



The Insider's Guide to Technical Writing

Krista Van Laan, Krista Van Laan

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Every complex product needs to be explained to its users, and technical writers, also known as technical communicators, are the ones who do that job. A growing field, technical writing requires multiple skills, including an understanding of technology, writing ability, and great people skills.

Whether you're thinking of becoming a technical writer, just starting out, or you've been working for a while and feel the need to take your skills to the next level, *The Insider's Guide to Technical Writing* can help you be a successful technical writer and build a satisfying career.

Inside the Book

- **Is This Job for Me?** What does it take to be a technical writer?
- **Building the Foundation:** What skills and tools do you need to get started?
- **The Best Laid Plans:** How do you create a schedule that won't make you go crazy? How do you manage different development processes, including Agile methodologies?
- **On the Job:** What does it take to walk into a job and be productive right away?
- **The Tech Writer's Toolkit:** How do you create style guides, indexes, templates and layouts? How do you manage localization and translation and all the other non-writing parts of the job?
- **I Love My Job:** How do you handle the ups and downs of being a technical writer?
- **Appendixes:** References to websites, books, and other resources to keep you learning.

The Insider's Guide to Technical Writing builds on Van Laan's previous book, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Technical Writing*, but is significantly rewritten, extended, and brought up to date.

About the Author

Krista Van Laan has worked in, managed, and built from the ground up multi-level Technical Publications and User Experience departments in telecommunications, consumer software and hardware, enterprise software and services, and Internet companies, both in the United States and internationally. She is co-author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Technical Writing*. Krista is currently the Director of User Experience at a Silicon Valley enterprise.

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