Documentation

• Three main kinds of documentation:
  • User
  • Administrator
  • Developer
• User and administrator documentation is generally written by hand
• Developer documentation is generally a combination of handwritten introductory and example text combined with automatically generated reference text
Goals

• Write software that needs little documentation
  • Auto-configuration when possible
  • Manual configuration only when necessary
  • Intuitive design/operation
• Write documentation that is easy to access and read
• Limit the amount of software and documentation that needs to be handwritten
Examples

• Avahi ([https://avahi.org](https://avahi.org))
  • Handwritten man pages for user and administrative commands
  • Doxygen-generated developer documentation with some introductory and example text

• CUPS ([https://github.com/OpenPrinting/cups](https://github.com/OpenPrinting/cups))
  • Markdown, man pages, and HTML user and administrative documentation is handwritten
  • Developer documentation (including CUPS Programming Manual) contains handwritten introductions and examples along with reference documentation extracted from source code using Codedoc
References

• (Source) Formats:
  • Asciidoc: https://asciidoc.org/
  • Github-flavored markdown: https://github.github.com/gfm/
  • Original markdown: https://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/
  • reStructuredText: https://docutils.sourceforge.io/rst.html

• Tools:
  • Codedoc: https://www.msweet.org/codedoc
  • Doxygen: https://www.doxygen.nl/
  • mmdutil: https://www.msweet.org/mmd
  • Sphinx: https://www.sphinx-doc.org/en/master/