

Maven Plugin Documentation

Introduction

How Did the Plugin Documentation Standard Form?

The plugin documentation standard was created to address the frequent complain of lack of documentation, specifically on Maven's plugins. The standard was based on the suggestion made on the maven-dev mailing list with some refinements. It is a community consensus of what basic documentation a Maven plugin should have.

Why Do We Need a Plugin Documentation Standard?

The standard was developed not as set of rules, but rather as a set of guidelines to help plugin developers better document their plugins, in order to the benefit of the users of the plugin. The standard reminds plugin developers of the important, default details that should always be documented when developing a plugin, in order to speed plugin adoption for new users.

Plugin Documentation Key

Status:

✔ Completed ⚠ In Progress ✖ Not Started or Unassigned (may be taken by someone else)

Docck:

Result when running maven-docck-plugin. The number indicated is the number of errors reported by docck. ✔ is used when it passes (0 errors) docck.

Nav:

The Navigation links complies with the plugin documentation standards. ✔ Pass ✖ Fail

Home:

The Plugin's home page complies with the documentation standards. ✔ Pass ✖ Fail

JIRA Issues:

Documentation-related open issues. Mostly from questions posted in the mailing lists.

Published:

Whether the plugin site has been published. ✔ Published ✖ Not published ? Unknown

Maven Distributed Plugins

Plugin	Status	Docck	Nav	Home	Assigned To	JIRA Issues	Published
Maven Ant Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Vincent Siveton	MANT-45	✔
Maven AntRun plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Allan Ramirez	MANTRUN-66	✔
Maven Archetype Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Franz See	ARCHETYPE-45	?
Maven Assembly Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Edwin Punzalan	MASSEMBLY-122	✔
Maven Clean Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Edwin Punzalan	MCLEAN-13 MCLEAN-14	✔
Maven Compiler Plug-in	✔	✔	✔	✔	Edwin Punzalan	MCOMPILER-38	✔
Maven Dependency Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Allan Ramirez	MDEP-30	✔
Maven Deploy Plug-in	✔	✔	✔	✔	Allan Ramirez	MDEPLOY-36	✔
Maven DOCK Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Dennis Lundberg		✔
Maven EAR Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Edwin Punzalan	MEAR-32	✔
Maven Eclipse Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Edwin Punzalan	MECLIPSE-126	✔
Maven EJB Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Pete Marvin King	MEJB-17	✔
Maven Enforcer Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Brian Fox		✔
Maven Help Plugin	✔	✔	✔	✔	Maria Odea Ching	MPH-17	✔

Maven IDEA Plug-in	✓	✓	✓	✓	Edwin Punzalan	MIDEA-59	✓
Maven Install Plug-in	✓	✓	✓	✓	Allan Ramirez	MINSTALL-27	✓
Maven Jar Plug-in	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dennis Lundberg	MJAR-48	✓
Maven One Plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dennis Lundberg	MONE-4	✓
Maven Plugin Plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Maria Odea Ching	MPLUGIN-23	✓
Maven RAR Plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Allan Ramirez	MRAR-12	✓
Maven Release Plug-in	✓	✓	✓	✓	John Tolentino	MRELEASE-144	✓
Maven Resources Plug-in	✓	✓	✓	✓	Franz See	MRESOURCES-23	✓
Maven SCM Plug-in	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pete Marvin King	MSCM-218	✓
Maven Site Plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Maria Odea Ching	MSITE-158	✓
Maven Source plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Maria Odea Ching	MSOURCES-9	✓
Maven Surefire Plug-in	✓	✓	✓	✓	Allan Ramirez	MSUREFIRE-147	✓
Maven WAR Plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pete Marvin King	MWAR-48	✓
Maven Verifier plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Denis Cabasson	MVERIFIER-2	✓

Maven Distributed Reports/Plugins

Plugin	Status	Docck	Nav	Home	Assigned To	JIRA Issues	Published
Maven Changelog Plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Maria Odea Ching	MCHANGELOG-49	✓
Maven Changes Plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dennis Lundberg		✓
Maven Checkstyle Plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Maria Odea Ching	MCHECKSTYLE-49	✓
Maven Clover Plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Vincent Massol	MCLOVER-47	✓
Maven Javadoc Plug-in	✓	✓	✓	✓	Maria Odea Ching	MJAVADOC-79	✓
Maven JXR Plug-in	✓	✓	✓	✓	Maria Odea Ching	MJXR-14	✓
Maven PMD Plug-in	✓	✓	✓	✓	Mike Perham	MPMD-34	✓
Maven Project Info Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pete Marvin King	MPIR-59	✓
Maven Surefire Report Plugin	✓	✓	✓	✓	Allan Ramirez	MSUREFIREREP-24	✓

References

Navigation Standard

Use the following template for your site.xml:

Template for site.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

<!--
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or more contributor license agreements. See the NOTICE file
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regarding copyright ownership. The ASF licenses this file
to you under the Apache License, Version 2.0 (the
"License"); you may not use this file except in compliance
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software distributed under the License is distributed on an
"AS IS" BASIS, WITHOUT WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS OF ANY
KIND, either express or implied. See the License for the
specific language governing permissions and limitations
under the License.
-->

<project>
  <body>
    <menu name="Overview">
      <item name="Introduction" href="index.html"/>
      <item name="Goals" href="plugin-info.html"/>
      <item name="Usage" href="usage.html"/>
      <item name="FAQ" href="faq.html"/>
      <item name="Release Notes" href="jira-report.html"/>
    </menu>

    <menu name="Examples">
      <item name="description1" href="examples/example1.html"/>
      <item name="description2" href="examples/example2.html"/>
    </menu>
  </body>
</project>
```

Home Page Standard

Template for index.apf

```
-----
Introduction
-----
Author
-----
YYYY-MM-DD
-----
```

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~~ "License"); you may not use this file except in compliance
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~~

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~~

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~~ "AS IS" BASIS, WITHOUT WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS OF ANY
~~ KIND, either express or implied. See the License for the
~~ specific language governing permissions and limitations
~~ under the License.

~~ NOTE: For help with the syntax of this file, see:
~~ <http://maven.apache.org/doxia/references/apt-format.html>

Maven Plugin Name

Plugin introduction, description, and other relevant information.

* Goals Overview

General Information about the goals.

* {{{goal.html}prefix:goal}} short description for this plugin goal.

* Usage

General instructions on how to use the Plugin Name can be found on the
{{{usage.html}usage page}}. Some more
specific use cases are described in the examples given below. Last but not least,
users occasionally contribute
additional examples, tips or errata to the
{{{http://docs.codehaus.org/display/MAVENUSER/Plugin+Name}plugin's wiki page}}.

In case you still have questions regarding the plugin's usage, please have a look at
the {{{faq.html}FAQ}} and feel
free to contact the {{{mail-lists.html}user mailing list}}. The posts to the mailing
list are archived and could
already contain the answer to your question as part of an older thread. Hence, it is
also worth browsing/searching
the {{{mail-lists.html}mail archive}}.

If you feel like the plugin is missing a feature or has a defect, you can fill a
feature request or bug report in our
{{{issue-tracking.html}issue tracker}}. When creating a new issue, please provide a
comprehensive description of your
concern. Especially for fixing bugs it is crucial that the developers can reproduce
your problem. For this reason,
entire debug logs, POMs or most preferably little demo projects attached to the
issue are very much appreciated.
Of course, patches are welcome, too. Contributors can check out the project from our
{{{source-repository.html}source repository}} and will find supplementary
information in the

{{{http://maven.apache.org/guides/development/guide-helping.html}guide to helping with Maven}}.

* Examples

To provide you with better understanding on some usages of the Plugin Name, you can take a look into the following examples:

* {{{examples/short-description1.html}Example Description One}}

```
* {{{examples/short-description2.html}Example Description Two}}
```

FAQ Page Standard

Template for faq.fml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

<!--
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software distributed under the License is distributed on an
"AS IS" BASIS, WITHOUT WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS OF ANY
KIND, either express or implied.  See the License for the
specific language governing permissions and limitations
under the License.
-->

<faqs id="FAQ" title="Frequently Asked Questions">
  <part id="General">
    <faq id="question">
      <question>Question?</question>
      <answer>
        <p>
          Answer
        </p>
      </answer>
    </faq>
  </part>
</faqs>
```

Font Styles

Make the text font styles standard for:

- goals - monospaced
i.e. (<<<install:install>>>)
- parameter - monospaced
i.e. (<<<DparameterName>>>)

Maven Docck Plugin currently checks if a plugin has the following:

Project Descriptor Requirements

Documentation Item	Implemented	Comment
modelVersion		implemented by maven
groupId		implemented by maven
artifactId		implemented by maven
version		implemented by maven
name		
description		
url		
issueManagement		
prerequisites >> maven		
inceptionYear		
mailingList		WARN only
scm		WARN only
organization		
plugin report		
licenses		
verify URLs		

Project Site Pages

Documentation Item	Implemented	Comment
site(html/apt/xdoc)		
index(html/apt/xdoc)		
usage(html/apt/xdoc)		
examples		
FAQ		

Project Site Descriptor

Documentation Item	Implemented	Comment
index.html link		
plugin-info.html link		
usage.html link		
faq.html link		

Plugin Javadoc Annotation Requirement

Documentation Item	Implemented	Comment
parameter description		
mojo description		

