

Creating a documentation site for users with AsciiDoc and Antora

Alexander Schwartz, Principal IT Consultant FOSDEM Tool The Docs Dev Room, 2021-02-07

Empower your users with documentation so they get their work done





Keep your content up-to-date



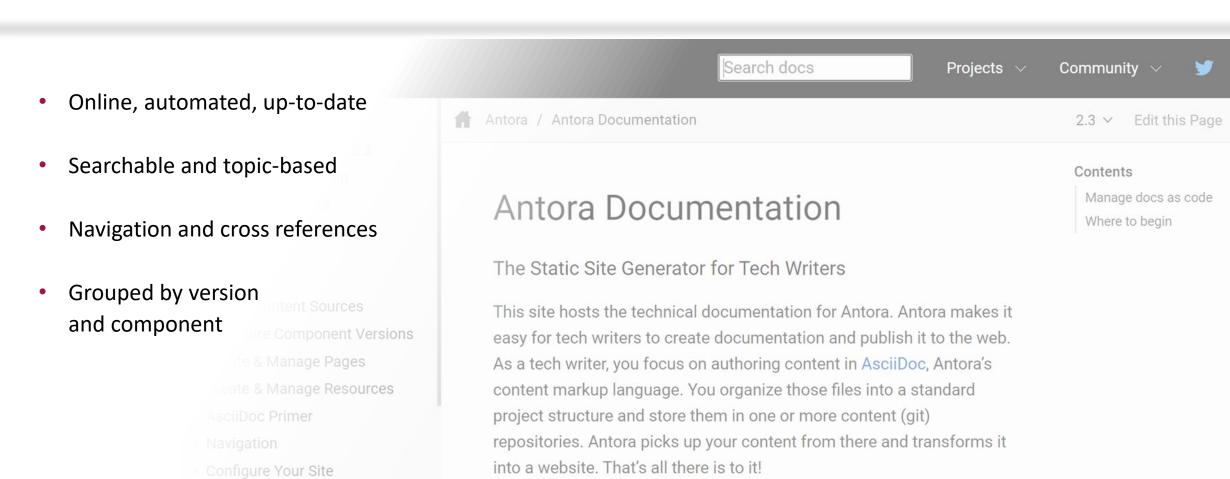
Keep your content consistent



Publish new features for software and documentation in sync

Empower your users with documentation so they get their work done



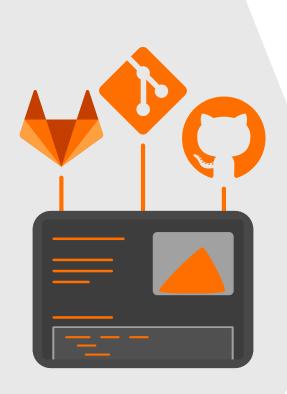


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Generate Your Site

Antora provides publishing tools and documentation structure





- Structures documentation into components and modules
- Collects AsciiDoc content from multiple Git repositories and branches
- Converts AsciiDoc content to HTML output
- Merges HTML output with UI theme to create a static site

Key benefits:

- Fast conversion built on top of Node.js and minimal dependencies
- Modular and extendible

AsciiDoc is the language, Asciidoctor is a toolchain



AsciiDoc

- friction-less writing using plain text
- feature-rich syntax for technical documentation
- 15+ years alive and kicking
- standardization started in 2020 at Eclipse Foundation

Asciidoctor

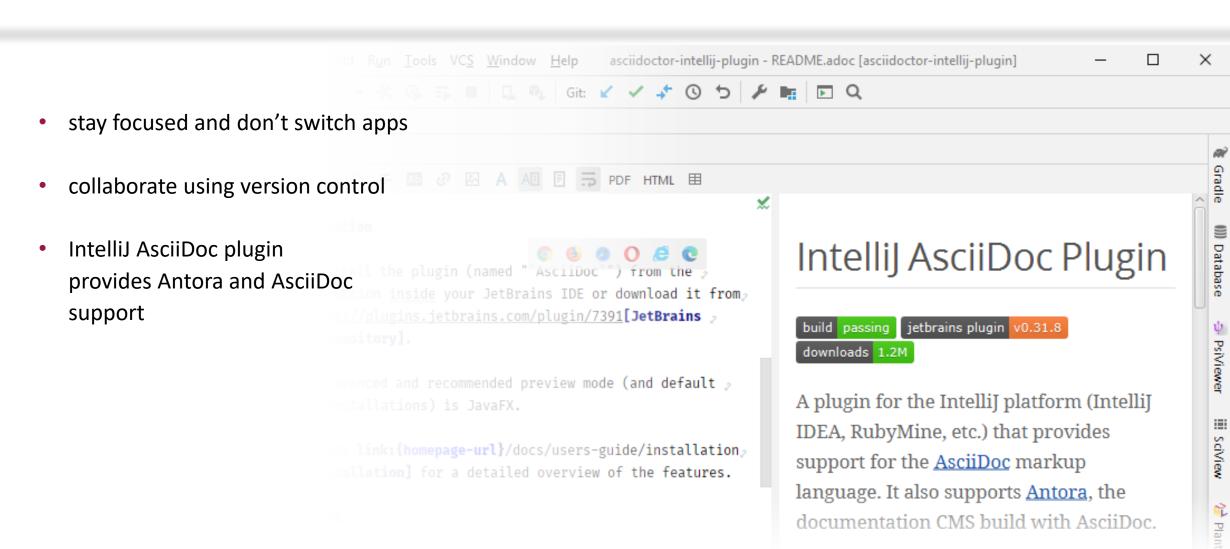
- toolchain to create HTML and other outputs from AsciiDoc
- OpenSource
- runs on Java, Ruby and JavaScript runtimes
- powers Antora's AsciiDoc to HTML conversion





Writing in the IDE





List of editors:

https://asciidoctor.org/docs/editing-asciidoc-with-live-preview/

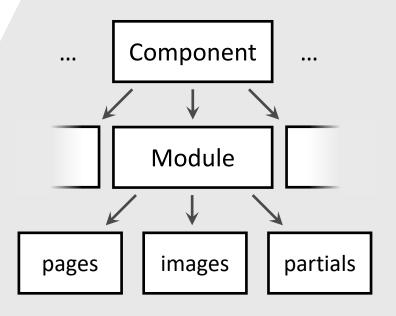
Antora: Structure



- Multiple independent components
- Each component is identified by name and version
- Each component can have multiple modules
- Each module has pre-defined families for pages, images, examples, attachments and partials (content snippets to be included in multiple places)

Advanced feature:

A component can be distributed across multiple folders, branches and repositories



Antora: Process

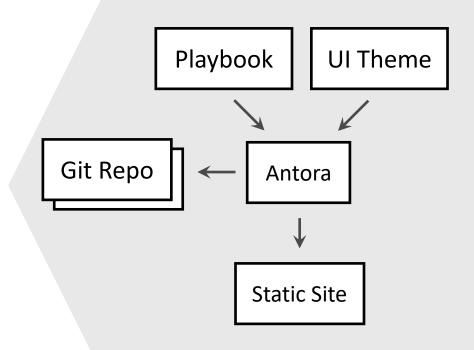


What the user does:

1. Run Antora

What Antora does:

- 1. Load Antora playbook with list of repositories and branches
- 2. Clone Git repositories
- 3. Create HTML output from AsciiDoc
- 4. Merge with UI theme and UI customizations
- 5. Optional: Create search index
- 6. Create output folder with static site



Antora: Roles



Role	Professional Skills	Technical Skills
Author	Structuring and Writing	Git (to collaborate with other authors)AsciiDoc (to create content)

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Web Developer	Web Site Creation	HTML/CSS (to customize Antora theme)

Antora: First Steps



Writer:

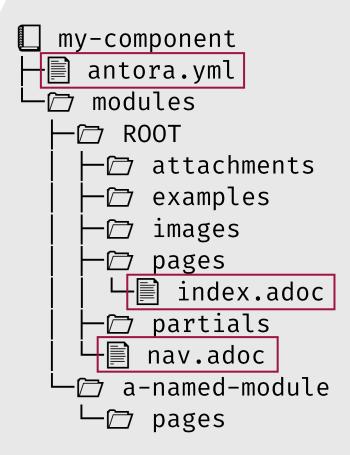
- 1. Create first component folder structure
- 2. Create antora.yml and give the component a name and version
- 3. Create *index.adoc* in *pages*
- 4. Create navigation entries in nav.adoc and add it to antora.yml

Docu Ops:

- 1. Install Antora (either via npm CLI or package.json file)
- 2. Create playbook to generate local preview site for authors
- 3. Create playbook to publish the site on the Internet

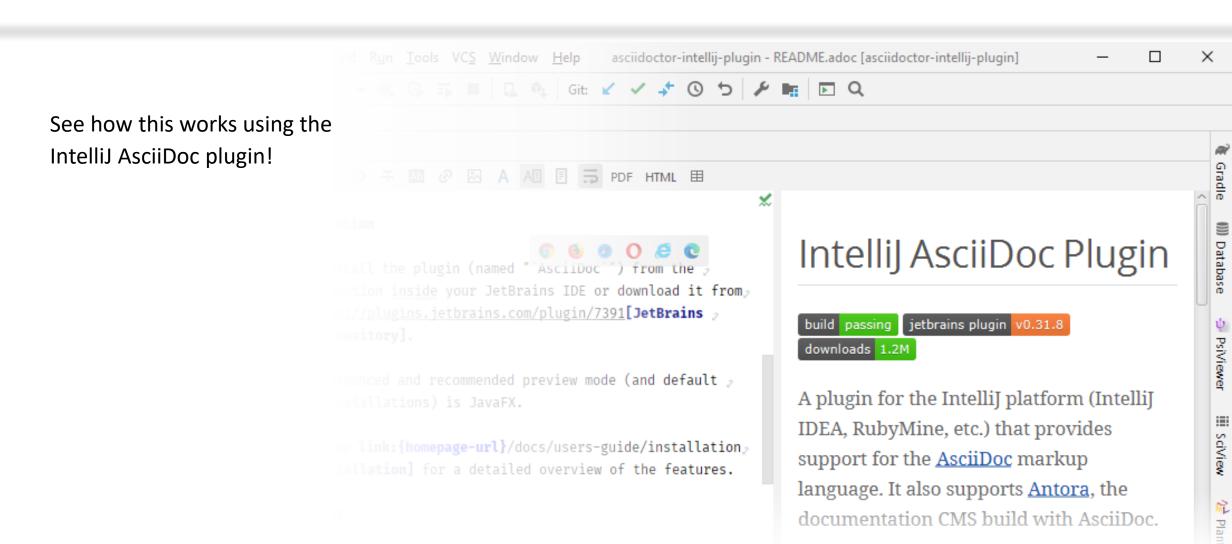
Web Developer:

- 1. Copy the existing UI theme (or create your own)
- 2. Add UI customizations via supplemental files



Demo time





Empower your users with documentation so they get their work done







using collaboration as a team using version control



Keep your content consistent

by handling component versions and de-duplication of content



Publish new features for software and documentation in sync using CI/CD tools to automate publishing

Links



Asciidoctor

https://asciidoctor.org/

IntelliJ AsciiDoc Plugin

https://intellij-asciidoc-plugin.ahus1.de/

PlantUML

https://plantuml.com/

https://real-world-plantuml.com/

Antora

https://antora.org/

Videos, slides and examples

https://www.ahus1.de/post/asciidoctor-intro-and-deep-dive https://www.ahus1.de/post/cdc-antora-live

Asciidoctor Kroki extension

https://github.com/Mogztter/asciidoctor-kroki



Contact





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value – inspired by people