
Stage 2 proposal: Feature #279 Remove lockmeta attribute

The @lockmeta attribute will be removed from the <topicmeta> and <bookmeta> elements.

Date and version information

Date that this feature proposal was completed

TBD

Champion of the proposal

Bill Burns

Links to any previous versions of the proposal

N/A

Links to minutes where this proposal was discussed at stage 1 and moved to stage 2

<https://wiki.oasis-open.org/dita/Agenda-16-July-2019>

Reviewers for Stage 2 proposal

TBD

Links to e-mail discussion that resulted in new versions of the proposal

N/A

Link to the GitHub issue

<https://github.com/oasis-tcs/dita/issues/278>

Original requirement or use case

The @lockmeta attribute is ambiguous and poorly defined. While it was present in the DITA 1.0 DTDs, it was not defined in the spec. An ambiguous definition was added in the DITA 1.1 timeframe. Rather than work to define an attribute that we do not see the need for, the DITA TC recommends that it be removed.

Modified grammar files

The following files must be modified:

DTDs

map.mod
bookmap.mod

RNGs

mapMod.rng
bookmapMod.rng (appears to be missing already)

Use cases

N/A

New terminology

N/A

Benefits

Who will benefit from this feature?

Users who are unsure about what metadata will be applied for a particular topic. The ambiguity of the specification leaves the question open about how @lockmeta impacts metadata assignment.

What is the expected benefit?

Removing the attribute eliminates ambiguity. The assumption is that metadata in the map overrides when only one metadata element or value is allowed but supplements what is in the referenced topic when more than one element or value is permitted.

How much of a positive impact is expected for the users who will make use of the feature?

Minor

Technical requirements

Removing elements or attributes

Removing an attribute

- @lockmeta would be removed from <topicmeta> and <bookmeta> elements.

Backwards compatibility

DITA 2.0 is the first DITA release that is open to changes affecting backwards compatibility. To help highlight any impact, does this proposal involve any of the following?

Was this change previously announced in an earlier version of DITA?

No

Removing or renaming an attribute that was shipped in DITA 1.3?

Yes.

Migration plan

If the answer to any question in the previous section is "yes":

Might any existing documents need to be migrated?

Yes. This attribute would need to be removed from any maps on which it is set. Authors or organizations would also need to rethink their metadata strategy to ensure that they don't override topic metadata values where doing so is not desired.

Might any existing processors or implementations need to change their expectations?

Possibly but doubtful because the processing expectations were never clear from the start. Since the attribute is simply going away, the only changes needed would be for processors that did not comply with the default processing anyway.

Might any existing specialization or constraint modules need to be migrated?

Possibly, if a specialization includes this attribute.

Costs

Maintainers of the grammar files

Minimal

Editors of the DITA specification

Minimal:

- No new topics would be required.
- Three topics would need to be edited: 2.2.4.3, 3.3.1.3, and 3.10.6.2.1.
- No changes would be required for the information architecture of the DITA specification.
- No new terminology is necessary.

Vendors of tools

Any impact should be minimal.

DITA community-at-large

We expect any impact to be small as community use of this attribute is expected to be low.