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 4.3 release is a maintenance release. It introduces no backwards-incompatible changes.

Status:

This Committee Draft was approved for publication by the OASIS DocBook Technical Committee. It represents the consensus of the committee.

Please send comments on this specification to the <docbook@lists.oasis-open.org> list. To subscribe, send an email message to <docbook-request@lists.oasis-open.org> with the word "subscribe" as the body of the message.

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 4.3 release is a maintainance release. It introduces no backwards-incompatible changes. All valid DocBook 4.2 documents are also valid DocBook 4.3 documents.

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 Committee 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 V4.3

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 V4.3

There are no substantive changes in this release. This is the Committee Draft

3.2. Changes in DocBook V4.3CR3

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

- Add `floatstyle` to `table` and `informaltable` per the November, 2002 meeting.

3.3. Changes in DocBook V4.3CR2

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

- If HTML tables are allowed, make sure that `caption` gets all of the HTML attributes.
- Refactored parameter entities for `informaltable` so that the initial `textobject` is allowed when (and only when) the CALS table model is used.

3.4. Changes in DocBook V4.3CR1

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Per the decision at the 19 Nov 2003 Technical Committee meeting, DocBook V4.3b5 is republished as DocBook V4.3CR1 (Candidate Release 1). There have been no technical changes since V4.3b5.

3.5. Changes in DocBook V4.3b5

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.2b4 and DocBook XML V4.3b5 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

3.5.1. Bug Fixes

- Made the content model of `firstterm` identical to `glossterm`.

3.6. Changes in DocBook V4.3b4

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.2b3 and DocBook XML V4.3b4 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

3.6.1. Enhancements

- RFE 518074: Added a number of new values to the `class` attribute of `database`.
- RFE 517604: Allow optional `title` on `glosslist`.
- RFE 507975: Revision should allow `author` or `authorinitials`.
- RFE 533734: Allow `void` to be optional on `methodsynopsis`, `consstructorsynopsis`, and `destructorsynopsis`.
- RFE 570068: Added `emailmessage`, `webpage`, and `newsposting` as `pubwork` values for `citetitle`.
- RFE 564776: Added `process`, `service`, `server`, and `daemon` to the `class` values of `systemitem`.
- RFE 573812: Allow `blockinfo` on `blockquote`.
- RFE 571998: Added `initializer` to `paramdef`.
- RFE 571996: Added `prefix`, `namespace`, and `localname` to `class` for `sgmltag`.
- Added `StepAlternatives`.

3.7. Changes in DocBook V4.3b3

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.2b2 and DocBook XML V4.3b3 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

3.7.1. Enhancements

- Added `code` inline with `language` attribute.
- Fixed oversights that removed `blockinfo` and `textobject` from CALS tables.
- RFE 615587: add `xml:base` to common attributes (2002 Nov)
- RFE 616216: Allow `set`s to be recursive. (2002 Nov)
- RFE 615473: Add `floatstyle` to `figure`, `informalfigure`, `example`, `informalexample`, `equation`, `informalequation`.
- Fixed parameter entity declaration problems that resulted in duplicate attribute declarations for some table-related elements.
- Added `type` attribute to `indexterm` and `index`.

3.8. Changes in DocBook V4.3b2

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.2 and DocBook XML V4.3b2 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

There was no public beta 1 release.

3.8.1. Enhancements

- Allow HTML table models in addition to CALS or SOEx table models (2003 Apr)

  Note: the editor has changed the content model of `caption` to support HTML tables with captions more directly.
- Support `task` markup (2003 Jun).
- Related to RFE 679316: add orgname to inlines (2003 Jul)
- Added function attribute to keycap for improved semantics (2003 Jul)
- RFE 705885: add namespace attribute to sgmltag (2003 May)
- RFE 691762: add language attribute to verbatim environments (2003 May)
- RFE 573419: add bidirectional text override (2003 Apr)
- RFE 565716: support for URI element (2003 Apr)
- RFE 660044: support continuation and startinglinenumber on verbatims (2003 Feb)
- RFE 655526: support modifier in funcprototype (2003 Feb)
- RFE 638456: support translators (2003 Feb)
- RFE 582822: paramdef and varargs on funcprototype (2003 Feb)
- RFE 473365: choice attribute for paramdef (2003 Feb)
- RFE 570068: new values for pubwork (2003 Jan)
- Added xrefstyle (2002 Dec)

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 specifcation.

5. Changes Proposed for DocBook V5.0

The following backwards-incompatible changes were announced in DocBook V4.0, the DocBook Technical Committee expects to incorporate them into DocBook V5.0.

Each of the changes proposed is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

- DocBook V5.0 will be primarily an XML DTD. This will require a wide range of changes. As a result, DocBook V5.0 will more closely resemble The XML version of DocBook V4.x than the SGML version.
- Planned parameter entity reorganization may reduce some content models. The goal of this effort is to remove a large number of spurious elements that snuck into content models during the first parameter entity reorganization (circa DocBook 2.4). In practice the TC expects changes to have very little "real world" impact.
- 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 `%indexdivcomponent.mix;` parameter entity will be restricted. 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.
- Tables will be restricted from full CALS Table Model to the OASIS Exchange model.

6. Changes Proposed for DocBook V6.0

The DocBook Technical Committee expects to announce the following backwards-incompatible changes in DocBook V5.0, for eventual incorporation into DocBook V6.0.

Each of the changes proposed is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

- RFE 412476: The `class` attribute on `productname` will be `#IMPLIED`.
- RFE 482810: The content model of `msgtext` is far too broad. It will be reduced to the same mixture as `%example.mix;`.
- RFE 482811: The `title` element will be removed from `%bibliocomponent.mix;` (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 elements as proposed.
- RFE 531855: Remove `corpname` as proposed.

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 `charset` parameter of the `application/xml` 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.

OASIS DocBook Technical Committee (Non-Normative)

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

- Jeff Beal
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- Robert Stayton, Secretary
- Norman Walsh, Chair, Editor

Notices

OASIS has been notified of intellectual property rights claimed in regard to some or all of the contents of this specification. For more information consult the online list of claimed rights.

Intellectual Property Rights

For information on wether 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/)

Revision History

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Working Draft “Beta 4”	30 Sep 2003
Working Draft “Beta 3”	26 Sep 2003
Working Draft “Beta 2” (Beta 1 was never released.)	15 Aug 2003

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, and Eve Maler, editors. *Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 Second Edition*. World Wide Web Consortium, 2000.

[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.*