# Engineering Documentation

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# Engineering is about solving problems and helping people

# Documentation enables customer success

# Colleague enablement

Share the secrets with your team, on their level

# Diátaxis https://diataxis.fr



TUTORIALS

LEARNING-ORIENTED

HOW-TO GUIDES

TASK-ORIENTED

Practical steps

Serve our study — Serve our work

UNDERSTANDING-ORIENTED

INFORMATION-ORIENTED

EXPLANATION

Theoretical knowledge

REFERENCE

# Content structure

Consistent navigation patterns

- products
- tools

Put developers in control by offering really good search

- we use Aiven for OpenSearch
- indexing multiple sources

# Style guide

- use a specific template
- add hyperlinks
- use active wording
- formatting guidelines
- positive and respectful language
- titles, verbs and sentence case
- screenshots and example values
- what not to do

# Docs as Code

Use the same tools and workflows as for code

# Source control

- easy to work on many parallel changes
- identify of author and reviewer are known
- full change history for all pages
- collaboration tools for big or small changes

# Text-based markup

- static site generator
- separate content and presentation
- reuse content (single sourcing)
- handle large changesets easily

# Text-based diagrams

Using https://mermaid-js.github.io



**Connect Apache Kafka® to OpenSearch® with Terraform**

This example shows how to use a Kafka® Connector to take data from Apache Kafka® and ingest it into OpenSearch® using Apache Kafka Connect. As a use case, the data here is application logs going onto a Kafka topic, and being put into OpenSearch for short term storage and easy inspection, if needed. Aiven has a concept of service integrations to manage the relationships between components. Aiven Terraform Provider has a specific resource type in Terraform for service integration.

Before looking at the Terraform script, let's visually realize how the services will be connected:

Kafka → Service Integration → Kafka Connect → Kafka Connector: OpenSearch Sink → OpenSearch

# Automating a docs platform

# Continuous integration

Pull request build does the work

- verify the build
- generate preview
- check hyperlinks
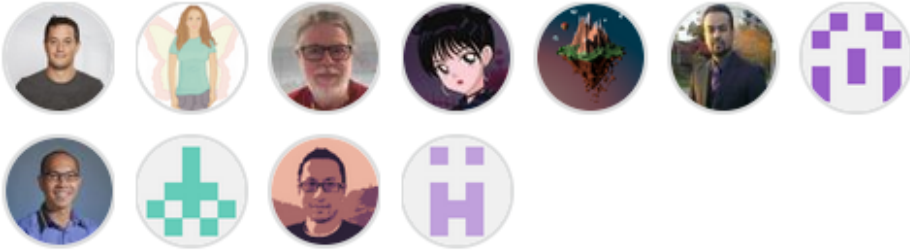- prose linting with Vale

# Vale

Prose linter https://vale.sh/

- checks for valid words and can be taught technical terms
- checks for correct use of trademarked terms
- requires all headings to be in sentence case
- suggests replacements for frequent mistakes

# Continuous deployment

- immediate deploy on merge to `main`
- build static site and deploy
- repeat often

# Open Source Operation

# Contributors

Encourage contributors (internal or external)

- well-tended repository
- contributor guidelines
- office hours for internal contributors
- good review practice

# Maintainers

Principle of shared responsibility

- reviewer guidelines in the repo
- pull requests need a single approver
- all git-enabled Aiveners can merge
- editorial review is available

Gatekeepers have no place in collaboration

# Engineering Documentation

# Resources

- https://docs.aiven.io/
- https://github.com/aiven/devportal/
- https://lornajane.net
- https://docsfordevelopers.com/
- https://idratherbewriting.com/