Christopher Cummings

Technical Writer | Software & Systems Documentation

chris@chriscummings.net • Portfolio: https://chriscummings.net

Summary

Engineer turned technical writer with 16 years of experience translating complex software and systems into clear, user-focused documentation. Skilled in API docs, developer guides, and technical tutorials for audiences ranging from engineers to non-technical stakeholders.

Skills

Tools: MKDocs, Sphinx, Git, Confluence, MediaWiki, Markdown, Jekyll, JSDoc, Swagger, Matplotlib, Plotly, Visio, Diagrams, Mermaid, LLMs

Technical Background: Python, JavaScript/TypeScript, Ruby, PHP, FastAPI, Django, Flask, React, Ruby on Rails, Docker, CI/CD, AWS, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Redis, Bootstrap, Tailwind CSS

Experience

Technical Writer
Dingo Ranch Labs | Aug 2022 – Present

- Produced end-user documentation and training materials for custom tools and data pipelines, enabling investigative journalists and nonprofit teams to work independently without developer support.
- Created system architecture diagrams and data flow charts that reduced onboarding time for client teams by clarifying complex integrations.
- Wrote plain-language technical reports and summaries of government and financial data analysis, helping non-technical stakeholders understand key findings.

Senior Software Engineer
Bell, Carrington, Price & Gregg | Feb 2021 – Aug 2022

- Created detailed user guides for GIS-based property risk applications, enabling staff to identify parcels, interpret satellite overlays, and generate automated mailers with minimal training.
- Documented the full pipeline for processing DOT engineering drawings and tax records, providing reproducible steps for future engineers and analysts.
- Developed tools in Django and TypeScript and translated implementation details into clear, user-focused documentation for analysts and legal teams.

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Experience (Cont.)

Software Engineering Team Leader
Dominion Energy | Jun 2016 – Dec 2020

- Authored training manuals, onboarding guides, and API references that streamlined adoption of outage tracking, billing insights, and mapping systems across engineering and operations teams.
- Documented the architecture, schema mapping, and migration workflows of a Flask-based ETL & CMS platform, reducing dependency on senior engineers for support.
- Facilitated cross-department knowledge sharing by standardizing documentation practices across engineering, infrastructure, and operations groups.

Software Engineer
US Patriot Tactical | Mar 2011 – Jun 2016

- Authored SOP documentation for warehouse and fulfillment workflows, reducing training time for new employees.
- Developed and documented a Ruby on Rails ERP system, providing user guides that enabled staff to manage all warehouse operations independently.
- Created RESTful APIs and wrote integration documentation so third-party systems could consume real-time product, pricing, and inventory data.

Software Engineer
SC Army National Guard | Oct 2008 – Oct 2010

- Authored quality assurance guidelines that standardized collection practices across field teams, improving consistency of reporting.
- Developed interactive dashboards and GIS applications so utility usage could be understood and acted upon by non-technical staff
- Created workflow documentation for GIS dataset ingestion and cleaning, ensuring repeatability for future data engineers.

Education

- **BS, Geographic Information Systems** – University of South Carolina | 2008 – 2010
- **AS, General Studies** – Tidewater Community College | 2006 – 2008

Please take a look at **my technical writing portfolio** at https://chriscummings.net