terraform-docs Terraform module docs

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'.

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)

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 json *<path>*
JSON for scripts

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

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

SECTIONS

--show *<section>*
Show only the named section

--hide *<section>*
Hide a section

--hide providers,footer
Hide several at once

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

SECTIONS (cont.)

--sort=false
Keep declaration order

--header-from *<file>*
Read header text from a file

OUTPUT TO FILE

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

--output-mode inject
Replace only the marked block

--output-mode replace
Overwrite the whole file

--output-check
Exit non-zero if file is out of date

SUBMODULES

--recursive
Document submodules too

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

CONFIG FILE

-c, --config *<file>*
Use a specific config file

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

CONFIG FILE (cont.)

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

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

IGNORE BLOCKS

 # terraform-docs-ignore
Leading comment hides a block

AUTOMATION

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

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

AUTOMATION (cont.)

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
```