

1. TWENTY YEARS OF SINGLE SOURCE PUBLISHING TECHNOLOGY

This article takes a look back on some of the major contributors to single source publishing technology over the course of the last twenty years.

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DOCUMENT-CENTERED USER INTERFACES & OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING — HOW WILL THEY AFFECT YOU?

It may not seem these two topics have much to do with each other at first, but together they will have a profound affect on how we use computers in everyday business environments. You can get a glimpse of where this is all headed by looking at some existing document management software and operating system features. In this issue Keith Dawson explains why these two trends are important, how they relate to each other, and how we can expect their convergence to affect our development and use of software for business applications.

This issue also sets the stage for a future article analyzing the compound document architectures that will be vying for dominance in the next generation document computing environments.

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

It seems hard to believe, but with this issue we conclude our first year of publication. It has been an exciting year for us, and we look forward to another year of keeping you up-to-date on the issues and technology for managing documents and document information.

In our next (anniversary) issue we will look at how Andersen Consulting helped the State of Wisconsin Legislature reengineer their entire document workflow and management process, and put together a document management application that involved integrating multiple document management products.

We also will begin to report news items relevant to document systems and document management that we think will be of interest to our readers. You can be sure there will be a lot of activity in the coming year. Stay tuned!

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1.1. UNDERSTANDING XMETAL



The award winning XML Editing solution for consistently higher-value, timely global content that creates loyal customers and efficient, compliant business processes.

XMetaL, the XML-based software for structured authoring and content collaboration, helps your organization get to market faster with your information products by bringing structure and automation to managing high volumes of valuable content.

Using industry standards including DITA, XMetaL enables content creators to efficiently create, collaborate, and reuse information that can be repurposed into the languages and formats your customers demand. Used standalone, or integrated with any of several leading content management and publishing systems, XMetaL can be used by writers and reviewers even without XML knowledge.

Key Benefits

- Speed up time-to-market of all your information materials
- Improve quality and accuracy of content across the global enterprise
- Increase staff efficiency with content reuse
- Reduce publishing costs

Learn more about the XMetaL solutions that support your content lifecycle

- XMetaL Author Enterprise: for authors to create valid XML content using DITA or other XML architectures
- XMetaL for EMC Documentum: for users to create XML content with unparalleled speed and ease while working with the market-leading enterprise content management system
- XMAX: for authors to create valid XML content in either an embedded interface within a content management system (or other application) interface; or in a web browser
- XMetaL Reviewer: for reviewers to collaborate and provide feedback to authors directly in a web browser and speed up approval cycle times
- XMetaL Developer: for developers to customize XMetaL Author Enterprise to create a highly productive interface and processes

About JustSystems

JustSystems is a leading global software provider with three decades of successful innovation in office productivity, information management, and consumer and enterprise software. With over 2,500 customers worldwide, the company is continuing a global expansion strategy based on its xfy enterprise software, XMetaL content lifecycle solutions, and its pioneering work in enabling XBRL financial reporting technologies. JustSystems is a 2008 Gartner Cool Vendor, one of the 2008 KMWorld 100 Companies that Matter in Knowledge Management, a 2007 EContent 100 member, and was recognized on the 2008 KMWorld Trend-Setting Product list for XMetaL. Major strategic partnerships include IBM, Oracle and EMC. For more information, please visit <http://www.justsystems.com>.

1.2. UNDERSTANDING ARBORTEXT PUBLISHING ENGINE

Arbortext is a content publishing system that streamlines and automates your information publishing process and eliminates costly inefficiencies. Leveraging XML authoring, technical illustration creation, content and process management, and dynamic enterprise publishing capabilities of Arbortext, you can improve your publishing processes and help your organization gain significant competitive advantage and lasting differentiation.

Key Benefits

- Increase Authoring Productivity
- Free authors from manually designing documents by taking advantage of Arbortext's automatic capabilities
- Easily reuse information by linking to its original source instead of copying and pasting
- By making it easy to reuse information, eliminate the need to find and apply the same changes to multiple copies of the same information
- Reduce the cost of updating your information

Improve Information Accuracy, Consistency and Relevance

- Eliminate inconsistencies by creating content components that authors can reuse in multiple documents and multiple types of media

- Mark any portion of your content for a specific purpose to produce publications that meets the specific needs of each individual
- Eliminate nearly all of the manual effort required to publish

Reduce Translation Costs

- Create modular information so you translate only the components that have changed
- Translate reused information once rather than in each location it is used
- Automatically layout and format publications in each language

Reduce Publishing Costs

- Automate the publishing process through out-of-the-box integration with Windchill, Arbortext Content Manager, and other leading content management systems
- Ease deployment and management with the industry's only complete, fully integrated, end-to-end dynamic publishing solution for DITA

Improve Publication Quality

- Leverage out-of-the box applications for producing industry- standard service manuals and S1000D publications
- Incorporate in your publications interactive 2D and 3D graphics and animations through integration with industry-leading technical illustration solution

The Arbortext Publishing Engine is a server-based system that pulls XML and SGML content from a file system or content management system, assembles that content for different audiences and different types of documents, and automatically publishes the assembled content in both print and electronic forms, all with high-quality layout and formatting. Because Arbortext Publishing Engine offers an integral connection to PTC's Windchill, there are particular efficiencies to be gained through its use on the context of PTC's Product Development System.

Because Arbortext Publishing Engine operates in an unattended mode, it forms the foundation of a dynamic enterprise publishing system to deliver publications on demand to multiple types of media, both print and electronic. Arbortext Publishing Engine allows you to:

- Deliver more accurate, more timely and more consistent publications
- Dynamically deliver publications that are customized to the needs of each user
- Immediately produce updated publications across all of your target media
- Automatically publish on demand; pull content from your file system or content management system, assemble that content for different audiences, and publish the assembled content automatically to print, Web, PDF, Microsoft Word, HTML Help, wireless devices and other media formats

Key Benefits

- Reduce publishing costs by its support of multiple types of media that helps you reduce or eliminate the cost of supporting a separate publishing process for each different media type
 - Speed time to market by automating the publishing process that reduces publishing time from weeks or months to minutes
 - Eliminate nearly all of the manual effort required to publish
 - Increase productivity by automating publishing. This liberates authors from the responsibility of page layout and design, leaving them free to spend more time creating and updating content.
 - Strengthen customer relationships by allowing you to instantly assemble and publish content that is tailored to specific audience requirements and delivered in the media format that best suits their needs
-

1.3. OPEN SOURCE DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Open-Source Desktop Publishing

What is Scribus?

Scribus is an open-source program that brings professional page layout to Linux/Unix, MacOS X, OS/2 and Windows. Scribus supports professional features, such as CMYK color, spot color, separations, ICC color and robust commercial grade PDF.

Why Page Layout is different from Word Processing

Fundamentally, Scribus is *not* a word processor. This is a very important concept to understand. Scribus belongs to the family of applications known as page layout programs or more commonly known as Desktop Publishing programs. Scribus gives users great flexibility in placing objects like photos, logos, text frames and shapes in the exact place where you want them. This short guide is meant to give a first time user a sense of what Scribus can do. It is not meant to cover every feature, just a simple over view to get you started and being productive.

1.4. UNDERSTANDING SDL'S XPP

For almost two decades, companies around the world have relied on XyEnterprise to provide the key software element in the most sophisticated and automated publishing systems. That key element is XyEnterprise's XML Professional Publisher (XPP).

XyEnterprise's XML Professional Publisher (XPP) is the best-in-class software for the most complex and demanding publishing applications. An automated XML publishing engine, XPP delivers proven, scalable solutions for global leaders in the publishing, technical documentation, financial, government, high tech, aerospace and defense industries. XPP is a key component of some of the most sophisticated, high-production publishing systems in the world. Use XPP as a standalone solution, or integrate with Contenta or other content management systems for an end-to-end XML publishing solution.

- A high throughput batch and interactive composition system turns XML content into high-quality composed and paginated Postscript or PDF output.
- XPP is designed for organizations that produce high-volume publications ranging in complexity. These businesses require rapid turnaround, text and graphics input from multiple sources and output in a variety of formats.
- Its strength lies in its ability to automate and simplify publishing jobs. Manual tasks that may take several hours on a desktop system can be completed automated, and in minutes, with XPP.
- Targeted solutions provide specialized features to meet the needs of commercial publishers, financial printers, journal producers and in-house technical publishing departments that produce newsletters, books, magazines, loose-leaf manuals or catalogs.
- XPP is ideal for any organization that has deployed a content management solution and requires end-to-end XML publishing to automate the production of simple or complex documents.
- XPP benefits extend throughout the organization - from IT and management to editorial and production.

XML Professional Publisher is a high performance content formatting and publishing application that composes pages from XML source data and outputs high quality results in Postscript and PDF formats. XPP can also format other fielded data, such as database feeds, SGML, HTML, and other ASCII text to high-quality pages. XPP provides superior XML and typographic support combined with a level of speed, power and throughput that is unattainable in other publishing systems.

Typical users of XPP include software developers that produce large volumes of technical documentation, aerospace and other manufacturers that issue product and service manuals, legal publishers, and professional publishers who produce financial, scientific or medical journals, textbooks, catalogs, and loose-leaf publications. Increasingly, customers include publishers that offer publishing services to remote users for print-on-demand or hosted applications.

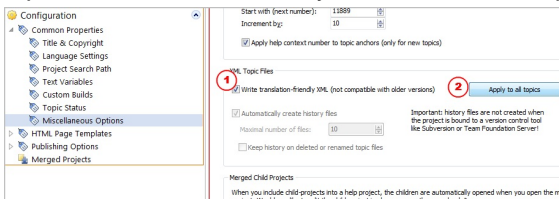
XPP will automate the composition of large volumes of data normally generated by companies that produce printed or PDF documents from an information repository of structured data (such as a content or document management system, database, or legacy system). An XPP system in action can turn XML and other encoded or structured data into fully formatted documents complete with complex tables, math equations, footnotes, tables of contents and indexes. In addition to printed pages, XPP will also produce Acrobat PDF documents or Web pages as part of its automated publishing capabilities.

1.5. HIGHLIGHTS OF HELP+MANUAL 7.3

EC Software has released the latest maintenance update (version 7.3) for its popular Help+Manual help authoring tool software. As with all maintenance updates, the update is free for all 7.xx users.

I want to highlight three new options today. The first two, Tidy XML and Normalize Styles in the Premium Pack, go hand in hand. Selecting the Tidy XML option allows you to create XML that is more translation-friendly for XML-based translation tools. By significantly simplifying the amount of XML tag information in the source code, it reduces the amount of XML markup and makes your topics much easier to edit with other XML-based editors.

Turn this feature on in the Project Explorer, **Configuration > Common Properties > Miscellaneous Options**. In the XML Topic Files section, check the **Write translation-friendly XML** box (1). Click **Apply to all topics** (2) to apply it to all existing topics; otherwise, it will only be used for new topics created after activating the setting.

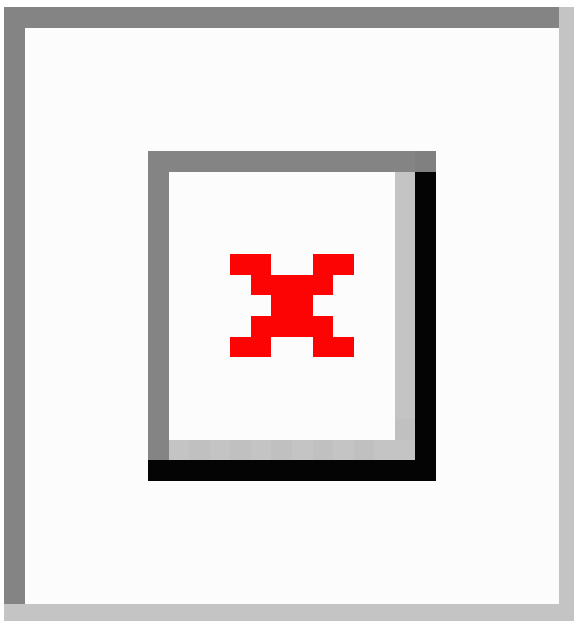


Tidy XML is not activated by default because it is not compatible with any older version of Help+Manual. You won't lose data when opening a Tidy XML project with an older version, but the formatting and layout will probably look distorted.

Use this option in conjunction with the Normalize Styles option in the Premium Pack, which performs two tasks that can save you many hours of tedious work:

1. Globally remove manual formatting
2. Integrate imported HTML in you project stylesheet

You can globally remove all the manual/inline formatting from your project, optionally preserving formatting with styles and manual bold, italics and underlining. This option also allows you to remove manual formatting in text imported from HTML or CHM files and convert it into references to styles in your project stylesheet. This can save many hours of work and make your project radically more efficient with imported HTML content.



With both these options, make a full backup of your project before starting (always a good idea when implementing any major change to a project)!

Remove Unused Images is a new feature in the Report Tool. When running a **Full Report**, the generated report displays a list of any unused images in the **Unused Images** section of the report. What's new is a button which when clicked, creates an **Unused Images** folder in the folder containing the images, then moves these unused images to this backup folder.

You can read about all the new Help+Manual and Premium Pack features and fixes on the [EC Software website](#). Dakota Systems is an authorized reseller of Help+ Manual, and is the only North American company offering training support for both beginning and advanced Help+Manual users. Dakota training courses are customized for the requirements of each organization.