

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN LEGACY DOCS AND MODULAR CONTENT

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IN THIS PRESENTATION

1. Intro, terminology

- a. Why bother?
- b. What's "legacy"?
- c. What's "modular"?

2. What's the problem?

- a. Too much docs
- b. Hard to find
- c. Hard to navigate

3. What's our solution?

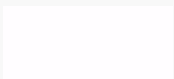
- a. Document only what users really need
- b. Facilitate sharing & single-sourcing
- c. Modular presentation

4. Discussion



INTRODUCTION

- Why? -- Landscape is changing:
 - Software **packaging**
 - Monolithic distros → containerized apps
 - Software **delivery**
 - Release cycles → continuous deployment



TERMINOLOGY

- **Legacy docs** = big guides/books
 - comprehensive
 - **feature-based**
- **Modular docs** = lean, concise articles (units)
 - targeted
 - **user-story-based**

FEATURE-BASED VS USER-STORY-BASED

FEATURES

Describe all available features; comprehensive

1. Using Onions
 - 1.1. Peeling Onions
 - 1.2. Cutting Onions
 - 1.3. Frying Onions
2. Using Eggs
 - 2.1. Breaking Eggs
 - 2.2. Mixing Eggs with Milk
 - 2.3. Frying Eggs

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USER STORIES*

Explains how to achieve specific goals; selective

1. Making an Onion Omelette
 - 1.1. Setting up Workplace
 - 1.2. Preparing Ingredients
 - 1.3. Selecting Spices
 - 1.4. Combining Ingredients
 - 1.5. Frying Omelette Mixture
 - 1.6. Serving the Omelette
 - 1.7. Other Onion Recipes

** As a \$(type of user), I want to \$(goal) so that \$(reason).*

Questions?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM (with legacy docs)?

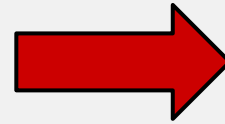
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- Difficult to maintain
(nobody likes to write docs)
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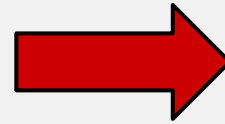
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Hard to navigate:

- Guides are too long (scrolling, searching, saving...)
- Experience not customizable



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People say "Docs suck!"

Questions?



WHAT'S OUR SOLUTION?

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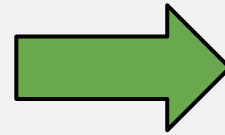
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- Cut down on the amount of content



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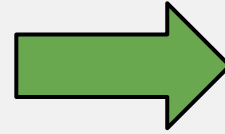
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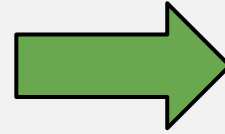
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- Bring together upstream & downstream



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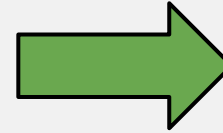
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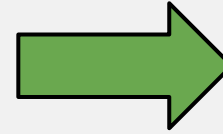
- *Modules form assemblies*
- “Curated” assemblies, “ad hoc” docs



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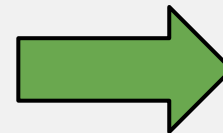
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Dynamic presentation

Questions?



ASSEMBLIES & MODULES

ASSEMBLY

Documentation **realization** of
a **user story**

“topic” -- too ambiguous; not
used on purpose

ASSEMBLIES & MODULES

ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCTION

Title

action-oriented, specific, e.g.
“Making an Onion Omelette”.

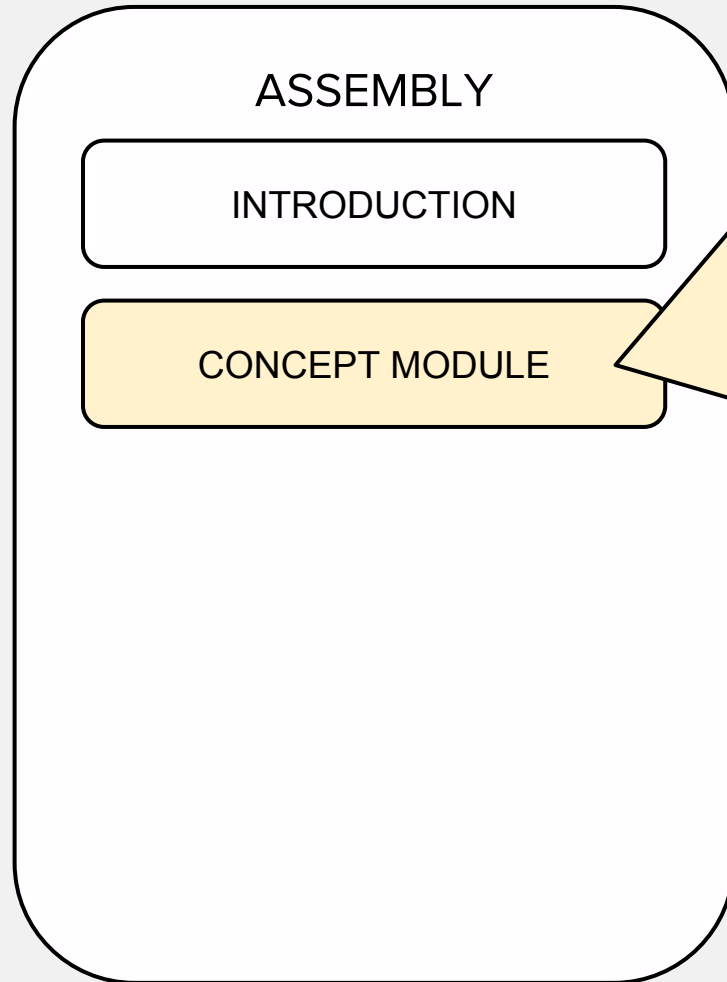
Purpose

What is going to be
accomplished.

Prerequisites

Actions that need to be taken
or conditions that need to be
satisfied.

ASSEMBLIES & MODULES



Title

What is explained, e.g.
“Understanding the Importance of Omelettes in French Cuisine”.

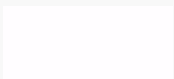
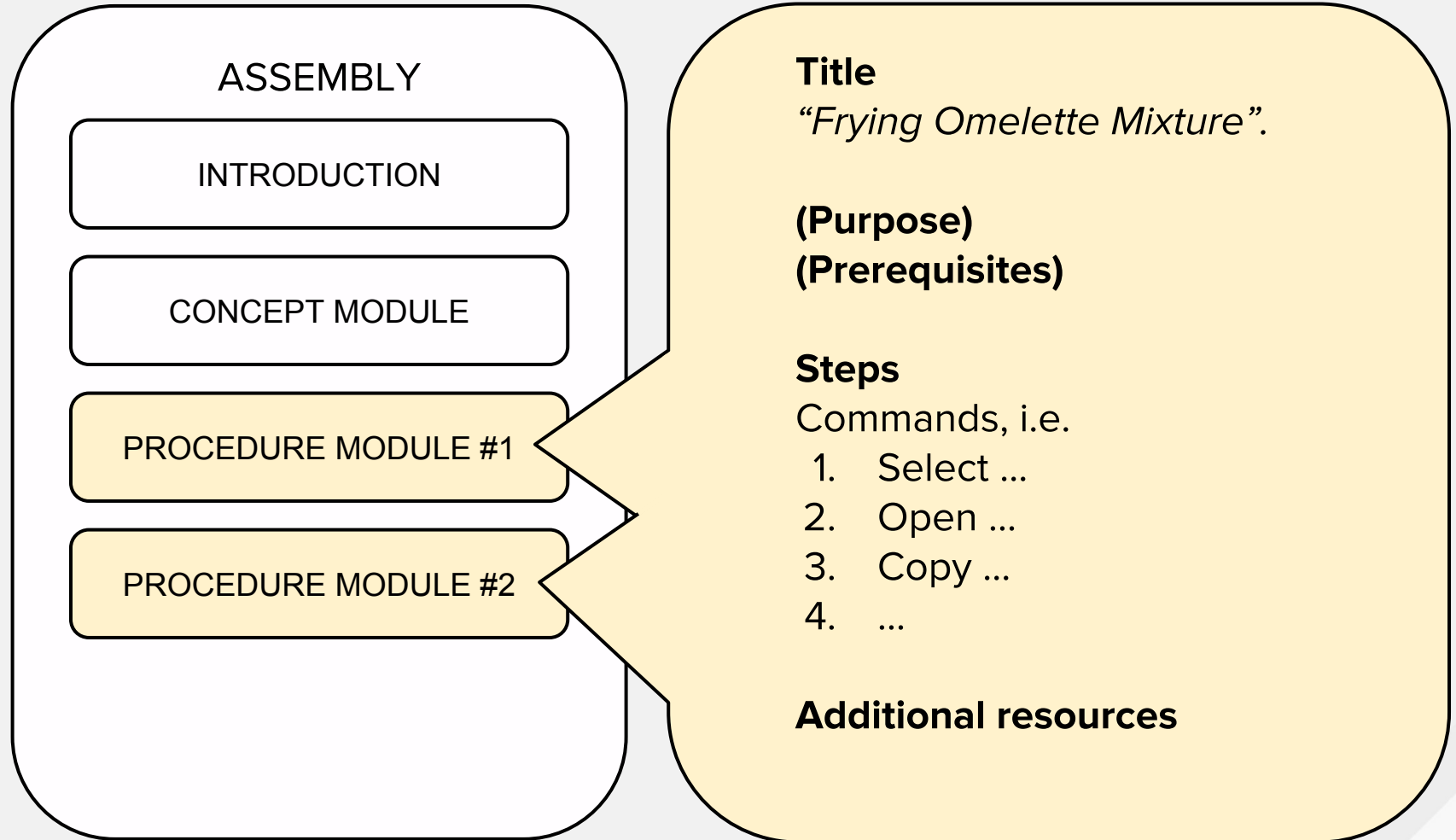
Explanation

Concise, to the point.

Additional resources

Where to go for further details or background info.

ASSEMBLIES & MODULES



ASSEMBLIES & MODULES

ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCTION

CONCEPT MODULE

PROCEDURE MODULE #1

PROCEDURE MODULE #2

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
& REFERENCES

Links & references to:

- Related assemblies
- Individual modules
 - Concepts
 - References
 - Related procedures
- Websites
- Manual pages
- Other onion recipes
- ...

Questions?

WRAP UP

LEGACY

Long, **feature-based** guides, going after **completeness**

MODULAR

Adapting into modular, **action-oriented** units, based on **user stories**



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Lots of content, hard to maintain, **learning curve** for contributors **too steep**



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Adapting into modular, **action-oriented** units, based on **user stories**

Cut down on the **amount of content**, small chunks = low-hanging fruit for new people



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Lots of content, hard to maintain, **learning curve** for contributors **too steep**

Cumbersome navigation, **static content**, no customization



MODULAR

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Hierarchical, metadata-based navigation, **dynamic presentation**

Questions?

DISCUSSION

- **Do you use something similar?**
- **What are the major risks and/or caveats of this approach?**
 - **No clear content strategy**
 - **tons of assemblies**
 - **no real order**
 - mind mapping?
 - **Initial overhead**
 - **converting existing docs**
 - **maintenance of legacy docs**
 - work progressively; while fixing old docs, adapt into modular
- **What are your major grievances with docs (and open-source docs)?**
- ...

THANK YOU

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