



Extra Icons



Fedora Docs

What are we planning for the year ahead and how you can easily contribute

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A brief analyses of the current status

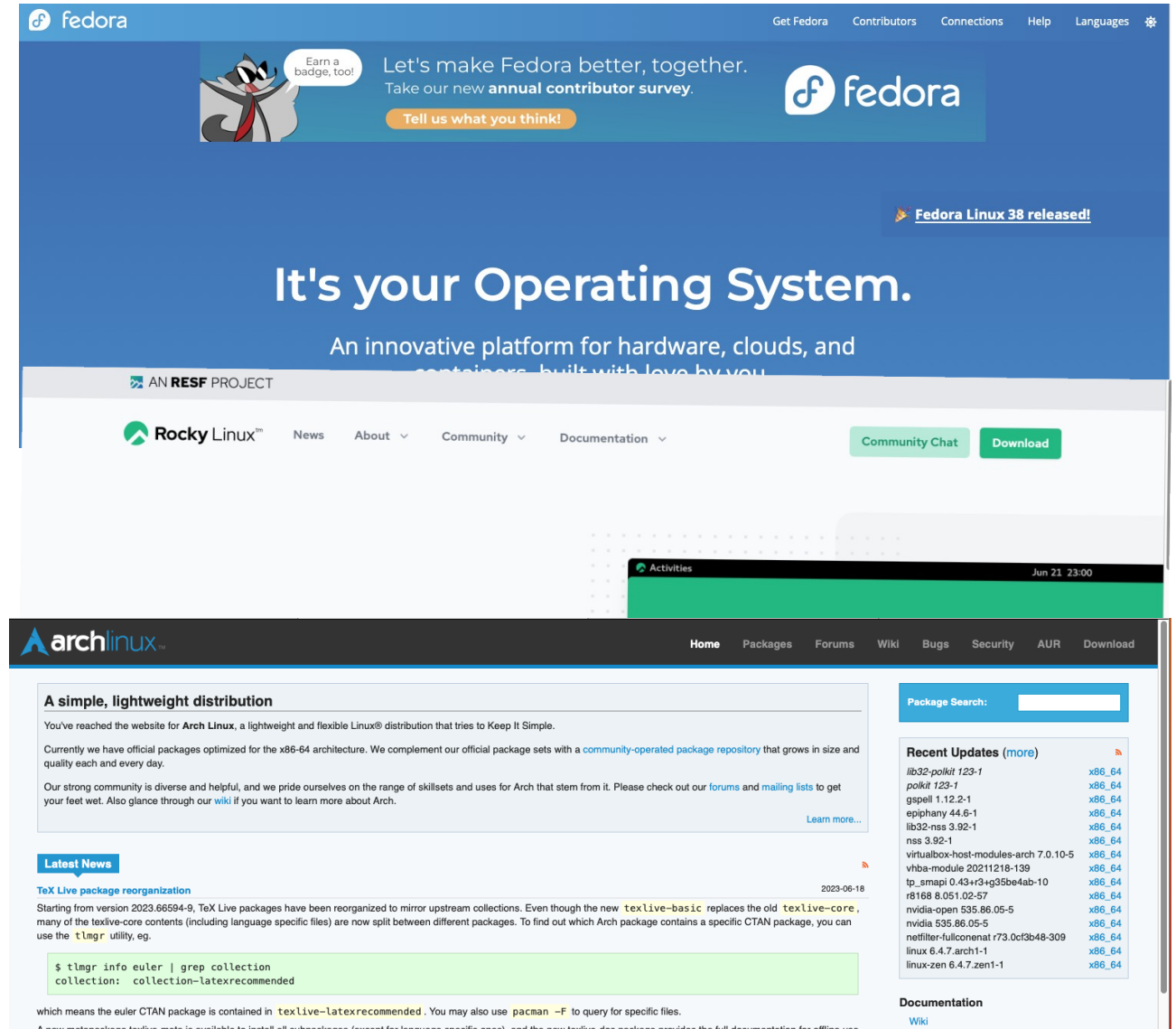
- Fedora Docs is suffering for a long time now. Over the years, a continuous decline and fall could be observed.
- Such a steady development is no coincidence, but has a systematic reason.
- One possible cause: Fedora, as a distribution, is strongly engineering-focused and is almost exclusively focused on the technical product, our distributable items.
It's not necessarily intentional or negligent. It's just our “view on the software world”.

There are several indicators

Compare the Fedora home page with those of 2 quite successful distribution and a similar fairly recent design.

We have a lot of institutionalized procedures and decision-making channels.

For Editions, our lighthouse products, We have some non strictly technical rules: PRD, intended use cases and users. But no documentation





Findings: A weak integration of Docs into Fedora

General consequence

- Considered difficult to use
- We hide our excellent engineering results
- We are weakening our user and contributor base.
- We hide all our excellent engineering results.



Findings: A weak integration of Docs into Fedora

A specific consequence: A gap in Fedora Doc Tools

- The engineer focused view on the world has or had a direct impact on our documentation tools..
- While the workflow is nice for developer or developer affine writer, For dedicated authors and users without a developer background, on the other hand, it became much more difficult.
- We're left with a kind of Quandary: we've made it easy for developers, but are in dire need of developers who actually contribute documentation. And we had some writers ready to contribute, but have it made difficult and arduous to actually make contributions..



Findings: A weak integration of Docs into Fedora

Options for action

- We could improve this significantly without too much additional effort. But this is more of a long-term project. For the foreseeable future, that doesn't help.
- But we can evaluate how we can improve Fedora Docs with this background condition in mind.
- Currently, Docs is pursuing two paths
 - Fixing the structure of documentation
 - Making our tools easier to use for not developer affine users.

Fixing the structure of documentation



The Docs home page

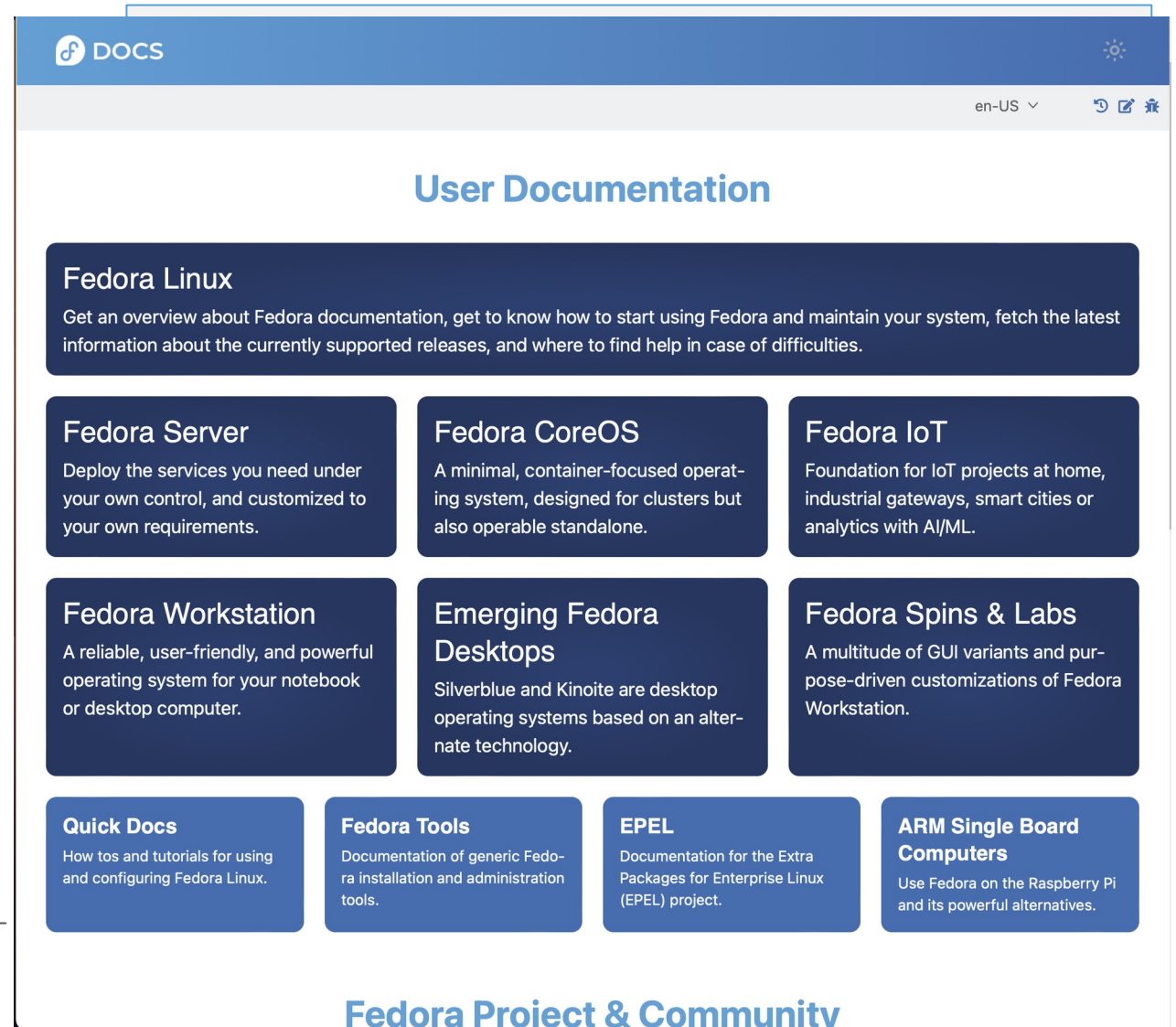
Up to Fedora 36 we were focussed on an unified installation guide and a unified administration guide.

Docs homepage showed those for the 2 supported releases and a collection of various distributable items. And it looked a bit eclectic.

The underlying problem was, that we tried to maintain a documentation structure hat since the differentiation into Editions no longer exists.

I wrote a blog post:

<https://communityblog.fedoraproject.org/fedora-docs-is-about-to-change-significantly-check-it-out-still-in-statu-nascendi/>





With Release 37 we introduced some changes

Specifically, we changed the structure

- We replaced the Installation Guide by a getting started page, that described out editions and where to find installation guide and other documentation
- We presented our Editions in the in the center of the page.
- A kind of “side effect” : This also separated the authors a bit. The edition documentation falls into the realm of the Working Group with developer-affine members. They have no issues with the current docs tools.



**Making our tools easier
to use**





Improve usage of documentation tools

We have concentrated on Quick Docs and assume that the editions can manage on their own.

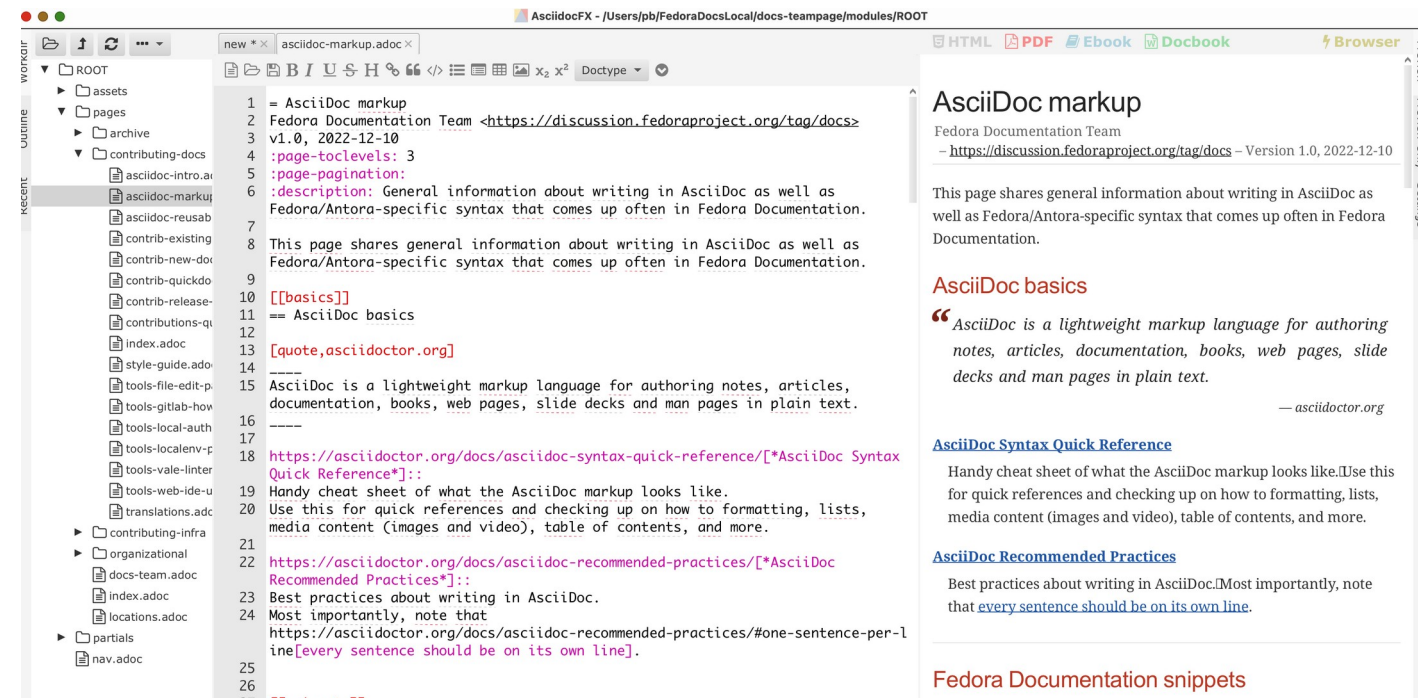
- Up to this point, "local authoring" was the tool of choice. We have added the web based editors that both Gitlab and pagure offer in the same way.
- We have written documentation for both on how to use them.
- We are in the process of greatly simplifying Quick Docs and making each article a self-contained work independent of other articles.
- We are on the way to add "CTA" (Call To Action) buttons, but we need help from designers. That's a project, that Hank Lee started.
- We are on the way to introduce regular virtual joint author meetings to work together on texts. Possibly as a replacement for our regular IRC meetings.

Improve documentation tools

We need to get a kind of WYSIWYG editing for AsciiDoc and the usual text processing Interface. Typographic presentation is highly relevant in writing. There is an interdependence of content and its presentation.

We need a more dynamic local preview feature that instantly displays a changed page without latency. Currently, when a change is made, the entire page is automatically rebuilt. This is already a big step forward.

We miss a way to comment in text, like hackmd or etherpad for other formats



Improvement of Release Notes

- We are currently on the way to semi-automatically generate the release notes from the change proposals. Darknao (François Andrieu) and pbokoc (Petr Bokoč) are working on it.

