Document all the things! (How again?)

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Aims of this session

- Start a discussion on documentation methods in research software projects.

Notes at: bit.ly/cw19-docs-workshop
Please add your name and email if you want to contribute to a coherent document to be published.

Slides at: bit.ly/cw19-docs-workshop-slides
Documentation is key for software sustainability
Q: What and how should we actually document?

1. **What** must be documented? [Are there minimal and maximal sets of documentation types to cover?]
2. **How** should different documentation types be written or generated? [Does the type of documentation to be created dictate the form?]

*Underlying question:* How much - if any - “trad” software engineering documentation practices does sustainable research software need?

*My perspective:* New research software project with a focus on sustainability: hexatomic.github.io.
Requirements and evaluation:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Documentation types?</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conceptual documentation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reference documentation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Requirements engineering</td>
<td>• Code comments</td>
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<td>• System modeling</td>
<td>• API documentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Architectural design</td>
<td>• README</td>
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<td>• Object-oriented design</td>
<td>• User guide</td>
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Documentation methods?

Working software vs. comprehensive documentation
Documentation audiences?

- Users
- Developers
- Maintainers
- Managers
- Researchers (users + developers?)
Any questions before we dive into the discussion?
Discussion

bit.ly/cw19-docs-workshop
Thank you!

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