

Reference · Writing these docs

Adding a poster

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A poster is generated from a declarative spec by the poster kit: nodes, edges, groups and steps with captions and links; the rules kit 2 enforces so it reads at the size shown; the drift check.

<https://docs.gurbanisoul.com/contributing/adding-a-poster/>

Posters are the wiki's large step-through pictures. Each is generated from a spec in `docs-site/posters/NN-slug.mjs` into an SVG and a steps sidecar under `docs/diagrams/posters/`; the generated files are committed and checked for drift. The poster kit (`docs-site/posters/kit.mjs`; a spec declares `kit: 2`) draws for the size the wiki shows a poster — about 630 px wide on a 1280-px laptop screen — and refuses a poster that would be hard to read. The full visual spec and the node kinds are on [Diagrams and posters](#).

Steps

1. Copy the nearest spec (poster 03 is a good reference); take the next number and a slug.
2. Lay out nodes on the 1200-wide canvas: content between `y = 170` and your height, 40 px margins. Each node has `x`, `y`, `w`, `h`, a kind (box, store, actor, gate, fail, pin, ext, good, note) and at most three lines — a title and two lines of detail, at least 25 px (the smallest size that still shows at 13 px on a 1280-px screen), `mono: true` for code. Anything longer belongs in the step's caption. Give each node and edge the step that introduces it.
3. Connect them with edges. The kit draws right angles only: two boxes that share a column or a row get a straight line, anything else a bend through the gap between them, or give via waypoints (the first and last are projected onto the boxes). Keep 40 px or more between boxes that a line joins, so its arrowhead has room; `dashed: true` means “reads, pins or derives from”.
4. Write steps: an id `step-NN`, a title, a caption a student can read on its own, and the page that explains it. Each step gets a numbered badge on its first node.
5. Name the files the poster was read against in sources (a pinned sibling file as `sggs-data/<path>`), and the version, date and commit in `verified`.
6. Generate and check:

```
make posters
cd docs-site && node scripts/build-posters.mjs --check
```

The kit refuses to build a poster whose text would show under 13 px, whose text overflows its box, whose line crosses a box, a group title, a label or another line's track, whose last run is too short for its arrowhead, whose two arrows land on one point, whose boxes overlap or straddle a group, or whose text is under 4.5:1 on its fill in either theme — and it says which node or edge, and why. The gate refuses colours outside the palette, a missing title or description, a footer that names a missing file, a sidecar that disagrees with the step groups.

7. Embed it: `! [Alt text] (../diagrams/posters/NN-slug.svg)` in a paragraph of its own. On GitHub it is a picture; on the site, a walkthrough.
8. Look at it: light and dark, phone width, keyboard only (Tab to the poster, arrow keys step, *Full size* opens the lightbox, where the arrow keys step too; Escape closes). Run `make docs-e2e` for the posters suite.

Facts

A poster states facts about code: read the files in `sources` before you write a caption, and when a number can be checked by a test, add the check to `tools/docs_check.py` (the search modes and verify thresholds are checked this way).