Putting oVirt Documentation first

oVirt Documentation Process Changes

Steve Goodman

Senior Technical Writer

Red Hat

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.


Red Hat
Virtualization


oVirt

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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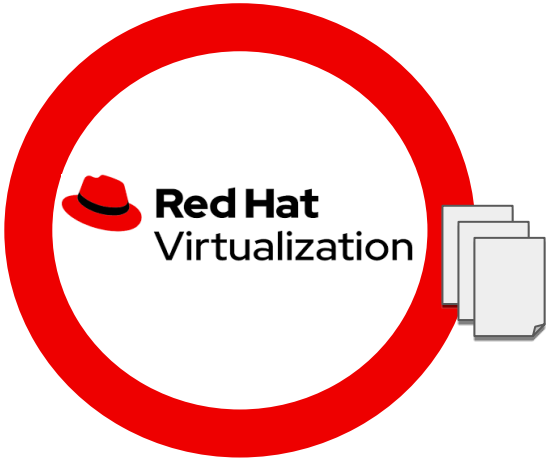
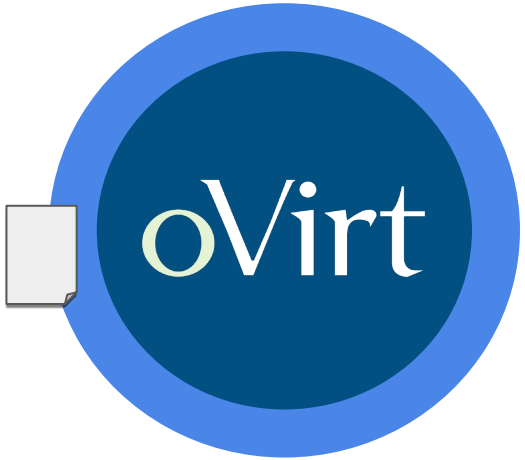


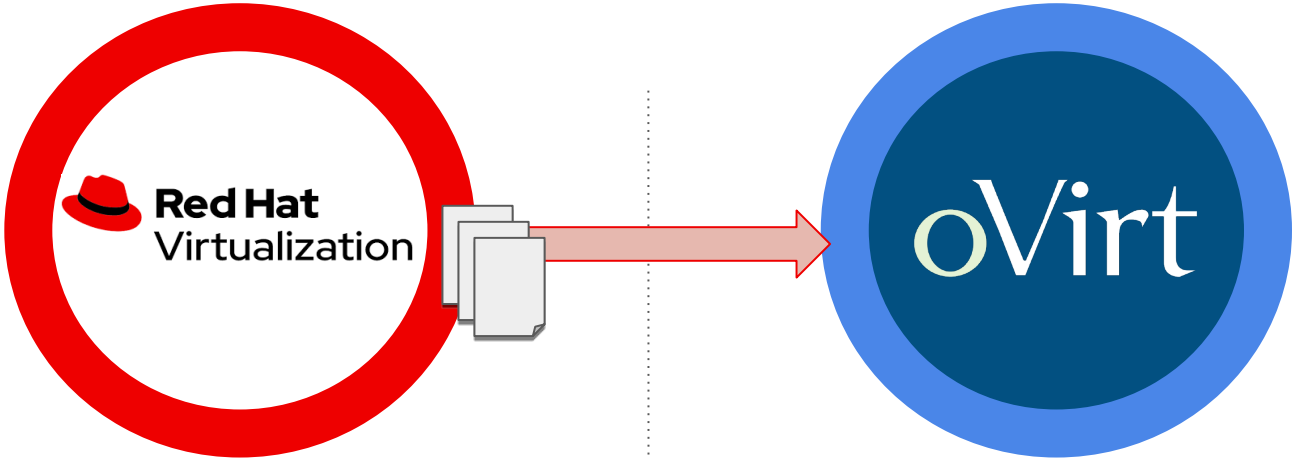
RHV writers work in the RHV documentation repository



oVirt contributors work in the oVirt documentation repository

Red Hat

Manual sync process

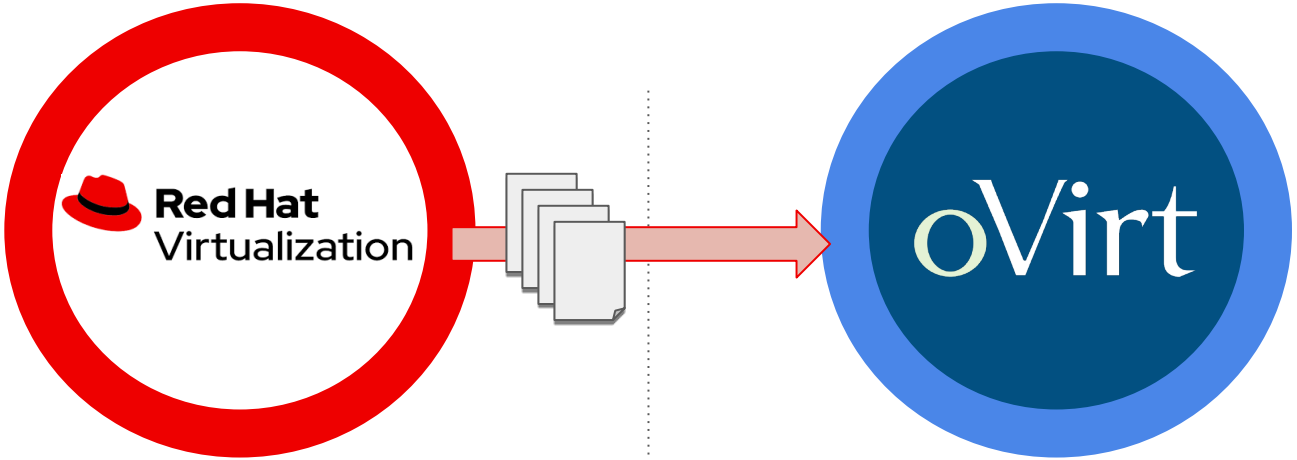


RHV writers work in the RHV documentation repository

oVirt contributors work in the oVirt documentation repository
(very few contributions)

Red Hat

Manual sync process + large workload



RHV writers work in the RHV documentation repository

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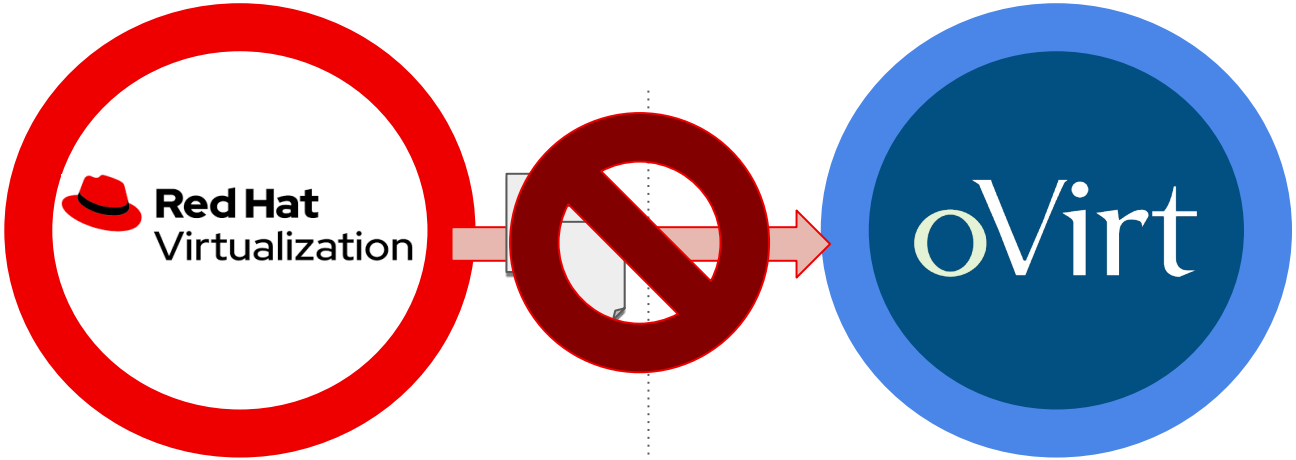
Red Hat

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



RHV writers work in the RHV documentation repository

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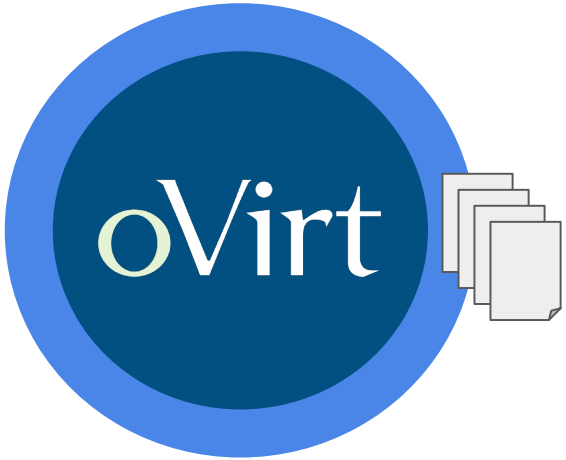
Red Hat

How can we fix this?

RHV writers will work in the oVirt doc repo

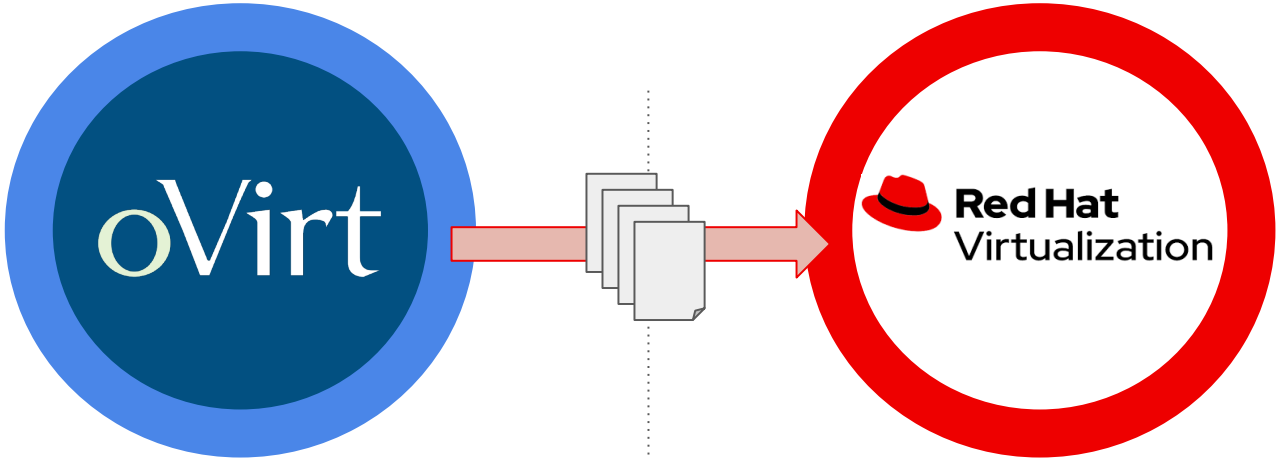


RHV writers and oVirt contributors
work in the oVirt documentation repository

Red Hat

RHV writers will work in the oVirt doc repo

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



RHV writers and oVirt contributors
work in the oVirt documentation repository

The RHV documentation repository gets updates automatically
mirrored from the oVirt documentation repository

Red Hat

Benefits

for oVirt and Red Hat Virtualization users

oVirt community

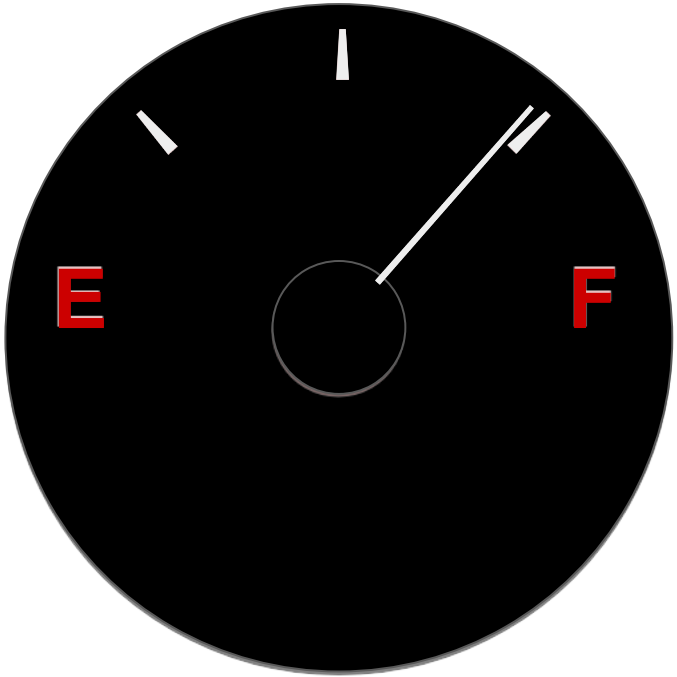
- RHV improvements will be available to the oVirt community more often.
- RHV writers will be more active on the oVirt site, enabling more interaction with the community.

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}.

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Licensing requirements

Add legal notice to RHV docs, update oVirt docs to Creative Commons 4.0 license

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Red Hat DevOps setting up automation

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oVirt documentation contribution guidelines
PR created. To be finished after migration.

Contributing to oVirt documentation

Come join in the fun

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we want you to contribute
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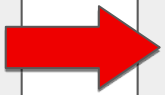

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These next slides provide writing tips to give you a head-start.

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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

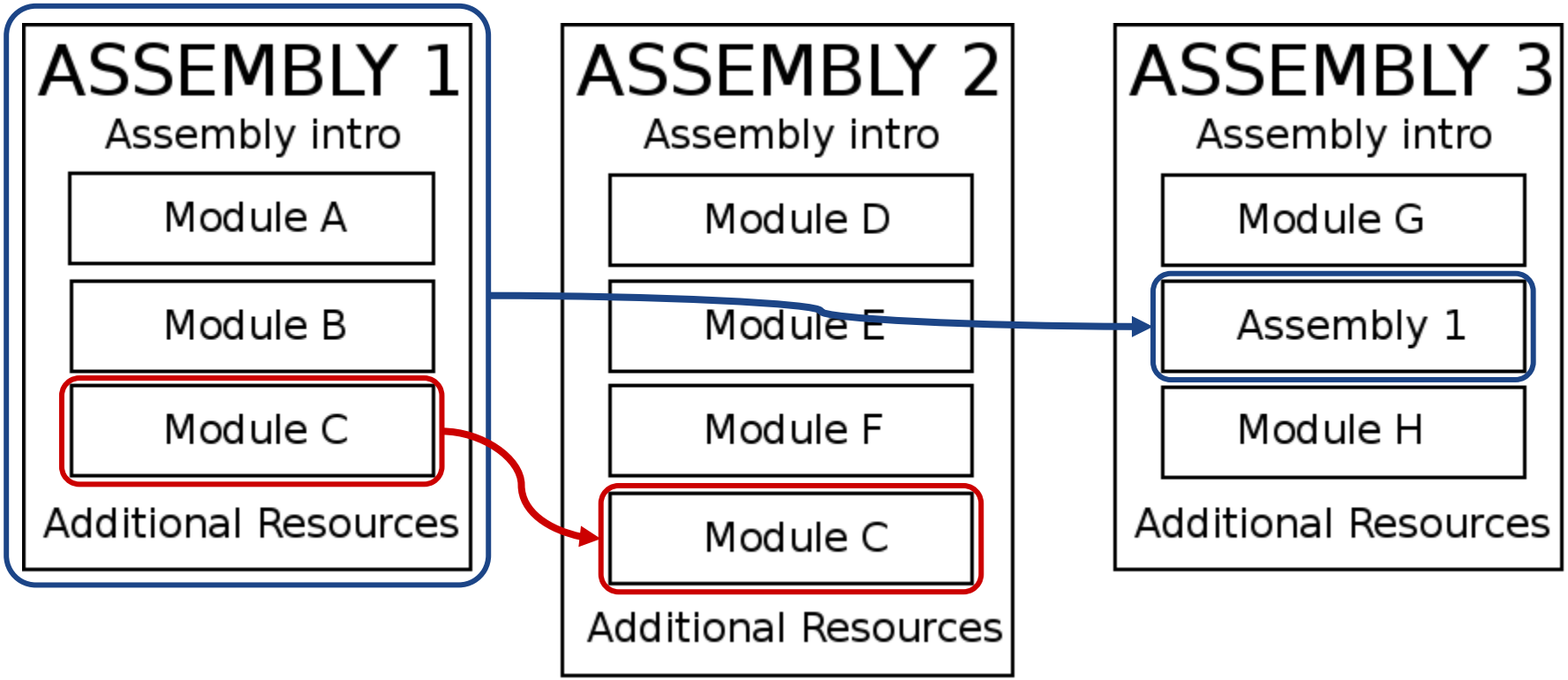
Common crosswalk pavement markings

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://asciidoctor.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...

Simple Asciidoc file

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[id='Install_overview_SHE_cli_deploy']
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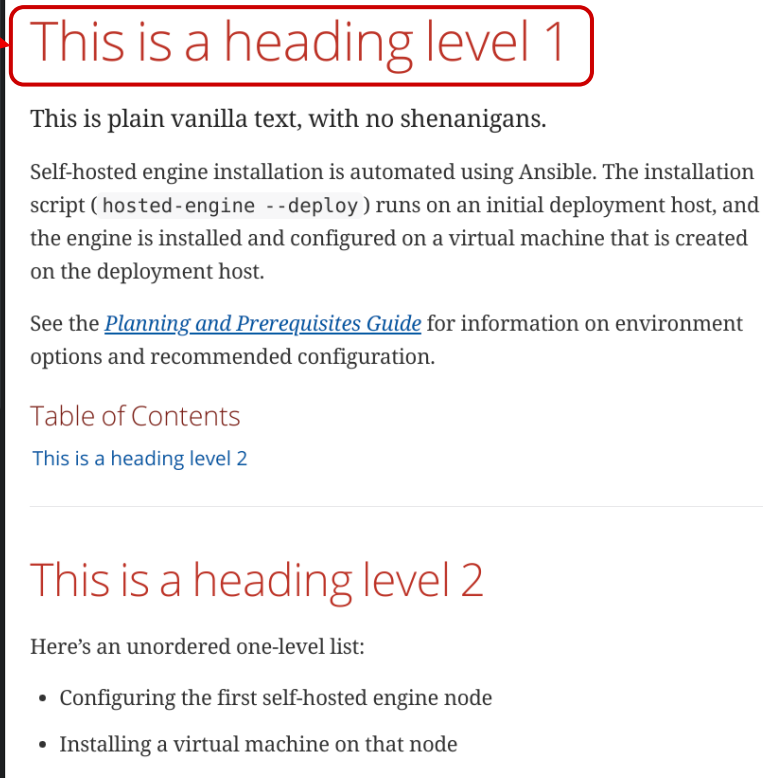

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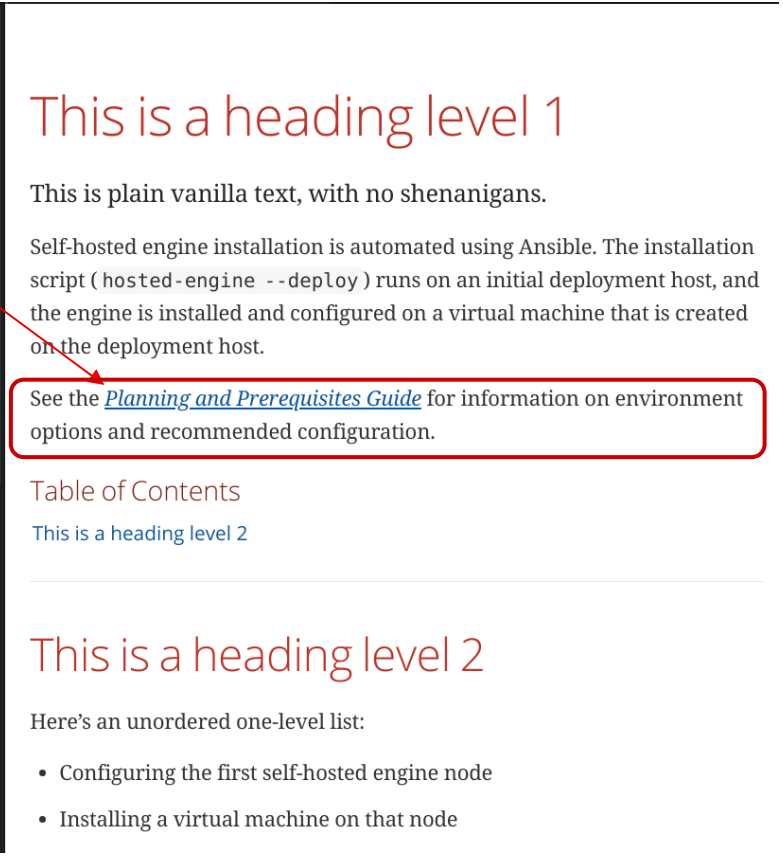

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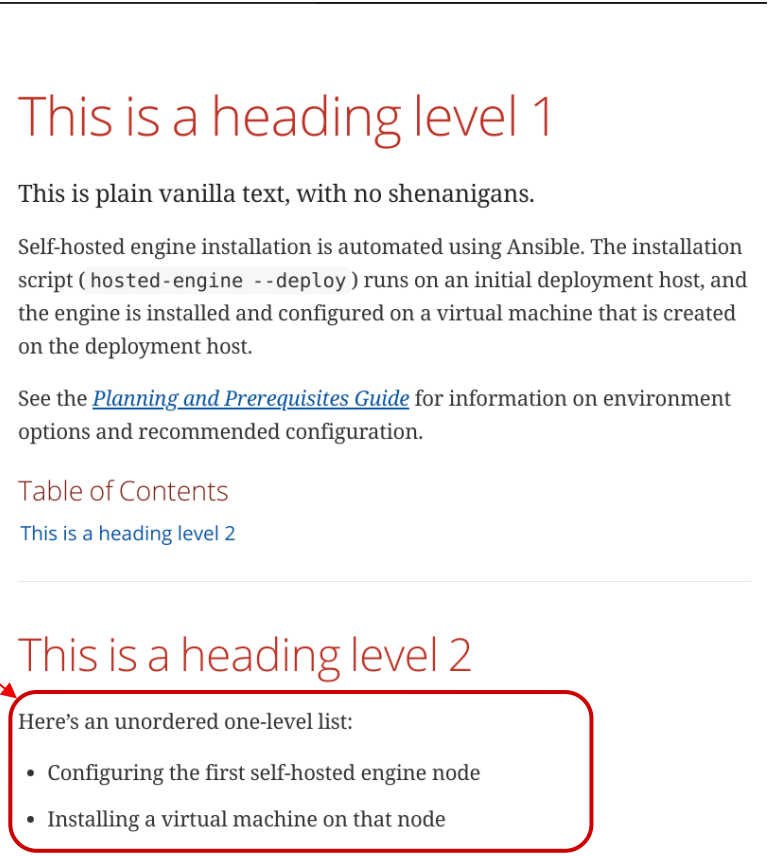

Numbered lists

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.Procedure

. 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)

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

. Install and configure the Manager.
.. Install the self-hosted engine using the `hosted-engine --
deploy` command on the deployment host.
.. Register the Manager with the Content Delivery Network and
enable the Manager repositories.

. Add more storage domains to the Manager.
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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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2. Install a deployment host on which to run the installation.
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   a. Install the self-hosted engine using the `hosted-engine --deploy` command on the deployment host.
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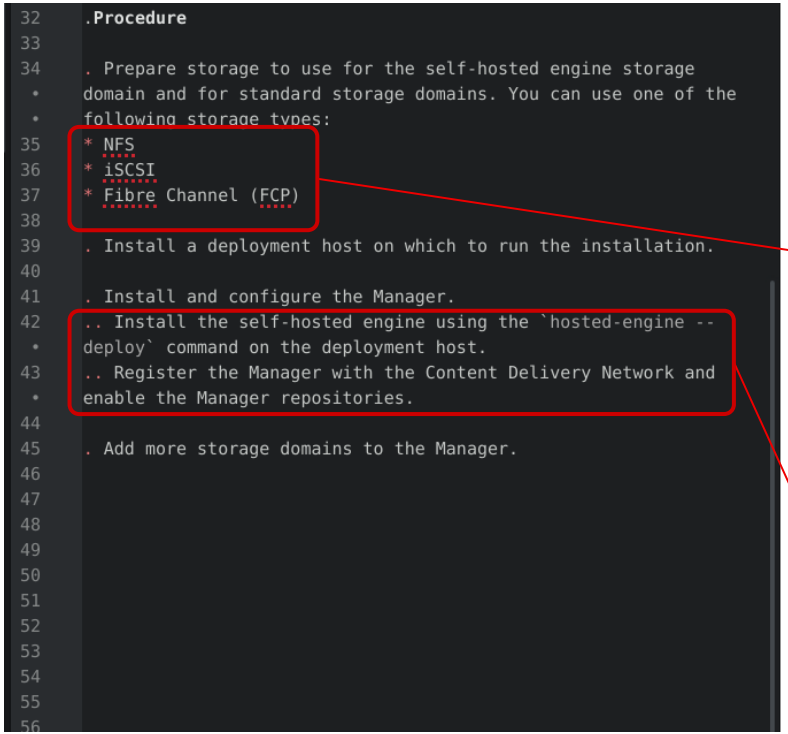
4. Add more storage domains to the Manager.

Nested lists



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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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