

Advisory Panel Review: Guides & Walkthroughs Page

Date: 2026-02-09 **Feature:** Dashboard/guides.html — Searchable resource hub with MD/PDF toggle **Status:** Live (file-based, local)

Feature Summary

A new page added to the Command Center dashboard that organizes all 37 workspace documents into 8 color-coded categories (Walkthroughs, Guides, Strategy, Templates, Consultations, Action Items, Client Docs, Reference). Includes full-text search with highlighting, category filters, and an MD/PDF toggle that switches card links between raw markdown and formatted PDF versions. 25 of 37 docs now have PDFs.

Panel Members Consulted

Panelist	Role	Relevance
Marcus Chen	Product Manager	Feature strategy, UX flow, scalability
Maya Chen	Visual Designer	UI polish, card design, visual hierarchy
Nina Rodriguez	Marketing Manager	Content organization, naming, discoverability
Derek Simmons	Ops & Team Manager	SOPs, workflow integration, maintainability

Marcus Chen — Product Manager

Rating: 8/10

"This solves a real pain point — document sprawl. The toggle is clever because it serves dual purposes: practicing markdown literacy AND having polished read-only versions. Smart."

What Works:

- Category system is well-structured — 8 categories covers the full spectrum
- Search + filter combo means zero friction to find anything
- localStorage persistence on the toggle is a nice touch
- The "MD ONLY" dimming when a PDF doesn't exist is honest UX

Refinements:

1. **Add "Recently Opened" section** — Track the last 5 clicked docs in localStorage and surface them at the top. This is the #1 pattern for doc portals
2. **Card click should preview, not navigate** — Consider an inline preview pane (split view) instead of opening a new tab. This keeps context
3. **Add doc count per area** — The area tags (WNQ, System, etc.) should be filterable too, not just categories
4. **Sort within sections** — Allow alphabetical or date-based sorting toggle

Priority: Recently Opened → Area filters → Preview pane

Maya Chen — Visual Designer

Rating: 9/10

"The design language is cohesive with the dashboard. The color-coded categories with matching accent bars, icon backgrounds, and tags create excellent visual rhythm."

What Works:

- Left-edge accent bars on cards create strong visual grouping
- The toggle pill design is clean and immediately readable
- Glassmorphism cards are consistent with the dashboard aesthetic
- Search highlighting in gold is subtle but effective

Refinements:

1. **Add a mini hero** — A one-line stat banner at the top: "37 docs • 25 PDFs • 8 categories" gives instant context
2. **Animate the toggle transition** — When switching MD↔PDF, cards should subtly fade/shift to signal the change. Right now there's no transition feedback
3. **Consider card thumbnails** — Even a small icon or colored stripe pattern unique to each doc type would add personality
4. **Improve the empty state** — The 📄 icon is fine but adding a "Try clearing your search" link would be more helpful

Priority: Stat banner → Toggle animation → Empty state CTA

Nina Rodriguez — Marketing Manager

Rating: 7.5/10

"The organization is solid but the naming could work harder. Some titles are developer-speak, not client-speak. If a client ever sees this, they should understand every title instantly."

What Works:

- Descriptions on every card are essential — good call
- Category names are plain English (not "docs" or "assets")
- Putting Walkthroughs first in the sort order makes sense for onboarding

Refinements:

1. **Title clarity pass** — Some titles are jargon-heavy:
 - "Website Generation Pipeline" → "How Client Sites Get Built"
 - "System Refinements" → "Behind the Scenes: System Upgrades"
 - "Frequency Separation" (in Photoshop README) — will confuse non-photographers
2. **Add "Recommended Reading" section** — Flag 3-5 docs as "Start Here" for anyone new. A pinned section at the top with gold borders
3. **Description length** — Some are too terse ("Cheat sheet for all slash commands"). Add *why* someone would read it: "Quick-ref when you forget a command mid-workflow"
4. **Consider audience tagging** — "Internal" vs. "Client-Facing" badges would help Justice know what's safe to share

Priority: Recommended Reading → Audience tagging → Title pass

Derek Simmons — Ops & Team Manager

Rating: 8.5/10

"From an ops standpoint this is exactly right — a single pane of glass for documentation. The MD/PDF toggle is operationally smart because it forces the question: 'Has this been finalized enough for PDF?' That's a built-in quality gate."

What Works:

- `/generate-pdfs` workflow integration means this isn't manual maintenance
- Skipping existing PDFs in the batch process saves time
- The `KNOWN_PDFS` approach is pragmatic for a file:// based system

Refinements:

1. **Auto-detect new PDFs** — Instead of hardcoding `KNOWN_PDFS`, scan at page load. You could use a small JSON manifest file that the `/generate-pdfs` workflow auto-generates after each run
2. **Add "Last Updated" timestamp to cards** — Shows doc freshness at a glance. Critical for ops — stale docs are dangerous
3. **Version indicator** — If the .md has been modified since the PDF was generated, show a ⚠️ "PDF may be outdated" badge
4. **Bulk actions** — A "Generate All Missing PDFs" button right on the page would be cleaner than running a slash command

Priority: Manifest file → Last Updated → Stale PDF warning

Consensus Recommendations

🟢 Quick Wins (implement now)

#	Recommendation	Effort	Panelist
1	Add stat banner: "37 docs • 25 PDFs • 8 categories"	5 min	Maya
2	Add "Recently Opened" tracking (localStorage)	15 min	Marcus
3	Animate toggle transition (CSS fade)	5 min	Maya
4	Improve empty state with "clear search" link	5 min	Maya

🟡 High Impact (next iteration)

#	Recommendation	Effort	Panelist
5	Area filters (WNQ, System, Advisory, etc.)	20 min	Marcus
6	"Recommended Reading" pinned section	15 min	Nina
7	Last Updated timestamp on cards	20 min	Derek
8	Auto-generate PDF manifest from workflow	30 min	Derek

🟠 Future Enhancements (V2)

#	Recommendation	Effort	Panelist
9	Inline preview pane (split view)	1-2 hrs	Marcus
10	Audience badges (Internal/Client-Facing)	15 min	Nina
11	Stale PDF warning (md modified > pdf date)	30 min	Derek
12	Title clarity pass across all docs	30 min	Nina

Panel Vote

Panelist	Ship as-is?	Top priority
Marcus Chen	✓ Yes	Recently Opened
Maya Chen	✓ Yes	Stat banner + toggle animation
Nina Rodriguez	✓ Yes, with title review planned	Recommended Reading
Derek Simmons	✓ Yes	PDF manifest auto-gen

Verdict: ✓ SHIP — with Quick Wins as immediate follow-up

Consultation recorded: 2026-02-09 01:56 CST