/to/project mkdir docs

Run sphinx-quickstart in there:

cd docs Sphinx-quickstart

This quick start will walk you through creating the basic configuration; in most cases, you can just accept the defaults. When it's done, you'll have an index.rst, a conf.py and some other files. Add these to revision control.

Using Markdown with Sphinx

You can use Markdown and reStructuredText in the same Sphinx project. We support this natively on Read the Docs, and you can do it locally:









Getting Started with MkDocs

MkDocs is a documentation generator that focuses on speed and simplicity. It has many great features including:

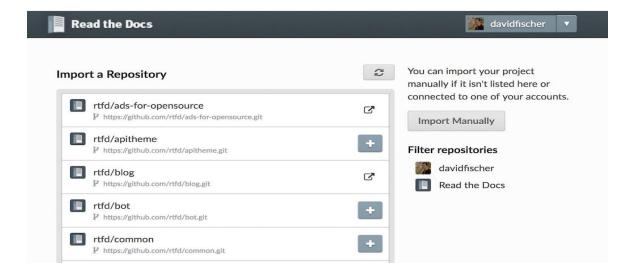
- Preview your documentation as you write it
- Easy customization with themes and extensions
- Writing documentation with Markdown.

Note:

MkDocs is a great choice for building technical documentation. However, Read the Docs also supports Sphinx, another tool for writing and building documentation.

Importing Your Documentation

To import a public documentation repository, visit your Read the Docs dashboard and click Import. For private repositories, please use Read the Docs for Business. If you have connected your Read the Docs account to GitHub, Bitbucket, or GitLab, you will see a list of your repositories that we are able to import. To import one of these projects, just click the import icon next to the repository you'd like to import. This will bring up a form that is already filled with your project's information. Feel free to edit any of these properties, and then click Next to build your documentation.











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Manually import your docs

If you do not have a connected account, you will need to select Import Manually and enter the information for your repository yourself. You will also need to manually configure the webhook for your repository as well. When importing your project, you will be asked for the repository URL, along with some other information for your new project. The URL is normally the URL or path name you'd use to checkout, clone, or branch your repository.

Add an optional homepage URL and some tags, and then click Next.

Once your project is created, you'll need to manually configure the repository webhook if you would like to have new changes trigger builds for your project on Read the Docs. Go to your project's Admin > Integrations page to configure a new webhook,

Building your documentation

Within a few seconds of completing the import process, your code will automatically be fetched from your repository, and the documentation will be built. Check out our Build Process page to learn more about how Read the Docs builds your docs, and to troubleshoot any issues that arise.

Some documentation projects require additional configuration to build such as specifying a certain version of Python or installing additional dependencies. You can configure these settings in a readthedocs.yml file. See our Configuration File docs for more details.

It is also important to note that the default version of Sphinx is v1.8.5. If choosing to build your documentation other than this, it must be specified.

Read the Docs will host multiple versions of your code. You can read more about how to use this well on our Versioned Documentation page.

If you have any more trouble, don't hesitate to reach out to us. The Support page has more information on getting in touch.

Versioned Documentation

We support multiple versions of your documentation, so that users can find the exact docs for the version they are using. We build this on top of the version control system that you're already using. Each version on Read the Docs is just a tag or branch in your repository.

You don't need to change how you version your code, we work with whatever process you are already using. If you don't have a process, we can recommend one.









Downloadable Documentation

Read the Docs supports building multiple formats for Sphinx-based projects:

- PDF
- ePub
- Zipped HTML

This means that every commit that you push will automatically update your PDFs as well as your HTML.

This feature is great for users who are about to get on a plane and want offline docs, as well as being able to ship your entire set of documentation as one file.

