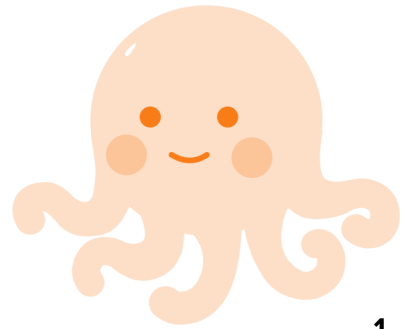


Chronologue canon



WHAT'S IN THIS DOCUMENT?	1
WHY DO WE NEED A CHRONOLOGUE CANON?	1
CHRONOLOGUE CANON DECISIONS	2
Existing content and considerations	2
What is the Chronologue?	3
Future Chronologue canon decisions	5
PRIOR ART AND REFERENCES	6

WHAT'S IN THIS DOCUMENT?

This document outlines the current canonized facts about the Chronologue world, especially as it impacts the Chronologue documentation examples. It also explains a proposal for making future Chronologue canon decisions.

Important note:

This plan is merely a proposal and is now open for comments and suggestions from any member of the project, especially members of the Chronologue working groups. Feel free to leave a comment on the Google Draft!

WHY DO WE NEED A CHRONOLOGUE CANON?

Some Chronologuers are finding it difficult to come up with viable topics for documentation examples. One of the blockers is from not being able to see how certain types of documentation can fit into the overall world of the Chronologue.

A Chronologue canon helps us:

- Have one central, unified source of truth for the Chronologue world.
- Help Chronologuers easily understand how their documentation examples could fit into the larger documentation ecosystem for the Chronologue project.
- Onboard new Chronologue community members and teach them about the Chronologue world.

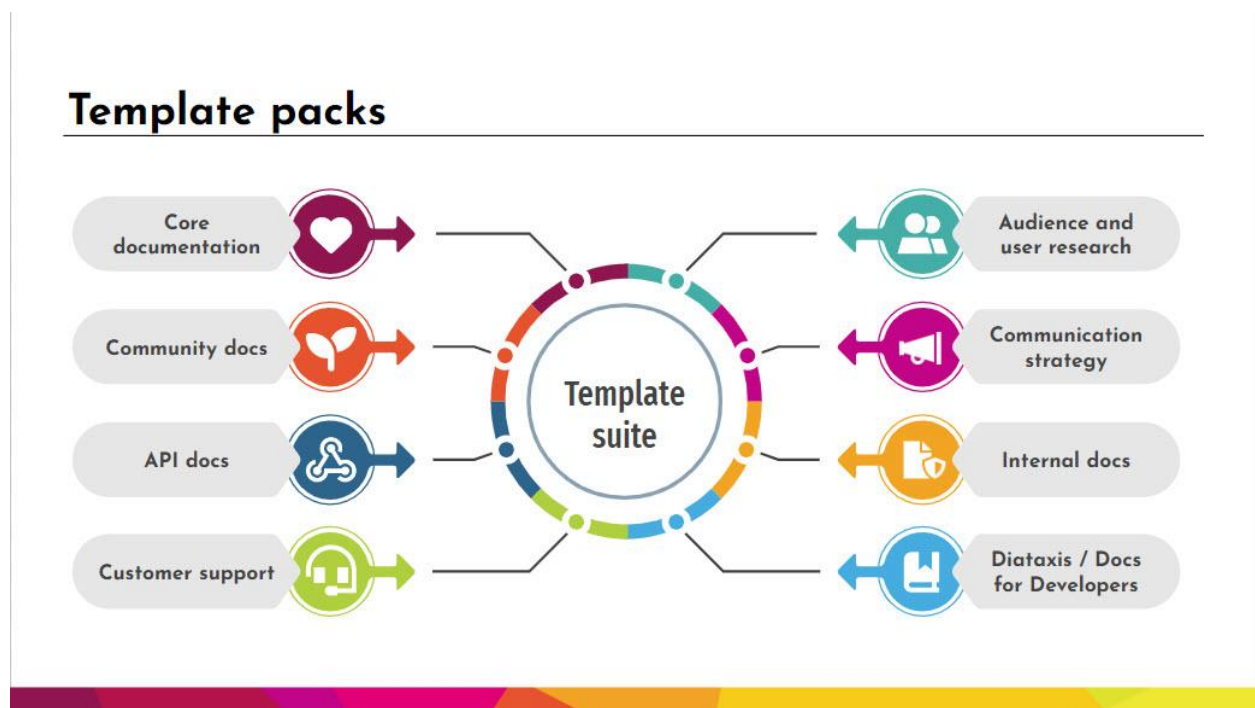
CHRONOLOGUE CANON DECISIONS

Existing content and considerations

What types of documentation will we have to make examples for in the future?

In creating the Chronologue canon, we needed to design a documentation ecosystem that is flexible enough to meet the needs of the different types of content we'll need to make documentation examples.

Currently, the template roadmap includes several [planned template packs](#). These packs include the need for documentation examples for API documentation, product documentation, open source documentation, and internal documentation for a commercial business.



For more information, see:

- The current template roadmap (created during the Capilano release):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-39ICPebloELViysy2Qo5oIS4KrzC_vCb7mvi9RGptE/edit?usp=sharing
- The current list of proposed template packs (created during the Dragon release):
https://gitlab.com/tgdp/templates/-/issues/?label_name%5B%5D=Type%3A%3ATemplate%20pack

What is the relationship between the Chronologue documentation and the mock Chronologue tool?

The Chronologue mock tool was designed by the Chronologue UX designers and is currently being developed by Ian Nguyen, Michael Hungbo, and Payam Katoozian. Right now the tool has a functioning API that serves up mock data and the team is working on building a website for the tool. For more information, see:

- [The Chronologue tool mockup in Figma](#)
- [The Chronologue mock tool repository](#)

In order to keep the mock tool from blocking documentation work, we will adopt the Netlify docs-first method of product development. In this framework, the documentation is created first (including the desired user journeys and user flows + mockups of the tool). And then the tool is developed from the docs (rather than the other way around). Going forward, Chronologue documentation will be created first and then any tool changes or development will be made later to conform to the documentation.

What is the Chronologue?

When we say “Chronologue,” what do we mean? Who runs the Chronologue?

Going forward, the "Chronologue" refers to the telescope itself. The Chronologue telescope uses wormhole technology to view astronomical events through time. It is inspired by the James Webb Telescope in our present day.

The organization that runs the Chronologue telescope is **OCTAVIA**, which stands for Organized Consortium To Activate Visual Information in Astronomy. It is inspired by NASA in our present day.

OCTAVIA is the multi-national government-sponsored entity that developed, built, and launched the Chronologue telescope. OCTAVIA maintains the Chronologue telescope and they control access to it, but they expose all the data it collects to a publicly accessible API. This is called the Chronologue API.

By contrast, the “Chronologue project” is the off-stage (in real life) project that creates the documentation and tool for The Good Docs Project.

Style guide note

In written documentation, it should be referred to as “OCTAVIA’s Chronologue telescope” the first time you use it in a document or sentence. If you’ve used it once already, you can shorten it to “OCTAVIA’s Chronologue.” This is similar to how NASA refers to the James Webb telescope.

We need an open source community to be connected to the Chronologue telescope because we need to create examples for the community docs templates. What organization, tools, and documentation will support this need?

We will create a second organization known as **KronoPy**. KronoPy is an open source community of Python developers who build libraries to extract information from the Chronologue API and process and analyze data.

This community mostly consists of scientists, professors, and researchers working in academia or other scientific non-profit organizations. KronoPy is modeled after [AstroPy](#) in real life. For more information, see: [How Python is behind the science of the James Webb Telescope](#).

We need a commercial business to be connected to the Chronologue telescope because sometimes we need to create examples for commercial products and internal or external commercial business processes. What organization, tools, and documentation will support this need?

We will create a third organization known as **Zauis Inc.** This is a company that creates commercial products based on the Chronologue API. Right now, their main product is the Chronologue Relay, which is a home console that can connect the Chronologue API to your home VR headset and view astronomical events in time.

Zauis’s current market includes hobbyists. Think of it as being similar to 3D printers today. 3D printers are somewhat affordable, but only enthusiasts currently buy them because of the high price point.

Zauis also markets to STEM programs, museums, and educational institutions who can afford to buy the Chronologue Relay.

Future Chronologue canon decisions

How do Chronologue members propose a change to the Chronologue canon?

While Chronologuers are actively working on their Chronologue examples, they will keep a decision log of any proposed changes they need to make to the Chronologue canon in order for their documentation project to make sense.

They will let the larger Chronologue working group know about any proposed changes at two points in the Chronologue writing process:

- During the beginning of the drafting phase. They should make a note of any possible changes after they finish brainstorming their initial concept for what they will document but before they get too deep into writing their example.
- At the end of the drafting phase before moving to community review, the Chronologuers will take some time to reflect on whether their documentation changes anything about the Chronologue canon and make any additional proposed changes.

They can initially share their proposed changes in the Chronologue Slack channel. At that time, they will indicate whether they think their proposal will be high-impact or low-impact:

- Low impact decisions will only have a minor impact on the Chronologue canon. These decisions can be approved with a simple up/down vote on the channel.
- High impact decisions will have a major impact on the Chronologue canon. These decisions might require a discussion in a meeting.

Note

We don't yet have a clear definition of how to classify a low-impact decision or high-impact decision. We'll create that classification soon.

Once a decision has been approved, all decisions will need to be documented in the knowledge base. High-impact decisions might require changing existing documentation or tooling to match.

Who will make final decisions about the Chronologue canon?

The Chronologue canon decision making process is mirrored after the template style guide decision making process.

Low-impact decisions can be made through a simple up/down vote, possibly using the [fist-to-five consensus model](#). Basically, if anyone has any blocking concerns or sees any red flags, they can let the group know. Otherwise, a simple vote will suffice.

For high-impact decisions, we want to model the Chronologue canon decision-making process after the template style guide decision making process. It's been helpful in the templates working group to have Ane, who is in charge of the style guide. She's responsible for holding style guide meetings, documenting decisions in the style guide, and socializing the changes to the working group.

We should do the same thing for the Chronologue canon and have someone in charge of that for the canon. Melissa Mergner has volunteered to fill this role. The Chronologue canon lead will:

- Ensure the Chronologue canon is well-documented and easily accessible through the knowledge base.
- Facilitate asynchronous voting on low-impact changes, ensuring they are resolved in a timely manner.
- Hold Chronologue canon decision meetings as needed, perhaps once a quarter or as needed.
- Socialize new Chronologue canon changes to the working members, especially new members.
- Look for ways we can improve the decision making process to make it more efficient if needed.

What decisions or future action items still remain open?

We need to:

- Define the criteria for low-impact and high-impact decisions.
- We will need to make some adjustments to the API to include visual and video data that is served from the API.
- Look through the existing official documentation and find ways to sprinkle in references to the new organizations that we've created, such as OCTAVIA, KronoPy, and Zauis, Inc.
- Work with the Tech Team on the knowledge base project.
- We will need to discuss with the Tech Team and the project steering committee whether we need to create additional for the different documentation sets.

PRIOR ART AND REFERENCES

The Chronologue canon task force used these materials as inspiration for what we knew about the Chronologue world up to this point. Special thanks to Carrie MacFarlane and Ogunkelu Shola for assembling these resources:

- Chronologue tool <https://docs-chronologue.netlify.app/>
 - “The Chronologue is at present only to be used for scientific research purposes. While we wish we could allow a wider array of uses, the technology is simply too new and not completely understood.” from [request form](#)
- How Chronologue works
https://docs-chronologue.netlify.app/docs/c_how_chronologue_works/ - This overlaps with Chronologue technology explained, below, but it has more info.
- Chronologue Working Group page on The Good Docs site
<https://thegooddocsproject.dev/working-group/chronologue/>
- Chronologue repo wiki
<https://github.com/thegooddocsproject/chronologue/wiki/About-Chronologue>
- Chronologue documentation
<https://github.com/thegooddocsproject/chronologue/wiki/Chronologue-documentation>
- Chronologue technology explained
<https://github.com/thegooddocsproject/chronologue/wiki/Technology-of-the-Chronologue-telescope-explained>
 - The Chronologue project reviews RTTs to ensure that the time-travel telescope is used in a way that benefits humanity in the best way possible, such as:
 - Academic research
 - Educational purposes
 - Time tourism
- Chronologue Use Cases
<https://github.com/thegooddocsproject/chronologue/wiki/Use-Cases>
 - Nothing about fictional audience here (it’s blank)
 - Tina worked on these wiki documents most recently. Tina had no concerns about our proposal ("We think our primary audience should be people in academic research and instruction. Does anyone have concerns or suggestions about that? Our reasoning: a) The Chronologue wiki says the Chronologue might be used for academic research, educational purposes, and time tourism, but for the sake of clarity, we’d rather leave out the time tourists, and b) The tool will be installed on a VR headset, and we think a VR headset could be used in education.")