



Making Software Documentation More Inclusive

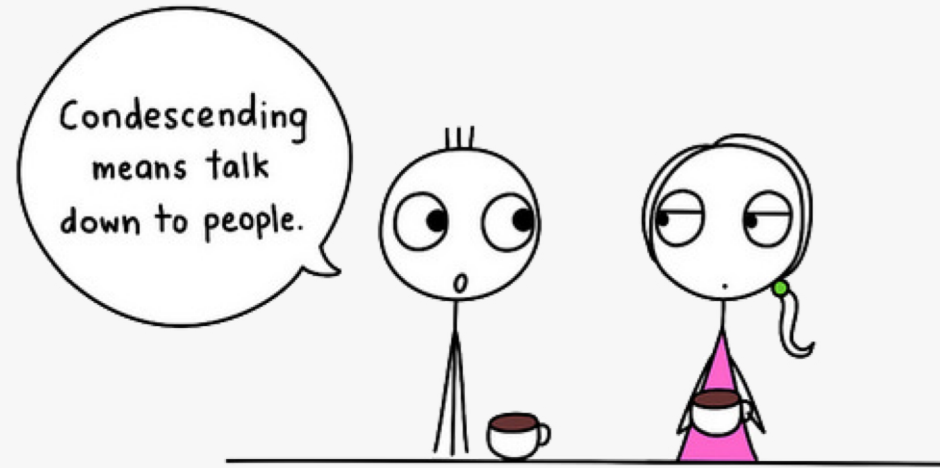
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Automatically Removing Condescending Language from Software Documentation

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Ricky

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Simple for one person is not simple for another, so when we say things are "easy" or "simple" then it makes people feel inadequate or otherwise hurt if they don't immediately understand it

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2:41 nachm. · 14. Okt. 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

<https://twitter.com/rickhanlonii/status/1183815123334512640?s=20>

```
docs/accessibility.md
@@ -49,7 +49,7 @@ In the above example, the `accessibilityLabel` on the TouchableOpacity element w
49 49
50 50     ### accessibilityHint (iOS, Android)
51 51
52 - An accessibility hint helps users understand what will happen when they perform an action on the accessibility element
    when that result is not obvious from the accessibility label.
52 + An accessibility hint helps users understand what will happen when they perform an action on the accessibility element
    when that result is not clear from the accessibility label.
53 53
54 54     To use, set the `accessibilityHint` property to a custom string on your View, Text or Touchable:
55 55
@@ -185,7 +185,7 @@ In the case of two overlapping UI components with the same parent, default acces
185 185     </View>
186 186     ...
187 187
188 - In the above example, the yellow layout and its descendants are completely invisible to TalkBack and all other
    accessibility services. So we can easily use overlapping views with the same parent without confusing TalkBack.
188 + In the above example, the yellow layout and its descendants are completely invisible to TalkBack and all other
    accessibility services. So we can use overlapping views with the same parent without confusing TalkBack.
189 189
190 190     ### Accessibility Actions
191 191
```

<https://github.com/facebook/react-native-website/commit/1cda08e2df0a26de2b925aae747aa239aa4bcacd>

*“Language is **subjective** - a simple concept for one person isn't always simple for another. By **banning condescending terms** from our documentation, we're taking a proactive step towards making our material **more inclusive**.”*

<https://dev.to/meeshkan/how-to-remove-condescending-language-from-documentation-4a5p>



alex

Catch insensitive, inconsiderate writing

<https://github.com/get-alex/alex>



alex — Catch insensitive, inconsiderate writing.

build **passing** coverage **100%** first-timers-only friendly

Whether your own or someone else's writing, **alex** helps you find gender favoring, polarizing, race related, religion inconsiderate, or other **unequal** phrasing in text.

For example, when `We've confirmed his identity` is given, **alex** will warn you and suggest using `their` instead of `his`.

Give **alex** a spin on the [Online demo](#) ».

Why

- ✓ Helps to get better at considerate writing
- ✓ Catches many possible offences
- ✓ Suggests helpful alternatives
- ✓ Reads plain text, HTML, and markdown as input
- ✓ Stylish

<https://github.com/get-alex/alex>

Possible Directions

- Adapt and extend existing tools for software documentation
- Explore other ways to make software documentation more inclusive
- Side effect: Decluttering documentation (see DocGen2)

