




# Arrival: The Journey of our Documentation Platform to Station

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We start with a simple truth:



If it is not  
documented,  
it is not done.

# 2017

Welcome to Nexmo Developer

We are improving our Documentation, API references, learning resources & tooling to help you more effectively use our services. We want to help you find everything you need to integrate Nexmo APIs into your code. As we start this transition, we'd love to hear from you with thoughts & suggestions. If you've got something positive or negative, to tell us, please tell us using the feedback tool at the bottom of each guide or [file an issue](#) on GitHub. - Nexmo

## Connected Code

Everything you need to build connected applications with Nexmo

<p>Send and receive</p> <p><b>SMS</b></p> <p>Overview Guides Building Blocks Tutorials</p> <p>API Reference</p>	<p>Programmable</p> <p><b>Voice</b></p> <p>Overview Guides Building Blocks Tutorials</p> <p>API Reference   NCCD Reference</p>	<p>User Authentication</p> <p><b>Verify</b></p> <p>Overview Guides Building Blocks Tutorials</p> <p>API Reference</p>
<p>User Identity</p> <p><b>Number insight</b></p> <p>Overview Guides Building Blocks Tutorials</p> <p>API Reference</p>	<p>Management</p> <p><b>Account</b></p> <p>Overview Guides Building Blocks</p> <p>API Reference</p>	<p>Developer API</p> <p>Account   Messages   Numbers   Pricing</p> <p>Global APIs</p> <p>Application   Conversion</p>



### SDKs & Tools

The Nexmo libraries allow you to get up and running with Nexmo APIs quickly in your language of choice.



### Community

Find out about our talks, community hacks, and what events we'll be at.

### Do you have a question?

We're always here to help, [send us an email](#) or get in touch on [Stack Overflow](#).

**DOCUMENTATION**

- SMS
- Voice
- Verify
- Number Insight
- Developer API
- Global APIs

**API REFERENCE**

- SMS
- Voice
- Verify
- Number Insight
- Developer API
- Global APIs

**NEXMO DEVELOPER**

- Community
- Contribute
- Changelog
- Legacy Documentation

**GET TO KNOW US**

- Nexmo Platform
- About Nexmo
- Careers
- Leadership
- Press

**SUPPORT**

- Knowledgebase



API Status: All Systems Operational

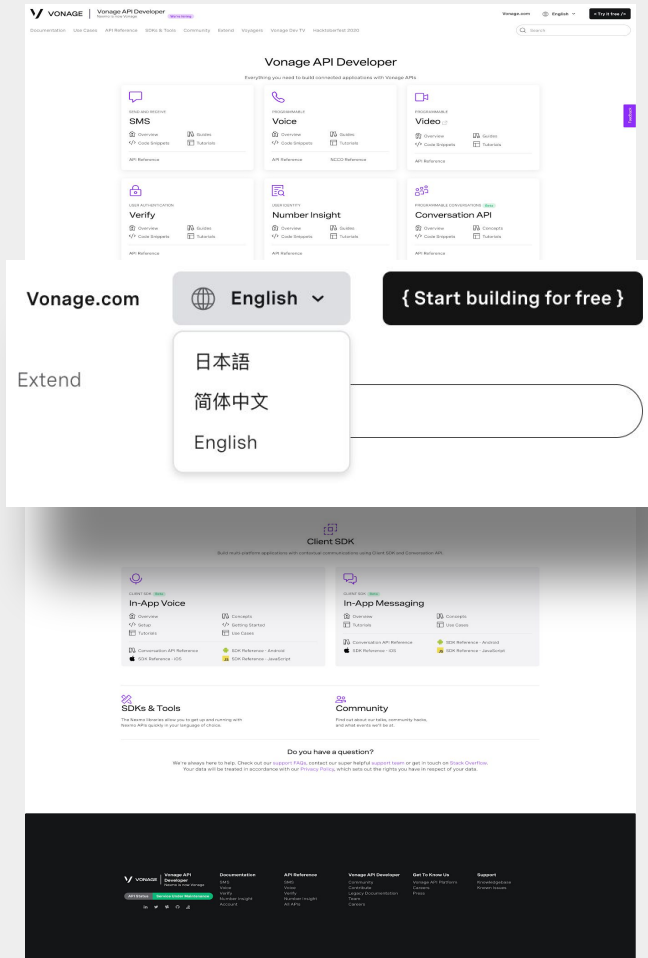




## The Journey Begins With:

- **Custom Platform** - Not out of the box
- **Ruby on Rails** - Well trodden technical path, lots of community support
- **Markdown Content** - Lower threshold to contribution, standard formatting
- **Focus on Manual Testing** - More reliant on human bug catching
- **Documentation & Code Intertwined**

2020



## 3 Years Later:

- **Custom Platform Tool** - One tool, *Station*, to generate numerous unique portals
- **Markdown Renderer** - Lower threshold to contribution with ability to create custom formatting with no code
- **OpenAPI Renderer** - API docs universally rendered with standardized specification
- **Automated Testing Suite** - Automating the things that can be automated so people can do the things automation cannot
- **Internationalization** - Thinking beyond the English speaking world
- **Documentation & Code Separated**



# The Station Tooling Ecosystem

# Small Tools To Support Big Goals



NEXMO-MARKDOWN-RENDERER

Transform markdown  
into fully rendered  
web pages



NEXMO-OAS-RENDERER

Present OpenAPI  
specifications  
inside Station



CUSTOM GITHUB ACTIONS

Run testing suite, check  
for spelling, find broken  
links, and a lot moe

Each small tool is a  
**single-purpose**  
modularized component  
of Station



# Why Did We Build Station?



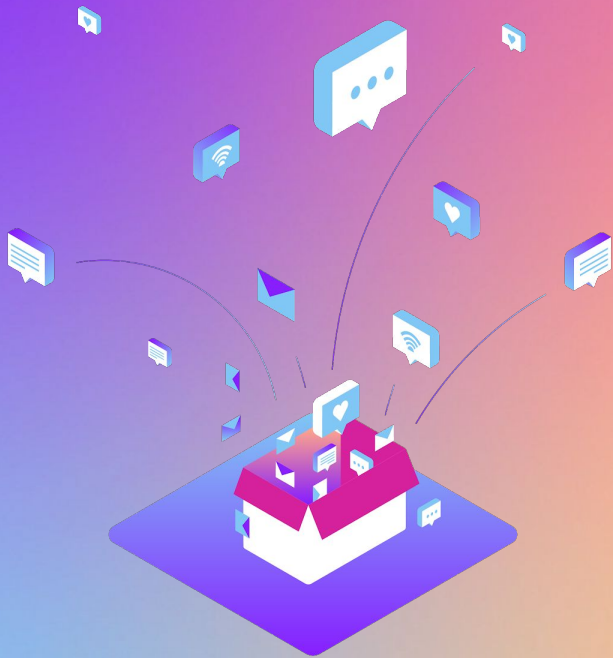
It Started With  
A Question...



Can You  
Duplicate *That*  
For Us?

# Yes\*

\*But, Let's Do Something Else

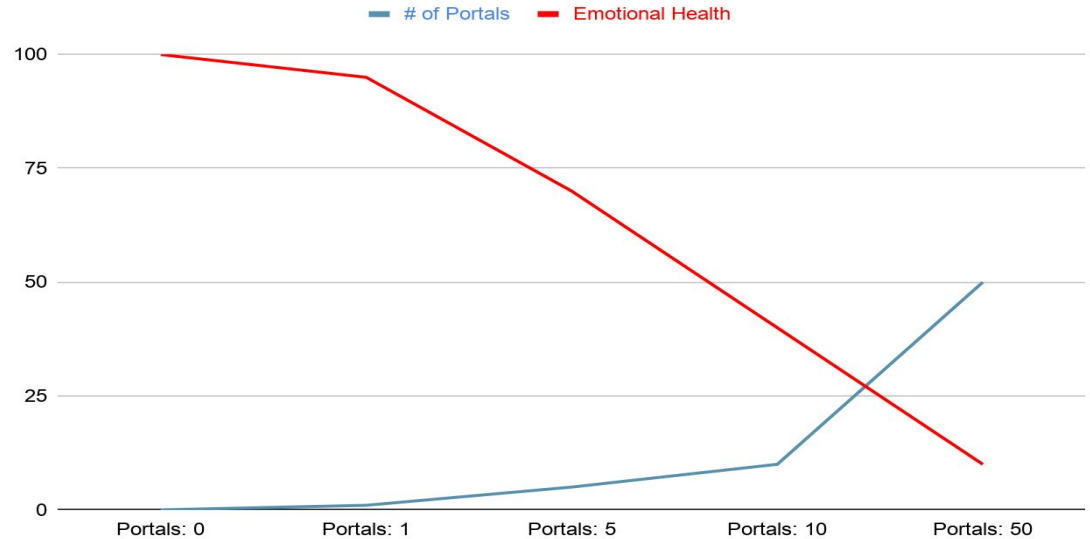


# A Technical Question Can Lead To An Adaptive Solution



# Impact of Number of Unique Portals To Emotional Health

There is an inverse relationship between the number of portals and emotional health



**Note:** This table comes only from my imagination, and does not represent empirically derived information.

# What Does Station Solve?

# Democratizing Contribution

When you take care of the foundations...

People can focus on contributing in their expertise and interest area





Writing Docs Is  
Its Own  
Valuable Expertise

# Engineering ♥ Happiness

D.R.Y. (Do Not Repeat Yourself)

Multiple Sites With Overlapping Needs,  
Use Cases and Functionality?



Shared Code Increases  
Developer Satisfaction



Maintaining the *same look and style*  
across *multiple* sites is **HARD.**

# What Were The Challenges?

# Encouraging Patience for Adaptive Solution Building





A DIALECTIC TENSION:

# Configurability and Standardization




A DIALECTIC TENSION:


# Configurability and Complexity



# How Did We Address Them?

# Communicate

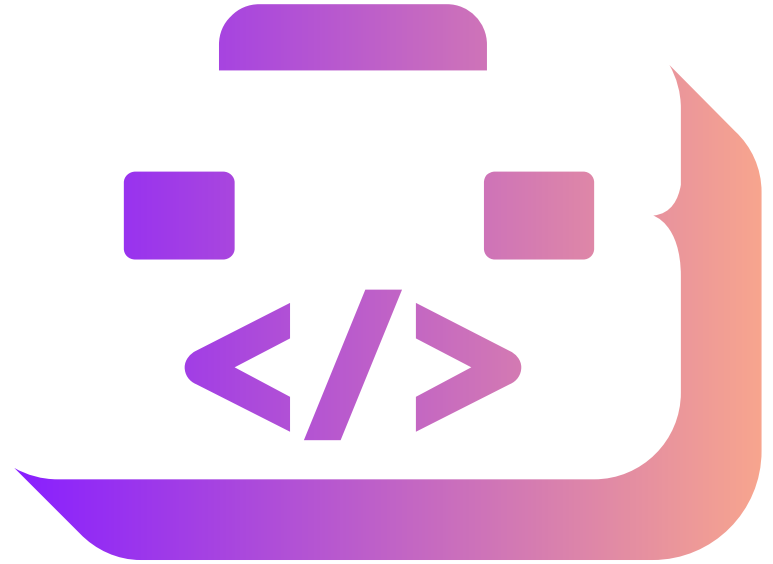
Communicate 

Communicate 

... and then communicate again

# Configurability Checklist

- **Common across portals?**
- **Level of complexity?**
- **Reusable?**
- **Shared business style?**
- **Specific request?**



```
1 name: Business Communications APIs
2 subtitle: Developer Center
3 base_url: 'https://developer.vonage.com'
4 assets:
5   header_logo:
6     path: '/images/logos/vbc-logo.svg'
7     alt: 'VBC Logo'
8   footer_logo:
9     path: '/images/logos/vbc-logo-white.svg'
10    alt: 'VBC Footer Logo'
```

```
name: Business Communications APIs
subtitle: Developer Center
base_url: 'https://developer.vonage.com'
assets:
  header_logo:
    path: '/images/logos/vbc-logo.svg'
    alt: 'VBC Logo'
  footer_logo:
    path: '/images/logos/vbc-logo-white.svg'
    alt: 'VBC Footer Logo'
docs_repo: 'VonageGarage/VDP'
oas_repo: 'vonage/api-specification'
```

```
45 support:
46   business-support: 'https://businesssupport.vonage.com/'
47   developer-support: 'devsupport@vonage.com'
48 social:
49   linkedin: 'https://www.linkedin.com/company/vonage/'
50   twitter: 'https://twitter.com/vonage'
```

```
1 products:
2   -
3     name: 'Call Recording'
4     icon: 'phone'
5     icon_colour: 'blue'
6     path: 'call-recording'
7     dropdown: true
8   -
9     name: 'Node RED'
10    icon: 'flow'
11    icon_colour: 'red'
12    path: 'node-red'
```

name: 'Call Recording'

icon: 'phone'

icon\_colour: 'blue'

path: 'call-recording'

dropdown: true

```
47   icon_colour: 'blue'
48   path: 'zapier'
49   dropdown: true
50 -
51 name: 'Concepts'
52 icon: 'message'
53 icon_colour: 'green'
54 path: 'concepts'
55 dropdown: true
56 -
57 name: 'App Center'
58 icon: 'file-search'
59 icon_colour: 'purple'
60 path: 'app-center'
61 dropdown: true
```

# Exceptions as Guides for Configuration



```
def after_initialize!  
  raise 'You must provide a config/business_info.yml file in your documentation path.'  
  unless config_exist?("#{Rails.configuration.docs_base_path}/config/business_info.yml")  
  
    @items = footer_from_config("#{Rails.configuration.docs_base_path}/config/business_info.yml")  
  end  
end
```

*The more ambiguous the error, the  
more frustrating the experience*





# What Are Some Key Takeaways?




Where You Start Is Not  
Where You Will End



Separation of Code and  
Prose Respects Each  
Contributor  
For Their Unique Expertise



Communication  
Increases Buy-In And  
Improves Iteration



# Documentation Portals Need Their Own Documentation

# Public Documentation

**station**

## Contents

1. Content Structure and Files
  - i. File Organization
  - ii. Configuration Files
  - iii. Customization Options
2. Running Station
  - i. Running Standalone
  - ii. Running With Docker
3. Configuring the Feedback Widget

### Content Structure and Files

Station requires the content served by the platform to be organized in a defined way. The platform will not start if the folder structure is not present in the content path provided during initialization.

Additionally, Station offers a lot of opportunities to customize the platform for unique needs.

This section will go through each of these areas.

#### File Organization

Inside the top-level folder of the content there must be the following folders:

```
+++ _use_cases
+++ _documentation
+++ _tutorials
+++ public
+++ config
```

# Bootstrap Doc Portal

minimal-doc-product

Code Issues Pull requests Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights Settings

master 3 branches 0 tags

Go to file Add file Code

tbedford Merge pull request #9 from helios110/master c04c28 12 days ago 43 commits

documentation/en	Updates	2 months ago
tutorials	Add files	2 months ago
_use_cases	Add files	2 months ago
config	Landing page tweaks	last month
custom	Add clues	last month
public	Add more logos	last month
Gemfile	Set Ruby version as warned in Heroku	last month
Gemfile.lock	Update Gemfiles to fix Heroku	last month
LICENSE	Initial commit	2 months ago
Procfile	Add Procfile	last month
README.md	Update Readme.md	12 days ago
app.json	Remove submodules from Heroku config	last month

### README.md

## minimal-doc-product

### Overview

Minimal doc product is a small repo that is designed to give you a starting point so you can bootstrap your own documentation project. It provides a minimal set of configuration files and content. You could fork this repo and then add your own content, and the modify the configuration to create custom landing pages. You can also swap out logos to match your product.

# What's Next?

# Know Thyself

The greater the user personalization, the greater the impact.







## Resources:

- **Station on GitHub:**  
<https://github.com/Nexmo/station>
- **Station on Rubygems:**  
<https://rubygems.org/gems/station>
- **Station Documentation:**  
<https://nexmo.github.io/station/>
- **Bootstrap Portal Project:**  
<https://github.com/nexmo-community/minimal-doc-product>
- **Vonage API Developer Portal:**  
<https://developer.vonage.com>
- **Vonage Business Communications Portal:**  
<https://developer.uc.vonage.com/>

# Thank you.

Questions? Comments?

Please Be In Touch!

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