

DITA Standard Adoption For a Multinational Software Company

How switching from their proprietary XML standard to DITA with automatic link validation and metadata synchronization allowed **SAP Education** to simplify and speed up documentation preparation **by 10–15 times**.

Challenge

Despite the significant efficiencies gained with XML, in 2009, SAP still needed new tools powerful and elegant enough to manage the transformation of roughly 200 traditional education courses into almost 20 000 different, smaller “chunks” of dynamic learning content to be delivered in multiple formats, nine different languages and customizable to any client brand.

Selecting DITA

SAP chose to evolve from a proprietary XML format to the DITA open standard. DITA allows users to establish a simple and structured way of writing and organizing information elements, text and meta-data. It facilitates minimalistic writing and creates efficiencies in production times. For SAP it became clear that DITA would become the reference for efficient content management and production.



[Learn more about DITAworks](#)

Time-saving features

Time-saving features include automatic link validation, metadata synchronization and automatic categorization. As SAP manager in charge of the project noted that they expect to significantly reduce the time writers spend on preparing documents for production and focus far more time on content development. Componize/
*instinctools own benchmarks demonstrate publishing at 10 to 15 times faster than traditional pipeline implementations.

Scalability

The Sap team expects to be producing more and different kinds of content in more channels to more target groups. The system can handle 20 000 chunks of content, used and reused in potentially dozens of contexts. In nine different languages and customizable to thousands of customers' specifications.

Fast Facts



300 000 learners



40 countries



10 to 15 times faster than traditional pipeline implementations



DITA instead of proprietary XML standard

Componize/*instinctools Solutions



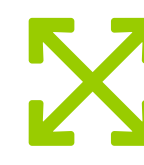
Pure DITA



Efficient Features



Easy to integrate



DITA instead of proprietary XML standard

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