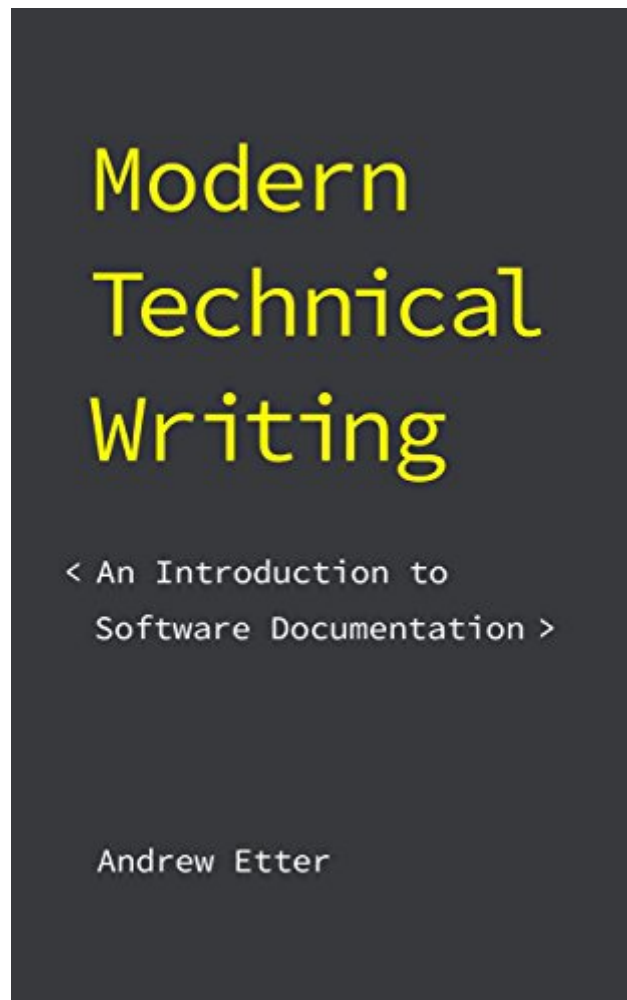




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Modern Technical Writing: An Introduction To Software Documentation



Synopsis

This slender volume provides the foundational knowledge to start creating and publishing great software documentation. Written by the lead technical writer at one of Silicon Valley's most exciting companies, *Modern Technical Writing* is a set of guiding principles and thoughtful recommendations for new and experienced technical writers alike. Not a reference manual, and not comprehensive, it instead serves as an introduction to a sensible writing and publishing process, one that has eluded the profession for too long.

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Technical

Customer Reviews

True to the author's philosophy, this is definitely the BFD (Basic Functional Documentation) on technical writing, at least for software products. It provides a beginning-to-end survey of what technical writing looks like in 2016. The only caveat I'd add is that the content is targeted towards the smaller-product end of the spectrum and skips over the aspects that become problematic at a larger scale. That being said if you're not trying to solve an enterprise-sized documentation problem, this is

a quick read that is full of helpful tips and links. Well worth the price of a cup of coffee!

I was asked to write documentation for my company's software and, while I got through the whole process, I knew I wanted to learn more about how to write documentation correctly. I didn't realize there was so much I didn't know about this field. I was looking for a book that was not too long, so I could read it between work assignments, and easy to understand for somebody with a very modest technical background. This book had a casual tone of voice that made it very enjoyable to read. I also learned A LOT, considering this is a relatively short book. Definitely recommend.

It's a good view of the practices of a working technical writer. It'd be good paired with a textbook for a student learning more about the world of tech writing. It's also very specific to the world of software, and a lot of tech writing still occurs with durable goods (heavy manufacturing). But for 10,000 words or so, it's very on point and useful.

Great high level discussion on how to use open source tools to make it easier to create documentation for any applicaiton

I agree with Tom Johnson that this catches the essence of how many people in Silicon Valley feel about documenting software, especially for an audience of programmers. It throws out a lot of bathwater, and it definitely chokes on what to do if you need to translate into other languages, but the baby is still in there, and I think that baby has a lot of potential.

A nice little tactical guide--only 10,000 words--from an advocate of the 'docs-like-code' movement. A thoroughly worthwhile diversion down a path that will likely become a thoroughfare for many technical writers.

An interesting insight to the workings of a technical writer, and the technology/web links are useful, particularly for someone starting out in the profession, a quick read at 10,000 words approx...was hoping for more...

It is short, and I read it in a day. It is written in the style it promotes. Useful list of things to check for software documentation.

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