Documenting at Fontys ICT: my 4 cents

Fontys ICT Teachers

2023-09-24

Table of contents

Preface

This is a Quarto book.

To learn more about Quarto books visit https://quarto.org/docs/books.

1 Introduction

This is a book about a possible way to create and structure courses and documents for/from/in canvas.

The book and its building blocks can be found in Teachers (2023)

2 Premises

- At Fontys ICT we are mainly ICT persons, so documentation should be in version control.
- At this moment the de facto standard for version control is git.
-
- Canvas is our LMS, so we are looking for a maintainable way to get the lesson materials in canvas.

2.1 Canvas for structure vs documents for content

- Canvas tells us about the week structure, deadlines, where to upload what (and when).
- The course content is in documents (that are uploaded in canvas).
- From canvas module only some 3 clicks needed, preferably, to reach the info you are looking for.
- Standard document types are

    - pdf - text, theory, assignments, looks similar in different viewers.
    - pptx - for slides.
    - zip - containing programming material, or projects created by students.
    - url - to a git repo. If it contains student made work they uploaded, for the 'toets-dossier' this (also) has to be uploaded in a zip at the end of the semester.

2.2 self-contained documents

The content in a document should be more or less self-contained, which means: + If the document contains an assignment or challenge, *all* info about the content of that assignment/challenge should ideally be ín the document. + To put documentation in version control, markdown is used a lot nowadays, and easy to learn. ms-Word is not very practical with version control, LaTeX is too big a hurdle for people that did not already get acquanted. + Quarto looks promising to create documents by including content from markdown and other formats. The resulting documents can be several types: mainly pdf and/or a website seem relevant for us.

See Knuth (1984) for additional discussion of literate programming.

3 How to create a git repo for a quarto book

TODO

3.1 How to create a new quarto book

- Go to an empty directory. (Possibly within the git repo you created in the previous chapter)
- Open a CLI (Command Line Interface)
- In the CLI, run the command `quarto create`. From the options that pop-up, choose `Project`, and as the `Type` choose `book`.
- For `Directory` type . (current directory).
- Then choose if you want to open the `quarto project` you just created, or not.

The `book project` was created, now very time something changed you can create a new build, see chapter `How to build the book`, but first you may want to add your book to your git.

3.2 How to put the files in git

3.3 How to build the book

You can edit the source documents, like the markdowns, or thee pictures. Probably you will want to add changes in git before building the book.

- Open `index.qmd`
- ctrl+shift+P for the vs code menu, then start typing `Quarto` (`Qua` should be enough to get `Quarto: Render PDF`. `Enter` starts the build.

4 Summary

In summary, this book has no content whatsoever.

References

Knuth, Donald E. 1984. "Literate Programming." *Comput. J.* 27 (2): 97–111. https://doi.or g/10.1093/comjnl/27.2.97.

Teachers, Fontys ICT. 2023. ""Documenting at Fontys ICT: My 4 Cents"." https://github.c om/stasemsoft/Documentation_my_four_cents.