terraform-docs Terraform module docs

START HERE

`terraform-docs markdown table .`
Print module docs

`terraform-docs markdown table --output-file README.md .`
Update README

`terraform-docs json .`
Machine-readable output

`terraform-docs pretty .`
Coloured terminal view

`terraform-docs -c .terraform-docs.yml .`
Use a config file

`terraform-docs --output-check .`
Fail if docs stale

`terraform-docs --recursive .`
Also document submodules

`terraform-docs version`
Show version

Module .tf files variables, outputs → `parse` → **terraform-docs** format + sections → `render` → **Output** stdout or file → `inject` → **README.md** between markers

CONCEPTS

It reads your .tf files only: no init or credentials needed. Descriptions in variables and outputs become the docs.

Boolean flags need the equals form: --lockfile=false. A space gives 'accepts 1 arg(s), received 2'.

The first argument after the format is the module path; CLI flags override the config file.

INSTALL

`brew install terraform-docs`
Install with Homebrew

`go install github.com/terraform-docs/terraform-docs@<version>`
Install with Go

`scoop install terraform-docs`
Install on Windows (Scoop)
Run scoop bucket add terraform-docs https://github.com/terraform-docs/scoop-bucket first.

`choco install terraform-docs`
Install on Windows (Chocolatey)

`docker run --rm -v "$(pwd):/terraform-docs" -u $(id -u) quay.io/terraform-docs/terraform-docs:<version> markdown / terraform-docs`
Run from the Docker image

`terraform-docs version`
Print installed version

FORMATS

`terraform-docs markdown table <path>`
Markdown with tables

`terraform-docs markdown document <path>`
Markdown with headings per item

`terraform-docs asciidoc table <path>`
AsciiDoc with tables

`terraform-docs asciidoc document <path>`
AsciiDoc with headings

`terraform-docs json <path>`
JSON for scripts

FORMATS (cont.)

`terraform-docs yaml <path>`
YAML output

`terraform-docs toml <path>`
TOML output

`terraform-docs xml <path>`
XML output

`terraform-docs pretty <path>`
Readable terminal output

`terraform-docs tfvars hcl <path>`
Generate a terraform.tfvars template

`terraform-docs tfvars json <path>`
Generate tfvars as JSON

SECTIONS

`--show <section>`
Show only the named section
Sections: header, inputs, outputs, providers, requirements, resources, modules, data-sources, footer.

`--hide <section>`
Hide a section

`--hide providers,footer`
Hide several at once

`--sort-by <name|required|type>`
Sort inputs by this key

`--sort=false`
Keep declaration order

`--header-from <file>`
Read header text from a file
Default is main.tf; use a .md file for a longer intro.

`--footer-from <file>`
Read footer text from a file

`--read-comments=false`
Ignore comment-based descriptions

`--lockfile=false`
Skip .terraform.lock.hcl

OUTPUT TO FILE

`--output-file <file>`
Write result into a file

`--output-mode inject`
Replace only the marked block
Content goes between the BEGIN_TF_DOCS and END_TF_DOCS markers.

OUTPUT TO FILE (cont.)

`--output-mode replace`
Overwrite the whole file

`--output-template <tpl>`
Wrap content in custom markers

`--output-check`
Exit non-zero if file is out of date
Use in CI to enforce regenerated docs.

`--output-values`
Include real output values

`--output-values-from <file>`
Read values from terraform output -json

SUBMODULES

`--recursive`
Document submodules too

`--recursive-path <dir>`
Where submodules live (default modules)

`--recursive-include-main=false`
Skip the root module

`--recursive-exclude <dir>`
Skip a submodule directory

CONFIG FILE

`-c, --config <file>`
Use a specific config file
Default is .terraform-docs.yml in the module directory.

`formatter: "markdown table"`
Choose format (only required key)

`version: "≥ 0.20, < 1.0"`
Constrain terraform-docs version

`header-from: main.tf`
Header source file

`sections: { show: [...], hide: [...] }`
Pick visible sections

`output: { file: README.md, mode: inject }`
Where and how to write

`recursive: { enabled: true, path: modules }`
Enable submodule pass

`sort: { enabled: true, by: name }`
Sort order

CONFIG FILE (cont.)

`settings: { anchor: false, required: false }`
Tune table columns and anchors

`content: "{{ .Header }}..."`
Custom template for the body

IGNORE BLOCKS

`# terraform-docs-ignore`
Leading comment hides a block
Works on resource, data, module, variable and output blocks; since v0.18.

AUTOMATION

`repo: https://github.com/terraform-docs/terraform-docs`
pre-commit repo entry

`id: terraform-docs-go`
pre-commit hook id

`id: terraform-docs-docker`
pre-commit hook using Docker

`uses: terraform-docs/gh-actions@main`
GitHub Action step

RECIPES

Markers in README.md

```
<!-- BEGIN_TF_DOCS -->
<!-- END_TF_DOCS -->
# the block between them is regenerated
```

Minimal .terraform-docs.yml

```
formatter: "markdown table"
output:
  file: README.md
  mode: inject
sort:
  by: required
```

pre-commit hook

```
repos:
  - repo: https://github.com/terraform-docs/terraform-docs
    rev: "v0.24.0"
    hooks:
      - id: terraform-docs-go
        args: ["--output-file", "README.md", "./modules/vpc"]
```

CI freshness check

```
terraform-docs --output-check -c .terraform-docs.yml .
# fails when README.md differs from the generated docs
```