

Stage two: #36 Remove fastpath Value from note/@type

Remove the `fastpath` value from `@type` for the `<note>` element.

Date and version information

Date that this feature proposal was completed	10 March 2020
Champion of the proposal	Keith Schengili-Roberts
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	Discussion: https://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/dita/201706/msg00013.html ; moved to stage 2: https://github.com/oasis-tcs/dita/issues/35#issuecomment-594052646
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/35

Original requirement or use case

This value is very rarely used and often seen as an odd part of DITA, in that it does not fit with other values for `<note>/@type`. An informal survey was done with the members of the DITA Technical Committee, and the results confirmed that it was rarely used, and would not be missed.

Use cases

This removes a single value or `<note>/@type`. Arguably it is the lack of a use case for `fastpath` that is the reason for this proposal.

New terminology

No new terminology.

Proposed solution

Remove the `fastpath` value from `@type` for the `<note>` element.

Remove the `fastpath` value from any grammar and specification topics that reference them.

Benefits

Who will benefit from this feature?	All DITA users currently confused by the intended use of this value. DITA tool implementers who will have one less value for <code><note>/@type</code> to implement.
What is the expected benefit?	Reduced complexity.
How many people probably will make use of this feature?	N/A
How much of a positive impact is expected for the users who will make use of the feature?	The <code>fastpath</code> value is little-used. While there will be some impact for those people who have implemented the

value, the removal of this value will be a minor or non-existent issue for many current DITA practitioners.

Technical requirements

Removing elements or attributes

Remove `fastpath` as a value from the *base* domain:

- Remove from `commonElementsMod.rng`
- Remove from `commonElements.ent`

Update the following topics to remove references to `fastpath`:

- `reuse-note.dita`
- `thetypeattribute.dita`

Processing impact

Any processor that provides special processing for `<note>` can remove it.

Overall usability

No impact.

Backwards compatibility

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

No.

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

Removing a rarely-used value (`fastpath`) from `<note>/@type`.

Changing the meaning of an element or attribute in a way that would disallow existing usage?

Will only impact DITA practitioners who already use the `fastpath` value for `<note>/@type`. It is anticipated that the number of practitioners this will affect is small.

Migration plan

Might any existing documents need to be migrated?

Anyone currently using `fastpath` will either need to use another value for `@type`, or define their own specializations to replace it.

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

If a processor provides unique processing for the `fastpath` value of `<note>/@type` whose support needs to be retained, the processor will need to either provide its own specializations to which the processing can then be applied or provide some other way to signal the desired behavior, for example, processor-specific values for `@outputclass`.

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

No.

If no migration need is anticipated, why not?

The value is rarely used, and it is thought that many DITA practitioners do not use it at all.

Costs

Maintainers of the grammar files

Remove all declarations relating to the `fastpath`.

Editors of the DITA specification

- How many new topics will be required?
None

- How many existing topics will need to be edited?
Two topics: (see above).
- Will the feature require substantial changes to the information architecture of the DITA specification? If so, what?
No architectural change required.
- If there is new terminology, is it likely to conflict with any usage of those terms in the existing specification?
No new terminology.

Vendors of tools

Tool vendors will need ensure that there are not any hard-coded references to the `fastpath` value. Any processing that is specific to that value will need to either be removed or rebound to a different value.

DITA community-at-large

- Will this feature add to the perception that DITA is becoming too complex?
It should not as we are removing a rarely-used value.
- Will it be simple for end users to understand?
Yes.
- If the feature breaks backwards compatibility, how many documents are likely to be affected, and what is the cost of migration?
This will only impact the few DITA practitioners who utilize the `fastpath` value for `<note>/@type`. This is likely to be a small number of documents.

Producing migration instructions or tools

- How extensive will migration instructions be, if it is integrated into an overall 1.3 → 2.0 migration publication or white paper?
Migration instructions will likely require no more than a sentence, perhaps a short paragraph at most.
- Will this require an independent white paper or other publication to provide migration details?
No.
- Do migration tools need to be created before this change can be made? If so, how complex will those tools be to create and to use?
No.

Examples

N/A