# 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

## FORMATS (cont.)

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

**`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

## CONFIG FILE (cont.)

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

**`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
```