

10th Annual Arbortext User Group International Conference (AUGI 2005)
<http://www.arbortext.com>

Title: “Where Source Development Meets Documentation”
(or, “Efficiency is in the Tools”)

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Abstract:

The Desktop Publishing boom of the mid-80s changed the face of industry by removing the split between content and layout. On the small scale, the desktop publishing revolution was a positive change. This change was not free: The long term cost of 80s-style desktop publishing approach to document creation is that the resulting documents are by and large isolated from the larger pool of documents and the information used to create them.

Recycling content is not a new concept. What is new here is the common back-end structure in XML form and the fact that more than one set of tools, including small, mission-critical custom tools that are explicitly focused on the specific needs of a given project. There is no longer any need for one tool to address all of the needs of every company that purchases a license. Instead we have a community of tools that is easy to expand or customize without long term lock in or breaking of the model.

With only a small amount of custom tools, Juniper Networks has managed to do convert documents to multiple formats from one initial set of XML source documents and a single publishing workflow using Arbortext's Epic Editor and E3 Publishing Server. These tools have included post-processing add-ons to create .PDB and .LIT binary files and source files that are aggregated directly into the software source code for their proprietary routing platforms.

Special attention will be given to specifics of the Juniper implementation.