# The DocBook Document Type

## Committee Specification V4.5, 14 April 2006

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Abstract:
DocBook is a 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 4.5 release is a maintenance release. It introduces no backwards-incompatible changes.

Status:
This Committee Specification 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, please use the OASIS Subscription Manager.

The errata page for this specification is at http://www.oasis-open.org/docbook/specs/docbook-errata.html.



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### Appendixes

# 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 4.5 release is a maintainance release. It introduces no backwards-incompatible changes. All valid DocBook 4.4 documents are also valid DocBook 4.5 documents.

The Committee decided to produce a DocBook V4.5, incorporating a few recent backwards-compatible changes, in order to publish DocBook as a Committee Draft and eventually as an OASIS Standard through the new process.

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 Specification 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 V4.5

The DocBook document type is distributed for XML and SGML from the DocBook site at OASIS. It is also available in RELAX NG and W3C XML Schema formats. The DocBook site is mirrored on http://docbook.org/.

## 3.1. Changes in DocBook V4.5CR2

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Version 4.5CR2 contains one small bug-fix applied after the Committee Specification was approved: the `citebiblioid` element is now allowed everywhere that the other citation elements are allowed. It had been accidentally excluded from some inline contexts in 4.5CR1.

## 3.2. Changes in the Public Review Draft of DocBook V4.5

There are no technical changes in this release.

## 3.3. Changes in DocBook V4.5CR1

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.5b1 and DocBook V4.5CR1 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

There are no technical changes in DocBook V4.5CR1.

## 3.4. Changes in DocBook V4.5b1

There are no backwards-incompatible changes in this release.

Each of the changes made between DocBook V4.4 and DocBook V4.5b1 is summarized here. For complete details, consult the individual RFEs and the meeting minutes.

### 3.4.1. Bug Fixes

- None.

### 3.4.2. Enhancements

- RFE 1055480: Allow `revnumber` to be optional in `revision` per the November, 2004 meeting.
- RFE 1070458: Allow `colophon` in `article` per the November, 2004 meeting.
- RFE 1070770: Allow `procedure` in `example` per the November, 2004 meeting.
- RFE 1071686: Add `isrn` as a value of `class` attribute on `biblioid`, `citebiblioid`, `bibliosource`, and `bibliorelation` per the December, 2004 meeting.
- Added `mathphrase` per the February, 2005 meeting.
- Added `termdef` per the March, 2005 meeting.
- Allow common attributes on HTML table elements (`tr`, `td`, etc.) per the April, 2005 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 specifcation.

# 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

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|---|---|
| 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.

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

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

- Adam Di Carlo
- Steve Cogorno
- Gary Cornelius
- Dick Hamilton

- Nancy Harrison
- Scott Hudson
- Paul Grosso
- Mark Johnson
- Jirka Kosek
- Larry Rowland
- Michael Smith
- Robert Stayton, Secretary
- Norman Walsh, Chair, Editor

# C. Notices



# 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

| | |
|---|---|
| Committee Specification CR2 | 09 March 2006 |
| Public Review Draft | 28 July 2005 |
| Working Draft CR1 | 29 June 2005 |
| Working Draft b1 | 05 May 2005 |

# 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.*