PTC Arbortext Solution for DITA

The Only Complete, Fully Integrated Solution for DITA

DITA is one of the most important innovations in XML publishing in recent memory. To achieve best practices in XML for publishing technical documentation, you should take a closer look at our complete DITA solution.

The promise of XML has always been to provide you with more productive authors, better quality information, and publishing processes that are not only faster but also less expensive. PTC Arbortext software has helped many companies achieve those benefits. But now DITA makes it easier than ever before.

What Makes DITA Different

DITA is more than just a data model. It is an architecture that encourages organizations to change the way they create information.

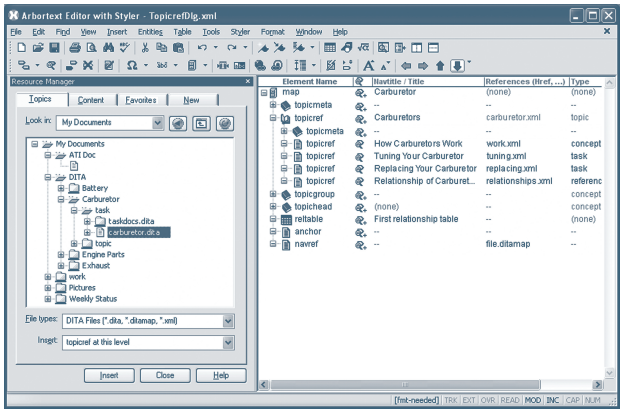
DITA's mechanisms for modularity and adaptable data models makes it easy for you to automatically assemble information from multiple authors, workgroups, divisions, and organizations for publishing to a variety of document types.

To provide the full benefits of DITA, a complete solution must:

- Support authoring, reviewing, translation, content management, publishing and delivery
- Provide access to large, dispersed groups of authors and subject matter experts
- Enable the production of variable, configurable, dynamic documents on multiple types of media

PTC First to Commit to Complete DITA Solution

When it comes to DITA, PTC has a history of being first. As the first vendor to support DITA at IBM, the first vendor to support DITA editing, and the only vendor to participate as a founding member of the OASIS DITA Technical Committee, PTC has led the way for DITA adoption. PTC continues its history of firsts by becoming the first vendor to commit to a complete, fully integrated end-to-end solution for DITA.



In PTC's next release, Arbortext Editor will provide several tools to simplify the creation and management of topics, specializations, and maps.

An integrated solution is critical to realizing the key benefits of DITA, which include:

- Support for information sharing within workgroups, across the organization, and even across multiple organizations
- Higher quality content with support for information architecture
- More reuse of both content and application code
- Lower training costs with a simpler model
- Reduced time/costs of application development and maintenance

Because the PTC Arbortext solution for DITA will be fully integrated, all of the components are built to work together out of the box. Everything is tested together, deployed together, and upgraded together. In other words, we've done the work of building the system so that you don't have to.

With our fully integrated solution, you will get:

- Easier deployment and maintenance
- Greater scalability
- Enhanced stability
- More reliability
- Better long-term performance

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Understanding DITA

Short for "Darwin Information Typing Architecture," DITA is an architecture based on XML for publishing technical information. What makes DITA unique from other similar architectures such as DocBook is its modularity and adaptability.

DITA was constructed with modularity in mind. It defines a topic-based data model that supports a modular approach to creating information. DITA also defines a mechanism for combining topics into documents with hierarchies appropriate to those documents. For example, the hierarchy of a book often consists of chapters, sections and sub-sections. If you are concerned with reuse, this modular approach to creating information makes it easier.

The developers of DITA also understood that one size does not fit all. Within a single company, different departments have different requirements for the information they create. Even within the same department, different types of documents may have different requirements. DITA defines a mechanism called "specialization" that enables you to define new tags in your data model that inherit their properties and behavior from tags in the Topic data model. Specialization allows DITA-aware applications to handle unknown tags by treating them as the tags from which they are specialized.

The Arbortext Solution for DITA

PTC is committed to providing a complete, end-to-end solution for DITA. Only PTC's Arbortext solution for DITA will provide access to all these capabilities:

- Conversion capabilities for legacy content
- Complete authoring support for maps and topics
- Link management
- Integrated support for review and approval cycles
- Conditional text to produce documents that meet the needs of individual readers
- Reuse of content across multiple documents
- Integrated functionality for content management
- Localization
- Rich publishing capabilities for any media, including print and electronic

PTC Recognizes the Importance of DITA

When it comes to DITA, PTC has a history of being first.

- First vendor to support DITA at IBM
- First vendor to join the OASIS DITA Technical Committee (and we were the only vendor who was a founding member of the committee)
- First vendor to publish and educate about DITA
- First vendor to support DITA editing

And, now we are the first vendor to commit to a complete, fully integrated solution for DITA.

Availability

The best news is that, with PTC's Arbortext, you can begin authoring and publishing DITA topics today.

By the end of this year, Arbortext will also support:

- Legacy content conversion
- Topic and map editing
- Link management
- Review process
- Conditional text
- Reuse
- Multichannel publishing

In the future, PTC will continue to expand its DITA support with:

- Enhanced linking capabilities
- Additional review and approval capabilities
- Integrated content management
- Localization support

To learn more about how Arbortext can help your company create and delivery high-quality product information, please visit our website at:
http://www.single-sourcing.com/

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