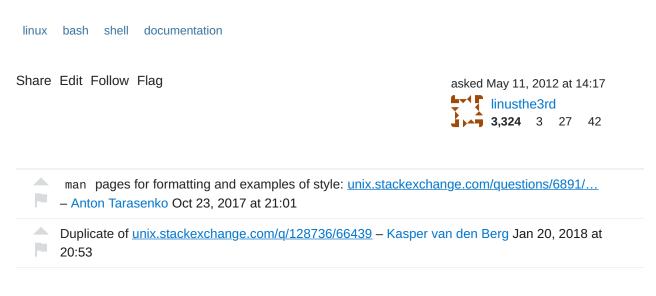
## What is the standard for documentation style in Bash scripts? [closed]

Asked 10 years, 2 months ago Modified 5 years, 4 months ago Viewed 17k times



I am currently writing a Bash script that has a number of functions in it and would like to add docs to make other team members understand what the point of the function is.

Is there a standard "style" for documenting Bash scripts and the functions it contains?



3 Answers

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I do understand I'm adding an answer to an old question, but I feel the tooling has improved lately and would like to give additional suggestions in order to help out others who are viewing this question.



1

I have recently found <u>TomDoc.sh</u>, which uses TomDoc style comments in shell scripts. The tool provided can then extract information and generate markdown or plain text documents.

Other tools also exist. <u>BashDoc</u> is modeled after the JavaDoc syntax, supporting a variety of tags. With <u>RoboDoc</u> you embed a C-style comment in your Bash code and it extracts the necessary information. Lastly, Apple uses <u>HeaderDoc</u> for its shell scripting. All three of these have a suggested style for the comments that you write.

If you wish to annotate your code more than generate documentation, <u>shocco.sh</u> may be what you'd prefer. It doesn't have a specific format and is designed for you to see human-readable text describing the shell commands that you are running.

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answered Oct 5, 2015 at 12:51



Ah, internet. This is at the bottom of the bashdoc link: "3 Mar 2004 - Finals suck. And there's lots more work too, so this is going to the back burner, if I've still got one of those left. :) Probably for a week or two." 12.5 years later, any updates? – JDS Oct 19, 2016 at 16:32



Usually, I try to follow guidelines that are analog to the ones I use with other languages like C.

6 This includes a function header containing:



function name, short description and purpose



• list of arguments and return values, with descriptions



list of all side effects (e.g., changes in variables or files)

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answered May 11, 2012 at 14:22 mouviciel 65.2k 11 108 140

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To my understanding there is no standard for Bash doc. But typically you would:

2

• include a header to your bash file, with your name, copyright, contact, and briefly what the script does



• a usage() function that explains how to launch and use your function.



• a comment at the top of each function to explain what the func does.

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answered May 11, 2012 at 14:31



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