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From Novice to Narrative: Crafting Your First Technical Document

Fanny Nyayic

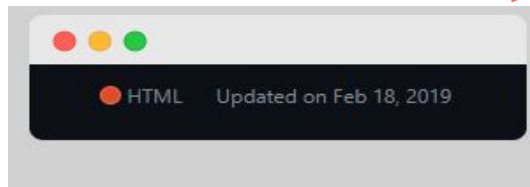
Web Developer | Technical Writer | Open-Source Contributor



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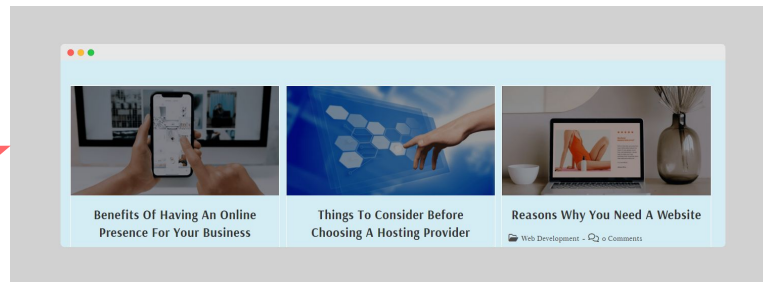
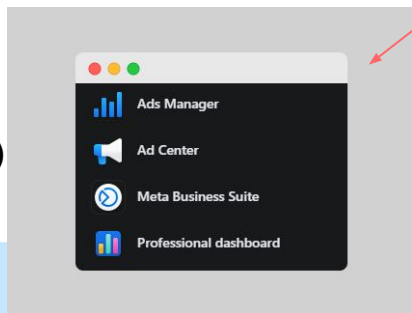
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My Writing Story

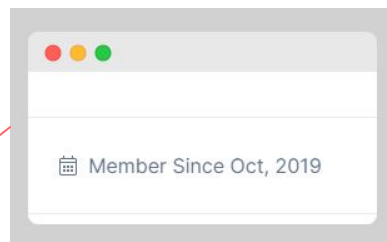


2019-Free Domain on
GitHub Pages

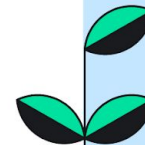
Writing for social
media(2019-2020)



Meanwhile, on my free GH page
portfolio, I had 3 blogs(still had my 9-5)



Joined Hashnode &
Dev.to (Lailah)



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Contn'd



2020-2021 Discovered Alison

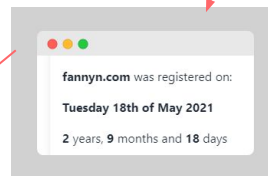
Did my first writing course-earned my 1st UGX.15k

Talked to a mentor

- Share journey
- Write & tweet
- Invest in a domain



Published my first article on hashnode

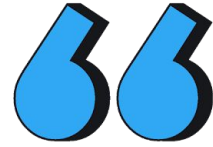


- Purchased a domain
- Started writing
- Created multiple freelance profiles



Landed a frontend role *BUT*





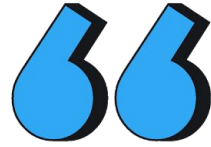
"Good technical writing is the key to effective communication in the world of technology."

~Fanny Nyayic~



What is Technical Writing?

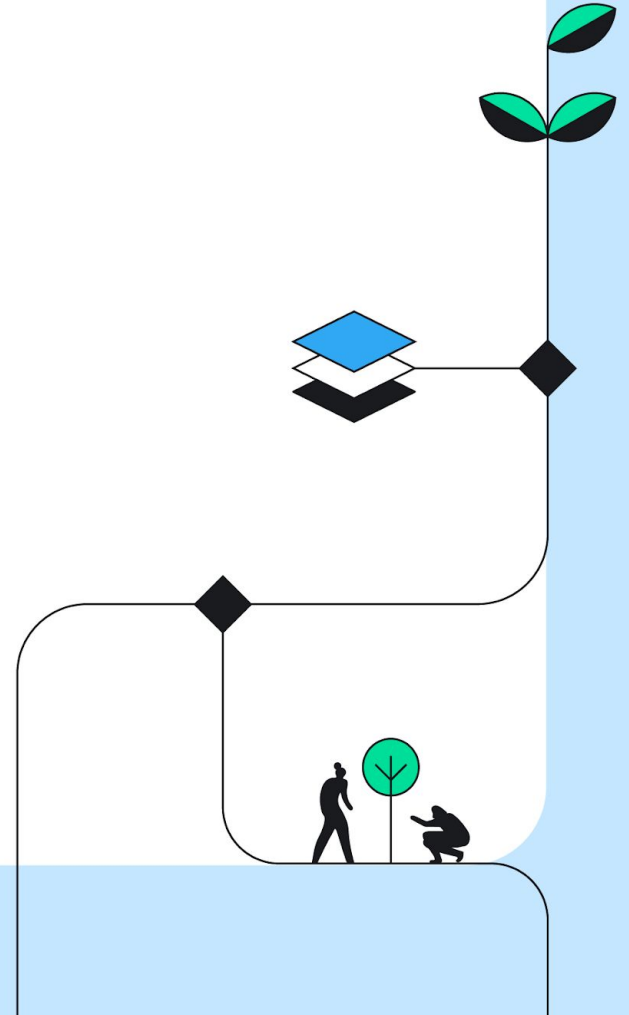




Technical writing is a form of writing that communicates specific information in a clear, concise, and objective manner.

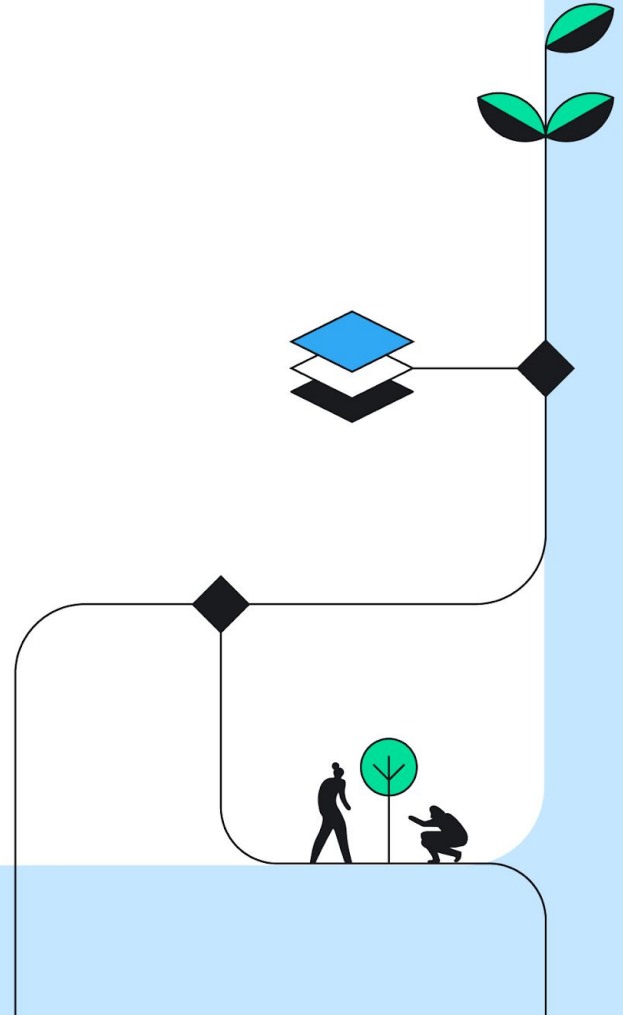
Why Technical Writing Matters

[Reference](#)



Types of Technical Documents

- User Guides, Tutorials
- Application Programming Interface (API) Documentation
- Software Development Kit (SDK) Documentation
- Release Notes
- Market Requirements Documentation (MRD)
- User Requirements Document (URD)

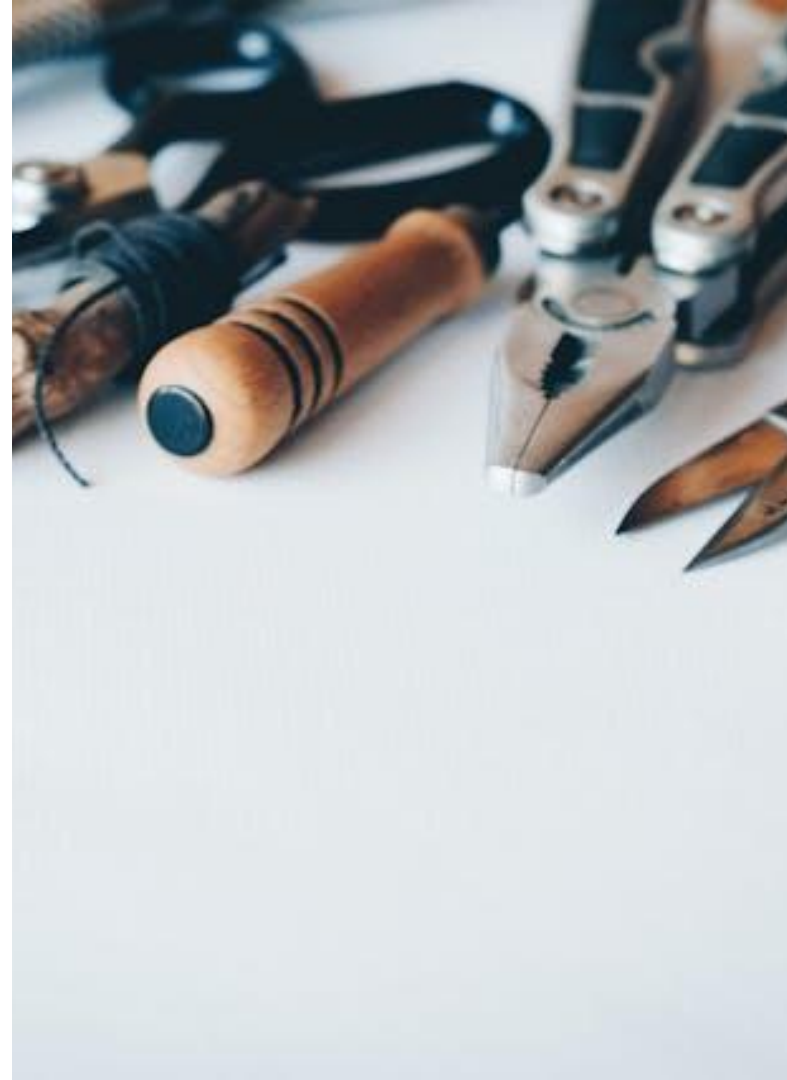




How to Craft your first Technical Document



Identify the tools or things you use on a daily basis



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Can you explain it to someone?

Yes

No



Understand the Basics

- Familiarize yourself with the fundamentals of technical writing. Learn about the purpose, audience, and goals of technical documents.
- Explore different types of technical documents, such as manuals, user guides, and specifications.



Identify Your Audience

- Determine who will be reading your technical documents. Understanding your audience is crucial for tailoring your writing style and level of detail.
- Consider the knowledge and expertise of your audience and adjust the technicality of your content accordingly.



Choose Your Tools

Select the appropriate tools for technical writing.

Common tools include word processors like Microsoft Word, collaborative platforms like Google Docs, Sheets and specialized software for technical documentation.



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Learn the Style Guide

Familiarize yourself with a style guide relevant to your industry or organization. Style guides provide guidelines on grammar, formatting, and terminology, ensuring consistency in your writing.



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Study Existing Documents

Review sample technical documents within your topic/field. Analyze their structure, language, and formatting to gain insights into industry standards and best practices.



Practice Structuring Information

- Develop skills in organizing information logically. Use clear headings, subheadings, and lists to enhance the readability of your documents.
- Consider the inverted pyramid style, presenting the most important information first.



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Start Small

- Begin with small writing tasks to build confidence. Draft simple procedures, explanations, or FAQs related to a topic you are familiar with.
- Ask for feedback from peers or mentors to improve your writing skills.



Embrace Revision

Understand that writing is a process of refinement. Don't hesitate to revise and edit your work multiple times to enhance clarity and eliminate unnecessary details.



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Create Templates

Develop templates for common types of documents you'll be working on. Templates can provide a consistent structure and save time in future writing tasks.



Seek Feedback

Share your drafts with colleagues, subject-matter experts, or mentors. Constructive feedback is invaluable for improving your technical writing skills.

A stylized illustration of a hand holding a sign. The hand is yellow and positioned on the right side of the image, with fingers curled around a white rectangular sign with rounded corners. The sign has a grey border and the word "FEEDBACK" written in large, bold, black capital letters. The background is a solid blue color.

FEEDBACK

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Build a Portfolio

Create a portfolio showcasing your technical writing projects. This can be a valuable asset when applying for jobs or freelance opportunities.



Make Use of Online Resources

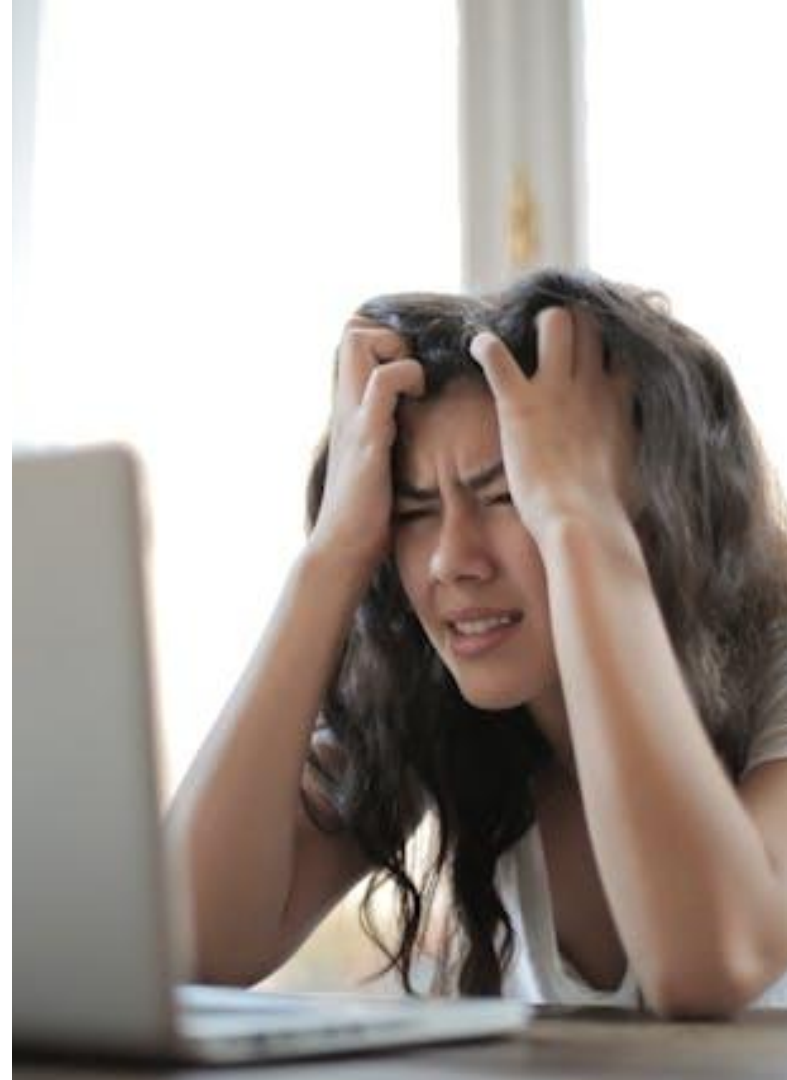
Take advantage of online courses, forums, and blogs dedicated to technical writing. These resources can offer additional guidance and insights into the field.

- [Zaycodes](#)
- [Writey](#)
- [The great Bonnie](#)



Challenges for Novice Technical Writers

- Limited Technical Knowledge
- Audience Understanding
- Writing Style and Tone Balance
- Tool Proficiency
- Collaboration and Communication
- Organization and Structure
- Revision and Editing Skills
- Keeping Up with Technology Trends
- Time Management
- User Feedback and Iteration



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Where to Find Technical Writing Roles (\$200 + per Article)



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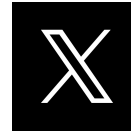
- Freelance platforms(Upwork, Freelancer, Fiverr, Guru etc)
- Twitter
- Job boards and Company sites
- [ContentLab](#)
- [Digital Ocean](#)
- [AppSignal](#)
- [DevSpotlight](#)
- [LambdaTest](#)
- [Adeva](#)
- [Auth0's](#)
- [Civo](#)
- etc



Any Questions?



Fanny Nyayic



@fanny_codes

All Slides: <https://techtalks.fannyn.com>