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## Create efficient platform docs

Learn the basic page layout and formatting of nr-platform-docs and increase the readability of your content.

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### Overview

Readers learn best when a site's page style is consistent. This document exemplifies the standard page style for nr-platform-docs. It also provides markdown tips for creating skimmable content. Skimmable content saves developers time and highlights only the information they need.

For instance, the italicized sentence above the Table of Contents clarifies the document scope. Then, this Overview section builds upon the italicized sentence to provide broader information about the doc contents.

### Improve content skimmability

This section demos tips to construct skimmable content. For example, actionable section headers start with a verb (just like this section) to emphasize the contents are actionable opposed to merely informative. In fact, here are the recommended actions:

- make sentences short,
- use bullet points when possible,
- keep bullet points short in length and number of items,
- keep paragraphs small and skimmable, and
- use callout boxes to highlight important notes, tips, and info:

Use `---` between each second-level header.

But sometimes you must warn folks via something flashier:

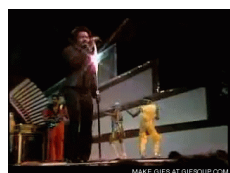
⚠ If you french fry when you're supposed to pizza, you're gonna have a bad time.

In lengthy documents or sections, hide some details and let the reader choose whether to investigate further:

- ▶ Turn fourth-level headings into clamshells/accordions/collapsers

Don't use fourth-level headers `###`. Consider collapsers instead. If using a fourth-level header, remove that header from the TOC with `(: .no_toc )`, because large TOCs overwhelm the page and push real content below the page fold.

Proper collapser styling is shown below:



To properly render, both leading and line spaces are important:

```
<details>
  <summary>
    ▶ Turn fourth-level headings into clamshells/accordions/collapsers
  </summary>

  Hidden content to collapse goes here.

</details>
```

- ▶ Add HTML inside a markdown table

You can add HTML within a markdown table to add images, bullet points, or any other formatting not typically possible within a markup table. It requires a special `!nomarkdown` tag around the html:

```
| Name | Columns |
|-----|-----|
| PRIMARY | {::nomarkdown}<ul><li>id</li></ul>{::} |
```

### Create searchable documentation

Follow the recommendations below to ensure your content is returned at the top of search results:

- List all of a feature's various names in a document: [see example](#).
  - Use the same term throughout all documentation. For instance, use only "TIDMS", "Terraform DMS", or "TDMMS" throughout documentation.
  - Avoid using overloaded terms. For instance, DMS stands for Database Migration Service in our docs which isn't related to Terraform DMS.
  - Link to pre-existing content instead of duplicating it.
  - Don't create small docs (~5 to 7 sentences). Add small content to pre-existing docs about that topic.
- ▶ Understand how the search backend works for nr-platform-docs

The nr-platform-docs search engine is powered by [lunr.js](#) and is implemented via [javascript in the just-the-docs Jekyll](#) theme.

Search terms are combined with an OR. Thus, a document matching at least one of the search terms appears in the results. For example, a search for "foo bar" matches documents that contain "foo", "bar", or both.

The score/relevance of a document is calculated by the BM25 algorithm, along with other factors such as boosts. To summarize the algorithm, the more a search term occurs in a single document, the more that term will increase that document's score, but the more a search term occurs in the overall collection of documents, the less that term will increase a document's score.

For example, if the terms "JavaScript", "library", and "test" occur frequently throughout the entire platform docs, finding a document that mentions one of these terms isn't very significant. However, if searching for "integration test" and only three documents have the term "integration", and one doc mentions "integration" many times, that doc appears higher in the results..

Matches on a document's title receive higher priority in the results than matches on its content.

lunr search is built for searching algorithmically-stemmed, individual words rather than phrases. Also, the way our Jekyll theme for nr-platform-docs implements Lunr search doesn't allow specification of "+" or "-" (such as "foo -bar") nor do any of the other following special searches work as specified in the lunr documentation:

- search for a specific phrase → "foo bar baz"
- term scoped to a field → *title:hello*
- term with a boost of 10 → *hello^10*
- term with an edit distance of 2 → *hello-2*
- terms with presence modifiers → *-foo +bar baz*

### Use this markup style for internal links

The recommended best practice for link markup in nr-platform-docs is shown below:

```
[plan a migration] (/site-engineering/nr-platform-docs/cell/migrating.html)
```

Or, for links to section headers, use the full relative path even if the anchor is within the same page:

```
[plan a migration] (/site-engineering/nr-platform-docs/cell/migrating.html#plan-a-migration-to-cells)
```

▶ [Click to see more details about these recommendations](#)

Proper link formatting supports the following:

- hostname changes (local dev to prod hosting)
- section anchors
- automated link checkers on .md files
- redirects
- github preview

However, Liquid link tags don't support section anchors, github preview, link checking, or redirection. site.baseurl tags don't support link checking tools or github preview. For more details on what is supported by a particular link style, [read these Jira comments](#).

Bad examples:

```
[plan a migration] (https://pages.datanerd.us/site-engineering/nr-platform-docs/cell/migrating.html)
[plan a migration]({{ site.baseurl }}{% link cell/migrating.md %})
[plan a migration]({{ site.baseurl }}/cell/migrating.html)
[plan a migration] ../cell/migrating.html
[plan a migration] (#plan-a-migration-to-cells)
```

### Archive content

To archive content, add the following to the frontmatter at the top of the .md file:

```
nav_exclude: true
search_exclude: true
published: false
archival_date: 2023-06-30
```

### Add video to nr-platform-docs

To embed video content into a doc, [follow this process](#). Additionally, see an example of [adding video content to nr-platform-docs](#) along with the corresponding GitHub issue that contains the video.

### Understand nav structure limitations in nr-platform-docs

You cannot nest more than 2 folders deep, so you can't do

- A
  - B
    - C
      - D
      - ...

At most, this is allowed:

- A
  - B
    - C
    - D
    - ...

When creating new directories in the source code, use all lowercase and hyphens for separating words. When creating new top-level categories in the navigation structure of the docs, refer to the [category tip in the nr-platform-docs README](#).

### Related resources

This section orients the reader to find additional related info. It helps the reader contextualize concepts.

Here are links to docs that exemplify the styles mentioned throughout this documentation:

- [Accessing kubernetes clusters](#)
- [Migrating to AWS cells](#)
- [Creating new cell types from skeleton cells](#)

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