

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.

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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