

▽ Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA) Professional Certification Committee

▷ The DITA Certification TC aims at creating and maintaining a certification program for DITA professionals. ◀

▽ Name of the TC

Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA) Professional Certification Committee

▽ Statement of purpose

The purpose of the DITA Certification Committee is to certify DITA practionners in order to ensure that professionals have the required understanding of the standards and its possible applications. Certified professionals must know DITA's basic principles and mechanisms, and have the ability to apply these mechanisms in order to rip the benefits that DITA offers.

DITA has a lot of elements to it. Some are related to content creation and support for different reuse strategies, and some are related to technical aspects such as XML, and the specialization mechanism. Moreover, DITA brings along new work practices oriented on collaboration that affect the work of everyone, from content creator to project managers. This creates expectations, confusions and difficulties on the path to DITA. The certification aims at decreasing the gap between the dream and the reality though knowledge and understanding.

The existance of the certification program should:

- Direct different types of professionals to the information that is most useful to them, while building a common understanding that supports collaboration between the different groups of professionals;
- Help organizations identify suitable candidates for their DITA projects;
- Improve the success of DITA implementations by raising awareness on the different sets of skills needed within a DITA teams.
- Improve the success of DITA implementations by helping professionals and organizations rip the promised benefits of DITA through an understanding of its mutiple mechanisms and how each one is linked to specific sets of benefits;
- Improve the success of DITA implementations by providing teams with the knowledge necessary to evaluate tools based desired mechanisms and the associated benefits.



Note:

The goal increase the DITA practioners' ability to define what type of DITA support they need in order to help them select tools that leads to the attainment of specific goals, not to provide an evaluation of available tools.

▽ Scope

The purpose is to certify that individuals in each role have a good knowledge of the DITA mechanisms that relates to their work, and that each aspect of the DITA specification is covered by at least one of the certification role.

Moreover, certified professionals should be able to identify how common benefits are linked to specific DITA mechanims and should be able to propose solutions to common problems.

The work, although it may refer to the DITA Open Toolkit as an example, does not include content that is specific to that toolkit. The toolkit is one possible implementation of the specifications, while the certification should remain open to possibilities.

The tasks are to:

- Identify the common benefits of DITA;
- Identify the common mechanisms of DITA;
- Link expected benefits to the correct mechnisms;
- Identify the common roles in DITA teams;
- Create common learning objectives for all roles;
- Create learning objectives specific to each role;
- Differentiate the DITA standard from its implementations;
- Identify the different types of tools that can be used in a DITA implementations;
- Develop supporting material to help professionals meet their learning objectives;
- Develop certification exams for each role;
- Define and manage the rules for maintaining the DITA certification;
- Publish a list of certified professional.

The content of the certification program and the certification exams should be approved by the DITA TC as compliant with the specifications and should be reviewed for each version.

▽ List of deliverables

- One or a set of certification exams for each identified role;
- Guidelines and learning material that provides the information necessary to prepare for the certification exam.

∇ Anticipated audience

- Information architects / web content managers
- Writers, trainers and other content creators
- Translators and localization professionals
- Project managers and information team managers
- Developers and system architects (vendors, system administrators, implementation teams, xml/xsl specialists, etc.)

∇ Language

The committee will work in English. The primary material will be developed in English. Exams and learning material may be translated to other languages.
