

# Adopter's Guide Overhaul

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# Welcome to the Opencast docs!

Opencast is an open source video capture and processing software. For more information about the project, visit [opencast.org](https://opencast.org)

## Adopters Guide

The Opencast adopters guide contains official release documentation and installation and configuration details.

Select a version ▾

develop

9.x

(stable)

8.x

7.x

Installation & Help

## Developer Guide

The Opencast developer guide contains information for those who want to become involved.

Select a version ▾

Matrix room (Chat)

# Difficulties of The Documentation

1. English document written by international, open-source community
  - Grammar/spelling/etc. levels are not consistent
2. Originally wiki pages then combined into documentation
  - Convolved and circular links/explanation on the path from installation to end configuration
3. No clear audience in mind
  - Complexity of explanations/descriptions/etc. varies

# Towards a Solution

1. → Native speaker
  - American English
2. → Simplify the path
  - Edit Basic Configuration document to form the basis of install/config
  - Create more cohesive content across linked documentation
3. → Define the target audience
  - IT experience with little to no prior Opencast knowledge

# What I did (Oct 2020 - Jan 2021)

- Check the current status of the 'admin' docs for 9.x
  - Spelling check
    - Incorrect spelling
    - Capitalization
    - BE vs. AE discrepancies
  - Grammar
    - Adjectives vs Adverbs
    - Complete sentences
    - Hyphenation vs compound words

# What I did

- Check the current status of the 'admin' docs for 9.x
  - Formatting
    - Correct links (spelling, destination)
    - Headings, Titles, etc.
  - Style
    - Step-by-step tutorials
    - Is it clear when a config option is necessary vs. optional?

# What I did

- Check the current status of the 'admin' docs for 9.x
  - Content
    - Complexity: is this for beginners or more advanced users?
    - Completeness: is all information present?
    - Understandable: does this explanation make sense?
    - Wordiness: is too much information given in one block?

# Current State: Better, but unfinished

- Edited most instances of Step-by-Step
  - PR #2138
- Used Markdown linter to catch most common spelling mistakes
  - PRs #1921, 1960, 2032
- Searched for discrepancies in BE/AE
  - PRs #1921, 1960
- Created an overview of problematic areas
  - PRs #2032, 2138
  - There are still 20+ (invisible) HTML comments among the current documentation

```
<!-- _Example Comment -->
```



# Creating a Style Guide

Things to keep in mind when writing/editing documentation for Adopter's Guide:

- Audience
- Tutorials with multiple steps have distinct, well-titled sections
- Optional vs. non-optional configurations
- Important information (“Note: ...”) is included *before* and not after a tutorial
- Basic configuration vs. Advanced Configuration
- Single machine vs. Multiple machines
- Give examples
- Be mindful of long, wordy paragraphs
- ...

**Thank you for your attention!**