

# Software For Documentation

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*Jonathan Price United States. National Bureau of Standards California (State). Jeffrey David Lomax Norbert Greif Margaret E. Singleton Thomas T. Barker Jared Bhatti Martin Stitt*

part of the new allyn bacon series in technical communication writing software documentation features a step by step strategy to writing and describing procedures this task oriented book is designed to support both college students taking a course and professionals working in the field teaching apparatus includes complete programs for students to work on and a full set of project tracking forms as well as a broad range of examples including windows style pages and screens and award winning examples from stc competitions

what is the total cost related to deploying software documentation including any consulting or professional services how is the value delivered by software documentation being measured do software documentation rules make a reasonable demand on a users capabilities do we cover the five essential competencies communication collaboration innovation adaptability and leadership that improve an organization s ability to leverage the new software documentation in a volatile global economy are we assessing software documentation and risk this amazing software documentation self assessment will make you the accepted software documentation domain auditor by revealing just what you need to know to be fluent and ready for any software documentation challenge how do i reduce the effort in the software documentation work to be done to get problems solved how can i ensure that plans of action include every software documentation task and that every software documentation outcome is in place how will i save time investigating strategic and tactical options and ensuring software documentation opportunity costs are low how can i deliver tailored software documentation advise instantly with structured going forward plans there s no better guide through these mind expanding questions than acclaimed best selling author gerard blokdyk blokdyk ensures all software documentation essentials are covered from every angle the software documentation self assessment shows succinctly and clearly that what needs to be clarified to organize the business project activities and processes so that software documentation outcomes are achieved contains

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software documentation forms the basis for all communication relating to a software project to be truly effective and usable it should be based on what needs to be known agile documentation provides sound advice on how to produce lean and lightweight software documentation it will be welcomed by all project team members who want to cut out the fat from this time consuming task guidance given in pattern form easily digested and cross referenced provides solutions to common problems straightforward advice will help you to judge what details should be left in and what left out when communication face to face would be better than paper or online how to adapt the documentation process to the requirements of individual projects and build in change how to organise documents and make them easily accessible when to use diagrams rather than text how to choose the right tools and techniques how documentation impacts the customer better than offering pat answers or prescriptions this book will help you to understand the elements and processes that can be found repeatedly in good project documentation and which can be shaped and designed to address your individual circumstance the author uses real world examples and utilises agile principles to provide an accessible practical pattern based guide which shows how to produce necessary and high quality documentation

designed for beginners and intermediate project team this book serves as a detailed reference guide to the preparation of effective documentation for computer applications it is intended for those who wish to develop software documentation and requires no prior knowledge or experience of writing software documentation this book equips the project team with software documentation writing

skills leaving behind a blue print of how each kind of software documentation is written in the real world it showcases real world samples of the most required project documentation this is something the project team is really going to appreciate they can quickly get started by simply looking at the samples key topics audience analysis sdlc ddlc case study srs user manual hddd lddd data dictionary online help installation manual editing proofreading formatting guidelines what you ll learn how to prepare for the technical writing job create a resume for the technical writing job understand the software documentation process the skills set required for software documentation make a note of the various publishing help authoring graphic and screen capturing tools learn how to choose the most appropriate software documentation tool learn how to analyze the audience gain insight into software development life cycle sdlc document development life cycle ddlc learn how sdlc relates to ddlc about the authors the author sharanam shah sharanamshah com has 9 years of it experience and is currently a technical writer for saba software inc he also consults with several software houses in mumbai india to help them design and manage database applications aarti shah a technical writer has a rich experience of churning out huge technical documents she works as a freelancer for a lot of software houses to help them document their applications

this book is designed to address the randomness of the literature on software documentation as anyone interested in software documentation is aware the field is highly synthetic information about software documentation may be found in engineering computer science training technical communication management education and so on perspectives on software documentation contains a variety of perspectives all tied together by the shared need to make software products more usable

how to communicate technical information discusses easy to follow and user friendly ways of organizing information demonstrates how to use the art to communicate context multiple options and results offers new ways to present

two unmistakable trends in software documentation emerge from the academic literature of the last few years the first trend is

toward usability as the standard for all software documentation the second trend is toward online presentation as the primary preferred medium for software documentation as we shall see this medium allows a number of new interface elements to fall under the broad umbrella of software documentation in fact the evidence of these trends tends to suggest that we need to broaden our definition of software documentation it is toward this broadening that this book inclines this book is designed to address the randomness of the literature on software documentation perspectives on software documentation contains a variety of perspectives all tied together by the shared need to make software products more usable

learn to integrate programming with good documentation this book teaches you the craft of documentation for each step in the software development lifecycle from understanding your users needs to publishing measuring and maintaining useful developer documentation well documented projects save time for both developers on the project and users of the software projects without adequate documentation suffer from poor developer productivity project scalability user adoption and accessibility in short bad documentation kills projects docs for developers demystifies the process of creating great developer documentation following a team of software developers as they work to launch a new product at each step along the way you learn through examples templates and principles how to create measure and maintain documentation tools you can adapt to the needs of your own organization what you'll learn create friction logs and perform user research to understand your users frustrations research draft and write different kinds of documentation including readmes api documentation tutorials conceptual content and release notes publish and maintain documentation alongside regular code releases measure the success of the content you create through analytics and user feedback organize larger sets of documentation to help users find the right information at the right time who this book is for ideal for software developers who need to create documentation alongside code or for technical writers developer advocates product managers and other technical roles that create and contribute to documentation for their products and services

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