

The Simple Documentation Framework Every Repo Needs

There's a quiet truth most engineers learn the hard way.

People don't judge your work only by the code. They judge it by whether they can understand it without pinging you on Teams or pulling you into calls late at night.

Documentation isn't optional polish. It's what keeps teams working smoothly, projects maintainable, and handovers painless after you've moved on.

Good documentation solves a few very practical problems:

- **You will forget things.** Folder structure, setup steps, environment variables, edge cases. Documentation lets you return to a project without relearning it from scratch.
- **Teams shouldn't rely on tribal knowledge.** If only one person knows how to deploy or debug, that's not ownership, it's risk.
- **Onboarding should be fast.** A new engineer should be able to run the project without hand-holding or guesswork.
- **It reflects professionalism.** Clear docs signal that the project was built to last, not just to ship.

You don't need a complex wiki or dozens of files. A small, consistent structure is enough for most repositories:

- A **README** that explains what the project is and how to run it.
- A **CHANGELOG** that records what changed and why.
- A **CONTRIBUTING** guide to set expectations for collaborators.
- A **docs/** folder for architecture, setup, and deployment details.
- A **.env.example** to make configuration obvious.
- A **scripts/** folder to standardize common tasks and commands.

Documentation isn't bureaucracy.
It's engineering hygiene.

It saves time, reduces friction, and prevents avoidable mistakes. Most importantly, it leaves behind a project that still makes sense when you're no longer around.

For the full breakdown of the structure, file-by-file explanations, and practical examples, read the complete article on Medium:

<https://medium.com/@mazumdarsoubhik/the-simple-documentation-framework-every-repo-needs-3b82fbac92b5>

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