DITA Project Management, Validation, and Translation in a Docs-as-Code Environment

Sorin Carbunaru, Syncro Soft
sorin_carbunaru@oxygenxml.com

An Oxygen XML webinar

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XML Editor

Agenda

- Docs as Code

- DITA - our preferred markup language

- Version Control, Collaboration, Review: Git and the Git Client Add-on

- Continuous Integration and Docs Validation

- Translation and the Fluenta Add-on

- Solution Benefits

Docs as Code - What is it?

- It's an approach to writing documentation using the same tools and workflows that software developers use to write code.

Docs as Code - How do developers work?

- We use:
  - Plain text
  - Issue trackers
  - Version control
  - Code review processes
  - Automated tests, builds, and delivery
  - Dark mode :)

Docs as Code - What are the benefits?

- It promotes a culture where technical writers and software developers work together, trying to write the best documentation possible.

  - Often times a developer will write an initial draft, a technical writer will refine it, and then the developer will review the changes.

- The same tools can be used for writing and reviewing code, as well as docs.

- The code and the docs can be kept in sync more easily.

- Continuous automated validation of your docs.

- Using well-known and proven workflows that developers use on a daily basis.

- If you are already using Oxygen XML Editor or Author, they provide a suitable environment for writing docs as code.

DITA

- DITA is an open-standard, XML-based vocabulary, used for authoring and delivering content.

- It is a very powerful technology designed to facilitate, among others:

  - Content profiling and reuse

  - Producing different deliverables from a single source

  - Translation

- Very popular alternative: Markdown – also supported in Oxygen.
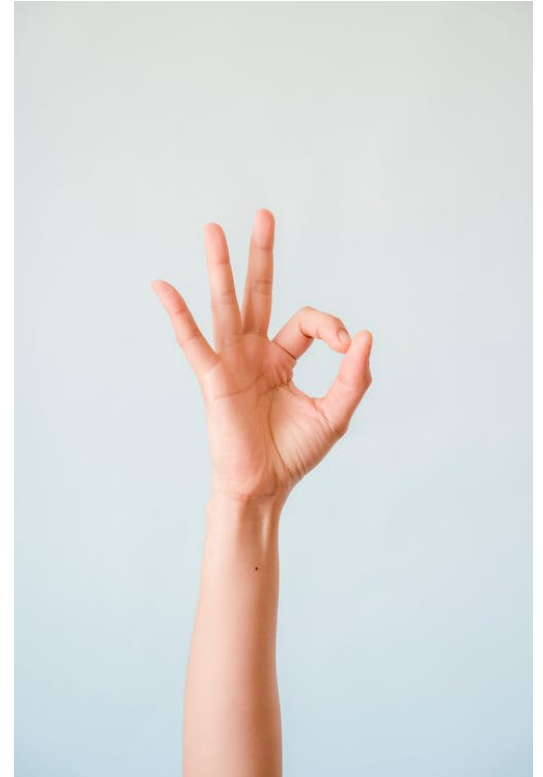
Version Control, Collaboration, Review

- Version control is the process of tracking and managing changes to resources (files or folders). Version control systems also bring the benefits of <u>collaboration</u> and <u>review</u>.

- The most popular version control system is **Git**. It is free, fast, efficient and flexible.

- Oxygen brings Git right into your editor through the open-source **Git Client Add-on**, making the authoring experience more seamless and integrated.

Continuous Integration and Docs Validation

- **Continuous Integration** (CI) is a software development best practice stating that developers should frequently merge code changes into a central repository where automated builds and tests are run. One of the main benefits is early issues detection.

- You should validate your DITA maps <u>regularly</u> to make sure your maps and topics are valid, all of the relationships between them are working, there are no unreferenced reusables, the writers respect the style guide, etc.

- You can integrate Oxygen's **Validate and Check for Completeness** action in your CI pipeline, and also enhance it with **Schematron rules.**

Translation and The Fluenta Add-on

翻訳

- **Fluenta** is an open-source tool designed to simplify the translation of DITA projects. It parses a DITA map, resolves the references to all topics and subtopics, and prepares a unified XLIFF file that you can send to your Language Service Provider (LSP).

- The free **Fluenta DITA Translation Add-on** allows you to manage the Fluenta translation workflow directly from within Oxygen XML Editor.

Solution Benefits - Summary

- It uses open standards and free technologies: DITA, XLIFF, Fluenta, Git, etc.

- DITA can lead to cost reductions in translation thanks to content reuse.

- Fluenta and XLIFF can also lead to cost reductions and simpler administrative activities thanks to using translation memories and only 1 XLIFF file instead of hundreds of other files.

- Still related to cost reductions, developers and writers using the same tools and workflows can help save money as well.

- Oxygen's DITA validation support is able do all kinds of checks (20+) and can be further augmented using Schematron.

- Early issue detection thanks to CI and automation.

- Git is awesome: fast, flexible, very powerful and there are tons of tutorials.

Resources

- Getting started with DITA and Oxygen
  https://youtu.be/LuAVmn1j7f0

- DITA vs. Markdown
  https://blog.oxygenxml.com/topics/markdown_vs_dita_syntax_and_capabilities_comparison.html

- Using Git for Technical Writing
  https://blog.oxygenxml.com/git-tech-writers/using_git_for_technical_writing.html

- Using XLIFF to Translate DITA Projects
  https://www.ditatranslation.com/articles/ditaxliff.html

- DITA Map Validation and Completeness Check
  https://www.oxygenxml.com/doc/ug-editor/topics/dita-map-validate.html

- Docs-as-Code - Documentation Management Inspired by Software Development
  https://youtu.be/MWsqi4Nb0fI

THANK YOU!

Any questions?

Sorin Carbunaru

sorin_carbunaru@oxygenxml.com