



# The DocBook Document Type

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Abstract:

DocBook is general purpose [XML] and [SGML] document type particularly well suited to books and papers about computer hardware and software (though it is by no means limited to these applications).

The Version 4.4CR3 release is a maintenance release. It introduces no backwards-incompatible changes.

Status:

This Working Draft is an editor's draft. It does not necessarily represent the consensus of the committee.

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The errata page for this specification is at <http://docbook.org/specs/docbook-errata.html>.

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## 1. Introduction

DocBook is general purpose XML and SGML document type particularly well suited to books and papers about computer hardware and software (though it is by no means limited to these applications).

The DocBook Technical Committee maintains the DocBook schema. DocBook is officially available as a Document Type Definition (DTD) for both XML and SGML. It is unofficially available in other forms as well.

The Version 4.4CR3 release is a maintenance release. It introduces no backwards-incompatible changes. All valid DocBook 4.3 documents are also valid DocBook 4.4CR3 documents.

The genesis of this release is a bug in the catalog files for DocBook V4.3. The Committee decided to produce a 4.4 release, incorporating a few recent backwards-compatible changes, rather than simply produce a 4.3.1 release to fix the bugs.

The DocBook Technical Committee welcomes bug reports and requests for enhancement (RFEs) from the user community. The current list of outstanding requests is available through the SourceForge tracker interface. This is also the preferred mechanism for submitting new requests. Old RFEs, from a previous legacy tracking system, are archived for reference.

## 2. Terminology

The key words *must*, *must not*, *required*, *shall*, *shall not*, *should*, *should not*, *recommended*, *may*, and *optional* in this Working Draft are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119]. Note that for reasons of style, these words are not capitalized in this document.

## 3. The DocBook Document Type V4.4CR3

The DocBook document type is distributed for XML and SGML from the DocBook site at OASIS. DocBook is also available from the mirror on <http://docbook.org/>.

### 3.1. Changes in DocBook V4.4CR3

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.4CR2 and DocBook V4.4CR3 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

#### 3.1.1. Bug Fixes

- Fixed incorrect system identifiers in the XML version of **docbook.cat**.

### 3.1.2. Enhancements

- Added `rowheader` attribute to `CALS table` and `informaltable`. If `rowheader` is `firstcol`, the first column of each row is to be treated as a row header. If `norowheader` is specified, no special treatment is given to the first column of each row.

## 3.2. Changes in DocBook V4.4CR2

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.4CR1 and DocBook V4.4CR2 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

### 3.2.1. Bug Fixes

None.

### 3.2.2. Enhancements

- Added `wordsize` as a global effectivity attribute, per the June, 2004 minutes.
- Added a pointer from the DTD back to this specification.

## 3.3. Changes in DocBook V4.4CR1

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.4b2 and DocBook V4.4CR1 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

### 3.3.1. Bug Fixes

None.

### 3.3.2. Enhancements

- Added `xml:space` to verbatim environments in the XML schemas.
- Added “`protocol`” to the list of class values allowed on the `systemitem` element.
- Added the HTML forms hook to several “mix” parameter entities so that HTML forms can occur in more places when the HTML Forms Module is used.

## 3.4. Changes in DocBook V4.4b2

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.4b1 and DocBook V4.4b2 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

### 3.4.1. Bug Fixes

- Version 4.4b2 includes the W3C XML Entity Declarations for Characters. These entities are distributed for historical compatibility and user convenience. The DocBook Technical Committee no longer attempts to maintain these definitions and will periodically update them from the W3C site if and as they are updated there.

- Removed `xml:base` from the SGML DTD.
- Allow HTML tables to nest (allow `table` and `informaltable` inside `td` and `th`).
- Changed the `rules` attribute, which can appear on HTML tables, from an enumeration to CDATA. This avoids a conflict with the enumerated values on the `frame` attribute on CALS tables.

### 3.4.2. Enhancements

- Added `bibliolist`.
- Added a parameter entity to allow customizers to exclude the `&euro`; character entity.

## 3.5. Changes in DocBook V4.4b1

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.3 and DocBook V4.4b1 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

### 3.5.1. Bug Fixes

- Added the HTML Table Module to the catalog files for DocBook and DocBook XML.

### 3.5.2. Enhancements

- Added `package` element per the February, 2004 meeting.
- Allow `imageobjectco` as a child of `mediaobject` (this effectively makes `mediaobjectco` unnecessary) per the February, 2004 meeting.
- Added `biblioref` element per the May, 2004 meeting.
- Added `spacing` attribute to `variablelist` per the April, 2004 meeting.
- Added `superscript` and `subscript` to the content model of the `gui*` elements per the May, 2004 meeting.

## 4. Release Notes

XML validation technologies have evolved rapidly in the last few years. The Technical Committee is exploring the possibility of using RELAX NG as the principal validation technology for DocBook V5.0. The move to RELAX NG will also cause some one time backward-incompatible changes which are not listed in this specification.

## 5. Changes Proposed for DocBook V5.0

The following backwards-incompatible changes are proposed for the DocBook V5.0. Some of these changes were announced in DocBook V4.0, others were originally scheduled for DocBook V6.0 but are now being proposed as part of the transition to RELAX NG. The DocBook Technical Committee anticipates moving to RELAX NG for DocBook V5.0. This will introduce a broad range of one time backwards-incompatible changes.

- The `coords` attribute will be removed from `areaset`.
- The `articleinfo` element will be removed from `biblioentry`.
- The `contents` attribute will be removed from `bookinfo` and `setinfo`.
- The content model of indexes will be reduced. Numbered figures and other elements inappropriate for an index or `setindex` will be removed.
- The `revhistory` element will be removed from `glossterm`.
- RFE 416415: The constant `class` will be removed from `systemitem`.
- The `graphic` and `inlinegraphic` elements will be removed.
- RFE 412476: The `class` attribute on `productname` will no longer have a default value.

- RFE 482810: The content model of `msgtext` is far too broad. It will be reduced.
- RFE 482811: The `title` element will be removed from bibliography elements (use `citetitle` instead).
- RFE 482812: The content model of `citetitle` will be reduced from `%para.char.mix;` to `%title.char.mix;`.
- RFE 482815: The `synopsis` element will be removed from `%para.char.mix;`.
- RFE 482818: Simplify the content model of `toc`.
- RFE 482819: The content models of the bibliography elements will be adjusted so that it is not possible to mix `biblioset` and `bibliomset` elements.
- RFE 482922: The `msgtext` element will be constrained to occur only inside `msgset`. See also RFE 482817.
- RFE 531851: Remove inline person name components (`firstname`, `surname`, etc.) as proposed.
- RFE 531855: Remove `corpname` as proposed.

## A. The DocBook Media Type

This appendix registers a new MIME media type, "application/docbook+xml".

### 1. Registration of MIME media type application/docbook+xml

MIME media type name:	application	
MIME subtype name:	docbook+xml	
Required parameters:	None.	
Optional parameters:	charset	This parameter has identical semantics to the <code>charset</code> parameter of the <code>application/xml</code> media type as specified in [RFC 3023] or its successors.
Encoding considerations:	By virtue of DocBook XML content being XML, it has the same considerations when sent as "application/docbook+xml" as does XML. See [RFC 3023], Section 3.2.	
Security considerations:	Several DocBook elements may refer to arbitrary URIs. In this case, the security issues of RFC 2396, section 7, should be considered.	
Interoperability considerations:	None.	
Published specification:	This media type registration is for DocBook documents as described by [DocBook: TDG].	
Applications which use this media type:	There is no experimental, vendor specific, or personal tree predecessor to "application/docbook+xml", reflecting the fact that no applications currently recognize it. This new type is being registered in order to allow for the deployment of DocBook on the World Wide Web, as a first class XML application.	
Additional information:	Magic number(s):	There is no single initial octet sequence that is always present in DocBook documents.
	File extension(s):	DocBook documents are most often identified with the extension ".xml".

Macintosh File Type Code(s):	TEXT
Person & email address to contact for further information:	Norman Walsh, <ndw@nwalsh.com>.
Intended usage:	COMMON
Author/Change controller:	The DocBook specification is a work product of the DocBook Technical Committee at OASIS.

## 2. Fragment Identifiers

For documents labeled as "application/docbook+xml", the fragment identifier notation is exactly that for "application/xml", as specified in [RFC 3023] or its successors.

## B. OASIS DocBook Technical Committee (Non-Normative)

The following individuals were members of the committee during the formulation of this Working Draft:

- Adam Di Carlo
- Steve Cogorno
- Gary Cornelius
- Dick Hamilton
- Nancy Harrison
- Scott Hudson
- Paul Grosso
- Mark Johnson
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- Larry Rowland
- Michael Smith
- Robert Stayton, Secretary
- Norman Walsh, Chair, Editor

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## D. Intellectual Property Rights

For information on whether any patents have been disclosed that may be essential to implementing this specification, and any offers of patent licensing terms, please refer to the Intellectual Property Rights section of the DocBook web page (<http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/docbook/>)

## E. Revision History

Working Draft "Candidate Release 3" 17 Dec 2004  
Working Draft "Candidate Release 2" 21 Oct 2004  
Working Draft "Candidate Release 1" 16 Sep 2004  
Working Draft "Beta 2" 26 Aug 2004  
Working Draft "Beta 1" 09 Jun 2004

## References

### Normative

[SGML] JTC 1, SC 34. *ISO 8879:1986 Information processing -- Text and office systems -- Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML)*. 1986.

[XML] Tim Bray, Jean Paoli, C. M. Sperberg-McQueen, *et. al.*, editors. *Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 (Third Edition)*. World Wide Web Consortium, 04 Feb 2004.

[RFC 2119] IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force). *RFC 2119: Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels*. S. Bradner. 1997.

[RFC 3023] IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force). *RFC 3023: XML Media Types*. M. Murata, S. St. Laurent, D. Kohn. 2001.

[DocBook: TDG] Norman Walsh and Leonard Meullner. *DocBook: The Definitive Guide*. O'Reilly & Associates, 1999.