DITA EDEN

DITA EDEN: Electronic Documentation Essential Norm
Andrzej Zydron, CTO XTM International
In The Beginning

- Technical documentation was without form, and darkness was upon the face of the page:
  - RTF
  - WordPerfect
  - MS Word
  - Frame Maker
  - DOS Code Pages
  - Windows Code Pages
Let there be light!

- And the Spirit moved upon the face of the waters and said, Let there be light:
  - Unicode
  - XML
  - DITA
DITA - the good

- Extremely well thought out XML document architecture:
  - modularization
  - fine level of granularity
  - reuse
  - bookmap
  - standardized elements
DITA - The bad
And the downright ugly!

• But beware!
  – Substitution
    • CONREF
    • KEYREF
    • DITAVAL
  – Recursively nested elements
  – Specialization
  – Conditional processing
DITA in Motoring terms
80/20 Rule

- 80% of tech doc users only require/need/can afford, 20% of DITA functionality.
DITA EDEN
Less is More
What is the answer?
DITA EDEN

Less Darwin  ❌

More DITA  ✔️
DITA EDEN

• DITA for the rest of us:
  – SGML > XML
  – Make it simple
  – Make it easy
  – Reduce costs
100% Valid DITA Subset
The EDEN Trinity: No Specialization
• No CONREF, KEYREF
  – Can easily be abused
  – Can point to any element
  – Difficult to manage in a CMS environment
    • Referential linking etc.
  – Can be a disaster in translation terms
• NO DITAVAL, conditional processing
  - Conditional processing is a nightmare to program and manage effectively
• No recursively nested elements

  – No: list within an paragraph within a table within a list within a paragraph.....

  – Makes writing WYSIWYG DITA editors difficult and therefore expensive
• Simplified Bookmap
  – Easier to manage
  – Top level bookmap element organizes all the components in a tree structure, contains <topicref> elements to point to the components.
  – Chapter elements used to add extra structure to component tree.
  – bookinfo and an optional appendix.
DITA EDEN

• A Completely valid subset of DITA
  – No specialization
  • Only Topic, or only
    – Task
    – Reference
    – Concept
    – No CONREF
    – No KEYREF
    – No DITAVAL
    – No recursively nested element
DITA EDEN: Topic

- The daddy
  - image
  - fig
  - section
  - codeblock
  - note
  - toc
  - variable
  - p
  - system-date
  - footnote
  - ph
DITA EDEN: Domain elements

- General domain elements:
  - emph
  - command
  - uicontrol
  - userinput
  - filepath
  - codeph
  - sub
  - sup
DITA EDEN: List elements

- Defining all list elements:
  - ol
  - ul
  - li
  - sl
  - sli

Things to pack for my trip

- Sunscreen
- Sandals (maybe the green ones)
- Toothpaste
- Socks, socks, and more socks
- Thomas Jefferson biography
- 5 t-shirts
- 4 pairs of shorts
- Blue suit and orange tie
- Black and brown belt
DITA EDEN: Linking elements

- xref
- external-xref
DITA EDEN: Table elements

- Defining all tables
  - table
  - thead
  - tbody
  - tr
  - th
  - td

Table 3—A substantive example of table format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of source(s)</th>
<th>Type of calculation</th>
<th>First cycle</th>
<th>Interrupting</th>
<th>Medium-voltage circuit breaker close and back?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rate multiplier</td>
<td>Winding multiplier (See Note 1)</td>
<td>Rate multiplier</td>
<td>Winding multiplier (See Note 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induction motors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 35 kW at 1800 rpm</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.667</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 500 kW at 3000 rpm</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.667</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All others 57 MVAR and above</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.333</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All smaller than 57 MVAR</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>NEGLICT</td>
<td>NEGLICT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 1—This table is provided as an example. The structure of actual tables may vary depending on the data being displayed.

NOTE 2—Use 0.75 as the multiplier for hydrogen transformers without amortisseur windings.
DITA EDEN: Index elements

- indexterm
- index-see
- index-see-also
- keyword
• Used for describing overview information

• Elements:
  – concept
  – title
  – shortdesc
  – prolog
  – conbody
  – related-links
DITA EDEN: Task

- Used to describe task steps
- Elements:
  - task
  - taskbody
  - prereq
  - context
  - result
  - example
  - postreq
  - steps
  - substep
  - cmd
  - info
  - stepxmp
  - stepresult
• Used to describe regular features of sets like recipes etc.
  – reference
  – refbody
  – refsyn
  – properties
  – prophead
  – property
  – proptype
  – propvalue
  – propdesc
• Keep it simple
• Reduce development costs
• Reduce implementation costs
http://wiki.oasis-open.org/oaxal/FrontPage
OAXAL Interaction
OAXAL Source Lifecycle

Source Document Lifecycle
OAXAL Translation Lifecycle

Localization Workflow
Contact Details

• Postal address:
  – PO Box 2167
  – Gerrards Cross
  – Bucks SL9 8XF
  – United Kingdom
• Phone: +44 1753 480 467
• Fax: +44 1753 480 465
• Andrzej Zydroń – azydron@xtm-intl.com