Documentation for Web Security education



Web platform documentation is critical digital infrastructure.

About

- Florian Scholz
- Technical Writer at Open Web Docs
- https://openwebdocs.org

Our work is funded by donations from organizations and individuals.

OWD contributes to MDN

developer.mozilla.org

We work on mdn/content, mdn/browser-compat-data and related repos.

- Day to day maintenance
- Project work

Where do we need help?

- Defining requirements for security docs
- Creating a content outline
- Reviewing security docs
- Understanding developer needs

Security docs on MDN

What do we have now?

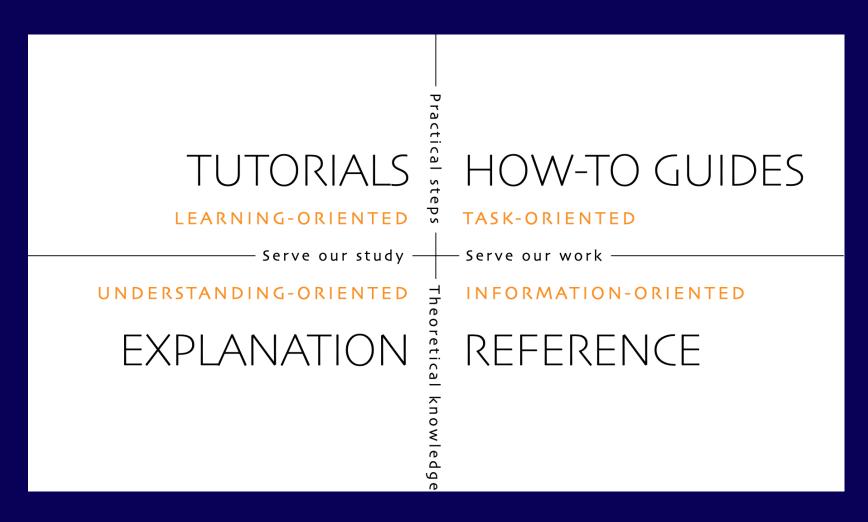
- Web/Security (19 pages)
- CSP directives reference (30 pages)
- CORS error reference (15 pages)
- Misc security related docs (~25)

Security docs on MDN

- Reference docs
- X No organization
- X No navigation
- X No user journey
- X No mapping to developer needs

What is documentation?

Diátaxis - A more systematic approach to docs.



Survey results

very challenging + somewhat challenging

Tutorials

Detecting Security Vulnerabilities (71%)

HTTPS Configuration (45%)

How-Tos

Integrating Third Party Services (45%)

Keeping Frameworks and Libraries Up-to-Date (46%)

Guides

Understanding security threats (69%)

Understanding the Browser Security Model (66%)

Reference

New content structures

Example exploration

Tutorials

Configuring a server for secure websites

Implementing secure authentication

Auditing your webapp for security vulnerabilities

How-Tos

How to use a web platform feature (e.g. TLS, HTTPS, CSP)

How to protect against an attack (e.g. MITM, XSS, CSRF)

How to implement a site feature securely

Guides

Browser security model

(e.g. Same-origin, Secure Contexts, User Activation)

Defense mechanisms

(e.g. CSP, SRI, HTTPS, TLS)

Attack vectors

(e.g. MITM, XSS, CSRF)

Reference

All CSP directives

Types of attacks

Security related HTTP headers

What can OWD help with?

- We can organize docs
- We can write docs
- We will keep maintaining docs

What do we need?

- Advise/review from security experts
- Insights into developer misunderstandings
 & developer needs

Discussion questions

- Lead a workshop or taskforce?
- Create content outline for the 4 quadrants?
- Do additional surveys? (or user interviews?)

Thanks!



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