

# DOCUMENTATION SEGMENTATION

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*After blog post of Daniele Procida*



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# Documentation formats

- Question to ask yourself: What is the documentation for the end user?
  - *And for what purpose?*
- There are 4 documentation functions:
  - *With different writing style.*
  - *For different objectives.*
  - *Under different usage circumstances*
  - *Under different formats*



# 1- TUTORIALS

- Learning oriented, practical knowledge.
- Allows user to start using the software.
- It is a lesson, the author is the instructor.
- Example:
  - ***Cash flow in LibreOffice spreadsheets***
  - ***Master documents for book assembly***



# 2- Guides and How-to's

- Task oriented
- Shows ow to solve a problem
- Step by step
- Examples
  - ***How to create a pivot table***
  - ***How to print 3 pages***



# 3 - EXPLANATIONS

- Oriented for understanding
- Explanation prose
- Tells about fundamentals, context and theory.
- Examples
  - *The Fourier Transform in Calc*
  - *Index keys in database tables.*



# 4-REFERENCES

- Information oriented
- Describes the engines
- Precise and complete
- Example:
  - ***cos ( $\alpha$ )***,
    - *$\alpha$  angle in radians*
    - *Returns the cosine of  $\alpha$*



# Consequences

- Each documentation function has its own writing style and media format
- When not making the right distinction, the documentation is much more hard to maintain.
  - ***By ignoring the right category of which the text belongs.***
  - ***In the organization and maintenance of the documentation.***
  - ***Mixed and confuse text, no clear objective. What do we want to document?***



# Summary

	To Study	At work
Practical Steps	Tutorial	How-To's Guides
Theoretical Knowledge	Explanations	References





# Summary

## TUTORIAL

Learning oriented  
Multimedia  
e-Learning

## GUIDES

Problem oriented  
Multimedia  
e-learning

## EXPLANATION

Understanding  
oriented  
Multimedia  
E-learning

## REFERENCE

Information oriented



# Conclusions

- Undocumented software is an **unknown** software, worse, an **ignored software**.
- Lack of documentation is a software industry issue.
- The software solution cost is:
  - ***PRODUCT + (CULTURE → Documentation)***
- We know programmers don't like to document.
  - ***Ofte seen as professional immaturity.***



**Keep  
Documenting!!!**



# Thanks

- Daniele Proccida
  - *<https://www.divio.com/blog/documentation/>*