Putting oVirt Documentation first

oVirt Documentation Process Changes

Steve Goodman
Senior Technical Writer
Once upon a time, there were two identical twins...
Separated at birth, they nonetheless remained close.
One was dressed in red, the other was dressed in blue (sometimes in green). And thus were they called: Red and Blue.
Both Red and Blue were beloved by all those who knew them.
Red grew up waited upon by a host of servants, while Blue depended on the kindness of her sister Red.
Red shared her finery with Blue... when she remembered to.
Blue also had many admirers, who gave her whatever they could, although it was difficult for them to find the time after a long day of work.

And Blue shared these gifts with Red too, though they were fewer in number.
One day, one of these admirers, whose name was Sandy, stood up and said

“It’s not fair!
Blue deserves to be treated better!”
And Sandy was so convincing that Red’s servants began to think about how they could bring as much happiness to Blue as they did to Red.
After much discussion and collaboration, in the Open Source way, Red’s servants hit upon an idea of how they could bring more happiness to Blue, while continuing to give Red what she required.
This is their story.
The real life story
Agenda

- Why are making this move?
- Where are we in the process?
- How can you contribute to oVirt documentation?
Most oVirt documentation comes from Red Hat Virtualization technical writers.
Red Hat Virtualization must have a private documentation repository. oVirt must have a public one.
But we have a problem.
There’s no automation to share between oVirt and RHV.
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RHV writers work in the RHV documentation repository

oVirt contributors work in the oVirt documentation repository
Manual sync process

RHV writers work in the RHV documentation repository

oVirt contributors work in the oVirt documentation repository (very few contributions)
Manual sync process + large workload

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Manual sync process + large workload = oVirt does not get doc updates very frequently

oVirt contributors work in the oVirt documentation repository
How can we fix this?
RHV writers and oVirt contributors work in the oVirt documentation repository
RHV writers and oVirt contributors work in the oVirt documentation repository

Automated process = oVirt gets (most) doc updates at the same time as RHV

The RHV documentation repository gets updates automatically mirrored from the oVirt documentation repository
Benefits for oVirt and Red Hat Virtualization users

**oVirt community**
- RHV improvements will be available to the oVirt community more often.
- RHV writers will be more active on the oVirt site, enabling more interaction with the community.

**RHV customers**
- Changes implemented by the oVirt community will be available to downstream customers more often, without added effort.
Migrating to oVirt first
How close are we?
How close are we?

**Doc set is ready for sharing source**
Text variables for URLs and conventions.

**For example:** `{engine-name}` evaluates to **Engine** on oVirt and **Manager** on RHV in this sentence:

Install the `{engine-name}`.
How close are we?

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Text variables for URLs and conventions.

For example: \{engine-name\} evaluates to Engine on oVirt and Manager on RHV in this sentence:

Install the \{engine-name\}.

Licensing requirements
Add legal notice to RHV docs, update oVirt docs to Creative Commons 4.0 license.
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Script to sync oVirt and RHV doc repos
Final testing after manual sync
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Red Hat DevOps setting up automation
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**Script to sync oVirt and RHV doc repos**
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**Automation to copy oVirt to RHV at regular interval**
Red Hat DevOps setting up automation

**RHV writers start working in oVirt doc repo**

**oVirt documentation contribution guidelines**
PR created. To be finished after migration.
Contributing to oVirt documentation
Come join in the fun

If you can, if you want to, we want you to contribute to oVirt documentation!
Come join in the fun

If you can, if you want to, we want you to contribute to oVirt documentation!

We want to make it easy for you, and to give you tools to get your PRs merged as quickly as possible. These next slides provide writing tips to give you a head-start.
Come join in the fun

If you can, if you want to, we want you to contribute to oVirt documentation!

We want to make it easy for you, and to give you tools to get your PRs merged as quickly as possible. These next slides provide writing tips to give you a head-start.

If you don’t follow these tips, it’s OK! Your contribution might take longer to get merged, but it still will happen.
- Modular documentation
- Basic tech writing tips
- Asciidoctor basics and links to more info.
- Contribution criteria and guidelines
Modular Documentation
Structured information

Information usually fits into one of three categories:

- Concepts
- Procedures
- Reference
How to cross the road (structured information)

Concept modules:
- What are roads
- What are crossings

Procedure modules:
- How to put one foot in front of another
- How to use pedestrian traffic lights
- How to see if the road is clear for crossing

Reference modules:
- Crossing signals
- Common crosswalk pavement markings
- Crossing laws by country
What is modular documentation?

- Based on modules that can stand alone
- Assemble multiple modules to explain a user story (Crossing the road).
- An assembly can include other assemblies.
Modules and assemblies
Modular Documentation Reference Guide

https://redhat-documentation.github.io/modular-docs/

Source repo (Includes templates you can use):

https://github.com/redhat-documentation/modular-docs#modular-documentation-template-files
A few technical writing guidelines
Talk directly to your user

Use 2nd person: “You”.

Do: You can download oVirt.

Don’t: oVirt can be downloaded.

Tell the user what to do directly and succinctly:

Do: Open port 123.

Don’t: Port 123 should be opened.
Use lists to enable readability and scanning

Less clear:
You can format text using bold, italics, underlining and strike-through.

More clear:
You can use the following text formats:
- Bold
- Italics
- Underlining
- strike-through
Do not use big words where a little one will do

This sentence uses words.

vs.

This sentence utilizes words.
Use one term to refer to one thing

The **self-hosted engine** uses a virtual machine to host the Engine. A **self-hosted engine** environment uses fewer bare-metal machines.

vs.

The **self-hosted engine** uses a virtual machine to host the Engine. A **hosted engine** environment uses fewer bare-metal machines.
Use tables to simplify parsing information

When the type of information suggests it, use a table. They are easier to scan than paragraphs.

▸ Label each column with a meaningful header.
▸ Avoid putting too much text into a table cell.
▸ Different columns can have different types of information, but each column should have the same type of information throughout. For example, avoid mixing return values and fruits in one column.
Free online tech writing tutorials for engineers

- Google offers two very effective yet basic tutorials in technical writing.
- Each tutorial takes between 2 to 5 hours. Set aside one workday for these and you’ll help get your documentation PRs merged more quickly.

Overview of technical writing courses | Technical Writing

(https://developers.google.com/tech-writing/overview)
Asciidoc and Asciidoctor
What is AsciiDoc?

- A text-based markup language: `<file_name>.adoc`
- Similar to Markdown
- The markup language for oVirt and RHV documentation
- Some websites, like Github, render AsciiDoc files directly into HTML
- How to write with Asciidoc: https://asciidoc.org/docs/#write-with-asciidoc

“Use AsciiDoc for document markup. Really. It's actually readable by humans, easier to parse and way more flexible than XML.”

— Linus Torvalds
What is Asciidoctor?

It's like a compiler

▸ Includes language extensions to Asciidoc

▸ Generates output including HTML, PDF, EPUB, DocBook and man page

▸ https://asciidoctor.org/

▸ https://github.com/asciidoctor/
A taste of Asciidoc

Asciidoc is powerful, but easy to get started.

For example...
This is plain vanilla text, with no shenanigans.

Self-hosted engine installation is automated using Ansible. The installation script (`hosted-engine --deploy`) runs on an initial deployment host, and the engine is installed and configured on a virtual machine that is created on the deployment host.

See the [Planning and Prerequisites Guide](https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-us/red_hat_virtualization/4.4/html/planning_and_prerequisites_guide/) for information on environment options and recommended configuration.

Here's an unordered one-level list:

* Configuring the first self-hosted engine node
* Installing a virtual machine on that node

Here's a numbered list with nested unordered bullets:

1. [Preparing Storage for RHV SHE CLI deploy](Preparing_storage_for_RHV_SHE_CLI_deploy) [Prepare storage to use for the self-hosted engine storage domain and for standard storage domains.]

2. [Installing the self-hosted_engine_deployment_host_SHE_CLI_deploy](Installing_the_self-hosted_engine_deployment_host_SHE_CLI_deploy) [Install a deployment host to run the installation on.] This host will become the first self-hosted engine node. You can use either host type:
   * [Installing Red Hat Virtualization Host](Installing_Red_Hat_Virtualization_Host)
   * [Installing Red Hat Enterprise Linux Host](Installing_Red_Hat_Enterprise_Linux_Host)

Table of Contents

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Table of Contents
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1. Configuring the first self-hosted engine node
2. Installing a virtual machine on that node

Table of Contents

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Numbered lists

Procedure

1. Prepare storage to use for the self-hosted engine storage domain and for standard storage domains. You can use one of the following storage types:
   - NFS
   - iSCSI
   - Fibre Channel (FCP)

2. Install a deployment host on which to run the installation.

3. Install and configure the Manager.

   a. Install the self-hosted engine using the `hosted-engine --deploy` command on the deployment host.

   b. Register the Manager with the Content Delivery Network and enable the Manager repositories.

4. Add more storage domains to the Manager.
Nested lists

Procedure

1. Prepare storage to use for the self-hosted engine storage domain and for standard storage domains. You can use one of the following storage types:
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   b. Register the Manager with the Content Delivery Network and enable the Manager repositories.

4. Add more storage domains to the Manager.
Contribution Guidelines
Criteria for accepting contributions

- Technically accurate
- Reviewed and/or edited by a RHV writer
- Conforms to IBM style guide and Red Hat style guide
- Conforms to Modular documentation guide
- Procedures are verified by QE
Doc contribution flow

1. Submit a PR.
2. Request technical review.
3. Implement community review comments.
4. Request editorial review from the RHV doc team.
5. The RHV doc team reviews the PR and either sends comments or makes direct edits in the PR.
6. When it meets submission criteria, the RHV doc team merges the PR.
Thank you!

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