

# Source Code Highlight Filter

**REVISION HISTORY**

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The *AsciiDoc* distribution includes a source code syntax highlight filter (`source-highlight-filter.conf`). It uses **GNU source-highlight** to highlight HTML outputs; DocBook outputs are highlighted by toolchains that have `programlisting` element highlight support, for example *dflatex*.

**Tip**

If the source *language* attribute has been set (using an *AttributeEntry* or from the command-line) you don't have to specify it in each source code block.

## 1 Examples

### 1.1 Source code paragraphs

The `source` paragraph style will highlight a paragraph of source code. These three code paragraphs:

```
[source,python]
if n < 0: print 'Hello World!'

:language: python

[source]
if n < 0: print 'Hello World!'

[source,ruby,numbered]
[true, false].cycle([0, 1, 2, 3, 4]) do |a, b|
    puts "#{a.inspect} => #{b.inspect}"
```

Render this highlighted source code:

```
if n < 0: print 'Hello World!'

if n < 0: print 'Hello World!'

1 [true, false].cycle([0, 1, 2, 3, 4]) do |a, b|
2     puts "#{a.inspect} => #{b.inspect}"
```

### 1.2 Unnumbered source code listing

This source-highlight filtered block:

```
[source,python]
-----
''' A multi-line
comment.'''
def sub_word(mo):
    ''' Single line comment.'''
    word = mo.group('word')    # Inline comment
    if word in keywords[language]:
        return quote + word + quote
    else:
        return word
-----
```

Renders this highlighted source code:

```
''' A multi-line
comment.'''
def sub_word(mo):
    ''' Single line comment.'''
    word = mo.group('word')      # Inline comment
    if word in keywords[language]:
        return quote + word + quote
    else:
        return word
```

### 1.3 Numbered source code listing with callouts

This source-highlight filtered block:

```
[source,ruby,numbered]
-----
#
# Useful Ruby base class extensions.
#
class Array
    # Execute a block passing it corresponding items in
    # +self+ and +other_array+.
    # If self has less items than other_array it is repeated.

    def cycle(other_array)  # :yields: item, other_item
        other_array.each_with_index do |item, index|
            yield(self[index % self.length], item)
        end
    end
end

if $0 == __FILE__                                <1>
    # Array#cycle test
    # true => 0
    # false => 1
    # true => 2
    # false => 3
    # true => 4
    puts 'Array#cycle test'                      <2>
    [true, false].cycle([0, 1, 2, 3, 4]) do |a, b|
        puts "#{a.inspect} => #{b.inspect}"
    end
end
-----
<1> First callout.
<2> Second callout.
```

Renders this highlighted source code:

```
1  #
2  # Useful Ruby base class extensions.
3  #
4
5  class Array
6
7      # Execute a block passing it corresponding items in
```

```

8  # +self+ and +other_array+.
9  # If self has less items than other_array it is repeated.
10
11 def cycle(other_array) # :yields: item, other_item
12   other_array.each_with_index do |item, index|
13     yield(self[index % self.length], item)
14   end
15 end
16
17 end
18
19 if $0 == __FILE__ ❶
20   # Array#cycle test
21   # true => 0
22   # false => 1
23   # true => 2
24   # false => 3
25   # true => 4
26   puts 'Array#cycle test'
27   [true, false].cycle([0, 1, 2, 3, 4]) do |a, b| ❷
28     puts "#{a.inspect} => #{b.inspect}"
29   end
30 end

```

- ❶ First callout.
- ❷ Second callout.

## 2 Installation

### 2.1 HTML

If you want to syntax highlight *AsciiDoc* HTML outputs (html4 and xhtml11 backends) you need to install [GNU source-highlight](#) (most distributions have this package).

### 2.2 DocBook

*AsciiDoc* encloses the source code in a DocBook *programlisting* element and leaves source code highlighting to the DocBook toolchain (dblatex has a particularly nice programlisting highlighter). The DocBook *programlisting* element is assigned two attributes:

1. The *language* attribute is set to the *AsciiDoc language* attribute.
2. The *linenumbering* attribute is set to the *AsciiDoc src\_numbered* attribute (*numbered* or *unnumbered*).

If you use a2x(1) to generate PDF you need to include the --no-xmllint option to suppress xmllint(1) checking—the programlisting *language* attribute (required by the dblatex source highlighter) is not part of the DocBook 4 specification (but it is in the newer DocBook 5 specification).

### 2.3 Testing

Test the filter by converting the test file to HTML with *AsciiDoc*:

```
$ asciidoc -v ./filters/source-highlight-filter-test.txt
$ firefox ./filters/source-highlight-filter-test.html &
```