

Come To The Dark Side - We Have AsciiDoc

Siegfried Goeschl

Version 1.0.0, 2018-03-26

Introduction



Siegfried Goeschl

- Senior Software Engineer
- Writing server-side code
- Java Meetup Vienna co-organizer
- Apache Software Foundation member
- Currently working at Erste Bank Austria

Joining The Dark Side

- Recently writing a lot of stuff :-(
- Mostly documentation & presentations
- Writing documentation is bad enough
- Using Microsoft Office makes it unbearable

What's Wrong With MS Office

- Putting BLOBs under version control?
- Sharing over Slack, file system or email?
- Diffing MS Office documents?
- Using Linux & Open Office?
- What if you don't have the latest MS Office 365?

What Are The Alternatives?

Markup Language

- LaTeX
- DocBook
- Markdown
- AsciiDoc
- HTML

LaTeX



LaTeX

- L^ampo^rt Te^x
- Widely used in academia for scientific documents
- Math, Physics, ...
- Never used it personally

LaTeX Example

```
\documentclass[a4paper]{article}
\usepackage[english]{babel}
\title{A \LaTeX{} Example}
\date{}
\begin{document}
\maketitle
\section{A beautiful equation}
\LaTeX{} is great at typesetting mathematics. The time dependent Schr{"o}dinger equation, for
instance, is simply written as

$$\hat{H}\Psi\left(\mathbf{r},t\right)=$$

\end{document}
```

LaTeX Output

A L^AT_EX Example

1 A beautiful equation

L^AT_EX is great at typesetting mathematics. The time-dependent Schrödinger equation, for instance, is simply written as

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \hat{H} \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t).$$

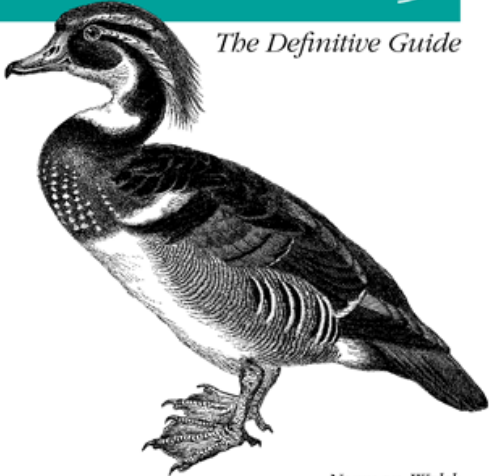
DocBook

*The Official Documentation
for DocBook*

*Revised
and Updated*

DocBook 5

The Definitive Guide



O'REILLY®

*Norman Walsh
Edited by Richard L. Hamilton*

More About DocBook

- Semantic Markup Language
- Technical documentation & books
- Quite popular in the late 90's
- There was even Maven 1 support
- Hard to write XML (even with tooling)

DocBook Maven Support

NARKIVE
MAILINGLIST ARCHIVE

maven-plugins-developer@lists.sourceforge.net

Search...

Discussion:

Maven SDocBook Plugin 1.3 is out now

(too old to reply)

Siegfried Göschl

14 years ago

Hi folks,

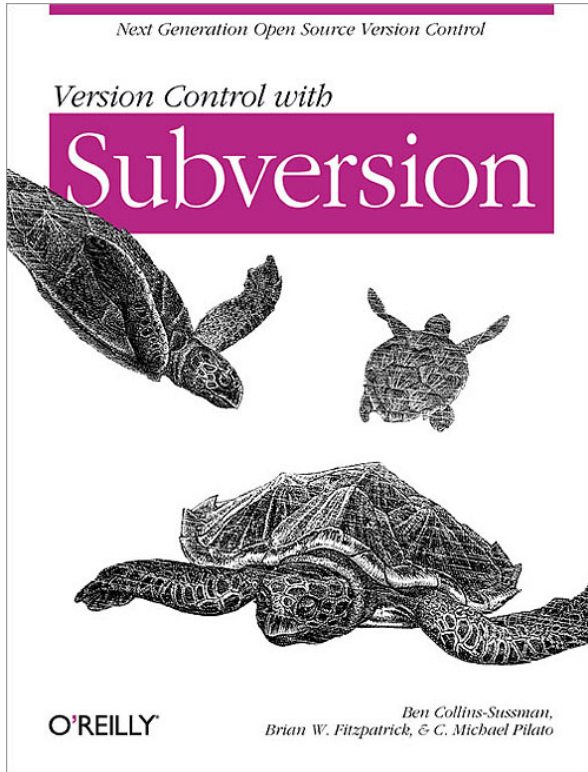
after weeks of holidays and consulting I pushed out the new release of the Simplified DocBook Plugin.

Thanks to Andy Jefferson since he fixed two bugs in my project.xml before anybody complained.

Cheers,

Siegfried Goeschl

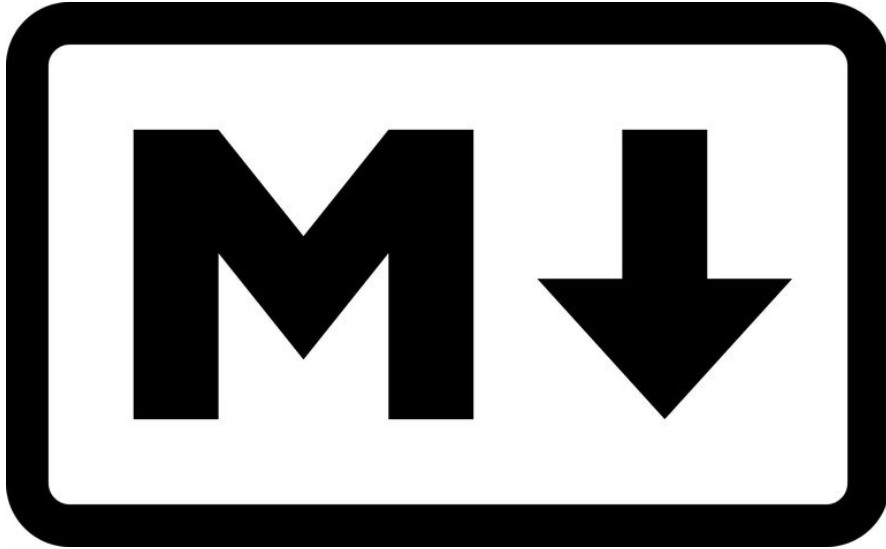
Books Written In DocBook



DocBook Example

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<book xml:id="simple_book" xmlns="http://docbook.org/ns/docbook" version="5.0">
  <title>Very simple book</title>
  <chapter xml:id="chapter_1">
    <title>Chapter 1</title>
    <para>Hello world!</para>
    <para>
      I hope that your day is proceeding <emphasis>splendidly</emphasis>!
    </para>
  </chapter>
  <chapter xml:id="chapter_2">
    <title>Chapter 2</title>
    <para>Hello again, world!</para>
  </chapter>
</book>
```

Markdown



More About Markdown

- Created by John Gruber in 2004
- Focus on readability without obvious markup
- Intended to be transformed to HTML/XHTML

Markdown Is Everywhere

EMacs

The recommended way to install `markdown-mode` is to install the package from [MELPA Stable](#) using `package.el`. First, configure `package.el` and the MELPA Stable repository by adding the following to your `.emacs`, `init.el`, or equivalent startup file:

```
(require 'package)
(add-to-list 'package-archives
  ("melpa-stable"
   . "https://stable.melpa.org/packages/"))
(package-initialize)
```

Then, after restarting Emacs or evaluating the above statements, issue the following command: `M-x package-install RET markdown-mode RET`. When installed this way, the major modes `markdown-mode` and `gfm-mode` will be autoloaded and `markdown-mode` will be used for file names ending in either `.md` or `.markdown`.

Alternatively, if you manage loading packages with [use-package](#) then you can automatically install and configure `markdown-mode` by

+ Emacs Markdown Mode

- .
- Documentation
- Installation
- Usage
- Customization
- Extensions
- GitHub Flavored Markdown
- Acknowledgments
- Bugs
- History

U:--- **README.md** (Markdown) U:%*- ***Ilist*** README.md

Vim

```
1. 2016-11-10-macos-dev-setup-2016-part-2.markdown (~/.Dropbox (Personal)/Sites/jekyll/_posts) - NVIM (tmux)

### Manage Plugins

Since Neovim was supposed to be a drop-in replacement for vim, it's backwards
compatible. This means that every plugins and/or vim scripts that you're
using will not be deprecated.

Sounds quite convenient, doesn't it? It does, but since it's experiment time, I
decided to ditch [Vundle](https://github.com/VundleVim/Vundle.vim) for [Vim
Plug](https://github.com/junegunn/vim-plug). Why? How about:

* Parallel installation/update
* Branch/tag/commit support
* Post-update hooks
* Support externally managed plugins

If you're using Vim long enough, the name of Vim Plug's maker would not be a
strange one. It's [Junegunn Choi](https://github.com/junegunn) which created
a number of popular (Vim) plugins such as [Easy Align](https://github.com/
junegunn/vim-easy-align) and [Fzf](https://github.com/junegunn/fzf).

Anyway, install Vim Plug for Neovim with this command

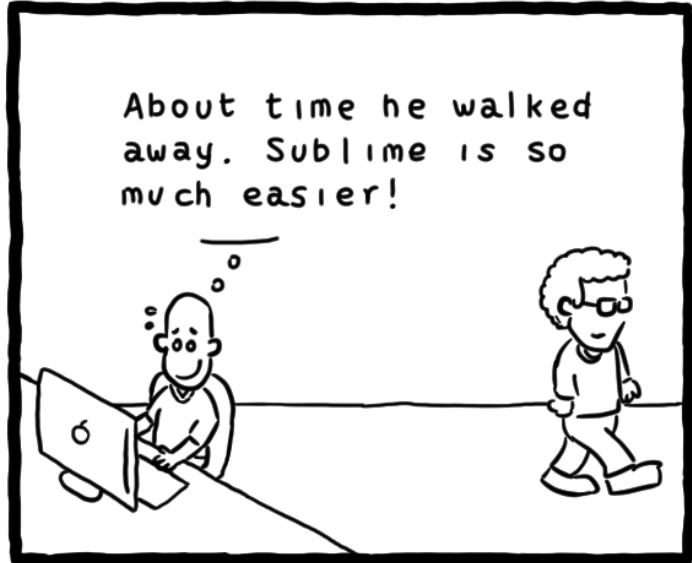
```sh
curl -fLo ~/.config/nvim/autoload/plug.vim --create-dirs \
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/junegunn/vim-plug/master/plug.vim
```

" List of characters to show instead of whitespace.
All of my plugins and their respective configurations have been declared in the
`vimrc` & `vimrc.bundles` files inside the `~/dotfiles` folder. Now it's a
good time to use them.

```sh
ln -s ~/dotfiles/vimrc ~/.vimrc
ln -s ~/dotfiles/vimrc.bundles ~/.vimrc.bundles
```

.....
```

Vi Or Not Vi



Daniel Stori {turnoff.us}

Sublime Editor



Marked 2 Preview



Markdown Emails With Mailmate



GitHub



IntelliJ Markdown Plugin

activity.md - gitbucket - [~/IdeaProjects/gitbucket]

activity.md

Activity Timeline

GitBucket records several types of user activity to `ACTIVITY` table. Activity types are shown below:

| type | message | additional information |
|-------------------|--|------------------------|
| create_repository | \$user created \$owner/\$repo | - |
| open_issue | \$user opened issue
\$owner/\$repo#\$issueld | - |
| close_issue | \$user closed issue \$owner/\$repo#\$issueld | - |
| close_issue | \$user closed pull request
\$owner/\$repo#\$issueld | - |

Text Gfm Preview

6: TODO Terminal 9: Version Control Event Log

Frameworks detected: Web framework is detected in the project Configure (4 minutes ago) n/a n/a Git: master

Markdown Is Awesome

But Sometimes Not Good Enough

Problems With Markdown

- Original Markdown was very limited
- No clearly defined Markdown standard
- Missing features led to many flavours

Markdown Flavours

- CommonMark launched in 2012
- GitHub Flavored Markdown based on CommonMark
- MarkdownExtra used in common CMS
- Doxygen Markdown Extensions

No One Markdown To Rule Them All



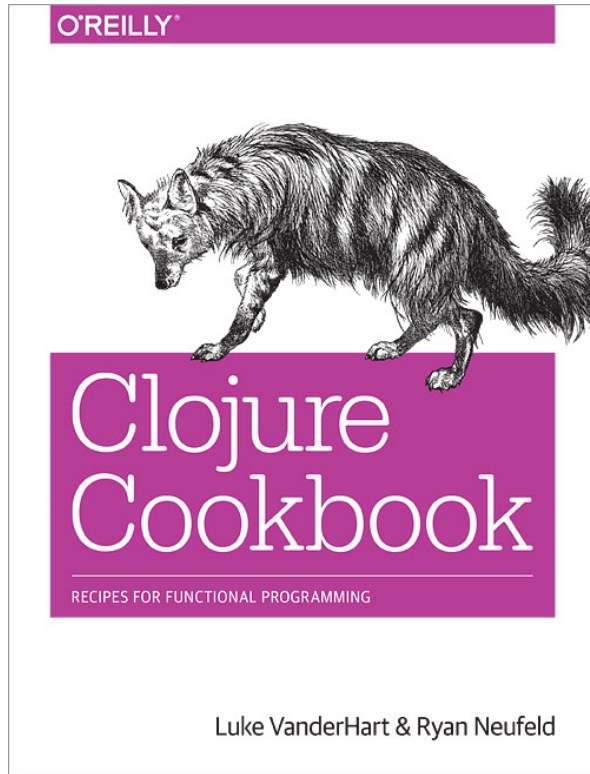
AsciiDoc



More About AsciiDoc

- Bring simplicity back to DocBook
- Supports most DocBook elements
- Everything you need for complex documents
- You can even write books

Books Written In AsciiDoc



Why I'm Using AsciiDoc

- Similar enough to Markdown to get me going
- Better PDF document generation for external parties
- Some really nice features for documentations

AsciiDoc Features

Cover Page

```
= AsciiDoc Sample Document  
Your Name <email@company.invalid>  
v{revnumber}, {docdate}  
:title-logo-image: image:logo.png[pdfwidth=3.00in,align=center]
```


Cover Page

><[[[°>

AsciiDoc Sample Document

Your Name

Version 1.0.0, 2018-11-23

Table Of Contents

```
:sectnums:  
:toc:  
:toclevels: 2
```

Table Of Contents

Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Overview | 1 |
| 2. Source Code Snippet | 1 |
| 3. Table Support | 1 |
| 3.1. CSV Tables | 1 |
| 3.2. Complex Tables | 1 |
| 4. Admonitions | 2 |
| 5. Attributes | 2 |
| 6. Appendix | 3 |
| 6.1. Change History | 3 |
| 6.2. Glossary | 3 |

CSV Tables

```
.CSV data, 15% each column  
[format="csv",width="60%",cols="4",options="header"]  
[frame="topbot",grid="none"]  
|=====  
1,2,3,4  
a,b,c,d  
A,B,C,D  
|=====
```

CSV Tables

Table 1. CSV data, 15% each column

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| a | b | c | d |
| A | B | C | D |

Advanced Tables

```
|====
```

```
|Date |Duration |Avg HR |Notes
```

```
|22-Aug-08 .2+^.^|10:24 | 157 |
```

```
Worked out MSHR (max sustainable  
heart rate) by going hard  
for this interval.
```

```
|22-Aug-08 | 152 |
```

```
Back-to-back with previous interval.
```

```
|24-Aug-08 3+^|none
```

```
|====
```

Advanced Tables

| Date | Duration | Avg HR | Notes |
|-----------|----------|--------|---|
| 22-Aug-08 | 10:24 | 157 | Worked out MSHR (max sustainable heart rate) by going hard for this interval. |
| 22-Aug-08 | | 152 | Back-to-back with previous interval. |
| 24-Aug-08 | | none | |

Admonitions

TIP: Pro tip...

IMPORTANT: Don't forget...

WARNING: Watch out for...

CAUTION: Ensure that..

Admonitions



Pro tip...



Don't forget...



Watch out for...



Ensure that..

Include Directive

- Partition a large document
- Insert snippets of source code
- Poplulate tables from external files

Include Directive

```
.CSV data, 15% each column  
[format="csv",width="60%",cols="4",options="header"]  
[frame="topbot",grid="none"]  
|=====  
include::table.csv[]  
|=====
```

Source Code Support

```
[source,java]
----
public class HelloWorld {
    public static void main(String args[]) {
        System.out.println("Hello, world!"); ①
    }
}
----
<1> Prints "Hello, world!" to the console.
```

Source Code Support

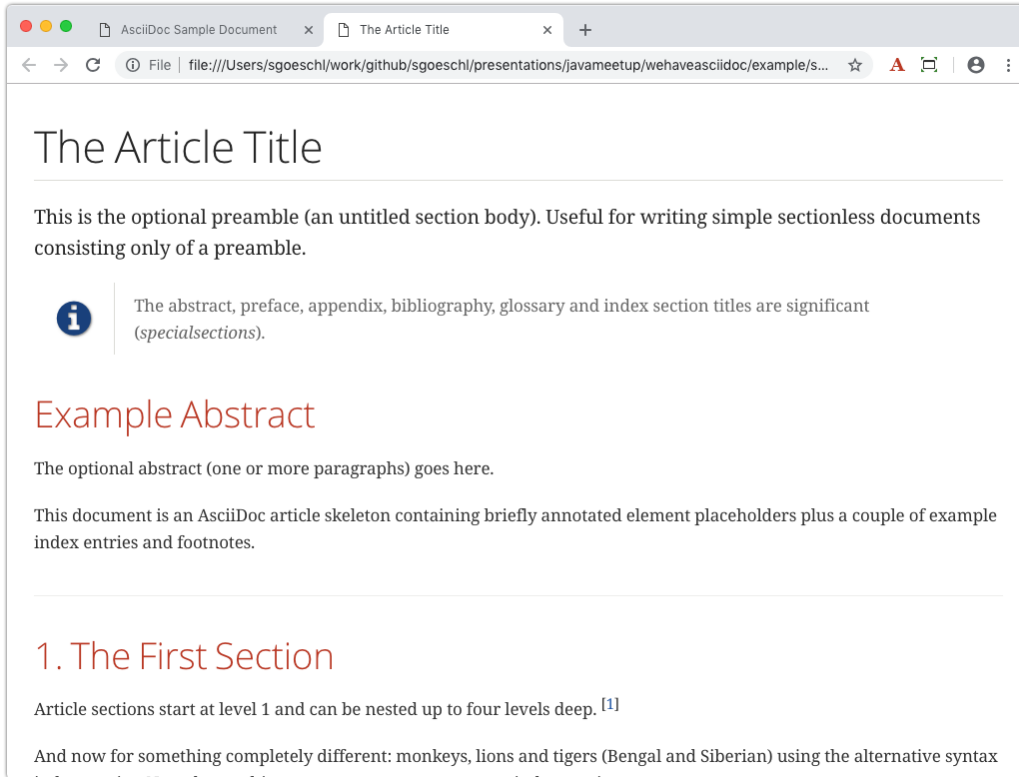
```
public class HelloWorld {  
    public static void main(String args[]) {  
        System.out.println("Hello, world!"); ①  
    }  
}
```

① Prints "Hello, world!" to the console.

My Workflow

- Sublime Text Editor
- Sublime AsciiDoc Plugin for syntax highlighting
- Chrome AsciiDoctor extension for live preview
- `asciidoctor-maven-plugin` for PDF generation

Chrome AsciiDoctor Plugin



AsciiDoctor Maven Plugin

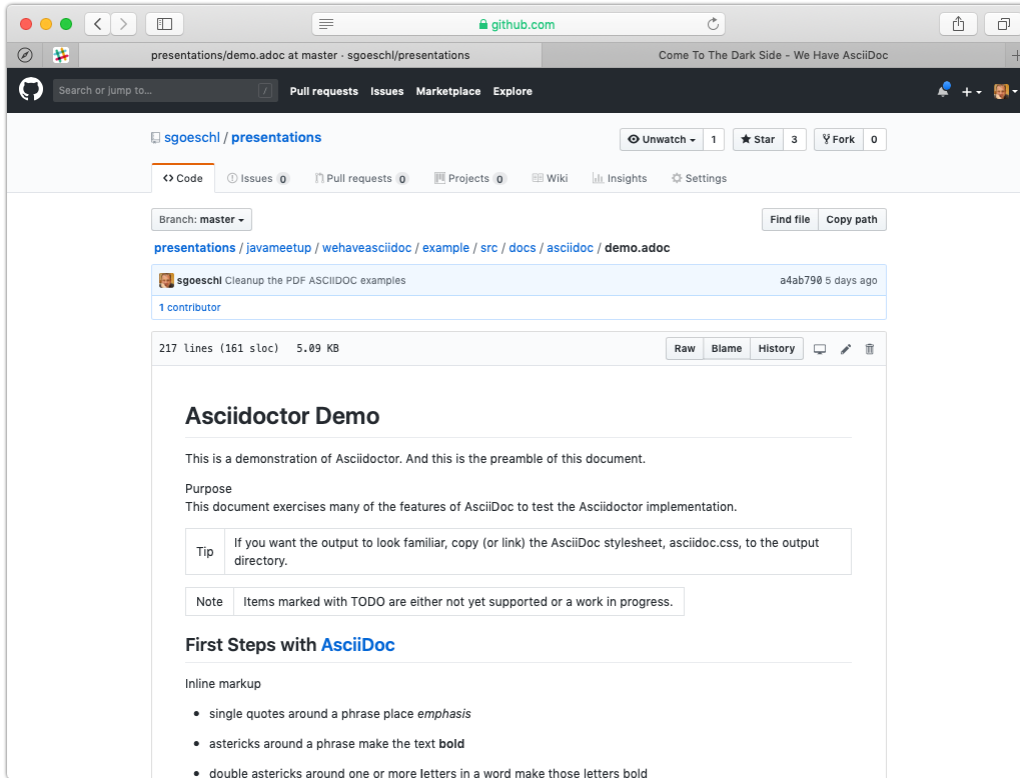
```
pom.xml x
20
21 <build>
22   <defaultGoal>process-resources</defaultGoal>
23   <plugins>
24     <plugin>
25       <groupId>org.asciidoctor</groupId>
26       <artifactId>asciidoctor-maven-plugin</artifactId>
27       <version>${asciidoctor.maven.plugin.version}</version>
28       <dependencies>
29         <dependency>
30           <groupId>org.asciidoctor</groupId>
31           <artifactId>asciidoctorj-pdf</artifactId>
32           <version>${asciidoctorj.pdf.version}</version>
33         </dependency>
34       </dependencies>
35       <configuration>
36         <sourceDirectory>src/docs/asciidoc</sourceDirectory>
37       </configuration>
38       <executions>
39         <execution>
40           <id>generate-pdf</id>
41           <phase>process-resources</phase>
42           <goals>
43             <goal>process-asciidoc</goal>
44           </goals>
45           <configuration>
46             <backend>pdf</backend>
47             <compact>true</compact>
48             <attributes>
49               <revnumber>${project.version}</revnumber>
50             </attributes>
51           </configuration>
52         </execution>
53       </executions>
54     </plugin>
55   </plugins>
56 </build>
57 </project>
```

Line 57, Column 1

Spaces: 4

XML

GitHub AsciiDoc



Sample Document Page 01



Sample Document Page 02

This is the optional preamble (an untitled section body). Useful for writing simple sectionless documents consisting only of a preamble.

NOTE The abstract, preface, appendix, bibliography, glossary and index section titles are significant (specialsections).

Example Abstract


The optional abstract (one or more paragraphs) goes here.

This document is an AsciDoc article skeleton containing briefly annotated element placeholders plus a couple of example index entries and footnotes.

1. The First Section

Article sections start at level 1 and can be nested up to four levels deep. [1: An example footnote.]

And now for something completely different: monkeys, lions and tigers (Bengal and Siberian) using the alternative syntax index entries. Note that multi-entry terms generate separate index entries.

Here are a couple of image examples: an  example inline image followed by an example block image:




Figure 1. Tiger block image

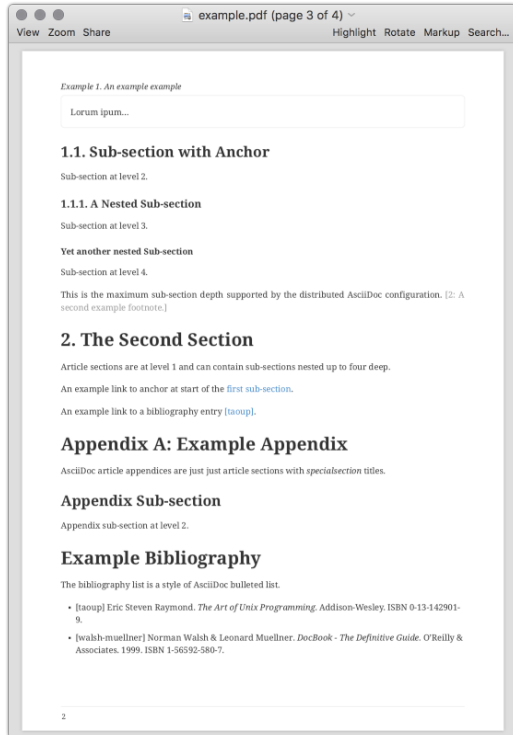
Followed by an example table:

Table 1. An example table

| Option | Description |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -a <i>USER GROUP</i> | Add <i>USER</i> to <i>GROUP</i> . |
| -R <i>GROUP</i> | Disables access to <i>GROUP</i> . |

1

Sample Document Page 03



Eat Your Own Dog Food



Reveal.js

REVEAL.JS

HTML PRESENTATIONS MADE EASY

Created by [Hakim El Hattab](#) / [@hakimel](#)

[Try the online editor](#)



Like 2.6k



Tweet 3,387



Follow @revealjs

AsciiDoc Meets Reveal.js

- This presentation is written in AsciiDoc
- `Maven` and `asciidoctor-maven-plugin`
- Creates stand-alone HTML5 presentation
- No more Microsoft Powerpoint

Reveal.js

- Presentation using HTML 5
- Works best for textual content
- Visual presentations are a bit harder
- PDF Handouts can be tricky
- Keyboard shortcuts for presenters

Reveal Speaker View

file:///Users/sgoesch/work/github/sgoesch/presentations/javameetup/we-use-asciidoc/slides/target/generated-slides/reveal.js-3.1.0/plugin/notes/notes.html

ASCIIDOC MEETS REVEAL.JS

- This presentation is written in AsciiDoc
- `Maven` and `asciidoctor-maven-plugin`
- No more Microsoft Powerpoint


LINKS PART 01

AsciiDoctor
<https://asciidoctor.org>

AsciiDoctor PDF
<https://github.com/asciidoctor/asciidoctor-pdf>

AsciiDoctor Maven Plugin
<https://github.com/asciidoctor/asciidoctor-maven-plugin>

TIME
00:00:09 10:10 PM



Reveal PDF Handouts

- Append `?print-pdf` query parameter to URL
 - Does not work all the times for me
- Using `Decktape` failed to NPM install issues
- Currently creating hand-outs in the Maven build
 - Using `<<<` to enforce page breaks
 - Using `pdfwidth=` to re-size PDF images

Maven PDF Handout

```
:experimental:  
:pdf-page-size: 9in x 6in
```

Want To Join The Dark Side?!

When To Use AsciiDoc

- When Markdown is not good enough
- Writing longer documents
- When you need a **Table Of Content**
- Creating customer-facing PDFs

AsciiDoc Benefits

- You can safely replace MS Word
- Textual content plays nicely with version control
- Documentation becomes part of the build process
- Wide-spread tool support

AsciiDoc Drawbacks

- Yet another tool to learn
- Non-developers might be unhappy

Questions?



Clone My GitHub Repository

<https://github.com/sgoeschl/presentations>

Links Part 01

AsciiDoctor

<https://asciidoctor.org>

AsciiDoctor PDF

<https://github.com/asciidoctor/asciidoctor-pdf>

AsciiDoctor Maven Plugin

<https://github.com/asciidoctor/asciidoctor-maven-plugin>

Links Part 02

AsciiDoctor Reveal.js

<https://asciidoctor.org/docs/asciidoctor-revealjs/>

AsciiDoctor To PDF

<http://discuss.asciidoctor.org/AsciiDoctor-PDF-amp-slide-show-presentations-td6053.html>

AsciiDoc User Guide

<http://www.methods.co.nz/asciidoc/chunked/index.html>

RevealJS

<https://github.com/hakimel/reveal.js/>

Links Part 03

Write in AsciiDoc - Publish Everywhere

<http://mojavelinux.github.io/decks/write-in-asciidoc-publish-everywhere/mixit2015/index.html#/>