

# Asciidoc

## Introduction

Keeping notes is an integral part of using any Linux distribution. Keeping them in plain text allows one to use them from a console during initial setup; using a consistent markup for plain text adds to the readability of the notes.

*asciidoc* is one of the tools that provide such a consistent markup. Source highlighting, for those who prefer it, can add to the readability of the text file.

*asciidoc* can produce HTML files, an added bonus as it allows to interlink notes and makes browsing them with *lynx* more effective. It can also work in tandem with [man2html](#) to provide HTML access to all installed *man* pages on the fly.

For an interesting read about *asciidoc* see [Living the Future of Technical Writing](#).

## Helper Packages and Files

### Asciidoctor

Consider installing [Asciidoctor](#).

### Dblatex

To convert *asciidoc* files to PDF, install [dblax](#) from SlackBuilds.org. See [documentation](#), [PDF](#).

### Source-highlight

To highlight source listings, install [source-highlight](#) from SlackBuilds.org. See [online manual](#). This:

```
[source, bash]
-----
#!/bin/bash
export LANG=en_US.UTF-8
-----
```

renders as (this is DokuWiki's GeSHi highlighting, but gives the general idea):

```
#!/bin/bash
export LANG=en_US.UTF-8
```

## Vim Syntax Highlighter

If *asciidoc.vim* is not available locally, [download](#). Otherwise:

```
$ mkdir -p $HOME/.vim/syntax
```

```
$ cp /usr/share/vim/vimVERSION/syntax/asciidoc.vim $HOME/.vim/syntax/
```

and see [Appendix E. Vim Syntax Highlighter](#).

Highlighting can also work by inserting at the bottom of the file:

```
// vim: set syntax=asciidoc:
```

## User Guide

The user guide file is found in */usr/doc/asciidoc-VERSION/doc/asciidoc.txt*. To make the *AsciiDoc User Guide*:

```
$ asciidoc -b xhtml11 -a icons -a iconsdir=/etc/asciidoc/images/icons  
FILENAME
```

and see */usr/doc/asciidoc-VERSION/doc/asciidoc.html*. For more see [asciidoc.org](http://asciidoc.org).

## Source Files

### TXT

It is a *convention* for *asciidoc* files to have a *.txt* extension.

### Common Variables

To organize the use of common variables in all files, make a directory *include*. Common paths, for example, can be put in a *paths.txt* as a series of:

```
:pathname: {pathname=/path/to/somewhere}
```

Then, at the header of each file put:

```
include: ./path/to/include/paths.txt[]
```

and in text use as:

```
{pathname}/remaining/path
```

## System Attributes

Any variable that can be defined in *bash* with **NAME="\$ ( commands )"** can also be defined in *asciidoc* as a [system attribute](#). First define the attribute in the header section:

```
:NAME: {sys:commands}
```

then use in text as:

```
{NAME}
```

## Man

Linking to *man* pages in HTML is very useful. See [man2html Mini HOWTO](#) on how to set the infrastructure. To see `grep(1)` use

```
http://localhost/cgi-bin/man/man2html?1+grep[grep(1)]
```

## Output

### XHTML

To make an HTML file:

```
$ asciidoc -b xhtml11 FILENAME
```

To use icons, mainly for admonition paragraphs, add the options:

```
-a icons -a iconsdir=/etc/asciidoc/images/icons
```

To have a fixed-width HTML, add:

```
-a max-width=45em
```

To use additional custom CSS, add:

```
-a stylesheet=/path/to/stylesheet.css
```

It may be helpful to put an alias in *.bashrc*:

```
alias ad="/usr/bin/asciidoc.py \  
-b xhtml11 \  
-a icons -a max-width=45em \  
-a iconsdir=/etc/asciidoc/images/icons \  
-a stylesdir=/etc/asciidoc/stylesheet \  
-a stylesheet=/path/to/stylesheet.css"
```

## PDF

To make a PDF file, first install [dblatex](#). Then:

```
$ asciidoc -b docbook45 FILENAME
```

```
$ dblatex FILENAME.xml
```

## DokuWiki

The *asciidoc* files can be converted to *DokuWiki* format for the Slackware Documentation Project. There are various ways to do this, and one of the more straightforward ones is to convert the HTML files produced by *asciidoc* using the *perl* module [HTML::WikiConverter::DokuWiki](#), see also [HTML::WikiConverter](#).

```
# cpan
```

```
cpan[1]> install HTML::WikiConverter::DokuWiki
```

```
$ html2wiki --dialect DokuWiki input.html > output.wiki
```

## Sources

- Original source: [asciidoc mini howto](#)
- Originally written by [pdi](#)
- Contributions by [markand](#)

[howtos](#), [asciidoc](#)

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