



What's new with the DITA-OT?

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Agenda

1. Who I am
2. Who are you?
3. Brief introduction to the DITA-OT project
4. What's new with recent DITA-OT releases?
 1. Support for DITA 1.3
 2. HTML5 transformation
 3. Enhancements to PDF transformation

Who I am

- Involved with the DITA-OT since 2009
- DITA consultant
- Involved with the OASIS DITA TC
- Background as an information architect and developer (AKA technical writer on steroids ...)
- Trained as a historian
- Cats! Cars! Quilting! And my lovely hound Leah!

Who are you?

Role	Responsibilities
DITA author	Develops information in DITA
DITA information architect	Develops maps, content models, reuse strategies, and taxonomies
DITA practitioner	Develops document-type shells, specializations, and constraints
DITA developer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops transformations• Develops processors and applications

Brief introduction to the DITA-OT project

- Began in 2004, when IBM donated DITA to OASIS
- Open-source project with monthly meetings chaired by Robert Anderson
 - Usually one day per month at 10-11 AM ET
 - Contact Robert Anderson if you want an invitation
- Source code and packages hosted at GitHub
- Follows a process of iterative milestone releases, culminating in the release of the “stable” version

People currently involved



Robert Anderson



Jarno Elovirta



George Bina



Roger Fienhold Sheen



Eliot Kimber



Radu Coravu



Eero Helenius



Kristen James Eberlein

DITA-OT 2.1: Overview

- **Many under-the-cover changes to support DITA 1.3**



DITA-OT 2.2: Overview

- DITA 1.3 support
- New HTML5 transformation
- Enhancements to the PDF transformation
- Enhancements to dita command



DITA 1.3: When will it be released?

15 December 2015



Supported DITA 1.3 features

- Same topic fragment identifier
- @cascade attribute
- Expanded syntax for filtering attributes
- New highlighting domain elements
- Markup and XML mention domains
- <div> element
- Scoped keys
- Branch filtering
- RELAX NG

Same topic fragment identifier

- Simplified syntax for addressing an element in the same topic
- For example, link to a figure in the SAME topic by placing a period after the hash tag:

```
<xref=" # ./figure1" >
```

@cascade attribute (1 of 2)

- Enables architects to change default cascading behavior for filtering attributes in maps
- Consider the following DITA 1.2 example:

```
<map product="Widget" platform="windows mac linux">  
  <title>All about Widget</title>  
  <!-- .... -->  
  <topichead navtitle="Linux installation" platform="linux">  
    <!-- Only applies to Linux -->  
    <!-- .... -->  
  </topichead>  
</map>
```



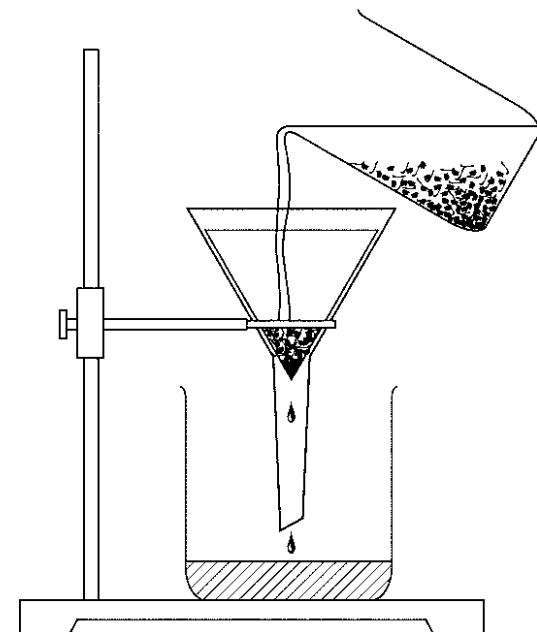
@cascade attribute (2 of 2)

```
<map product="Widget" platform="windows mac linux">
  <title>All about Widget</title>
  <!-- ..... -->
  <topichead navtitle="Linux install"
    platform="linux"
    cascade="nomerge" >
    <!-- Only applies to Linux -->
  </topichead>
</map>
```

Adding the @cascade attribute controls whether values set higher in the map cascade to the element.

Expanded syntax for filtering attributes (1 of 2)

- The filtering attributes (audience, platform, product, and otherprops) now accept grouped values.
- Makes it possible for users to filter content based on a **combination** of products, audiences, or platforms.



Expanded syntax for filtering attributes (2 of 2)

- DITA 1.2
`<step product="db2 oracle was">`
- DITA 1.3
`<step product="database(db2 oracle) appserver(WAS)">`
- Can filter on attribute subcategory. For example, allows authors to filter on "database" and "appserver" **without** the two interfering with each other.

New highlighting-domain elements

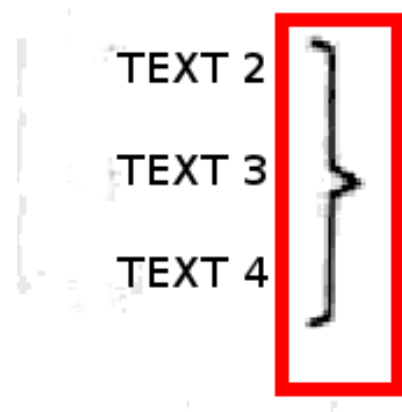
- **<line-through>**
 - Enable authors to indicate a deletion or revision for rhetorical purpose
- **<overline>**
 - Indicates content that should be rendered with a line above it

Markup and XML mention domains

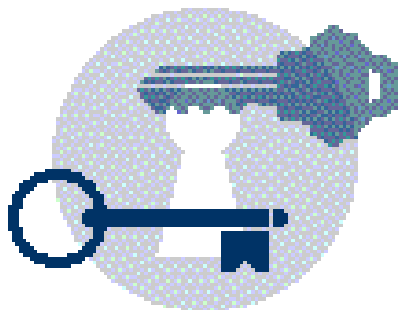
- **Markup domain**
 - Basis for the XML mention domain
- **XML mention domain**
 - Describe and document XML applications and document types
 - Used heavily in the DITA 1.3 specification

<div> element

- **Useful as a specialization base**
 - Can group multiple block-level elements
 - Used in new learning & training domain
- **Useful for authors**
 - Can group blocks of elements for reuse



Scoped keys



- **Provides a mechanism to have a single key resolve to different references in different parts of a map.**
- **Enables:**
 - Material from different companies or teams to be combined without key collision.
- **Example:**
 - Acme uses the key “company-products” to point to an overview of their products.
 - But so does Ajax 😞
 - With scoped keys, the content from these two companies can be combined in a single deliverable.

Scoped keys: Use cases

■ **Omnibus publications**

- Combine multiple standalone maps
- Define a key scope for each standalone map to prevent key collisions

■ **Multi-product publications**

- Each product has common keys: overview, installing ...
- Wrap each product area in a key scope to segregate key definitions

■ **Template topics**

- Reuse a set of topics with keyrefs for graphics and variable text

Scoped keys: Examples

```
<map>
```

```
<title>CIDM DITA Conferences</title>
```

```
<topichead navtitle="DITA Europe"
```

```
  <keyscope="dita-europe">
```

```
    <keydef keys="hotel" href="holidayinn-munich.dita" />
```

```
  <topicref href="aboutTheConference.dita" />
```

```
</topichead>
```

```
< topichead navtitle="DITA North America"
```

```
  <keyscope="dita-na">
```

```
    <keydef keys="hotel" href="westin-seattle.dita" />
```

```
  <topicref href="aboutTheConference.dita" />
```

```
</topichead>
```

```
</map>
```

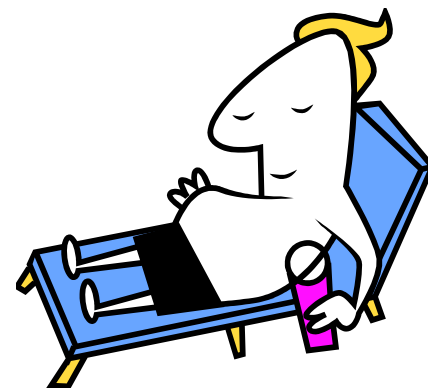
Branch filtering

- **Ability to reference multiple DITAVAL profiles within maps**
 - On the root map
 - On a map branch
- **Previously, only a *single* DITAVAL profile could be associated with a master map.**
- **Makes reuse more powerful**
 - Can reuse a topic multiple times in a map, each time with different filtering conditions
 - Common use cases:
 - Installation instructions that vary by operating system
 - Medical instructions that vary for adult patient vs. adult caretaker of child



RELAX NG

- With DITA 1.3, RELAX NG becomes the normative version of the grammar files.
 - Enables generating the DTDs and XSDs from the RNG
 - Makes specialization and document-type shells much easier
- With DITA-OT 2.2, the RELAX NG files are the default grammar files used for processing.



HTML5 transformation

- Developed as a separate plug-in
- Default CSS refactored in Sass
- New nav-toc parameter
 - Can generate a TOC in the <nav> element of each page
 - Values of “partial”, “full”, and “none” (default)

Enhancements to the PDF transformation

- args.artlbl parameter now available
- Generation of page masters and page sequence masters has been modularized
- Default finger image for <note> has been removed
- New extension points: flagging-preprocess and il8n-postprocess
- Support for 15 new languages!

Enhancements to the dita command

- Now can install multiple plug-ins at the same time

Questions?

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Resources: DITA-OT

- [DITA-OT 2.0 release notes](#)
- [DITA-OT 2.1 release notes](#)
- [DITA-OT 2.2 release notes](#)

Resources: DITA 1.3

- DITA 1.3: Candidate OASIS Standard 01
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/dita/v1.3/cos01/part0-overview/dita-v1.3-cos01-part0-overview.html>
 - Read the spec! Download the DTDs & XSDs & RNGs!
- Recording of OASIS DITA 1.3 Webinar
<http://dita.xml.org/resource/recording-of-oasis-dita-13-webinar>
- Overview of DITA 1.3
PDF of presentations given by Kris Eberlein at CMS/DITA North America 2014 and Congility 2014
<http://dita.xml.org/resource/overview-of-dita-13>