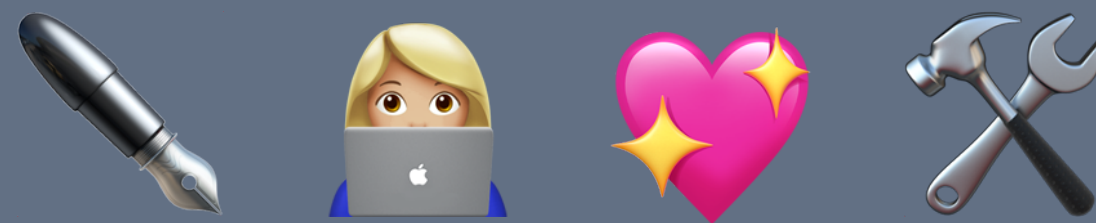# Humanizing Your Documentation
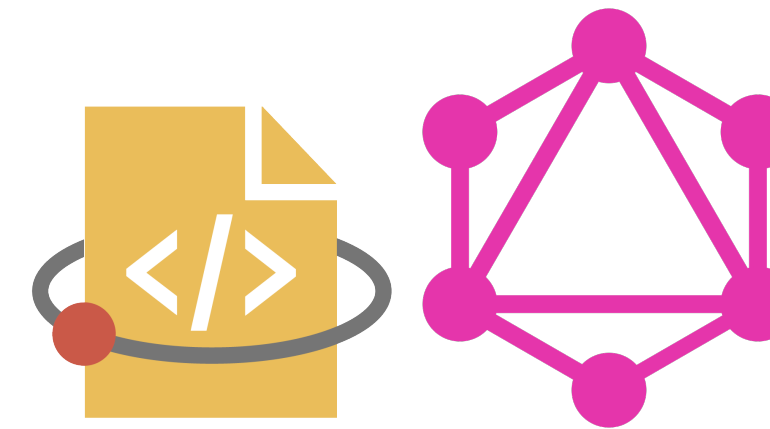
🖋 👩🏼‍💻 💖 🛠

bit.ly/docs-talk-resources

@carolstran

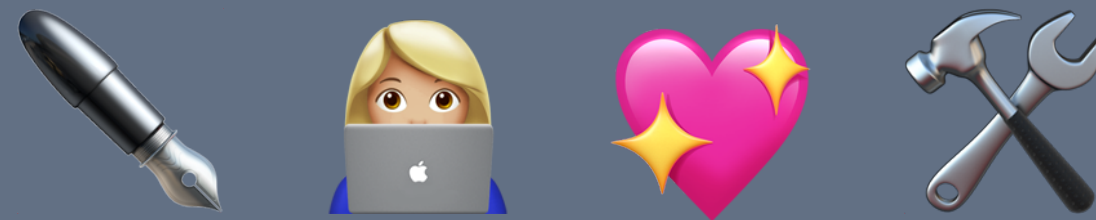FUTURE OF SEX

Pitch me!
editor@futureofsex.net

Season of Docs

BRYTER

@carolstran

Humanizing Your Documentation

🖋️ 👩🏼‍💻 💖 🛠️

bit.ly/docs-talk-resources

@carolstran

Why do we write documentation?

👩🏼‍💻

Use case driven documentation

💡

How to adjust the speed

How to change the direction

How to change the drill bit

How to drill a hole in a flat surface

How to select the right screw

How to stir paint with your drill

Who do we write documentation for?

👩🏼‍💻

Humans

💻 💡

Slack API Portal - bit.ly/slack-docs

Making messages interactive

Subscribing to Event Types

Events API vs. RTM API

Slack API Portal - bit.ly/slack-docs

Goal

Use Case

Goal

Use Case

Functional Requirement

Design

Implementation

Tyner Blain - bit.ly/use-case-docs

Goal

Use Case

Functional Requirement

Design

Implementation

Tyner Blain - bit.ly/use-case-docs

Goal

Use Case

Functional Requirement

Design

Implementation

Tyner Blain - bit.ly/use-case-docs

This is cool

💁🏼‍♀️

But it doesn't happen

🙍🏼‍♀️

No one wants to read your docs

🙅🏼‍♀️

~~No one wants to read your docs~~

🙍🏼‍♀️

People don't mind reading docs…

🤷🏼‍♀️

@carolstran

…as long as they're actually helpful

🙆🏼‍♀️

Ethan McQuarrie - bit.ly/EthanMcQuarrie-tweet

Kilian McMahon
@kilmc

Follow

Process of learning how to write a plugin:

1. Read docs
2. Get console.log output
3. Read more
4. Try literally anything else
5. Get errors
6. Read more docs
7. Read existing plugin source
8. Notice it's written completely differently to what the docs say
9. Cry a little

Kilian McMahon - bit.ly/kilmc-tweet

Leigh Momii - bit.ly/jetleigh-tweet

craig @cnishina · Jan 30

Replying to @jetleigh

If there were no docs, would it be better?

💬 1   ↻   ♡   ✉

Leigh Momii - bit.ly/jetleigh-tweet

Leigh Momii - bit.ly/jetleigh-tweet

If only developers cared about docs…

💁🏼‍♀️

~~If only developers cared about docs...~~

🙍🏼‍♀️

Writing docs is only part of the job

👩🏼‍💻

The words we choose

Insensitive language

🚫

@carolstran

If the programmer wishes to uphold the invariant, he must satisfy the function's preconditions

Problematic but common terms

🚫

Master / Slave

Whitelist / Blacklist

Think before you type

✅

@carolstran

Primary / Replica

Denylist / Allowlist

Saying 'simply' or 'easy'

🚫

Don't say it

✅

Be specific

Be comparative

⚖️

Be absolute

Show, don't tell

🎥

Be careful with linters

⚠️

bit.ly/alex-js

Alex - Catch insensitive, inconsi

https://alexjs.com

ALEX

Catch insensitive, inconsiderate writing
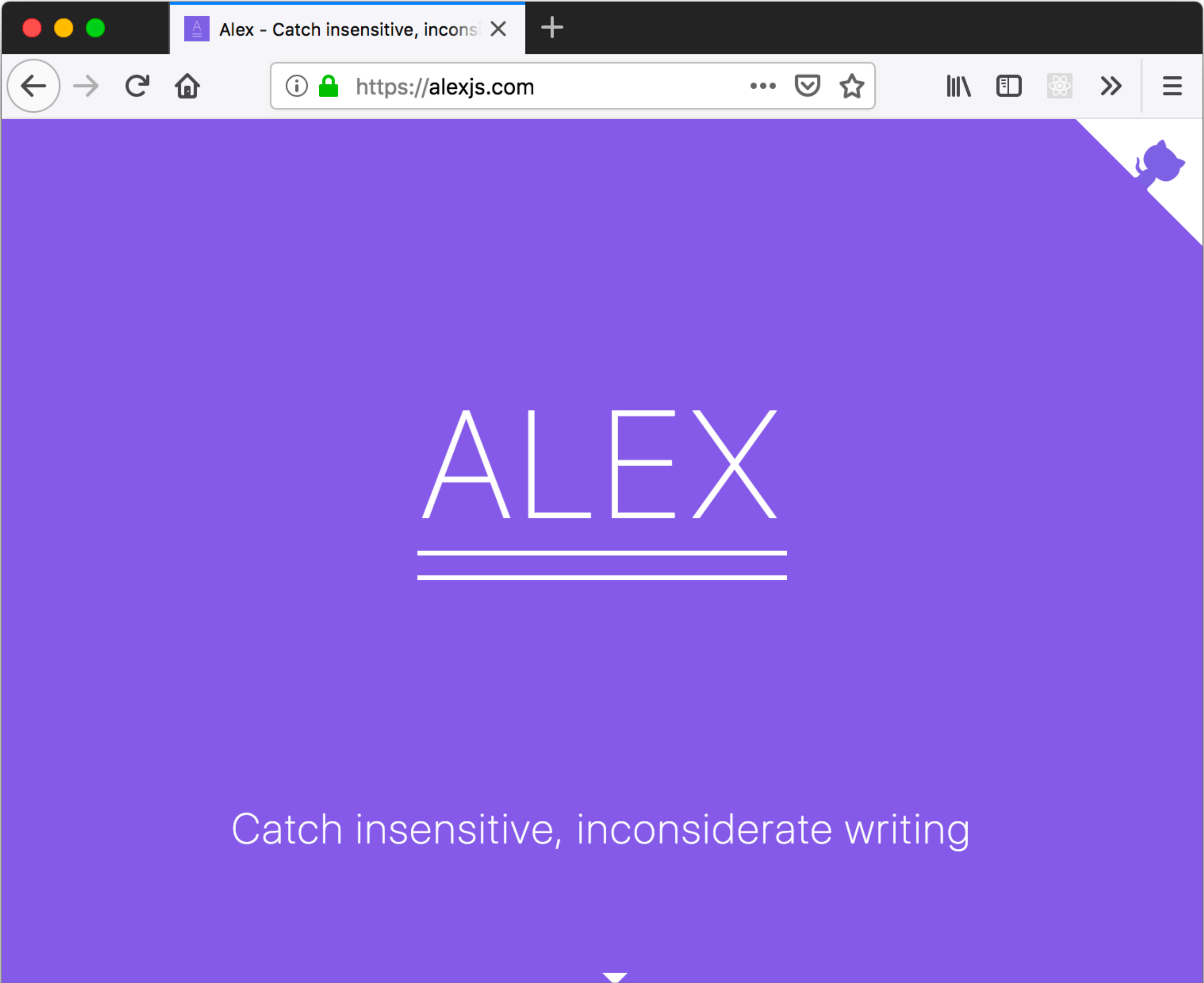
bit.ly/write-good

btford/write-good: Naive linter f ✕

ⓘ 🔒 GitHub, Inc. (US) | https://github.com/btford/write-goo

Search or jump to...   /   Pull requests   Issues   Marketplace   Explore

📖 **btford** / **write-good**   👁 Watch ▾ 96   ★ Unstar 3,655   ⑂ Fork 182

‹› Code   ⓘ Issues **24**   ⑂ Pull requests **3**   ▣ Projects **0**   ▤ Wiki   ᵢᵢ Insights

Naive linter for English prose

⬡ **135** commits   ⑂ **1** branch   ◌ **11** releases   ᎒ **24** contributors   ⚖ MIT

Branch: master ▾   New pull request   Create new file   Upload files   Find File   Clone or download ▾

👤 **RichardLitt** 1.0.1   Latest commit cd9ce3f on 17 Jan

📁 bin   Update code to node 6, add linter, update deps (#109)   4 months ago

📁 lib   Update code to node 6, add linter, update deps (#109)   4 months ago

📁 test   Update code to node 6, add linter, update deps (#109)   4 months ago

📄 .dockerignore   Add configuration to build Docker image   9 months ago

📄 .eslintrc   Update code to node 6, add linter, update deps (#109)   4 months ago

📄 .gitignore   #48 ignore .vscode settings folder   a year ago

📄 .travis.yml   Update code to node 6, add linter, update deps (#109)   4 months ago

📄 Dockerfile   Update code to node 6, add linter, update deps (#109)   4 months ago

Trying to be funny

🚫

Avoid humor

✅

@carolstran

At this point, I have to show you a photo of cute kittens to keep your interest in reading further:

Are you still here? Thank you!

Bloated language

🚫

Plain language

✅

hemingwayapp.com

www.hemingwayapp.com

Bold   Italic   H1   H2   H3   Quote   Bullets   Numbers   Link

Write | Edit

Hemingway Editor

Hemingway App makes your writing bold and clear.

The app highlights lengthy, complex sentences and common errors; if you see a yellow sentence, shorten or split it. If you see a red highlight, your sentence is so dense and complicated that your readers will get lost trying to follow its meandering, splitting logic — try editing this sentence to remove the red.

You can utilize a shorter word in place of a purple one. Mouse over them for hints.

Adverbs and weakening phrases are helpfully shown in blue. Get rid of them and pick words with force, perhaps.

Phrases in green have been marked to show passive voice.

You can **format** your *text* with the toolbar.

Paste in something you're working on and edit away. Or, click the Write button and compose something new.

Readability

Grade 6

Good

Words: **133**

Show More ⌄

2 adverbs, meeting the goal of 2 or fewer.

1 use of passive voice, meeting the goal of 2 or fewer.

1 phrase has a simpler alternative.

1 of 11 sentences is hard to read.

1 of 11 sentences is very hard to read.

"No one has ever complained that something was too easy to read"

Ashley Bischoff - bit.ly/ashley-fronteers

Unexpected errors

🚫

Address common errors

✅

What might happen

Potential reasons why

What to do next

any other key just makes that key's character appear repeatedly on the screen. Experiment with it. If you happen to press

RETURN

you will sometimes get a "beep" and the message

*** SYNTAX ERR

will appear on the screen. For the time being, ignore this message.

Verify the installation was successful by opening a command prompt and running the `python3` command:

command-line

```
$ python3 --version
Python 3.6.1
```

NOTE: If you're on Windows and you get an error message that `python3` wasn't found, try using `python` (without the `3`) and check if it still might be a version of Python 3.6.

Django Girls - bit.ly/django-girls-tut

You're in too deep

🚫

Everyone is a beginner at some point

💡

Take a step back

✅

Add a Glossary page

✅

bit.ly/python-glossary

https://docs.python.org/3/glossary.html

Python »   English   3.10.5   3.10.5 Documentation » Glossary   Quick search   Go | previous | next | modules | index

Previous topic

"Why is Python Installed on my Computer?" FAQ

Next topic

About these documents

This Page

Report a Bug
Show Source

Glossary

>>>

The default Python prompt of the interactive shell. Often seen for code examples which can be executed interactively in the interpreter.

...

Can refer to:

- The default Python prompt of the interactive shell when entering the code for an indented code block, when within a pair of matching left and right delimiters (parentheses, square brackets, curly braces or triple quotes), or after specifying a decorator.
- The `Ellipsis` built-in constant.

2to3

A tool that tries to convert Python 2.x code to Python 3.x code by handling most of the incompatibilities which can be detected by parsing the source and traversing the parse tree.

2to3 is available in the standard library as `lib2to3`; a standalone entry point is provided as `Tools/scripts/2to3`. See 2to3 – Automated Python 2 to 3 code translation.

abstract base class

Abstract base classes complement duck-typing by providing a way to define interfaces when other techniques like `hasattr()` would be clumsy or subtly wrong (for example with magic methods). ABCs introduce virtual subclasses, which are classes that don't inherit from a class but are still recognized by `isinstance()` and `issubclass()`; see the `abc` module documentation. Python comes with many built-in ABCs for data structures (in the `collections.abc` module), numbers (in the `numbers` module), streams (in the `io` module), import finders and loaders (in the `importlib.abc` module). You can create your own ABCs with the `abc` module.

annotation

The code we write

💻

Code snippets shouldn't be screenshots

🚫

`<code>` for inline

`<pre>` for blocks

```javascript
```

Foo / Bar / Baz

🚫

Meaningful placeholders

✅

"We can have variable names that are both meaningful and generic that expose their purpose via their semantics"

Eli Schütze Ramirez - bit.ly/elibelly-reply

```
const baz = ['foo', 'bar']
```

```
const fruits =
['apple', 'banana']
```

```
const array_name =
['item1', 'item2']
```

The structure of our documentation

Poorly defined structure

🚫

Mindful structure

✅

Explain the feature

Describe the use case(s)

Recommend tooling
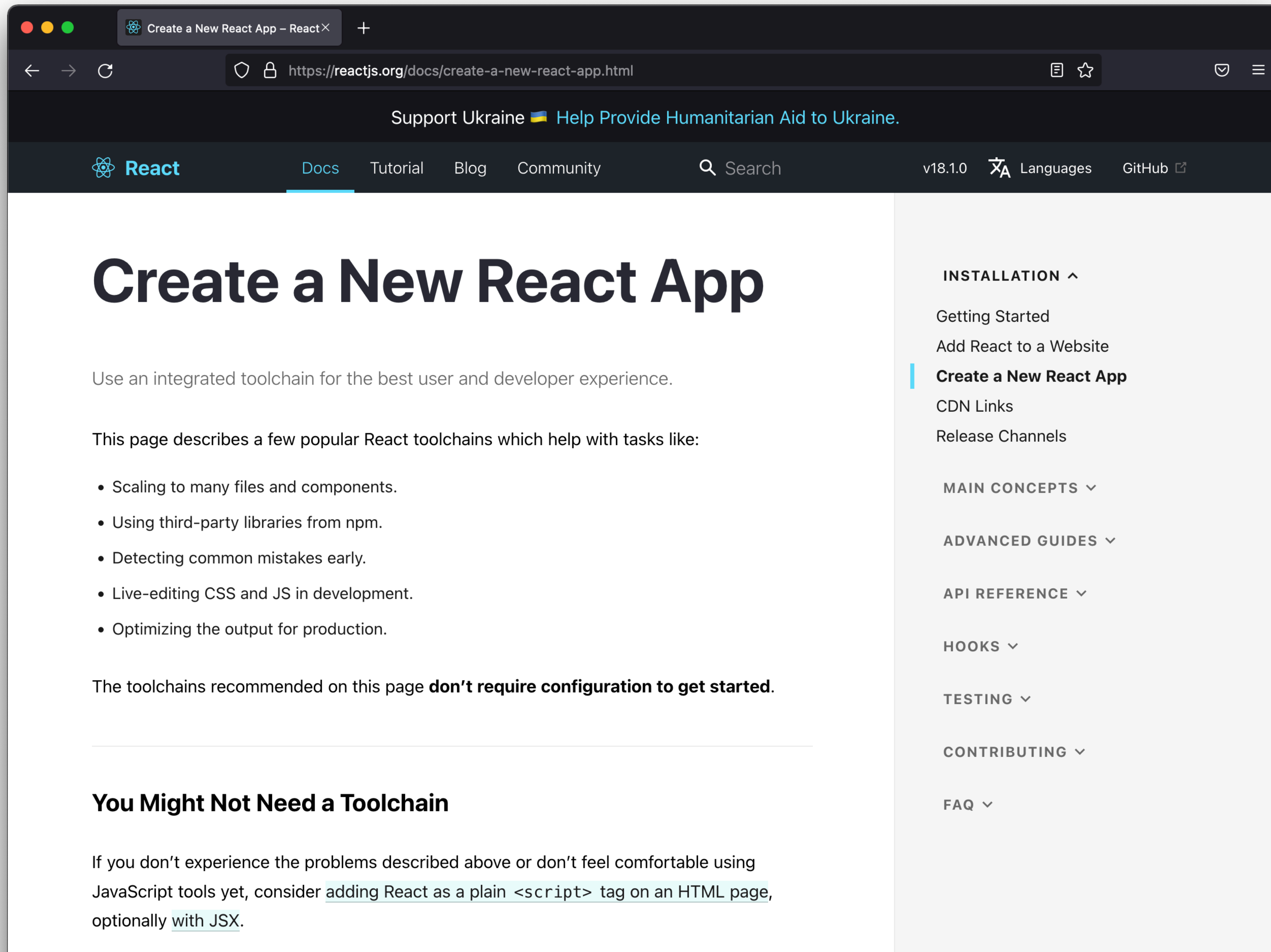
@carolstran

Your product isn't the right solution

🚫

Be transparent

✅

@carolstran

bit.ly/create-a-new-react-app

Create a New React App – React

https://reactjs.org/docs/create-a-new-react-app.html

Support Ukraine 🇺🇦 Help Provide Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine.

React   Docs   Tutorial   Blog   Community   🔍 Search   v18.1.0   Languages   GitHub

Create a New React App

Use an integrated toolchain for the best user and developer experience.

This page describes a few popular React toolchains which help with tasks like:

- Scaling to many files and components.
- Using third-party libraries from npm.
- Detecting common mistakes early.
- Live-editing CSS and JS in development.
- Optimizing the output for production.

The toolchains recommended on this page **don't require configuration to get started**.

You Might Not Need a Toolchain

If you don't experience the problems described above or don't feel comfortable using JavaScript tools yet, consider adding React as a plain `<script>` tag on an HTML page, optionally with JSX.

INSTALLATION ^

Getting Started
Add React to a Website
Create a New React App
CDN Links
Release Channels

MAIN CONCEPTS ⌄

ADVANCED GUIDES ⌄

API REFERENCE ⌄

HOOKS ⌄

TESTING ⌄

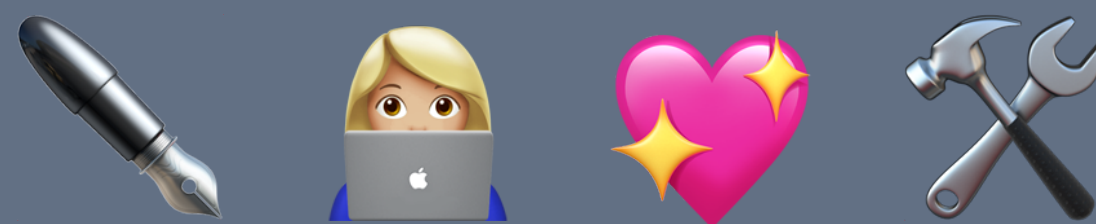CONTRIBUTING ⌄

FAQ ⌄

Final note

🔨

Accuracy and consistency

@carolstran

Aim to be honest, helpful and human

💖

@carolstran

bit.ly/docs-talk-resources

🖋️ 👩🏼‍💻 💖 🛠️

@carolstran