

Document all the things! (How again?)

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Aims of this session

- Start a discussion on documentation methods in research software projects.

Notes at: bit.ly/cw19-docs-workshop

Please add your name and email if you want to contribute to a coherent document to be published.

Slides at: bit.ly/cw19-docs-workshop-slides

**Documentation is key for software
sustainability**

Q: What and how should we actually document?

1. **What** must be documented? [Are there minimal and maximal sets of documentation types to cover?]
2. **How** should different documentation types be written or generated? [Does the type of documentation to be created dictate the form?]

Underlying question: How much - if any - “trad” software engineering documentation practices does sustainable research software need?

My perspective: New research software project with a focus on sustainability:
hexatomic.github.io.

Requirements and evaluation:

<http://bit.ly/doc-tooling-eval> (work in progress!)

Documentation types?

Conceptual documentation

- Requirements engineering
- System modeling
- Architectural design
- Object-oriented design

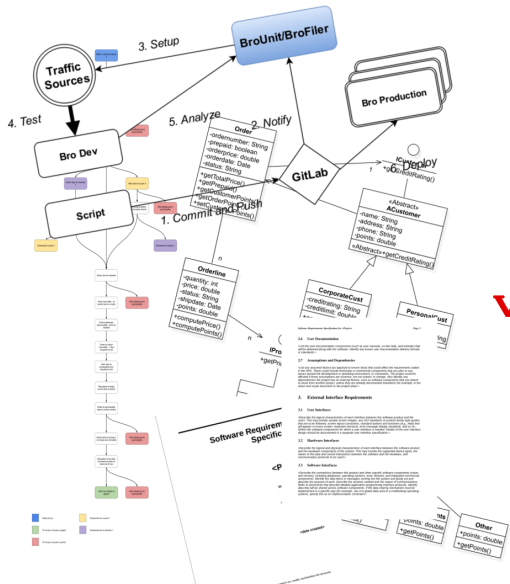
Reference documentation

- Code comments
- API documentation
- README
- User guide
- Glossary

Practice-based documentation

- How-tos
- Getting started
- Installation instructions

Documentation methods?



VS.

**Working
software
over
comprehensive
documentation**

Documentation audiences?

- Users
- Developers
- Maintainers
- Managers
- Researchers (users + developers?)

Any questions before we dive into the discussion?

Discussion

bit.ly/cw19-docs-workshop

Thank you!

Thanks!