embarc
Software Consulting GmbH

How to document and communicate software architecture nowadays

FALK SIPPACH // EMBARC

Software Architecture Gathering 2022, Online

Wednesday, November 16th, 2022

SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE GATHERING DIGITAL

1

How to document and communicate software architecture

Our software projects are getting bigger and more complex. Technologically, a lot has been done in recent years to get this complexity under control. But communication between all project stakeholders has become even more important. A prerequisite for this is documentation of the software architecture. It should be as up-to-date, pragmatic and goal-oriented as possible. But unfortunately, documentation often has a low priority in our projects. In some cases, those responsible lack the motivation. Or suboptimal tools like word processing, heavyweight UML tools or wikis nip all efforts in the bud.

We want to end prejudices and show with concrete examples how documenting can not only be fun, but also easy. We will talk about our experiences and focus on lightweight tools and lean text and graphic formats. They facilitate the automated creation of effective, comprehensive and, above all, redundancy-free documentation that can be delivered in various formats with little effort and optimized for different target groups. Embedding this documentation as code in the development and review processes also enables good traceability, continuous improvement and further development.

2

Falk Sippach

- Software Architect, Consultant, Trainer at embarc
- formerly at Orientation in Objects (OIO), Trivadis

Focus:

- Architecture consulting and reviews
- Cloud and Java technologies

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➔ xing.to/fsi

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3

Agenda

1 **Introduction**

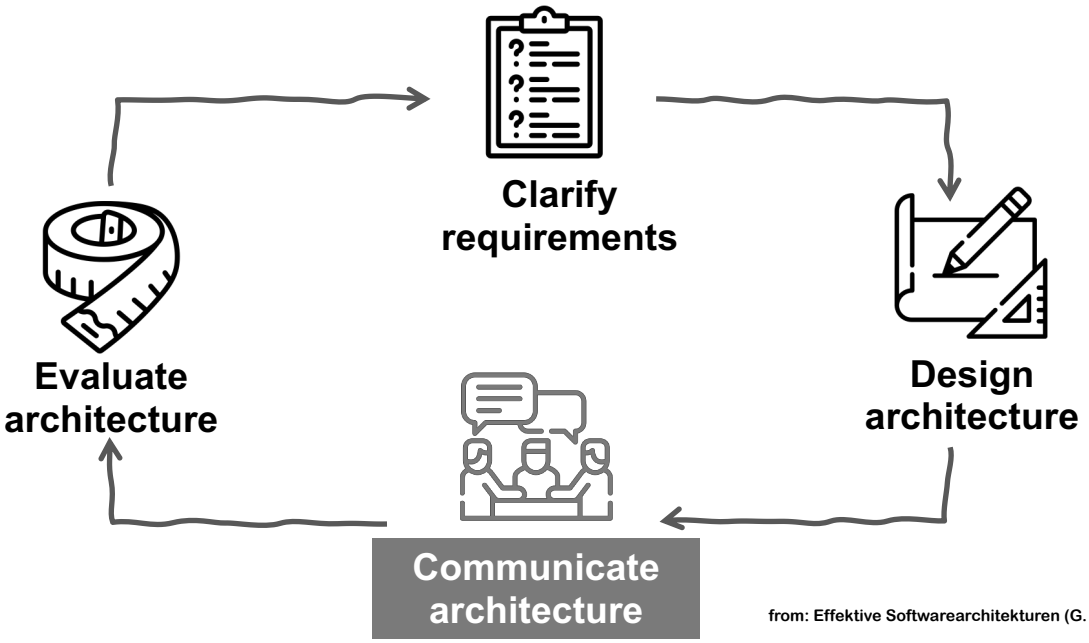
2 Document architecture

3 Docs-as-Code Maturity Level

4 Conclusion

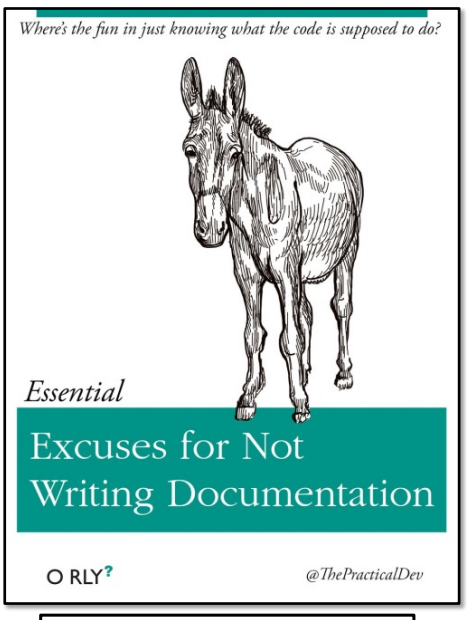
1

9

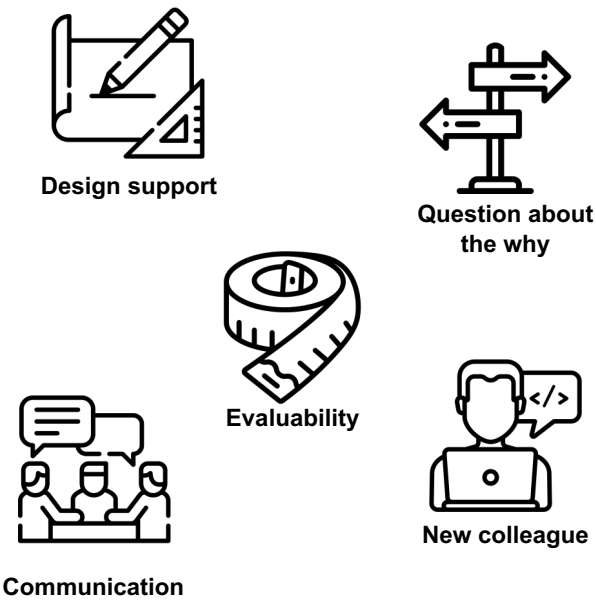


from: Effektive Softwarearchitekturen (G. Starke)

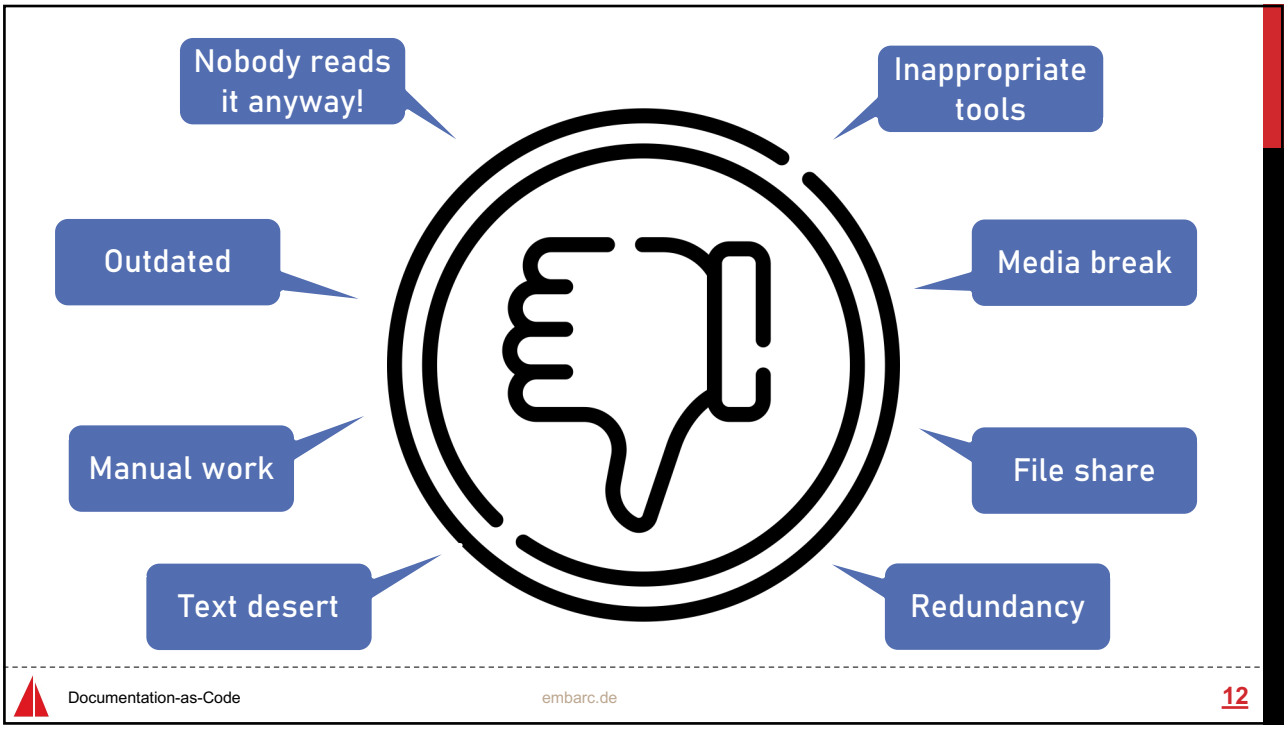
10



Grafik von The Practical Dev (CC0 Public Domain Lizenz)



11


Nobody reads it anyway!
Inappropriate tools
Outdated
Media break
Manual work
File share
Text desert
Redundancy
Documentation-as-Code
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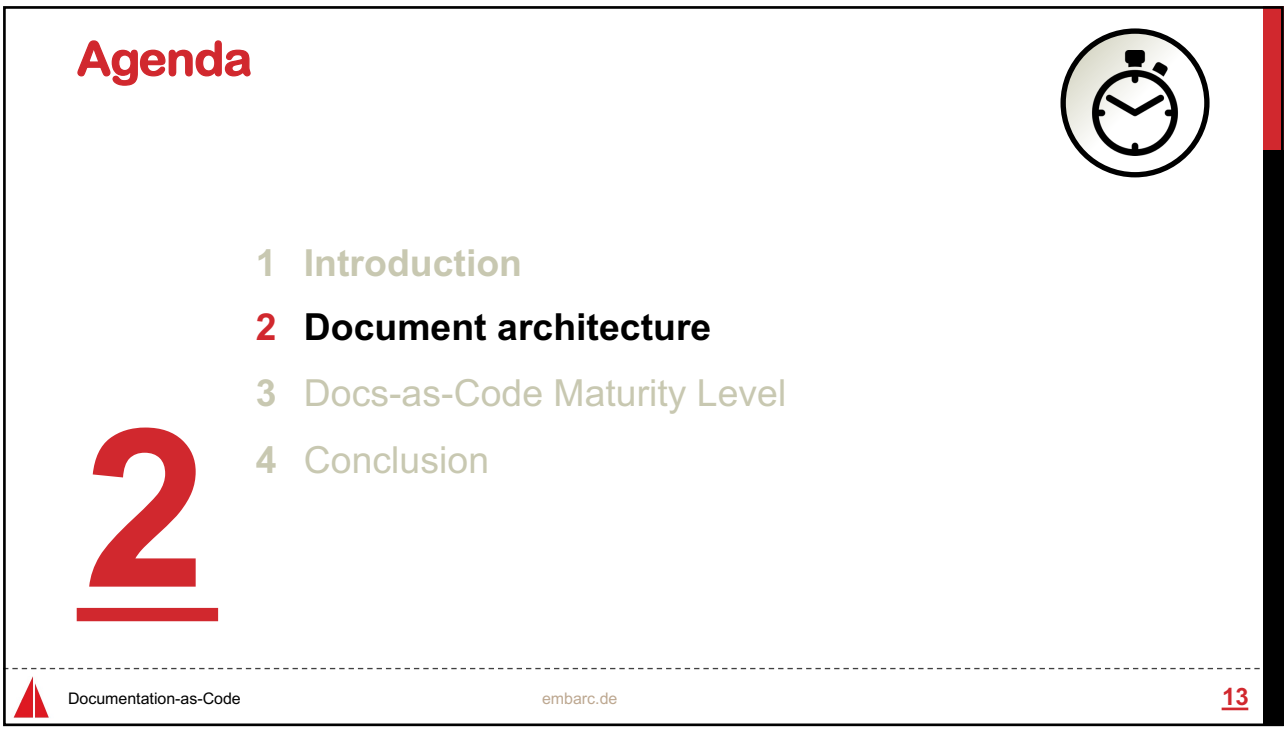
12

12


Agenda
1 Introduction
2 Document architecture
3 Docs-as-Code Maturity Level
4 Conclusion
2
Documentation-as-Code
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13

13

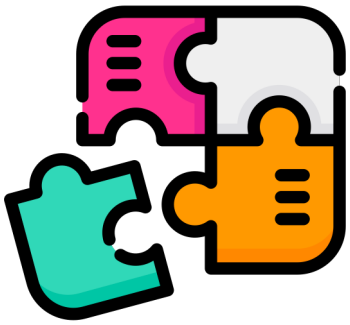
7 rules for good documentation

„Documenting Software Architectures: Views and Beyond“
Clements, et.al, 2. Auflage 2010

1. Write from the reader's point of view
2. Avoid unnecessary repetition
3. Avoid ambiguities
   a) Explain your notation
4. Use standard structuring
5. Record rationale for decisions
6. Keep documentation up to date but not too up to date
7. Check documentation for usability

Architecture design

Requirements,
Architecture goals



Solution strategies,
Decisions

Ingredients for an architectural overview

Quality goals

Constraints

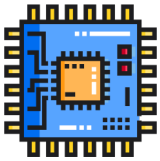
System context

Mission Statement

Informal overview

Architecture style/ patterns/principles

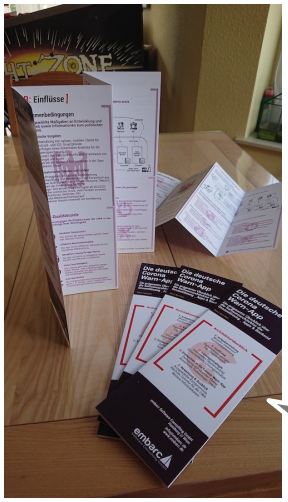
Decisisions



Technologies

17

Examples to look up (German only)



Slides

Die deutsche Corona Warn-App.
Ein prägnanter Überblick über die Softwarearchitektur der Gesamtlösung – Apps und Backend.

STAND: APRIL 2021

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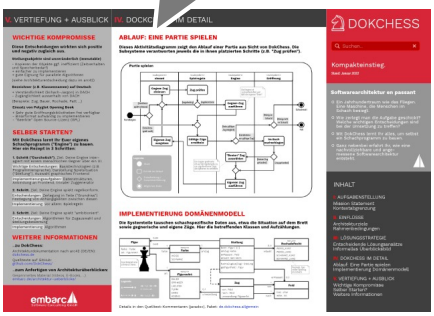
CWA Flyer

DokChess Flyer



Author: Stefan Zörner

18

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2 Document architecture

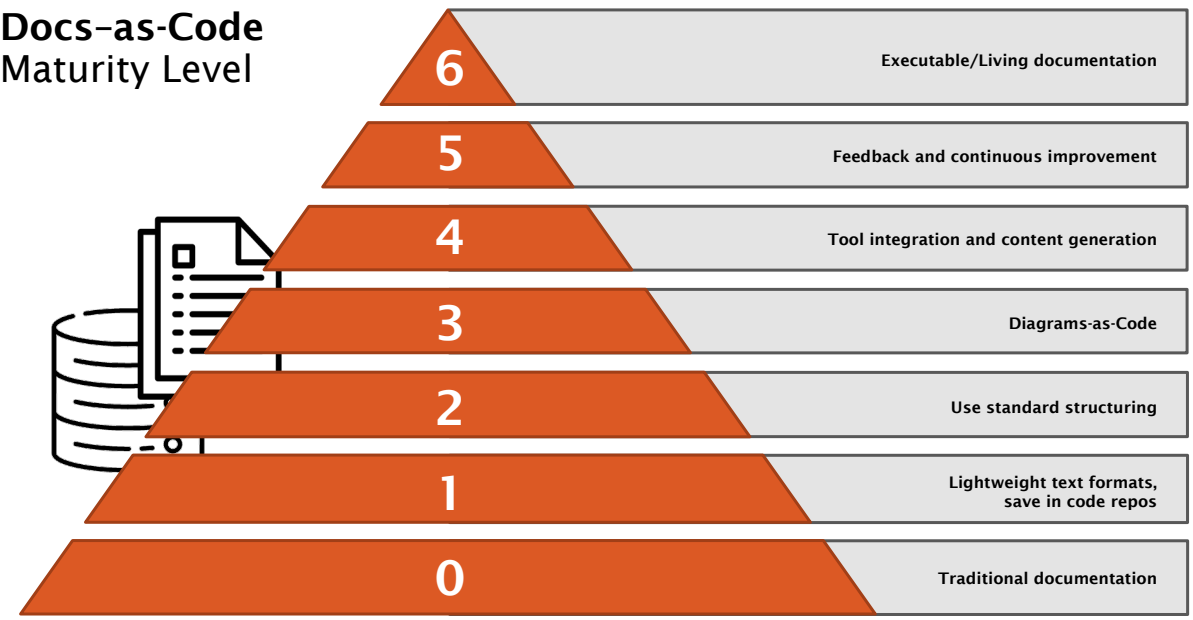
3 **Docs-as-Code Maturity Level**

4 Conclusion

3

19

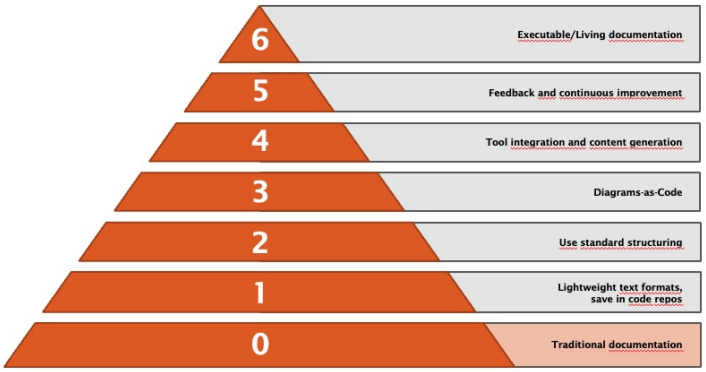
Docs-as-Code Maturity Level



20

Traditional documentation

- Documentation is managed separately from code
- Editing in WYSIWYG tools
- Storage on network drives
- Use of wikis



21

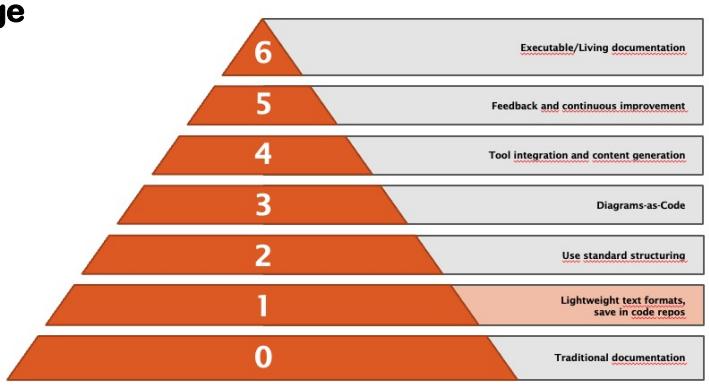
… the place where documents go to die

Wiki = Where Information Kills Itselfs

22

Lightweight text formats, save in code repos

- **Documentation is versionable together with the source code**
- **Choice of a markup language**
- **Editing with developer tools**



23

24

Problems with MS Word and other WYSIWYG tools

Binary format

Multi-user cumbersome, merge conflicts troublesome

Send document by mail and merge changes

Historization, compare revisions

Word is page-oriented (page number, header, footer)

Subdocuments and image references (possible, but hardly used)

25

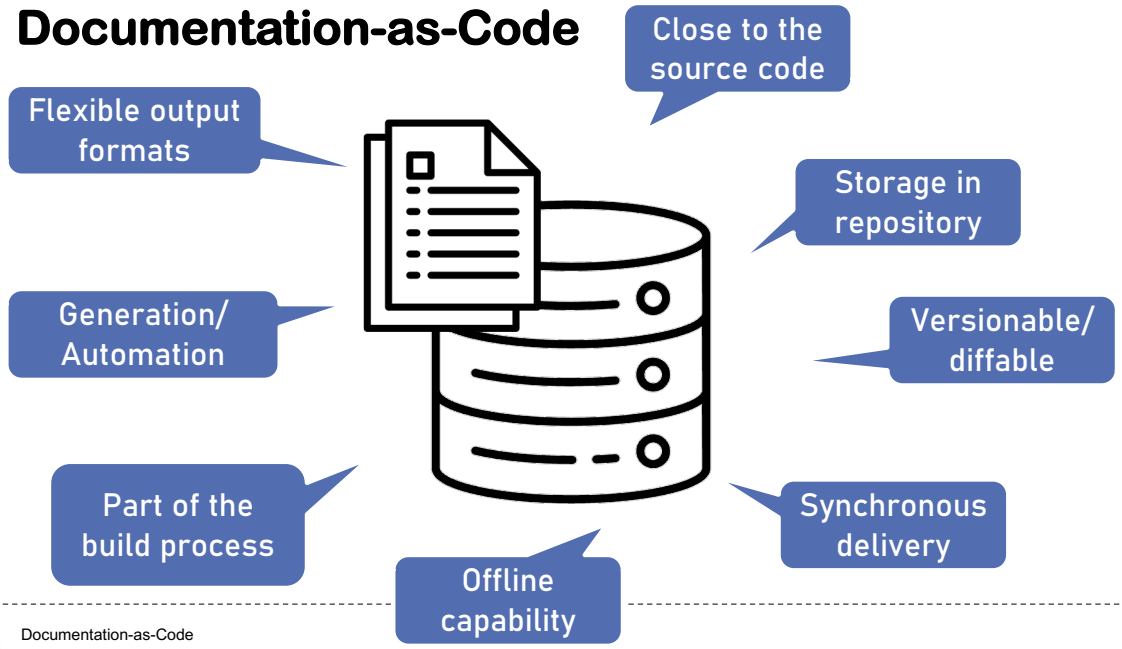
Our daily bread …

- Plain text
- IDE
- Command line tools
- Version control

Foto von geralt: https://pixabay.com/de/unternehmer-start-start-up-karriere-696976/ (CC0 Public Domain Lizenz)

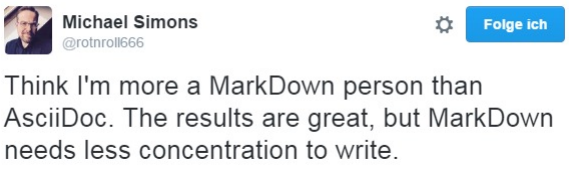
26

Documentation-as-Code



27

Which markup language to choose?



28

Markdown

Markdown

- Great standard for easy markup content
- Features

Span Elements
- Links
- Emphasis
- Code
- Images

Block Elements
- Paragraphs and Line Breaks
- Headers
- Blockquotes
- Lists
- Code Blocks
- Horizontal Rules

- TOC
- Tables (Feature Rich)
- Includes (Level-Offset)
- PlantUML
- Admonitions
- Attributes
- Anchors
- Footnotes, Index, Glossary
- Videos
- Syntax Highlighting
- Callouts
- Math Rendering
- Outputformats

Markdown

We need an extension!

Which one do we choose?

- CommonMark
- CriticMarkup
- Discount
- DocFX
- ExtraMark
- Ghost's Markdown/Haunted Markdown
- GitHub Flavored Markdown
- GitLab Flavored Markdown (with login)
- Haroopad Flavored Markdown
- iA Writer's Markdown
- Kramdown
- Leanpub Flavored Markdown
- Litedown
- Lunamark
- Madoko
- Markdown
- Markdown 2
- Markdown Extra
- Markdown-it
- Markua
- Maruku
- MultiMarkdown
- Pandoc's Markdown
- PHP Markdown Extra Extended
- Python Markdown
- R Markdown
- Redcarpet
- Remarkable
- Rhythmus
- Scholarly Markdown
- Showdown
- StackOverflow's Markdown
- Taiga Markdown
- Trello's Markdown
- vfmd
- Xcode/Swift Playgrounds Markup

https://github.com/commonmark/commonmark-spec/wiki/markdown-flavors

Markdown

einen Dialekt

We need an extension!

Which one do we choose?

Will our toolchain still work then?

Is there an editor preview?

AsciiDoc / Asciidoctor

powerful syntax for technical documentation

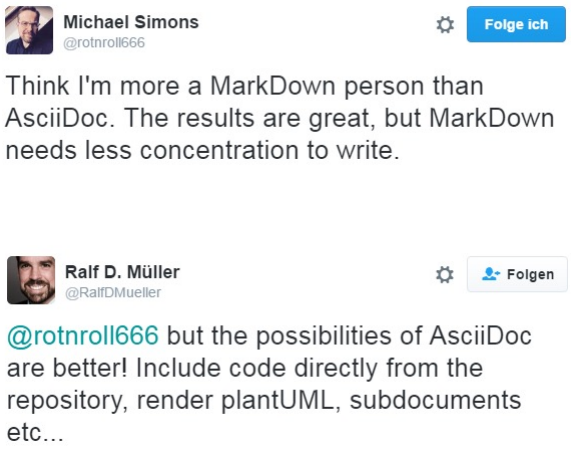
written in Ruby

transpiled to JavaScript with Opal

wrapped on the JVM with jRuby

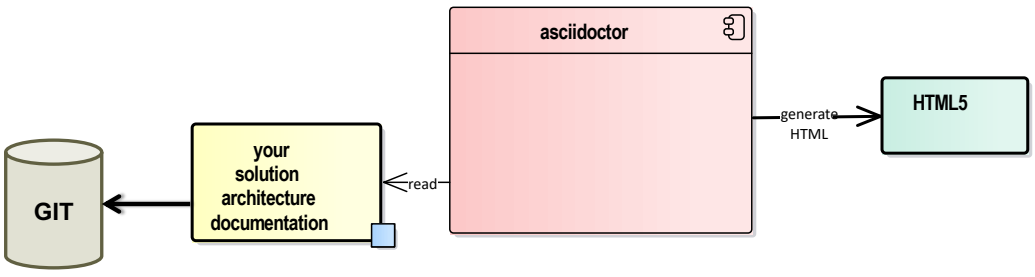
=> No dialects!

Markdown or AsciiDoc?



34

Basic Docs-as-Code with AsciiDoc



35

Out-of-the-Box Features

"Distraction-free" - write documentation like e-mails

Structuring into sub-documents

Restructuring according to stakeholder

images are referenced, not embedded

easy versioning "handle docs-as-code

formatting of source code

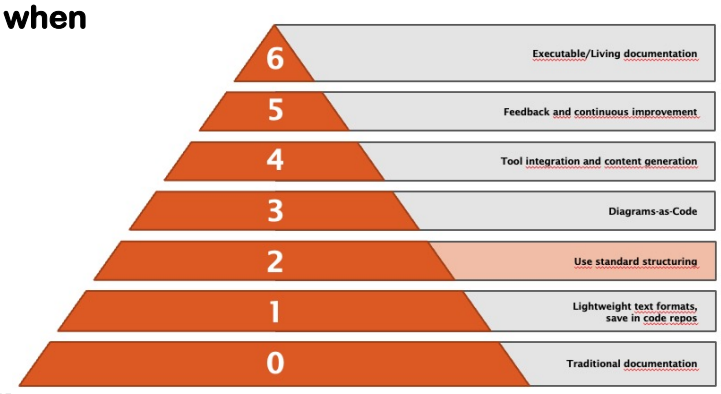
reviews, pull requests, versioning through Git

conversion to HTML5 and DocBook

36

Use standard structuring

- **Readers find their way around more easily**
- **Writers receive orientation when creating content**



37

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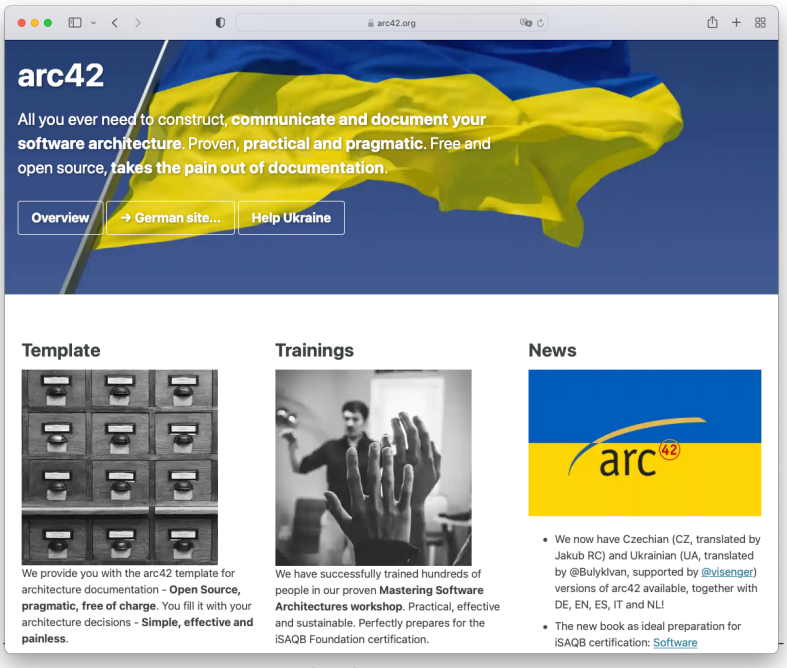
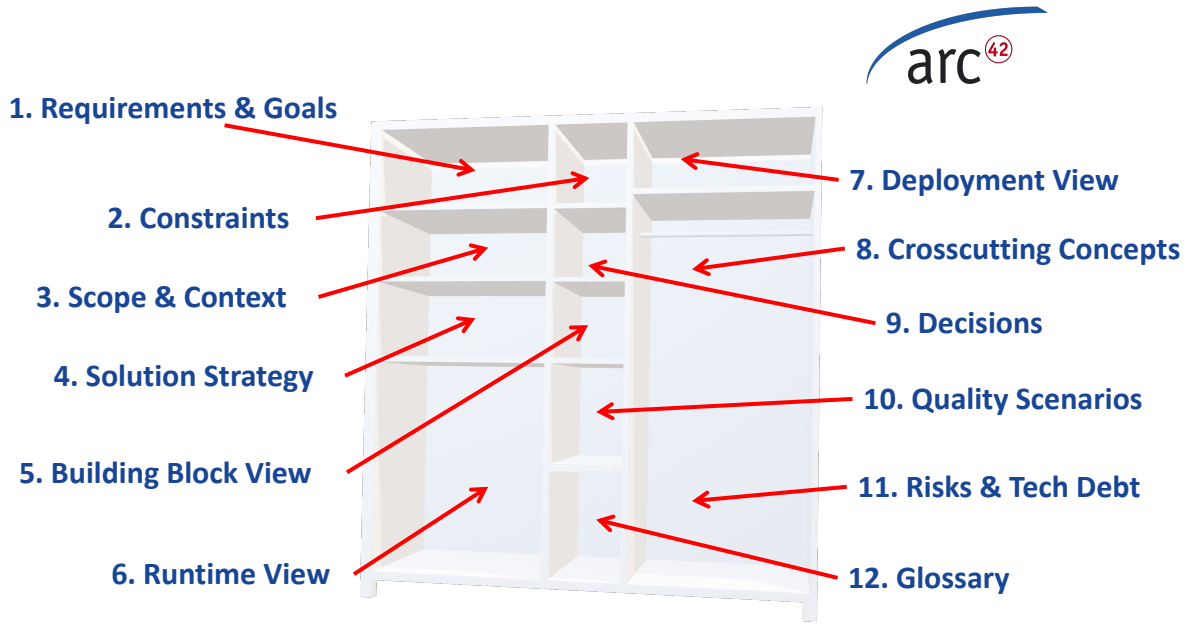
38

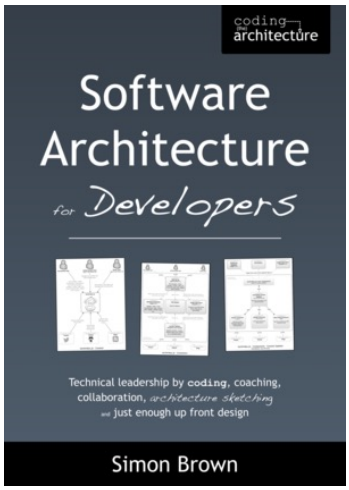


40



41

A different view: Simon Brown



Simon Brown:
Software Architecture for Developers

Technical leadership by coding, coaching, collaboration, architecture sketching and just enough up front design

➔ http://leanpub.com/

Leanpub

42

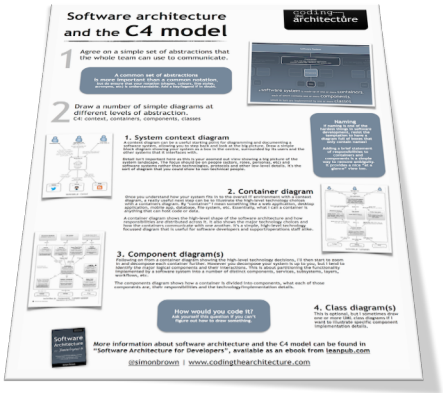
A different view: Simon Brown

Simon Brown:
Software Architecture for Developers, Volume 2

Visualize, document and explore your software architecture

➔ http://leanpub.com/

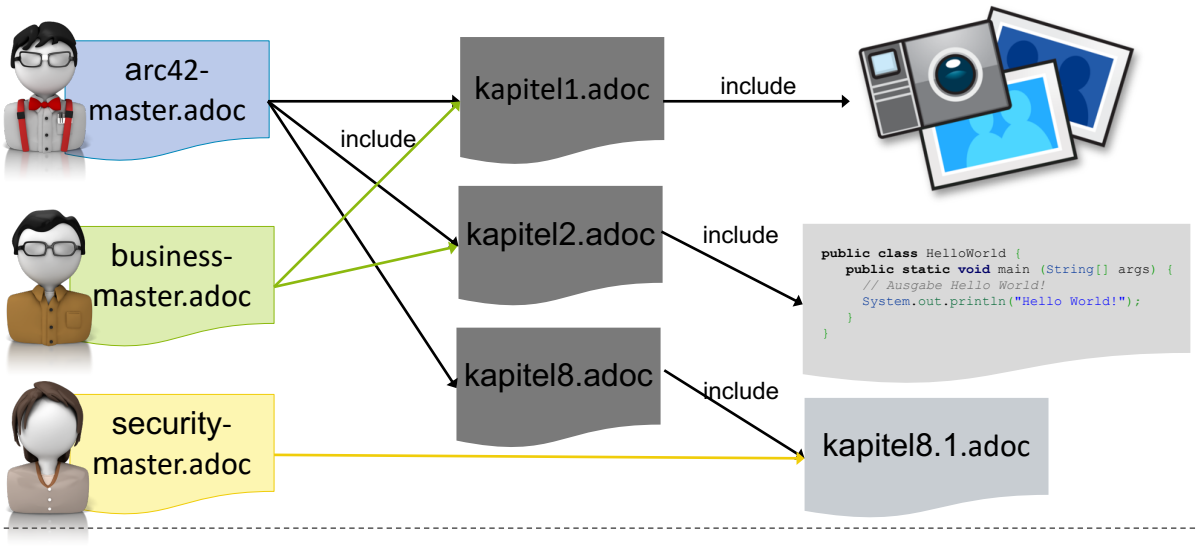
Simon Brown: C4 Model



- Agree on a simple set of abstractions that the whole team can use to communicate.
- Draw a number of simple diagrams at different levels of abstraction.
- C4: context, containers, components, classes (code)

➔ http://static.codingthearchitecture.com/c4.pdf

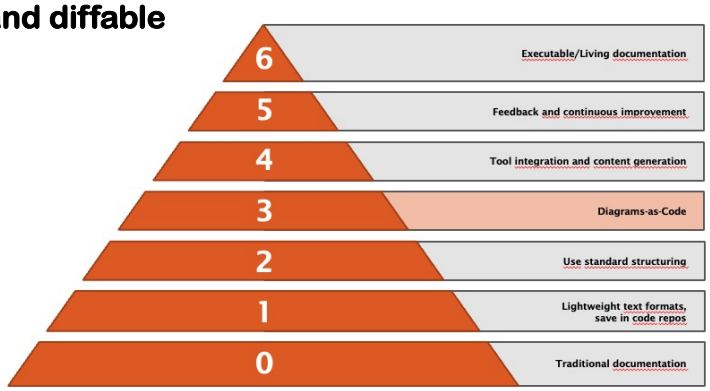
Modular documentation



45

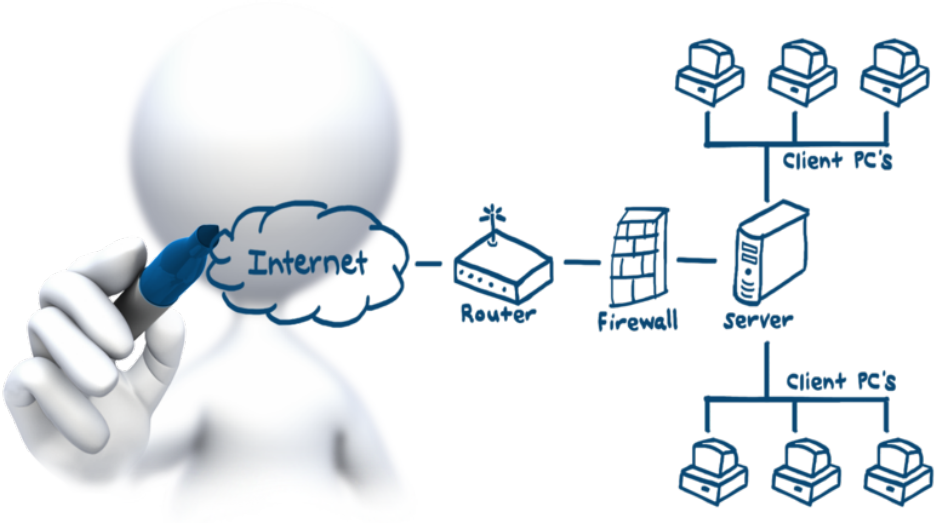
Diagrams-as-Code

- **Reduces risk of vendor lock-in for diagrams**
- **Makes graphs versionable and diffable**



46

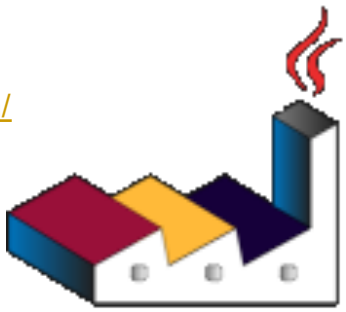
What about diagrams?



47

Diagrams

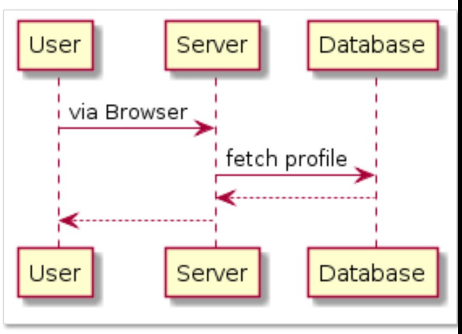
- http://plantuml.com/
- http://asciidoctor.org/docs/asciidoctor-diagram/
- Manage comples diagrams as simple text



48

PlantUML

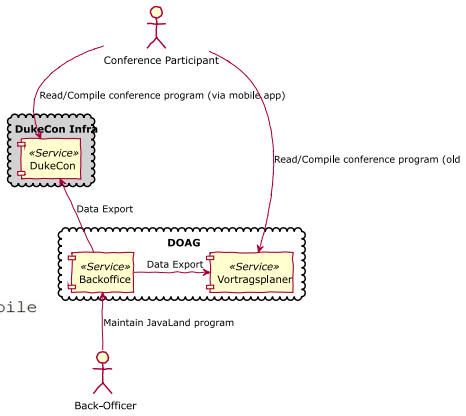
```
1  @startuml
2
3  User ->  Server: via Browser
4    Server ->  Database: fetch profile
5    Server <-- Database
6  User <-- Server
7
8  @enduml
```



49

Diagrams as Code

```
@startuml
skinparam handwritten true

actor :Conference Participant:

cloud "DukeCon Infra" #lightgray {
    [DukeCon] <<Service>>
}

cloud "DOAG" {
    [Backoffice] <<Service>>
    [Vortragsplaner] <<Service>>
}

:Conference Participant: -right-> (DukeCon) : Read/Compile
conference program (via mobile app)
:Conference Participant: -right-> (Vortragsplaner) :
Read/Compile conference program (old style)

(Backoffice) -left-> (DukeCon) : Data Export
(Backoffice) -left->

actor :Back-Officer:

:Back-Officer: -left-
program
@enduml
```

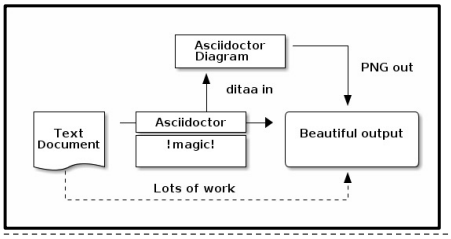



```
["plantuml", "dukecon-systemcontext", "svg"]
-----------------------------------------------
include::../systemcontext.puml[]
-----------------------------------------------
```

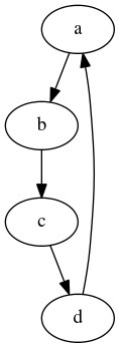

50

"AsciiArt"

```
[ditaa]
----
                  +-------------+
                  | Asciidoctor |-------+
                  |  Diagram    |       |
                  +-------------+       | PNG out
                      ^                 |
                      | ditaa in        |
                      |                 v
 +--------+   +--------+----+    /---------------\
 |        | --+ Asciidoctor +--> |               |
 |  Text  |   +-------------+    |Beautiful output|
 |Document|   |   !magic!   |    |               |
 |     {d}|   |             |    |               |
 +---+----+   +-------------+    \---------------/
     :                                   ^
     |          Lots of work             |
     +-----------------------------------+
----
```




```
[graphviz, dot-example, svg]
----
digraph g {
    a -> b
    b -> c
    c -> d
    d -> a
}
----
```



51

Kroki

Creates **diagrams** from **textual** descriptions!

Kroki provides a unified API with support for BlockDiag (BlockDiag, SeqDiag, ActDiag, NwDiag, PacketDiag, RackDiag), BPMN, Bytefield, C4 (with PlantUML), Ditaa, Erd, Excalidraw, GraphViz, Mermaid, Nomnoml, PlantUML, SvgBob, UMLet, Vega, Vega-Lite, WaveDrom... and more to come!

#Features

Ready to use
Diagrams libraries are written in a variety of languages: Haskell, Python, JavaScript, Go, PHP, Java... some also have C bindings. Trust us, you have better things to do than install all the requirements to use them. Get started in no time!

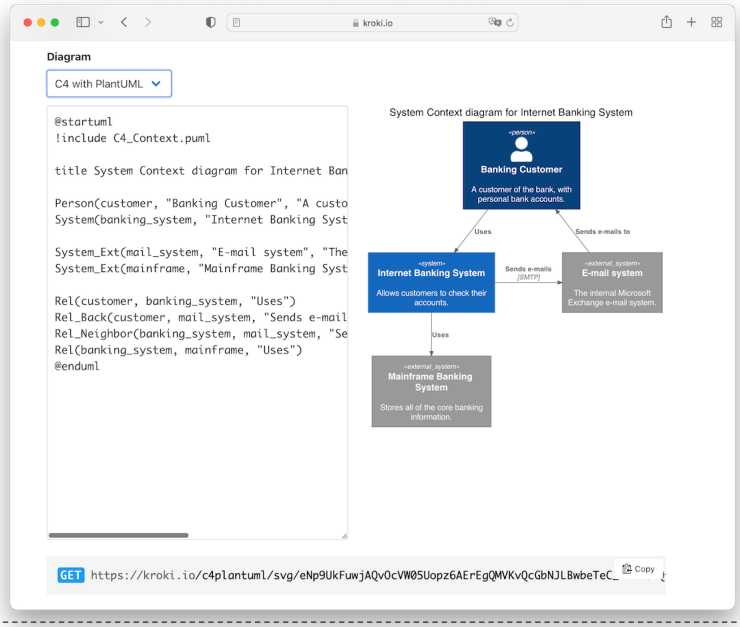
Simple
Kroki provides a unified API for all the diagram libraries. Learn once use diagrams anywhere!

Free & Open source
All the code is available on GitHub and our goal is to provide Kroki as a free service.

Fast
Built using a modern architecture, Kroki offers great performance.

https://kroki.io/

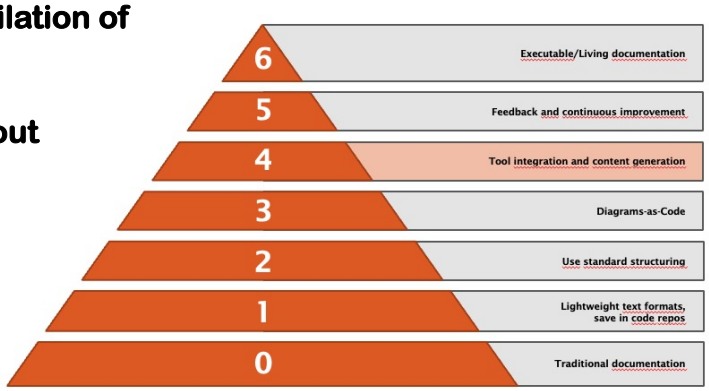
52



53

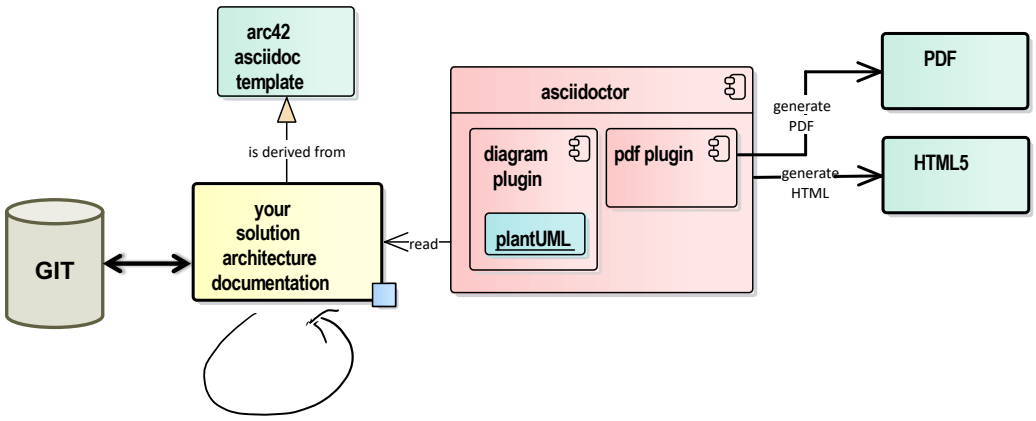
Tool integration und content generation

- **automated creation in the build process**
- **target group oriented compilation of results**
- **use of developer tools without context switching**
- **easy import and export**



54

Simple workflow with AsciiDoctor



55

Docs-as-Code in your IDE

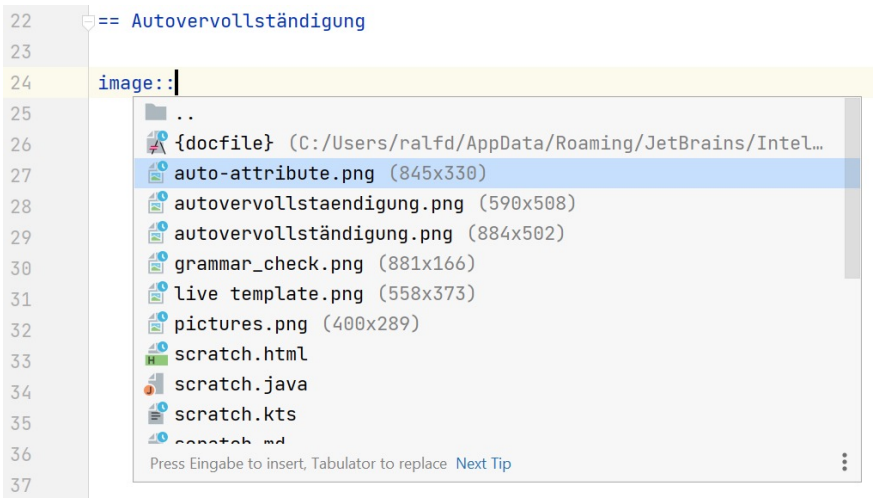
```
1  == Syntax Highlighting
2
3  :attribute: value
4
5  ```
6  Warning
7  ```
8
9  [source, groovy]
10 ----
11     println "Hello World!"
12 ----
13
14 a wrng word
15
16
17
18
```

Typo: In word 'wrng'

Replace with 'wrong' Alt+Umschalt+Eingabe More actions... Alt+Eingabe

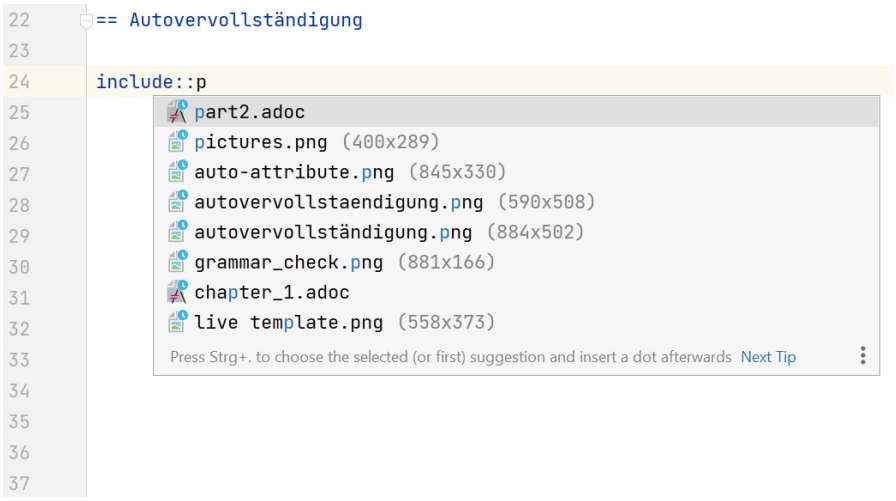
56

Docs-as-Code in your IDE



57

Docs-as-Code in your IDE



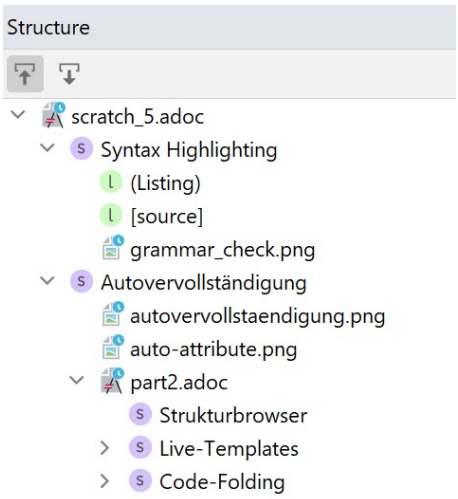
58

Docs-as-Code in your IDE

```
22  == Autovervollständigung
23
24  :app-id: 4711
25
26  {app}
27  app-id (4711)                                    scratch_5.adoc
28  app-name (not set)
29  appendix-caption (Appendix)                      scratch_1.adoc
30  appendix-number (A)
31  appendix-refsig (Appendix)
32  Strg+Unten and Strg+Oben will move caret down and up in the editor  Next Tip
33
34
35
36
37
```


59

Docs-as-Code in your IDE



60

Docs-as-Code in your IDE

```
7   == Code-Folding
8
9   === Abschnitt ausgeklappt
10
11  Lorem Ipsum
12
13  === Abschnitt eingeklappt ...
```

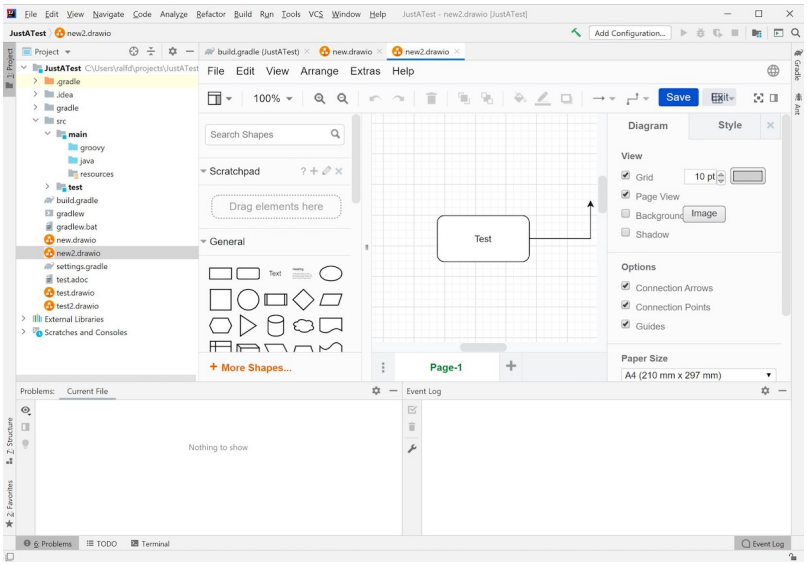

61

Docs-as-Code in your IDE

```
3   == Live-Templates
4
5   ad-t
6       ad-table2                                  Table with two columns
7       ad-tag-include      AsciiDoc Tags to be used with include macro
8       ad-title1                                                Title 1
9       ad-title2                                                Title 2
10      ad-title3                                                Title 3
11      ad-title4                                                Title 4
12      ad-title5                                                Title 5
13      ad-title6                                                Title 6
14      ad-config-toc    config-attributes for table of contents and s…
15      Press Eingabe to insert, Tabulator to replace  Next Tip
```

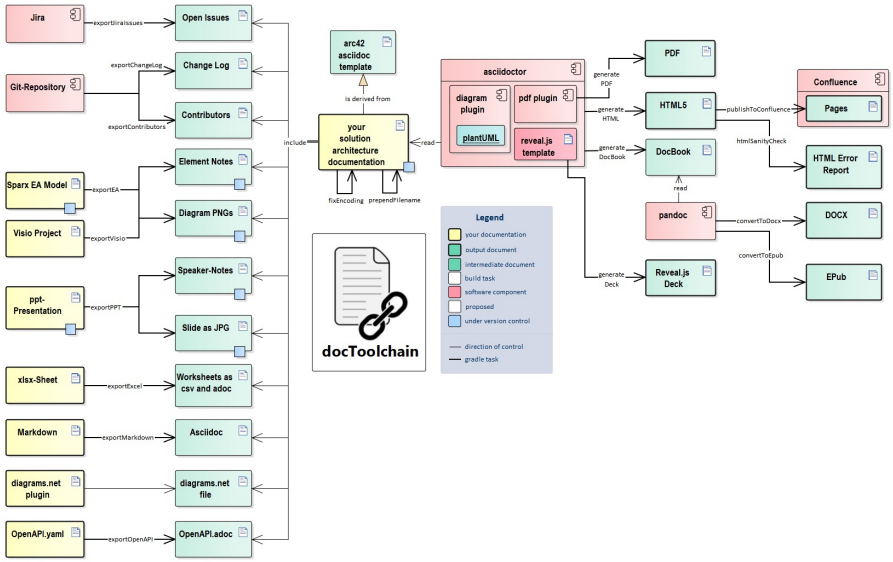

62

Draw.io/Diagrams.net Integration



63

Tool chain: docToolchain



64

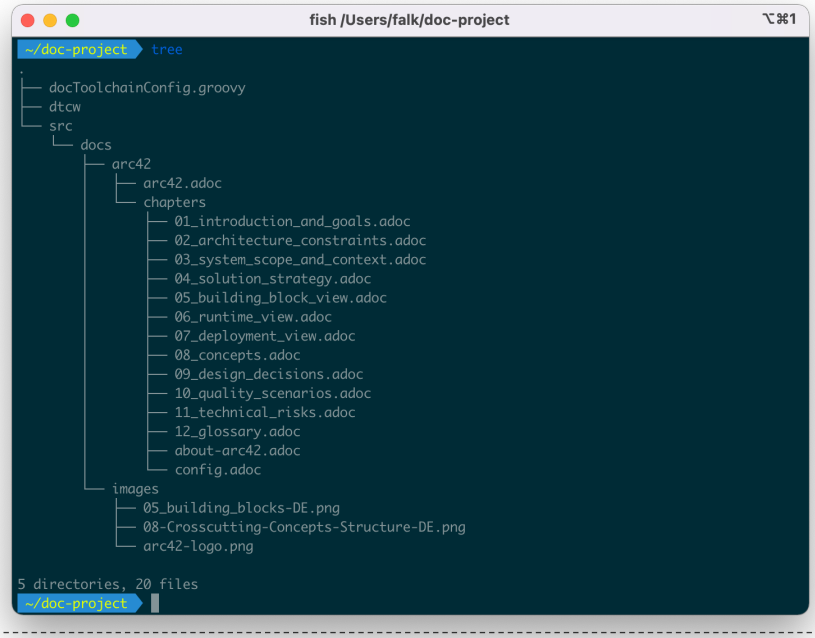
docToolchain @docToolchain · 26. Sep.

A full blown docu toolchain with @arc42Tipps as template installed in just one tweet:

wget doctoolchain.github.io/dtcw
chmod +x dtcw
./dtcw downloadTemplate
./dtcw generateSite

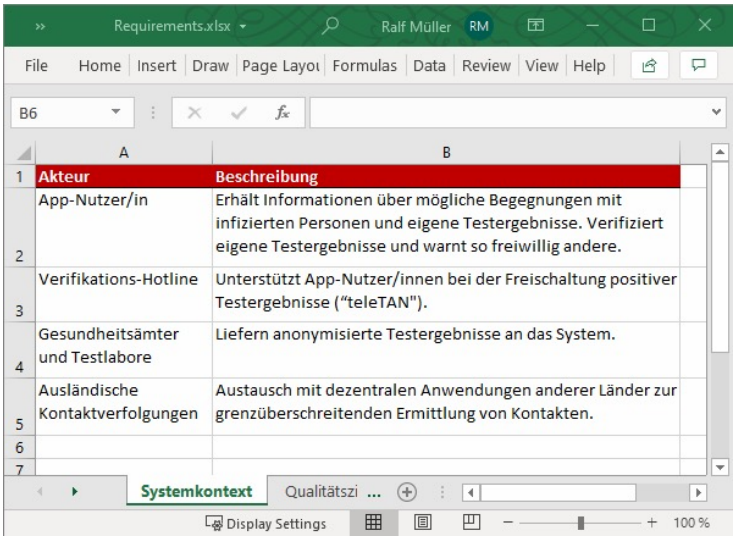
=> doctoolchain.org

65



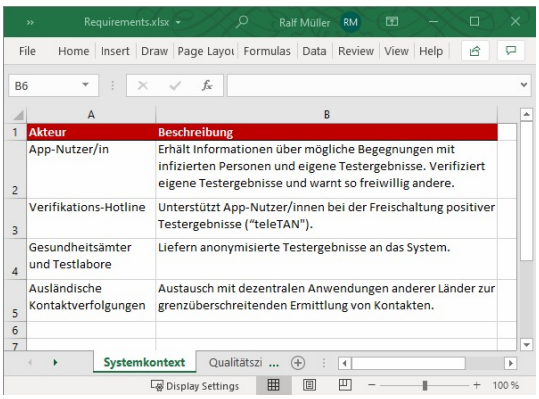
66

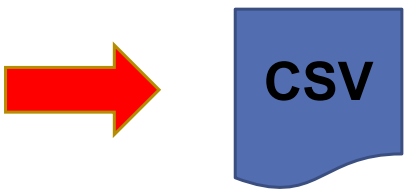
Tabular input!?



67

Tabular input!?





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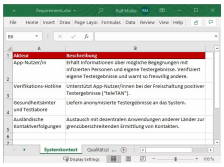
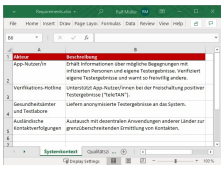
Tabular input!?



Akteur	Beschreibung
App-Nutzer/in	Erhält Informationen über mögliche Begegnungen mit infizierten Personen und eigene Testergebnisse. Verifiziert eigene Testergebnisse und warnt so freiwillig andere.
Verifikations-Hotline	Unterstützt App-Nutzer/innen bei der Freischaltung positiver Testergebnisse (“teleTAN").
Gesundheitsämter und Testlabore	Liefern anonymisierte Testergebnisse an das System.
Robert Koch-Institut (RKI)	Stellt Inhalte ("Content") für die App zur Verfügung und bestimmt Parameter für die Messung der Kontakte ("Risiko-Ermittlung"). Empfängt Auswertungen, etwa aus der Datenspende.
Ausländische Kontaktverfolgungen	Austausch mit dezentralen Anwendungen anderer Länder zur grenzüberschreitenden Ermittlung von Kontakten.

69

Tabular input!?



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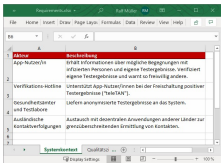
70

Tabular input!?



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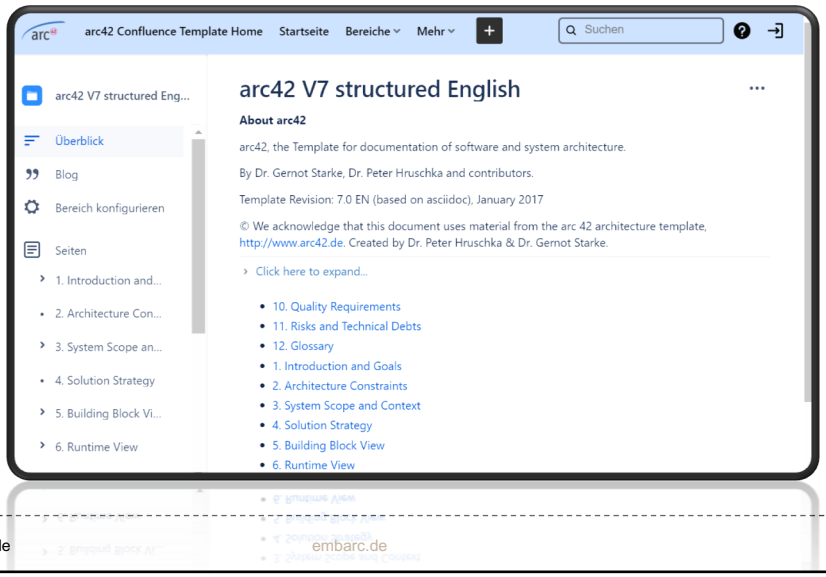
71

publishToConfluence



72

Embed source code

```
:source-highlighter: pygments

[source,java]
----
include::MyTest.java[]
----




[source,java,indent=10]
----
include::MyTest.java[lines=2..4]
----
<1> method declaration
<2> print statement




:sourcedir: ../../../src/main/java

[source,java]
----
include::{sourcedir}/de/oio/vavr/functions/CheckedFunction.java[lines=12..14]
----
```

```java
public class MyTest {
    public static void main(String[] args) { (1)
        System.out.println("Hello world!"); (2)
    }
}
```

```java
        public static void main(String[] args) { (1)
            System.out.println("Hello world!"); (2)
        }
```

1. method declaration
2. print statement

```java
        CheckedFunction1<Integer, Integer> readFunction = i -> readFromFile(i);
        integers.stream().map(readFunction.unchecked());
```


73

Generate interface definitions/descriptions

Swagger2Markup / swagger2markup

Watch 15 Star 294 Fork 54

Code Issues 7 Pull requests 0 Pulse Graphs

A Swagger to AsciiDoc or Markdown converter to simplify the generation of an up-to-date RESTful API documentation by combining documentation that's been hand-written with auto-generated API documentation.

Spring REST Docs SUCCESS

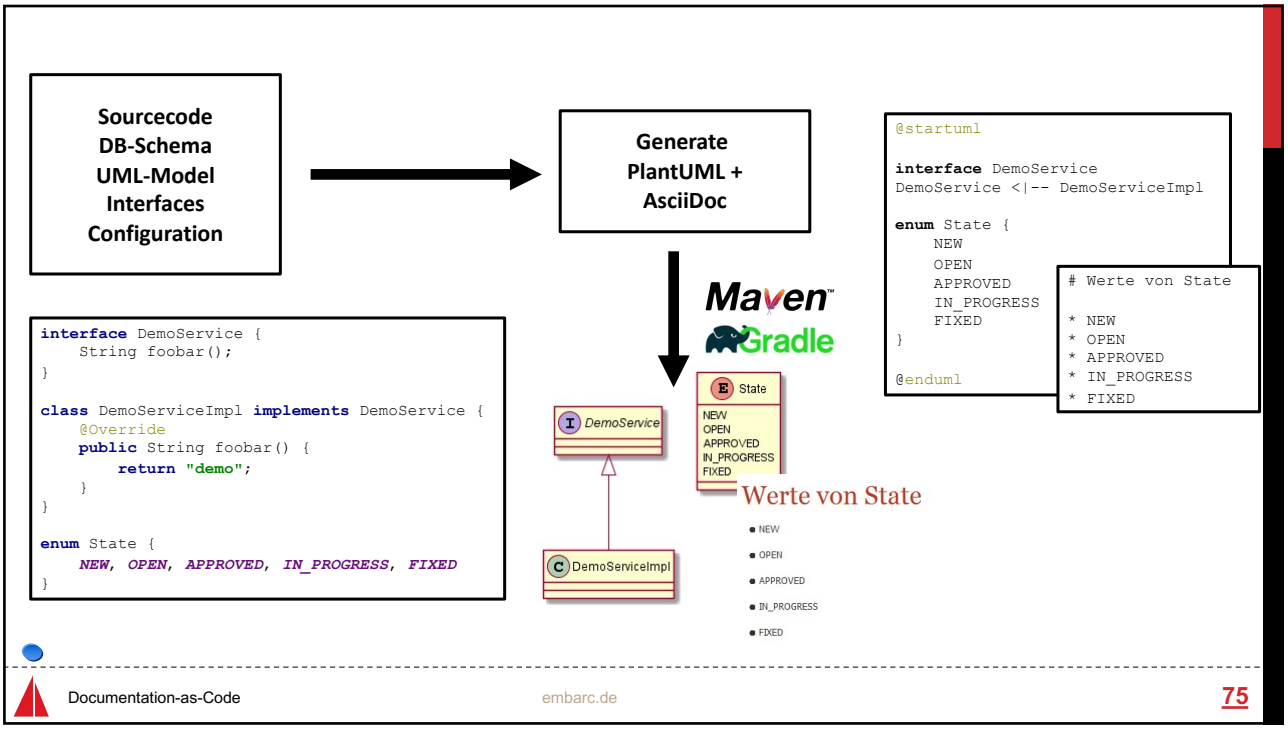
Overview

The primary goal of this project is to make it easy to document RESTful services by combining content that's been hand-written using Asciidoctor with auto-generated examples produced with the Spring MVC Test framework. The result is intended to be an easy-to-read user guide, akin to GitHub's API documentation for example, rather than the fully automated, dense API documentation produced by tools like Swagger.

JAX-RS Analyzer

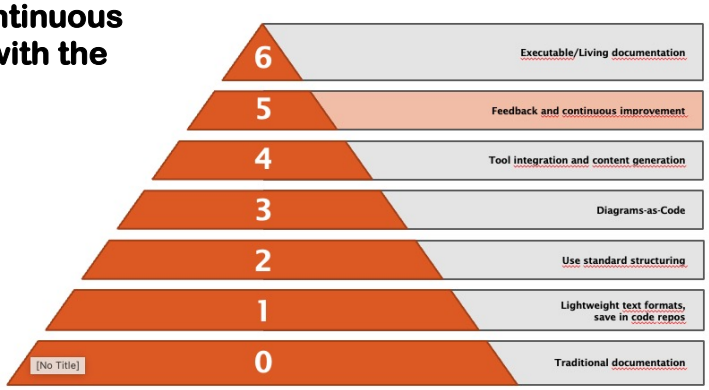
Generates an overview of all JAX-RS resources in a project by bytecode analysis.

74

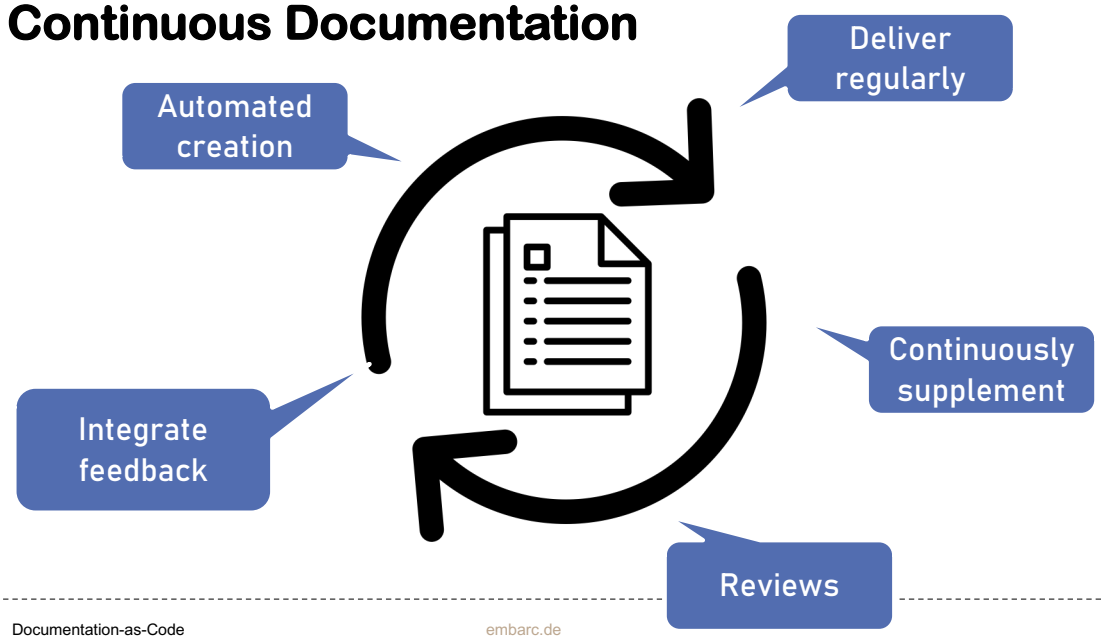


Feedback und continuous improvement

- **Integration into the organizational procedure**
- **Automated creation and continuous delivery of documentation with the releases**
- **Review processes also for documentation**
- **Keep documentation easily up-to-date**



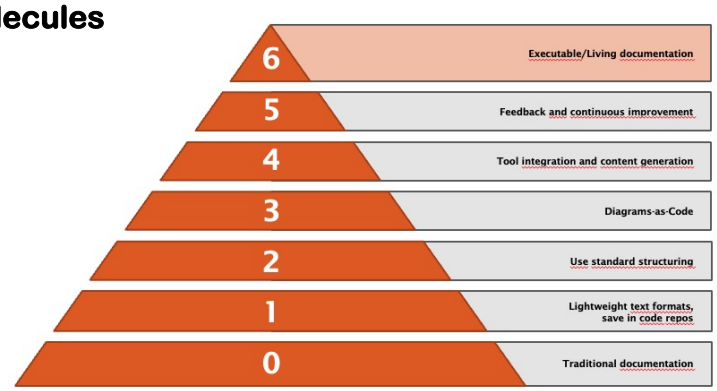
Continuous Documentation



77

Executable documentation

- **Document your structure and test it automatically**
- **jQAssistant, ArchUnit, xMolecules**



84

Agenda

1 Introduction

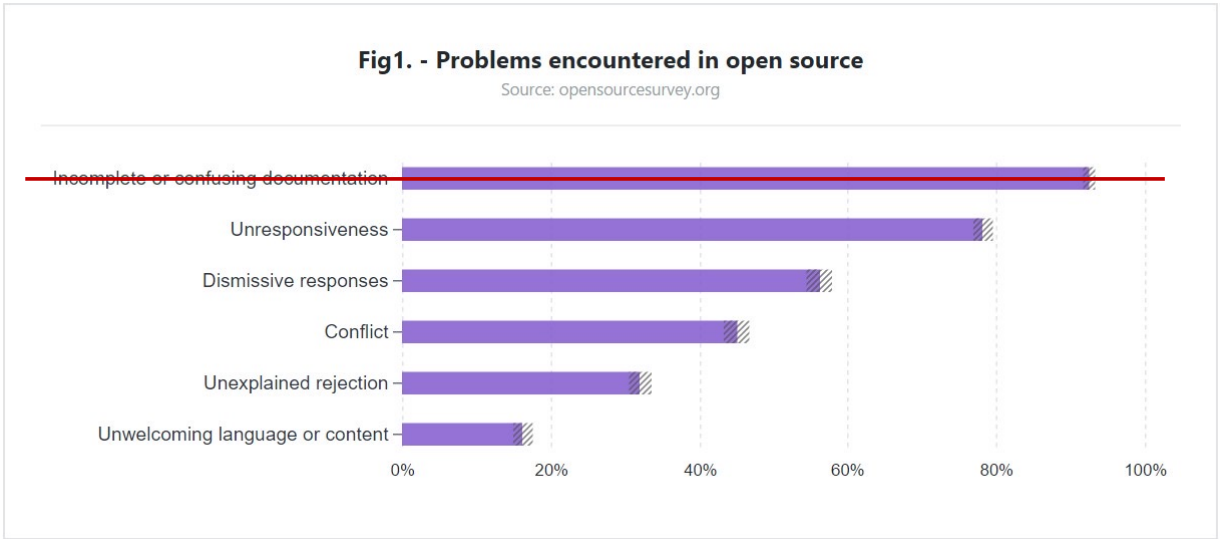
2 Document architecture

3 Docs-as-Code Maturity Level

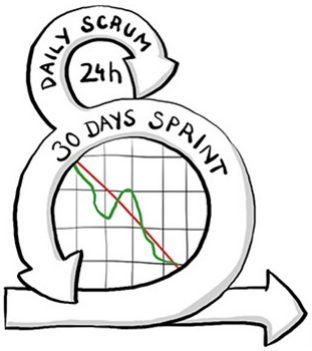
4 **Conclusion**

4

85



86



Continuous Documentation

Documentation as Code

87

Modern documentation

Text formats

Single Source of Truth

Generate content

Images/ Diagrams

Docs-as-Code

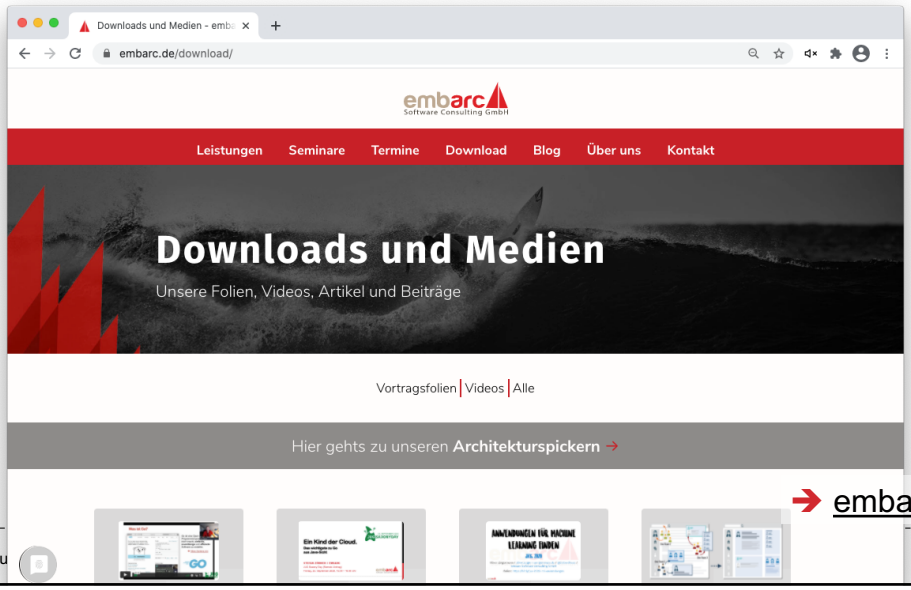
Continuous Documentation

Execute/ Validate

Caretaker

88

Slides for download



➔ embarc.de/download/

89

Falk Sippach

- Software Architect, Consultant, Trainer at embarc
- formerly at Orientation in Objects (OIO), Trivadis

Focus:

- Architecture consulting and reviews
- Cloud and Java technologies

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@sippsack
➔ xing.to/fsi

embarc Software Consulting GmbH

93

Thank you.

embarc Software Consulting GmbH

I'm looking forward to your questions!

Falk Sippach

fs@embarc.de

@sippsack

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