DITA 2.0
A NOT backwards compatible release

15 June 2021
Kristen James Eberlein
DITA solutions architect, Eberlein Consulting LLC
Chair, OASIS DITA Technical Committee
Agenda

1. Welcome and housekeeping
2. Who designed DITA 2.0
3. DITA 2.0 as a backwards incompatible release
4. What’s in DITA 2.0
5. Resources
6. Questions (if time permits)
Welcome and housekeeping

• This Webinar will be recorded. The recording will be posted ASAP.

• Attendees are muted.

• Questions? Plan to attend the follow-up Webinar on 29 June, which will be devoted to Q & A. But do add questions to the chat, which will be monitored during the session.

• We’ll take some questions at the end, if there is time.
Participants in today’s Webinar

- Kristen James Eberlein, Chair of the DITA TC and representing Eberlein Consulting LLC
- Robert Anderson, voting member representing Oracle
- Deb Bissantz, voting member representing Vasont
- Chris Nitchie, voting member and individual member
Who designed DITA 2.0?
The DITA Technical Committee

16 voting members who meet weekly

Wide variety of professional roles:
• Information developers
• Information architects
• Content engineers
• Managers
• Professors
• Consultants
• Application developers

From US, Canada, Germany, and Israel ...
DITA Technical Committee: Voting members

- Robert Anderson, Oracle
- Deb Bissantz, Vasont
- Carsten Brennecke, SAP
- Stan Doherty, Individual member
- Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC
- Carlos Evia, Virginia Tech
- Nancy Harrison, Individual member
- Scott Hudson, ServiceNow

- Gershon Joseph, Precision Content
- Eliot Kimber, Individual member
- Zoe Lawson, Individual member
- Chris Nitchie, Individual member
- Dawn Stevens, Comtech Services, Inc.
- Keith Schengili-Roberts, Precision Content
- Eric Sirois, IXiASOFT
- Frank Wegmann, Software AG
Why a backwards-incompatible release?
Why is DITA 2.0 backwards incompatible?

A backwards-incompatible release lets us:

• Reduce technical debt
• Get rid of unnecessary baggage
• Fix design mistakes
• Clean house
“Backwards incompatible ... More work for us”

• Yes, there will be work for vendors who produce DITA tools.

• That’s why we are doing this this series of Webinars.

• We are counting on you to test DITA 2.0, integrate it with your products, provide feedback!
So, what’s in DITA 2.0?
Structure of DITA 2.0

- Will be delivered in two packages: Base and technical content
- Base will be released by OASIS first, followed by technical content
- Separating the packages allows the DITA TC more flexibility for future releases
- Target dates (unofficial, my personal best guesses):
  - Base: October 2022
  - Technical content: December 2022
- New DITA 2.0 doctype identifiers for topics and maps
Overview: Contours of DITA 2.0

- Architectural changes
  - Improvements to key-based variable text
  - Redesign of chunking
  - Relaxation of specialization rules

- Improvements to:
  - Book map
  - DITAVAL
  - <example>
  - Glossary elements
  - Hazard statements
  - Indexing
  - Simple table
  - <steps>
  - Troubleshooting topic

- New elements
  - <include>
  - Multimedia elements

- New domains:
  - Alternate titles
  - Emphasis
  - Hardware

- Behind-the-scenes changes

- Removal of:
  - Deprecated items
  - Attributes, elements, and domains
  - Support for XSD, certain specializations
Improvements to how variable text is defined

Use case

As a content author, I want a simple way to define variable text.

As an application developer, I want rules for resolving variable text to be simpler.

Implementation

The following changes:

- Add a new element: <keytext>
- Establish new rules for resolving variable text defined using key references

Implications

Requires changes to source files. Some DITA 1.x markup will be invalid.

Champion

Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC

eberleinconsulting.com
Redesign of chunking

Use case

As a DITA map author, I want chunking to be easier to use.

As an application developer, I want chunking to be easier to implement.

Implementation

The following changes:

- Remove all previously-defined tokens for @chunk
- Replace with two new tokens: “combine” and “split”

Implications

Requires changes to source files. DITA 1.x tokens won’t be recognized.

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Robert Anderson, Oracle
Relaxation of specialization rules

Use case
As a DITA practitioner, I want to:
- Add new specialized attributes ONLY to certain elements
- Add a new specialized element ONLY to a certain element

Implementation
The following changes:
- Enable attribute and element domain specializations to be more targeted
- Distinguish between document-type configuration and element configuration

Implications
Removes need for some vendors to hack the 1.x OASIS grammar files to selectively add attributes

Champion
Chris Nitchie, Individual member
Implementation work by Kristen James Eberlein
Use case

As a map author, I want to:

• Apply a DITAVAL to the entire bookmap
• Specify resource-only objects (key definition, subject scheme maps, etc) in an intuitive location
• Specify that a list of updates should be auto-generated

Implementation

The following changes:

• Modification to content models of <bookmap> and <booklists>
• New element in map group domain: <mapresources>

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Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC

Significant contributions by
Eric Sirois, IXIASOFT

Return to overview
Enhancements to flagging using DITAVAL

Use case

As a content author, I want a CSS class added to HTML output:

• When the DITA source is tagged with a filtering/flagging attribute
• A flagging action is set in the DITAVAL

Implementation

The following changes:

• Add @outputclass to the <prop> or <revprop> elements in DITAVAL
• Specify that the expected behavior is that @outputclass token gets passed through in the HTML output as a @class value.

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Robert Anderson,
Oracle

Return to overview
Make `<example>` available in more places

Use case

As a content author, I want to semantically tag content as an example wherever it occurs.

Implementation

We made the following changes:

- Made `<example>` available in more places
- Now available within sections, between paragraphs, in definition lists, figures, and more

Implications

Changes to stylesheets and CSS.

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Scott Hudson, ServiceNow

Return to overview
Addition of `<sub>` and `<sup>` to glossary elements

**Use case**

As a content author, I want to be able to use subscripts and superscripts when I create glossary entries.

**Implementation**

The following changes:

- Allow `<ph>` within the content models of the relevant glossary elements
- Enables the use of the highlight domain

**Champion**

Scott Hudson, Service Now

Return to [overview](#)
Use case

As a content author, I want to:

• Use ordered and unordered lists when specifying how to avoid a hazard
• Avoid @outputclass

As an information architect or manager, I want to ensure that our hazard statements meet industry requirements.

Implementation

Redesign of the hazard statement domain, including:

• Alignment with ANSI X 535.6
• Enable use of multiple hazard symbols
• Improvement to the specification

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Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC
Implications: Improvements to hazard statements

- Some DITA 1.x markup might be invalid.
- Probably will require changes to stylesheets, CSS for rendering in authoring environments
- Will require changes to any wizards built to assist authors inserting hazard statements
Improvements to indexing

Use case

As a content author, I want:

• To stop inadvertently inserting `<index-base>` elements
• More reliable, consistent indexing support from processors
• Less complexity, more simplicity!

Implementation

The following changes:

• Removal of the indexing domain
• Addition of `<index-see>` and `<index-see-also>` to the base
• Removal of `<index-base>` and `<index-sort-as>`
• Improved specification content

Implications

Might require changes to DITA source

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Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC

Return to overview
Enhancements to simple table

Use cases

As a content author, I want to:
• Span rows and columns in a simple table
• Add a title to a simple table

As a DITA practitioner, I want a useful base from which to specialize table types.

And the DITA TC wants to enable Lightweight DITA!

Return to overview

Implementation

The following changes:
• Add title to <simpletable>
• Enable column- and row spanning in simple tables

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Carlos Evia, Virginia Tech
Implications: Enhancements to simple table

- Will require changes to wizards for inserting tables
- Will require changes to menu items for merging table cells

Return to overview
Improvements to <steps>

Use case

As a content author, I want to:

• Easily reuse <steps> and <step> elements
• Have more than two levels of steps
• Have unordered steps as a 2\textsuperscript{nd} (or 3\textsuperscript{rd} or 4\textsuperscript{th}) level of steps

Implementation

We made the following changes:

• Enable <steps> to nest
• Remove <substeps> and <substep>

Implications

Will require changes to DITA source, if substeps are used

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Robert Anderson, Oracle
Diagnostic information in troubleshooting topic

Use case

As a content author, I want to add diagnostic information to troubleshooting topics in a semantic place.

Implementation

Three new elements:

- `<diagnostics>`
- `<diagnostics-general>`
- `<diagnostics-steps>`

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Dawn Stevens, Comtech Services, Inc.

Return to overview
New `<include>` element

Use cases

As a content author, I want to better handle the inclusion of code or text in my content.

As a DITA practitioner, I want a more appropriate specialization basis for transclusion elements.

Implementation

The following changes:

• Addition of `<include>` element
• Changing the specialization basis of `<coderef>`, `<svgref>`, and `<mathmlref>` to `<include>`

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Chris Nitchie,
Individual member

Implications

Changes to stylesheets, DITA source if it contains `@class`

Return to overview
New multimedia elements

Use case
As a content author, I want to easily add audio and video to my DITA topics

Implementation
The following changes:
• <audio> and <video> elements
• Three sub-elements for controls

Implications
• Changes to wizards
• Changes to menu items or icons for inserting multimedia

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Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC
Built on work completed by Chris Nitchie, Individual member

Return to overview
New alternate titles domain

Use cases

As a DITA practitioner, I want to specialize elements for titles: book sub-titles, window titles, etc.

As a content or map author, I want to stop being confused about when a navigation title will be rendered.

Implementation

The following changes:

• Remove <titlealts>
• Add <titlealt>; make it available in <prolog> and <topicmeta>
• <titlealt> used as specialization base for <searchtitle>, <navtitle>, <linktitle>, <subtitle>, <titlehint>
• Remove @locktitle
• <titlehint> replaces <navtitle> without @locktitle

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Chris Nitchie,
Individual member

Return to overview
Implications: New alternate titles domain

- Changes to DITA source. Some DITA 1.x markup will be invalid.
- Changes to stylesheets, due to changing specialization hierarchy
- Changes to DITA source **IF** @class attribute values are made explicit
New emphasis domain

Use case

As a DITA practitioner, I want a more semantic alternative to the highlighting domain.

Implementation

The following changes:

• Addition of an emphasis domain that contains <strong> and <em>
• By default, added to all technical-content topic types

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Keith Schengili-Roberts,
Precision Content

Return to overview
New hardware domain

Use case

As a content author, I want to:

• Have markup for hardware
• Stop using @outputclass to distinguish between different types of controls

Implementation

The following changes:

• Addition of a hardware domain with two elements: <hwcontrol> and <partno>
• Integrated into all technical content topics

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Zoe Lawson, Individual member
“Behind-the-scenes” changes

- Made @outputclass a universal attribute
- (Re)created @audience, @platform, @product, and @otherprops as specializations of @props
- Resolved inconsistent @class attribute values for <shortdesc>, <linktext>, and <searchtitle>
- Changed specialization basis for some elements, including <imagemap>
- Removed @xtrf and @xtrc attributes
- Split syntax and programming domain
- Removed @domains attribute; replaced with @specializations attribute

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Robert Anderson, Oracle

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Eliot Kimber, Individual member

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Kris Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC
Remove all deprecated items

Use cases

As the DITA TC, we want to:

• Reduce our technical debt
• Remove cruft from the standard
• Start with a fresh(er) slate
• Generally, clean house!

Implementation

Remove anything characterized as:

• Deprecated
• Reserved for future use
• Added by mistake and retained to ensure backwards compatibility

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Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC

Return to overview
Implications: Remove all deprecated items

• Some DITA 1.x markup will be invalid:
  • @alt on <image>
  • @navtitle
  • @title on <map>
  • @print

• Wizards will require changes, if they insert @alt or @navtitle

• For a complete list of deprecated items, see the DITA 2.0 stage two proposal, [#36 “Remove deprecated items.”](#36)

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Remove certain attributes, elements, and domains

- Remove the @copy-to and @lockmeta attributes
- Remove delayed conref domain
- Remove <topicset> and <topicsetref> elements
- Remove “fastpath” token from note/@type

Champion
Alan Houser, Individual member

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Eliot Kimber, Individual member

Champion
Bill Burns, Healthwise

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Keith Schengili-Roberts, Precision Content
Remove support for XSD, certain specializations

- Will not ship XSD for DITA 2.0

- Specializations removed from DITA 2.0
  - Learning and training
  - Machinery task
  - Task prerequisites domain

- These specializations will be updated for DITA 2.0 and located in OASIS Open GitHub repositories

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Resources
You can download beta versions of the grammar files (DTD and RNG):

- **Base**
  https://github.com/oasis-tcs/dita/releases/tag/v2.0-beta01

- **Technical content**
  https://github.com/oasis-tcs/dita-techcomm/releases/tag/v2.0-beta01
Attend the follow-up Webinar on 29 June 2021, 11 AM ET:

- Dedicated to questions and answers. You can send questions in advance of the session to dita-chair@lists.oasis-open.org
- You can register for this Webinar at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kxNde0zYSwKObNkpYvCaqg
Questions
(If time permits)