

Towards a Multi-lingual, Expanded Resource: The AG Documentation Project

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Overview

- History and accomplishments
- Review Team: AGDP behind-the-scenes
- Moving forward
 - Translations
 - AG 3.x documentation
 - Documentation of shared applications and other new developments

Who is the AGDP?

- A band of loosely organized volunteers who each do what we can to help support the community
 - Herd of cats
 - Chefs of stone soup



History and Motivation

- Founded in winter of 2001 to support Alliance AG-in-a-Box project
 - AGDP provided documentation included in AG 1.x releases
 - Peer-reviewed, primary source of user documentation
 - Desire to minimize duplication of effort



AGDP Accomplishments

- More than 40 docs
- 26 authors, representing 13 organizations and 3 countries
 - A fine example of the collaborative and supportive nature of the AG technical community
- High web usage
 - 8,296 distinct hosts served in Jan/Feb 2005

What does it take for a document to be published on the AGDP?

1. Pertinent document needs to be written

- Offerings from the community
- Shameless Recruitment by AGDP when an important document is needed

What does it take for a document to be published on the AGDP?

2. Document is submitted to AGDP for review (review period approximately 2 weeks)

- Team of reviewers provide comments on:
 - Structure and clarity
 - Content accuracy

What does it take for a document to be published on the AGDP?

3. Author responds to review comments
 - Makes suggested changes
 - Offers explanation if not making changes

What does it take for a document to be published on the AGDP?

4. Final Review

- One last look by review team

5. Document is Published

- Converted to proper format
- Announced on email list

Moving Forward: Need Reviewers

- Why Being a Reviewer is a Good Thing:
 - Very little time constraints
 - Review around your schedule
 - No requirements to review every document
 - Provide valuable assistance to AG related documents
 - Become the Critic you always wanted to be

Moving Forward: Supporting AG 3.x

- AGDP will recruit authors to update AG 2.x documents to support the 3.x release
 - Documents will be included in AGTk releases
 - Documents will be published on AGDP site
 - AGDP review process will provide QA
 - AGDP will be involved during the development cycle to document the software

Moving Forward: Translations Desired

- AGDP documents could/should be translated into other languages
 - Interested in managing this, or doing translations?
- Peer-review process will remain in English

Moving Forward: Need Authors

- Work directly with AG 3 developers on updating AG 2 docs for new version
- Write guides, howto's, perhaps even tutorials for developers
- Write documents for other topics too-long unexplored (video primer?), and new ideas
- Submit existing documentation of shared applications and other new development

Please Ask Yourself

- If I'm already going to be installing alpha/beta software, could I update or review documents?
- If I'm developing shared applications, would I like the additional audience that publishing my user docs on the AGDP could bring me?
 - And would the peer review help fine-tune my docs?
- If I need translations of AG user docs for my own purposes, could I share those with others?