

The fundamentals of technical writing | MUNI 2023

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Introduction to Asciidoctor

Asciidoctor is a fast text processor and publishing toolchain for converting AsciiDoc content to HTML5, DocBook and other formats. It is written in Ruby and packaged as a Ruby gem.

Installing Asciidoctor

Prerequisites

- Asciidoctor requires one of the following implementations of Ruby:
 - Ruby version 2.3 or later
 - JRuby version 9.1 or later
 - TruffleRuby version 20.2 or later
- Operating system requirements:
 - Ubuntu versions 18.04 LTS and 20.04 LTS
 - Fedora version 33 or later
 - macOS Mojave, Catalina, and Big Sur
 - Have Homebrew or MacPorts installed
 - Microsoft Windows 10

Procedure

Use your operating system package manager to install Asciidoctor:

- [Install on Linux](#)
- [Install on macOS](#)
- [Install Windows](#)

Linux operating system

1. Use Linux package manager to install Asciidoctor:
 - a. On Debian-based distributions such as Ubuntu, use APT to install Asciidoctor.

```
sudo apt-get install -y asciidoctor
```

- i. Install package for converting AsciiDoc documents to PDF.

```
sudo apt-get install ruby-asciidoctor-pdf
```

- b. On RPM-based Linux distributions, such as Fedora, CentOS, and RHEL, use the DNF to install Asciidoctor.

```
sudo dnf install -y asciidoctor
```

- i. Install package for converting AsciiDoc documents to PDF.

```
sudo dnf install rubygem-asciidoctor-pdf
```

macOs operating system

1. Use macOS package manager to install Asciidoctor:
 - a. Use Homebrew to install Asciidoctor.

```
brew install asciidoctor
```

- b. Use MacPorts to install Asciidoctor gem via the Asciidoctor port.

```
sudo port install asciidoctor
```

2. Install **asciidoctor-pdf** package to convert AsciiDoc documents to PDF:

```
gem install asciidoctor-pdf
```

Windows operating system

1. To install Asciidoctor on Windows operating system, follow the instructions on the official [Asciidoctor project](#) web page.
2. Use **gem** to install Asciidoctor.

```
gem install asciidoctor
```

3. Install **asciidoctor-pdf** package to convert AsciiDoc documents to PDF.

```
gem install asciidoctor-pdf
```

Verification

- Verify that Asciidoctor is available.

```
asciidoctor --version
```

You should see information about the Asciidoctor version and your Ruby environment printed in the terminal.

```
AsciiDoctor 2.0.17 [https://asciidoctor.org]
Runtime Environment (ruby 3.1.3p185 (2022-11-24 revision 1a6b16756e) [x86_64-
linux]) (lc:UTF-8 fs:UTF-8 in:UTF-8 ex:UTF-8)
```

Next steps

1. Create and save an AsciiDoc document. You can copy the following example:

sample.adoc

```
== Writing in AsciiDoc
```

You can write an AsciiDoc document using any text editor.
We recommend selecting an editor that supports syntax highlighting for AsciiDoc.
The color brings contrast to the text, making it easier to read.
The highlighting also confirms when you have entered the correct syntax for an
inline or block element.

For more syntax examples see
link:https://docs.asciidoctor.org/asciidoc/latest/syntax-quick-reference/[AsciiDoc
Syntax Quick Reference].

IMPORTANT: Save the file with a file extension of `.adoc`.

2. From the directory that contains your AsciiDoc document, run the following command.

```
asciidoctor sample.adoc
```

3. List files in the current directory.
4. Open the `sample.html` in your web browser.

Additional resources

- [AsciiDoctor Docs, Install and Update](#)
- [AsciiDoctor Errors and Warnings](#)
- [AsciiDoc Writer's Guide](#)
- [AsciiDoc Syntax Quick Reference](#)

Git installation

1. Navigate to the [Install Git guide](#).
2. Follow the steps to install git according to the operating system you are using.

Configuring git

Configure git in command line interface with the following steps:

1. Set your Git user name:

```
$ git config --global user.name "your name"
```

2. Set your Git user e-mail:

```
$ git config --global user.email "your email"
```

Verification steps

1. Ensure that your Git user name and email are set:

```
$ git config --get-regexp user  
user.name John Smith  
user.email john.smith@example.com
```