

Don't Touch the Red Button



How to Document Your Next Project - What Tools For What Type of Documentation

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Fedora Documentation Project

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The Right Tool



KuvatON.com

Tools and Markups



- Desktop publishing (e.g. LibreOffice)
- Document production (Tex, AMS-TeX)
- Wikies (Mediawiki, MoinMoin, etc)
- System documentation (Groff, Mandoc, etc)
- Single source publishing (DocBook, Mallard, etc)

Desktop Publishing



- Easy to use
- Unstable for larger projects
- Formatting is not very persistent

Resources

- LibreOffice:
www.libreoffice.org/

TeX and LaTeX



- designed for technical and scientific documentation with binaries for Linux/GNU, Unix, and also Windows
- allows anybody to produce high-quality books
- provides a system to give exactly the same results on all computers
- easy typesetting of complex mathematical formulae

LaTeX Markup

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{graphicx}

\begin{document}

\title{Introduction to \LaTeX{}}
\author{Author's Name}

\maketitle

\begin{abstract}
The abstract text goes here.
\end{abstract}

\section{Introduction}
Here is the text of your introduction.

\begin{equation}
\label{simple_equation}
\alpha = \sqrt{\beta}
\end{equation}

\subsection{Subsection Heading Here}
Write your subsection text here.

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=3.0in]{myfigure}
\caption{Simulation Results}
\label{simulationfigure}
\end{figure}

\section{Conclusion}
Write your conclusion here.

\end{document}
```

Resources

- Tex user groups:

<http://www.tug.org/>

<http://www.latex-project.org/>

<http://www.cstug.cz/>

- LaTeX manual in Czech

www.cstug.cz/latex/lm/frames.html

- A good Czech book on LaTeX

Olšák, P. TeXbook naruby. Nakladatelství
KONVOJ, Brno, 2001

MediaWiki



MediaWiki is a popular free web-based wiki software application.



MediaWiki

- runs all sorts of projects, including Fedora
- written in PHP and a backend database
- optimized to handle projects of all sizes.
- more than 1,800 extensions

A Markup Sample



MediaWiki syntax	Equivalent HTML	Rendered output
"Take some more [[tea]]," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly.	<pre><p>"Take some more tea," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly.</p></pre>	"Take some more tea ," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly.
"I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone: "so I can't take more."	<pre><p>"I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone: "so I can't take more."</p></pre>	"I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone: "so I can't take more."
"You mean you can't take 'less'," said the Hatter: "it's 'very' easy to take 'more' than nothing."	<pre><p>"You mean you can't take <i>less</i>," said the Hatter: "it's very easy to take <i>more</i> than nothing."</p></pre>	"You mean you can't take <i>less</i> ," said the Hatter: "it's very easy to take <i>more</i> than nothing."

Some Features

- offers a wide range of page-editing tools
- extensible API for direct, high-level access to the data in the databases.
- supports rich content generated through specialized syntax
- tracks edits with the Recent Changes feature and subscribed watchlists

Questions?



Contact:

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What is DocBook

- Semantic markup language based on XML
- Separation of presentation and content
- The industry's standard for technical documentation

Main Features

- Open source documentation platform
- Focus on content
- Multiple output formats (HTML, PDF, etc.)
- The content can be maintained with SCM (Git, SVN, etc.)
- UTF-8, I18n and L10n

Pros and Cons

- Good for writing book-like documents (manuals, user's guides)
- Industry standard
- Very complex
- Only a few tags are really useful
- Steep learning curve
- Harder to convert community people to writers

What is Mallard

- Markup XML language for the creation of user help
- Developed within the GNOME Documentation Project
- The GNOME desktop and application help
- Online help at library.gnome.org

Main Features

- Open source project
- Topic-based authoring
- Similar to DITA
- Scaled down markup based on DocBook
- A number of output formats (HTML, LaTeX)
- Mallard pages can be viewed in yelp, a help viewer for the GNOME Desktop
- UTF-8, I18n, L10n (ITS Tool)

Pros and Cons

- Easy to learn
- Developed specifically for topic-based user help
- Not widely used
- Not yet standardized
- Less output formats

What is Publican

- Easy to use DocBook toolchain
- Creating, building and publishing of documents
- Developed by Red Hat
- Used for platform, middleware and cloud documentation (docs.redhat.com)
- Fedora Documentation Project (docs.fedoraproject.org)

Features

- Support for DocBook 4
- Books, articles, book sets
- Multiple output formats (HTML, HTML-single, PDF, EPUB)
- Branding (Red Hat, Fedora, JBoss, etc.)
- Website publishing
- I18n, L10n support for gettext translations

Creating a new document

- Command synopsis:

```
publican create --name "Document Name"
```

- Additional options:

```
--type book|article|set
```

```
--lang language
```

```
--brand brand
```

- Produces:

```
publican.cfg, Document_Name.ent, *.xml
```

Creating a new document

- To create a new book called **LinuxAlt Guide** using the **fedora** brand, type:

```
publican create --name "LinuxAlt Guide" \  
--type book --brand fedora
```

Building a document

- Command synopsis:

```
publican build --langs langs --formats formats
```

- Produces:

HTML, PDF, EPUB, TXT

Building a document

- To build a **PDF**, **HTML**, and **EPUB** version of the **LinuxAlt Guide** in **English**, type:

```
publican build --lang en-US \  
  --formats pdf,html,epub
```

References

- DocBook: The Definitive Guide
 - <http://www.docbook.org/tdg/en/html/docbook.html>
- Mallard
 - <Http://projectmallard.org/>
- Publican Users' Guide
 - http://jfearn.fedorapeople.org/en-US/Publican/2.7/html/Users_Guide/

Questions?

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