DITA 2.0
A NOT backwards compatible release, part II

05 October 2021

Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC & DITA TC chair
Robert Anderson, Oracle
Chris Nitchie, Individual member
Dawn Stevens, Comtech Services, Inc.
Agenda

1. Welcome and housekeeping
2. Today’s panelists
3. Questions we’ve received by e-mail
4. Questions from attendees
5. Resources
Welcome and housekeeping

- This Webinar will be recorded. The recording will be posted ASAP.
- Attendees are muted.
- We’ll take questions submitted through the chat functionality.
Participants in today’s Webinar

• Kristen James Eberlein, Chair of the DITA TC, representing Eberlein Consulting LLC
• Robert Anderson, voting member representing Oracle
• Chris Nitchie, voting member and individual member
• Dawn Stevens, voting member representing Comtech Services, Inc.
Questions
Questions received through e-mail

1. What will happen to the specializations removed from DITA 2.0?

2. Will DITA 2.0 be released in conjunction with a release of DITA-OT? If so, will the DITA-OT release also be not backwards-compatible?

3. Why are you removing support for XSD instead of DTD? Will there be any resources available to people who need XSDs?

4. Are you making any changes to the spec?

5. What resources are available to help people prepare to migrate to DITA 2.0?

6. What tools currently offer support for DITA 2.0?
## Specializations removed from DITA 2.0

### Question

- What will happen to the specializations removed from DITA 2.0?
- How will they be maintained?
- Will they be DITA 2.0 compatible? DITA 1.3 compatible?

### Answer

- The specializations have been moved to an OASIS Open Repository.
- The TC has committed to updating the specializations and making them DITA 2.0 compatible.
- The fact that the repository is OPEN enables non-OASIS members to participate.
DITA specializations repository

Current status

• [https://github.com/oasis-open/dita-specializations](https://github.com/oasis-open/dita-specializations)

• Two branches established: main and develop

• Main branch seeded with grammar files from DITA 1.3 errata 02 + one hot fix

• Maintainers are Carlos Evia and Eliot Kimber

Future plans

• The DITA TC will update the grammar files (not documentation) to be DITA 2.0 compatible.

• This work will be done on the develop branch.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Will DITA 2.0 be released in conjunction with a release of DITA-OT?</td>
<td>Probably not. The stars might be aligned, but ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If yes, will the DITA-OT release also be not backwards-compatible?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intersection with DITA-OT release
## XSD support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why are you removing support for XSD instead of DTD?</td>
<td>XSD does not support DITA configuration as well as RNG and DTD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will there be any resources available to people who need XSDs?</td>
<td>RNG is the normative format of DITA grammar files. We provide DTD versions of the grammar files because so many tools require them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We DO have an OASIS Open repo that provides tooling for generating XSD from RNG.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# DITA RNG converter

## Current status

- [https://github.com/oasis-open/dita-rng-converter](https://github.com/oasis-open/dita-rng-converter)
- Two branches established: master and develop
- Maintainer is Eliot Kimber

## Future status

- Tool will be enhanced so that it provides monolithic (single file) versions of DTDs and XSDs.
## Changes to the specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Are you making any changes to the spec? | • DITA code samples automatically checked to verify that they are valid. (Thanks, Jarno Elvirta!)  
• Normative statements more visible AND aggregated into an appendix.  
• Performing an intensive review and editing of spec topic  
• Stretch goals:  
  • Alphabetical listing of attributes  
  • Index  
  • Glossary |
Resources for upgrading to DITA 2.0

Question
What resources are available to help people prepare to migrate to DITA 2.0?

Answer
• From DITA TC
  • List of deprecated items removed from DITA 2.0
  • Committee note about migrating to DITA 2.0 forthcoming

• From vendors:
  • Oxygen has an add-on that enables users to convert DITA 1.3 topics and maps to DITA 2.0

• Links available on Resources slide
Tools that currently support DITA 2.0

Question

What tools currently offer support for DITA 2.0?

Answer

- DITA-OT
- Oxygen XML Editor
- There might be others that we are not yet aware of …
Questions from audience

• We’ll be taking questions from the chat

• What is your DITA 2.0 question?

Link to Overview of DITA 2.0
Resources
DITA 2.0 source and draft specifications

Base specification

- [https://github.com/oasis-tcs/dita/releases/tag/v2.0-beta02](https://github.com/oasis-tcs/dita/releases/tag/v2.0-beta02)

- Release contains packages of source (ZIP and tar.gz) and PDF of draft spec

Technical content specification

- [https://github.com/oasis-tcs/dita-techcomm/releases/tag/v2.0-beta02](https://github.com/oasis-tcs/dita-techcomm/releases/tag/v2.0-beta02)

- Release contains packages of source (ZIP and tar.gz) and PDF of draft spec
Migrating to DITA 2.0

- Information about deprecated features and items removed from DITA 2.0: https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/document.php?document_id=68404&wg_abbrev=ditawg
- List of small bug fixes and changes for DITA 2.0: https://github.com/oasis-tcs/dita/issues/397
- “Migrating to DITA 2.0,” forthcoming committee note from OASIS DITA TC
We want your feedback!

If you are not a member of the DITA TC, you can contact us through the dita-comment list.

Every e-mail sent through the dita-comment list is discussed at a DITA TC meeting and answered.

To subscribe to the dita-comment list:
https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/comments/index.php?wg_abbrev=dita
Back-up slides
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
Overview 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
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.

Champion

Robert Anderson, Oracle

Return to Overview | Questions from audience
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

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

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

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>

Champion
Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC

Significant contributions by
Eric Sirois, IXIASOFT
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.

Champion
Robert Anderson,
Oracle

Return to Overview | Questions from audience
Make `<example>` available in more places

**Use case**

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

**Implications**

Changes to stylesheets and CSS.

**Implementation**

We made the following changes:

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

**Champion**

Scott Hudson, ServiceNow

Return to [Overview](#) | [Questions from audience](#)
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
Improvements to hazard statements

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

Champion
Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC

Return to Overview | Questions from audience
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

Champion
Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC
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 | Questions from audience

Implementation

The following changes:

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

Champion
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
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

Champion

Robert Anderson, Oracle

Return to [Overview](#) | [Questions from audience](#)
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>

Champion
Dawn Stevens,
Comtech Services, Inc.
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>`

**Implications**

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

Return to [Overview](#) | [Questions from audience](#)

**Champion**

Chris Nitchie, Individual member
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

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

Return to Overview | Questions from audience
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

Champion

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

Champion

Keith Schengili-Roberts,
Precision Content
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

Champion

Zoe Lawson,
Individual member

Return to Overview | Questions from audience
“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

Champion
Robert Anderson, Oracle

Champion
Eliot Kimber, Individual member

Champion
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

**Champion**

Kristen James Eberlein, Eberlein Consulting LLC
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.”
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

Return to [Overview](#) | [Questions from audience](#)

Champion
Alan Houser, Individual member

Champion
Eliot Kimber, Individual member

Champion
Bill Burns, Healthwise

Champion
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
Branded color palette