
Stage two: #36 Remove deprecated [▶] items [◀]

Remove [▶] items (elements, attributes, entities, and grammar files) [◀] that have been designated as deprecated, "reserved for future use," or defined by mistake and retained only to maintain backwards compatibility

Champion

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Tracking information

Event	Date	Links
Initial suggestion	6 June 2017	E-mail
Stage 1 proposal accepted	6 June 2017	Minutes GitHub issue
Stage 2 proposal submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• #01: 1 February 2018• #02: 19 February 2018• #03: 26 February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DITA source• HTML (e-mail to list):<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 01– 02– 03
Stage 2 proposal discussed		Minutes of TC meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 06 February 2018• 13 February 2018• 20 February 2018
Stage 2 proposal approved	27 February 2018	Minutes of TC meeting: 27 February 2018
[▶] Revised stage 2 proposal submitted to reviewer	27 February 2018	Robert D. Anderson, Oracle [◀]
[▶] Revised stage 2 proposal submitted to TC	27 September 2020	[◀]
[▶] Revised stage 2 proposal approved		[◀]

Original requirement or use case

Remove deprecated/reserved for future use items [▶] (elements, attributes, grammar files, and entities) [◀] from the DITA base [▶] and technical content release [◀].

Use cases

Not applicable

New terminology

None

Proposed solution

Modify the grammar files and documentation to remove [▶] items (elements, attributes, grammar files, and entities) [◀] that have been designated as deprecated, "reserved for future use," or defined by mistake and retained only to maintain backwards compatibility.

Benefits

Reduced technical debt

Technical requirements

Figure 1: Element types to be removed

Element type	Module in which the element is defined	Status	Replacement
<boolean>	commonElements.mod	Deprecated since DITA 1.0	<state>
<indextermref>	commonElements.mod	Reserved for future use	None

Figure 2: Attributes to be removed

Attribute and attribute values	Module in which the attribute is defined	Status	Replacement
@alt	commonElements.mod	Deprecated since DITA 1.0	<alt>
@chunk="to-navigation"	None	Deprecated since DITA 1.3	None
@collection-type="tree" on <linkpool> and <linklist>	topic.mod	Deprecated. Only present in DTDs, not XSD or RNG.	None
@collection-type on <reltable> and <relcolspec>	The elements are defined in map.mod. Both attribute declaration groups reference the %topicref-atts-no-toc-no-keyscope; entity.	Undefined and reserved for future use	None
@keyref on <navref>	map.mod	"... unintentionally defined for <navref> in the original DITA grammar files. It is retained for backwards compatibility. The attribute will be removed in a future release, and processors are not expected to support it."	None

Attribute and attribute values	Module in which the attribute is defined	Status	Replacement
@locktitle on <topichead> and <topicgroup>	<topichead> and <topicgroup> are defined in mapGroup.mod. In each case, the %topicref-atts;; entity is referenced.	Housekeeping to correct an unintentional mistake; the attribute was present only because attribute definitions were reused between several elements	None
@longdescref on <image>	commonElements.mod	Deprecated since DITA 1.2	<longdescref>
@navtitle	map.mod	Deprecated since DITA 1.2	<navtitle>
@print	map.mod	Deprecated since DITA 1.3	@deliveryTarget
@query	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <topicref>: map.mod • <anchorref>, <mapref>, <topicset>, <topicset ref>, and <keydef>: mapGroup.mod • <link>: topic.mod 	Declared but never defined	None
@refcols	The attribute is declared in the %simpletable.attributes; group in commonElements.mod.	Undefined and reserved for future use	None
@role="sample" and @role="external"	%relational-atts; and %rel-atts; in topic.mod	Deprecated since DITA 1.0	None
@title on <map>	mapGroup.mod	Deprecated since DITA 1.1	<title>
@type="internal" and @type="external" on <lq>	commonElements.mod Note While @type="internal" is listed as deprecated in the DITA 1.3 spec, it is not a defined value in commonElements.mod	Deprecated since DITA 1.2?	@scope and @format on <lq>

Figure 3: [▶] Grammar files to be removed [◀]

[▶][▶]

Grammar file	Location of grammar file	Status	Replacement
glossary.dtd	technicalContent	Deprecated since DITA 1.2	glossentry.dtd
glossary.ent	technicalContent	Deprecated since DITA 1.2	glossentry.ent

Grammar file	Location of grammar file	Status	Replacement
<code>glossary.mod</code>	technicalContent	Deprecated since DITA 1.2	<code>glossentry.mod</code>
<code>glossary.rng</code>	technicalContent	Deprecated since DITA 1.2	<code>glossentry.rng</code>
<code>glossaryMod.rng</code>	technicalContent	Deprecated since DITA 1.2	<code>glossentryMod.rng</code>

[◀][◀]

Figure 4: [▶] Entities to be removed [◀]

[▶][▶]

Entity	Module in which the entity is defined	Status	Replacement
<code>&nbsp;</code>	<code>topic.mod</code>	Deprecated since DITA 1.2	<code>&#160;</code>

[◀][◀]

Backwards compatibility

Figure 5: Elements and attributes deprecated in DITA 1.0

- `@alt`
- `<boolean>`
- `@role="sample"` and `@role="external"`

Figure 6: Elements and attributes deprecated in DITA 1.1

- `@title` on `<map>`

Figure 7: [▶] Elements, attributes, entities, and grammar files deprecated in DITA 1.2 [◀]

- `@navtitle`
- `@longdescref` on `<image>`
- `@type="internal"` and `@type="external"` on `<lq>`
- [▶] ` `; (defined only in `topic.mod`) [◀]
- [▶] DTD: `glossary.dtd`, `glossary.ent`, and `glossary.mod` [◀]
- [▶] RNG: `glossary.rng`, `glossaryMod.rng` [◀]

Figure 8: Elements and attributes deprecated in DITA 1.3

- `@chunk="to-navigation"`
- `@print`

Figure 9: Impact to specialization modules

If implementations have specialized from `<boolean>` or `<indextermref>`, they will need to redefine the specialization base.

Figure 10: Impact to constraint modules

The following constraint modules will need to be refactored:

- Constraint modules that include `<boolean>` or `<indextermref>` in a content model.

- Constraint modules that list any of the deprecated attributes. This will most likely be encountered in regard to `@alt`, `@navtitle`, and `@print`.

Migration plan

For most cases, migration could be handled by any of the following methods:

- Search and replace across the body of DITA topics and maps
- Prebuilt XSLT scripts

Implementation that use the `@print` attribute will need to do more comprehensive rework of their information architecture. This might include the following:

- Determining values for use with the `@deliveryTarget` attribute
- (Optional) Developing a subjectScheme map to control values for the `@deliveryTarget` attribute
- Developing or modifying DITAval files to include or exclude content tagged with specific values for the `@deliveryTarget` attribute

Costs

This feature will have an impact on the following:

Maintainers of the grammar files

The following files must be modified:

DTDs

- `commonElements.mod`
- `map.mod`
- `mapGroup.mod`
- `topic.mod`

RNG

- `commonElementsMod.rng`
- `mapMod.rng`
- `mapGroupMod.rng`
- `topicMod.rng`

[▶]

[▶] The following files must be removed [◀]

DTDs

- `glossary.dtd`
- `glossary.ent`
- `glossary.mod`

RNG

- `glossary.rng`
- `glossaryMod.rng`

[◀]

Editors of the DITA specification

The following topics will need to be removed:

- `<boolean>`
- `<indextermref>`

This proposal will affect all of the following topics (and probably others that I missed). The `@navtitle` attribute appears in **MANY** examples.

- Edits to the following element-reference topics:
 - 3.1 Base DITA elements, A to Z
 - 3.2.1.5 `<navtitle>`
 - 3.2.2.1 `<alt>`
 - 3.2.2.17 `<image>`
 - 3.2.2.23 `<lq>`
 - 3.2.2.25 `<object>`
 - 3.2.4.1 `<link>`
 - 3.2.4.2 `<linklist>`
 - 3.2.4.3 `<linkpool>`
 - 3.3.1.5 `<navref>`
 - 3.3.1.1 `<map>`
 - 3.3.1.6 `<reltable>`
 - 3.3.1.10 `<relcolspec>`
 - 3.3.2.4 `<topicgroup>`
 - 3.3.2.5 `<topichead>`
 - 3.4.1.22 `<resourceid>`
 - 3.5.1.3 `<hazardsymbol>`
 - 3.6.1.2 `<schemeref>`
 - 3.6.1.15 `<relatedSubjects>`
 - 3.6.2.2 `<topicapply>`
 - 3.10.1.2 Metadata attribute group
 - 3.10.3 Attributes common to many map elements:
 - 3.10.10 Simpletable attribute group
 - 3.10.12 Topicref element attributes group
 - 3.10.13.5.1 Using the `-dita-use-conref-target` value
 - 3.10.13.12 The `@role` and `@otherrole` attributes
- Edits to the examples in the following element-reference topics
 - 3.3.1.4 `<anchor>`
 - 3.3.2.3 `<mapref>`
 - 3.4.1.14 `<metadata>`
 - 3.6.1.1 `<subjectScheme>`
 - 3.6.1.3 `<hasInstance>`
 - 3.6.1.4 `<hasKind>`
 - 3.6.1.5 `<hasNarrower>`
 - 3.6.1.6 `<hasPart>`
 - 3.6.1.7 `<hasRelated>`

- 3.6.1.8 <enumerationdef>
- 3.6.1.10 <attributedef>
- 3.6.1.14 <subjectdef>
- 3.6.2.1 <subjectref>
- 3.6.2.3 <topicsubject>
- 3.6.2.4 <topicSubjectTable>
- Edits to the following appendix topics:
 - "Element-by-element recommendations for translators: Base edition"
- Edits to the following architectural specification topics:
 - 2.2.2.4 DITA map attributes
 - 2.2.2.5.4 Example: How the @cascade attribute functions
 - 2.2.3.6 Scaling a list of controlled values to define a taxonomy
 - 2.2.3.8.1 Example: How hierarchies defined in a subject scheme map affect filtering
 - 2.2.3.8.2 Example: Extending a subject scheme
 - 2.2.3.8.3 Example: Extending a subject scheme upwards
 - 2.2.4.2.1 Conditional processing attributes
 - 2.2.4.4 Cascading of metadata attributes in a DITA map
 - 2.2.4.5 Reconciling topic and map metadata elements
 - 2.2.4.6.1 Cascading of attributes from map to map
 - 2.3.4.9 Processing key references to generate text or link text [@alt]
 - 2.4.1.1 Table of contents
 - 2.4.3.4 Conditional processing to generate multiple deliverable types
 - 2.4.5.2 Chunking examples
 - 2.6.3.3 DTD: Coding requirements for element type declarations
 - 2.6.4.3 RELAX NG: Coding requirements for element type declarations
- No changes to the basic information architecture of the specification
- No new terminology

Vendors of tools: XML editors, component content management systems, processors, etc.

If tool vendors have built features around any of the deprecated items, those features will need to be migrated to use alternate markup.

DITA community-at-large

Removing the @navtitle and @print attributes is likely to have the greatest impact. While DITA maps that contain @navtitle attributes could be automatically rewritten to use <navtitle> elements, reworking maps that use the @print attribute will require more fundamental architectural rework.

DITA migration procedures or tools

The DITA TC will deliver a separate document that contains migration information.

It is possible that the TC should provide some basic scripts to make migration easier.

Examples

The following table contains examples of code that contains deprecated elements and attributes; it also provides example of how the code could be constructed in DITA 2.0.

Deprecated item	DITA 1.3 markup	DITA 2.0 markup
@alt	<pre><image href="bike.gif" alt="Two-wheeled bicycle"/></pre>	<pre><image href="bike.gif" <alt>Two-wheeled bicycle</alt></image></pre>
<boolean>	<pre>She said "<boolean state="yes"/>" when I asked her to marry me!</pre>	<pre><step><cmd>Verify the presence of an "on" or high condition at the input gate (ie, <state name="inflag" value="high"/></cmd></step></pre>
@print	<pre><topicref href="foo.dita" print="no"></pre>	<pre><topicref href="foo.dita" deliveryTarget="Web-only"></pre>
@navtitle	<pre><subjectScheme> <subjectdef keys="os" navtitle="Operating system"> <subjectdef keys="linux" navtitle="Linux"> <subjectdef keys="redhat" navtitle="RedHat Linux"/> <subjectdef keys="suse" navtitle="SuSE Linux"/> </subjectdef> <subjectdef keys="windows" navtitle="Windows"/> <subjectdef keys="zos" navtitle="z/OS"/> </subjectdef> <enumerationdef <attributedef name="platform"/> <subjectdef keyref="os"/> </enumerationdef> </subjectScheme></pre>	<pre><subjectScheme> <subjectdef keys="os"> <topicmeta> <navtitle>Operating systems</navtitle> </topicmeta> <subjectdef keys="linux"> <topicmeta> <navtitle>Linux</navtitle> </topicmeta> <subjectdef keys="redhat"> <topicmeta> <navtitle>RedHat Linux</navtitle> </topicmeta> </subjectdef> <subjectdef keys="suse"> <topicmeta> <navtitle>SuSE Linux</navtitle> </topicmeta> </subjectdef> <subjectdef keys="windows"> <topicmeta> <navtitle>Windows</navtitle> </topicmeta> </subjectdef> <subjectdef keys="zos"> <topicmeta> <navtitle>z/OS</navtitle> </topicmeta> </subjectdef> </subjectdef> <enumerationdef <attributedef name="platform"/> <subjectdef keyref="os"/> </enumerationdef> </subjectdef> </subjectScheme></pre>

Deprecated item	DITA 1.3 markup	DITA 2.0 markup
		<pre></enumerationdef> </subjectScheme></pre>
@longdescref on < image>	<pre><image href="puffin.jpg" longdescref="http:// www.example.org/birds/ puffin.html"> <alt>Puffin picture</alt> </image></pre>	<pre><image href="puffin.jpg"> <alt>Puffin picture</alt> <longdescref href="http:// www.example.org/birds/ puffin.html" scope="external" format="html"/> </image></pre>
@title on <map>	<pre><map id="mybats" title="Bats"> <topicref href="bats.dita" type="topic"> <topicref href="batcaring.dita" type="task"/> <topicref href="batfeeding.dita" type="task"/> <topicref href="batsonar.dita" type="concept"/> <topicref href="batguano.dita" type="reference"/> <topicref href="bathistory.dita" type="reference"/> </topicref> </map></pre>	<pre><map id="mybats"> <title>Bats</title> <topicref href="bats.dita" type="topic"> <topicref href="batcaring.dita" type="task"/> <topicref href="batfeeding.dita" type="task"/> <topicref href="batsonar.dita" type="concept"/> <topicref href="batguano.dita" type="reference"/> <topicref href="bathistory.dita" type="reference"/> </topicref> </map></pre>
[▶] 	<pre><p>When using Feline&nbsp;Greenies pill pockets, you might need to keep them secured in order to prevent your cat from absconding with the delicious morsels. A mason jar with a tight lid will work well.</p></pre>	<pre><p>When using Feline&#160;Greenies pill pockets, you might need to keep them secured in order to prevent your cat from absconding with the delicious morsels. A mason jar with a tight lid will work well.</p></pre> <p>[◀]</p>