

Docs as Code

Documentation Management Inspired by Software Development

Alex Jitianu

alex_jitianu@oxygenxml.com

@AlexJitianu

© 2021 Syncro Soft SRL. All rights reserved.



Agenda

- What is *Docs as Code*
- Choosing a text markup language
- Version Control
- Continuous integration and delivery
- Collaboration and review
- *A working Docs as Code setup*

1. Docs as Code

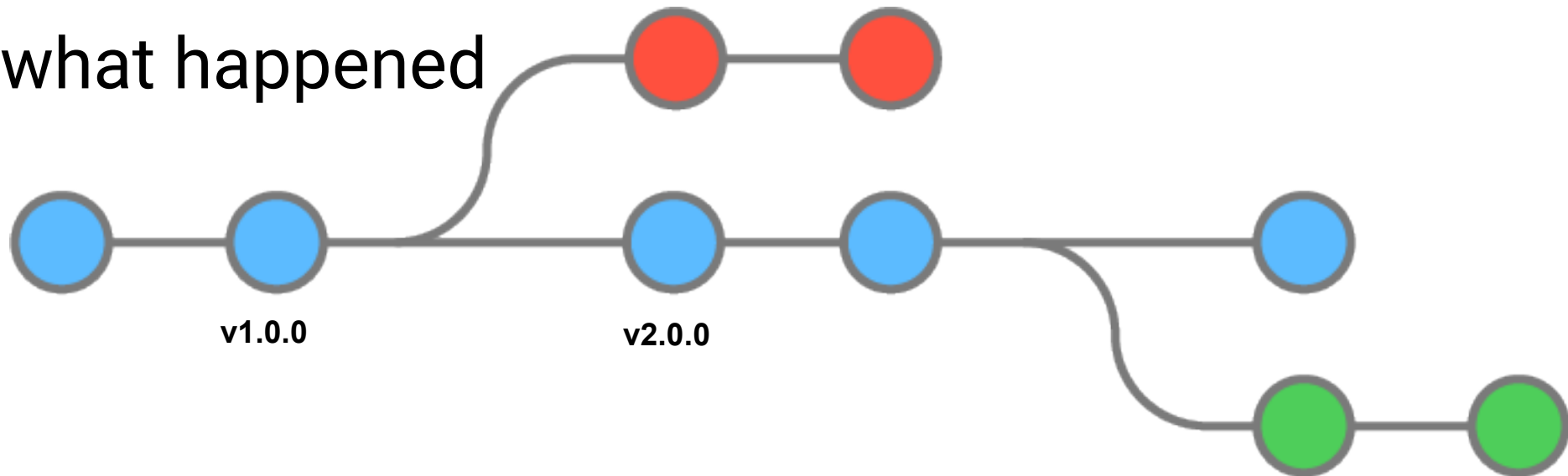
- Refers to a philosophy that you should be writing documentation with the same **tools** and **workflows** as code:
 - Version Control
 - Collaboration and Review Process
 - Automated Tests, Builds, Delivery
 - Issue Trackers
 - Plain Text Markup

2. Choosing a Suitable Text Markup

- Markdown
- AsciiDoc
- ***XML***
 - ***Docbook***
 - ***DITA***

3. Why should I use a Version Control?

- Storing versions
 - *The basics of version control is the ability to save changes made to files, while retaining the changes from all previous versions.*
- Collaboration and review
- Understand what happened



Why should I use a Version Control?

- Understand what happened

The screenshot displays the Oxygen XML Editor interface. The top pane shows the DITA document 'accessibility.dita' with the following content:

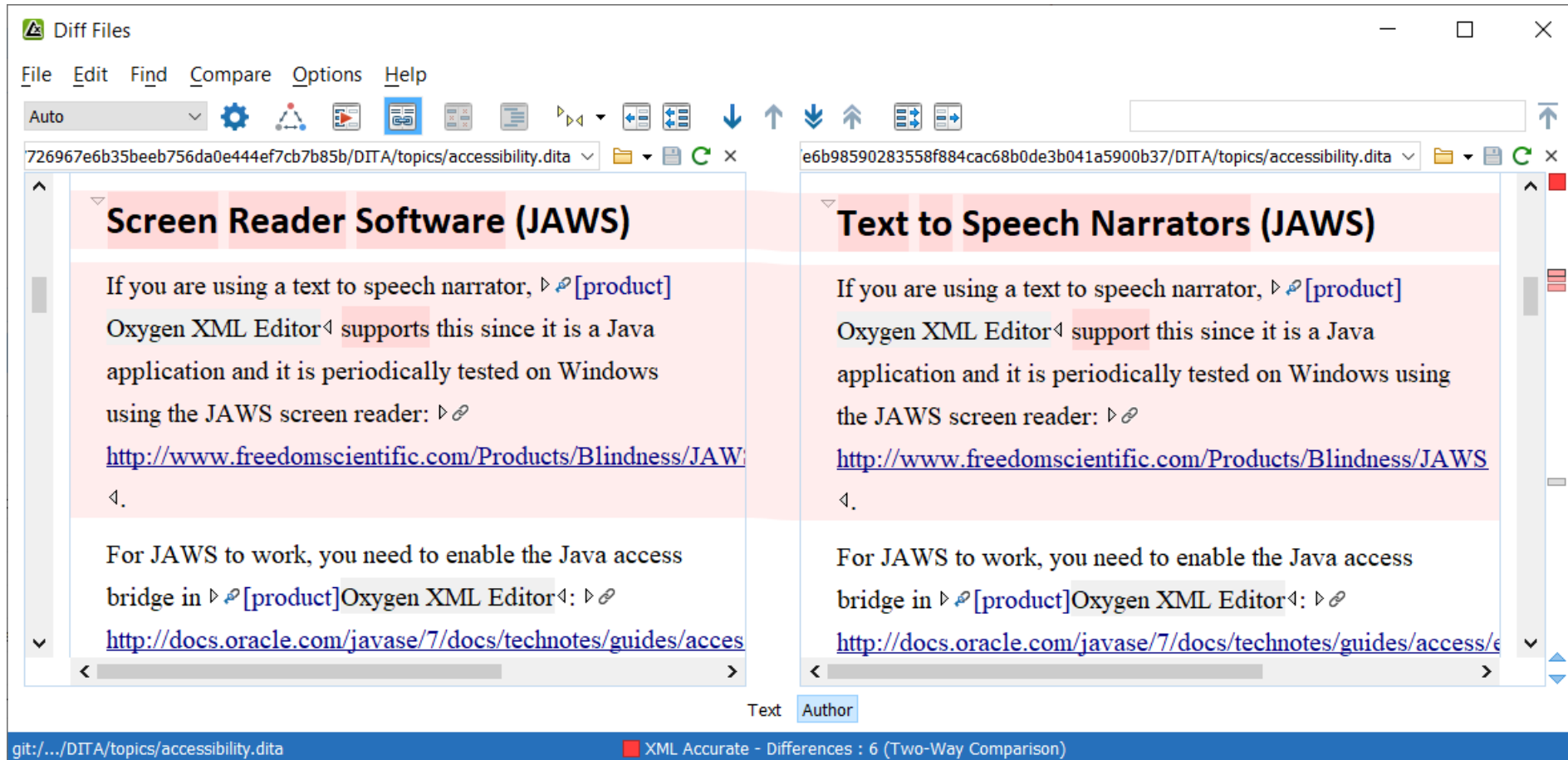
```
topic body p
5 <body>
6 <p>The <b>Oxygen</b> team is dedicated to developing software products that are usable for
7 everyone, including those with physical challenges and disabilities. <ph keyref="product"/> is
8 designed to adhere to the U.S. Government Section 508 accessibility standards: <xref
9 href="https://www.oxygenxml.com/xml_editor/section508.html" format="html" scope="external"
10 />.</p>
11 <section id="adjusting_fonts_and_colors">
12 <title>Adjusting Fonts and Colors</title>
13 <p>If you have low vision, go to <menucascade>
14 <uicontrol>Options</uicontrol>
```

The bottom pane shows the 'Git History' for 'accessibility.dita'. The commit history is as follows:

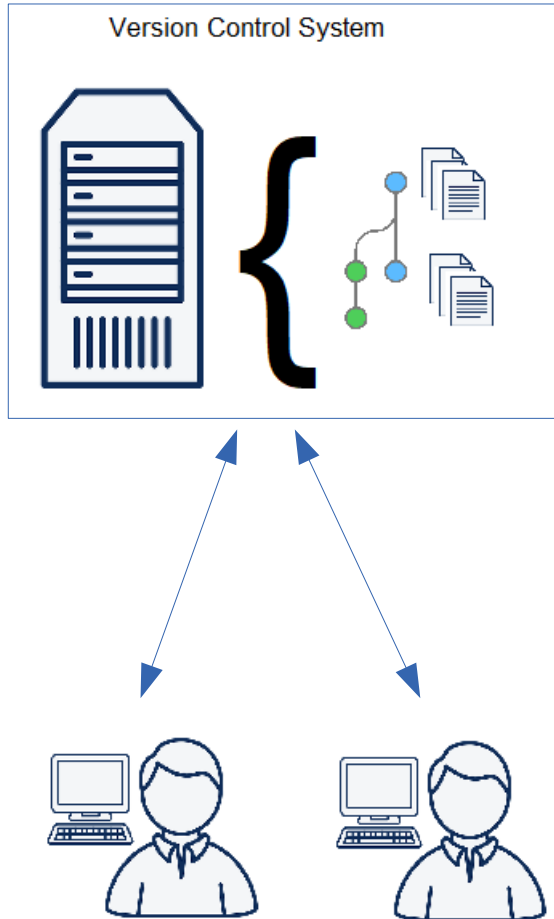
Commit message:	Date	Author
EXM-43664: Added output class and small improvements to the new section	18 Jul 2019 11:38	StevenHiggs
EXM-43664 Added more notes	18 Jul 2019 11:31	Radu Coravu
EXM-43664: Reviewed and improved Radu's commit	12 Jul 2019 12:52	StevenHiggs
EXM-43664 - Added section about using the NVDA narrator.	12 Jul 2019 11:52	Radu Coravu
EXM-43664 - Added section about using the NVDA narrator.	12 Jul 2019 11:40	Radu Coravu

Why should I use a Version Control?

- Understand what happened



Why should I use a Version Control?



Which Version Control System?

- Git
- Mercurial
- Subversion

In the Cloud or on Premise

- On premise Git repositories
 - *GitLab Community Edition (CE) is an **open source** end-to-end software development platform with built-in version control, issue tracking, code review, CI/CD, and more. Self-host GitLab CE on your own servers, in a container, or on a cloud provider.*
- Web-based Git repositories
 - GitLab [<https://about.gitlab.com/pricing>]
 - GitHub [<https://github.com/pricing>]
 - Bitbucket [<https://bitbucket.org/product/pricing>]

4. Continuous Integration (CI)

- Changes are validated as soon as they are committed, by creating a build and running *automated tests*.
 - *Helps avoid “integration hell” where the software works on individual developers’ machines, but it fails when all developers combine (or “integrate”) their code*
- Puts a great emphasis on *testing automation*.

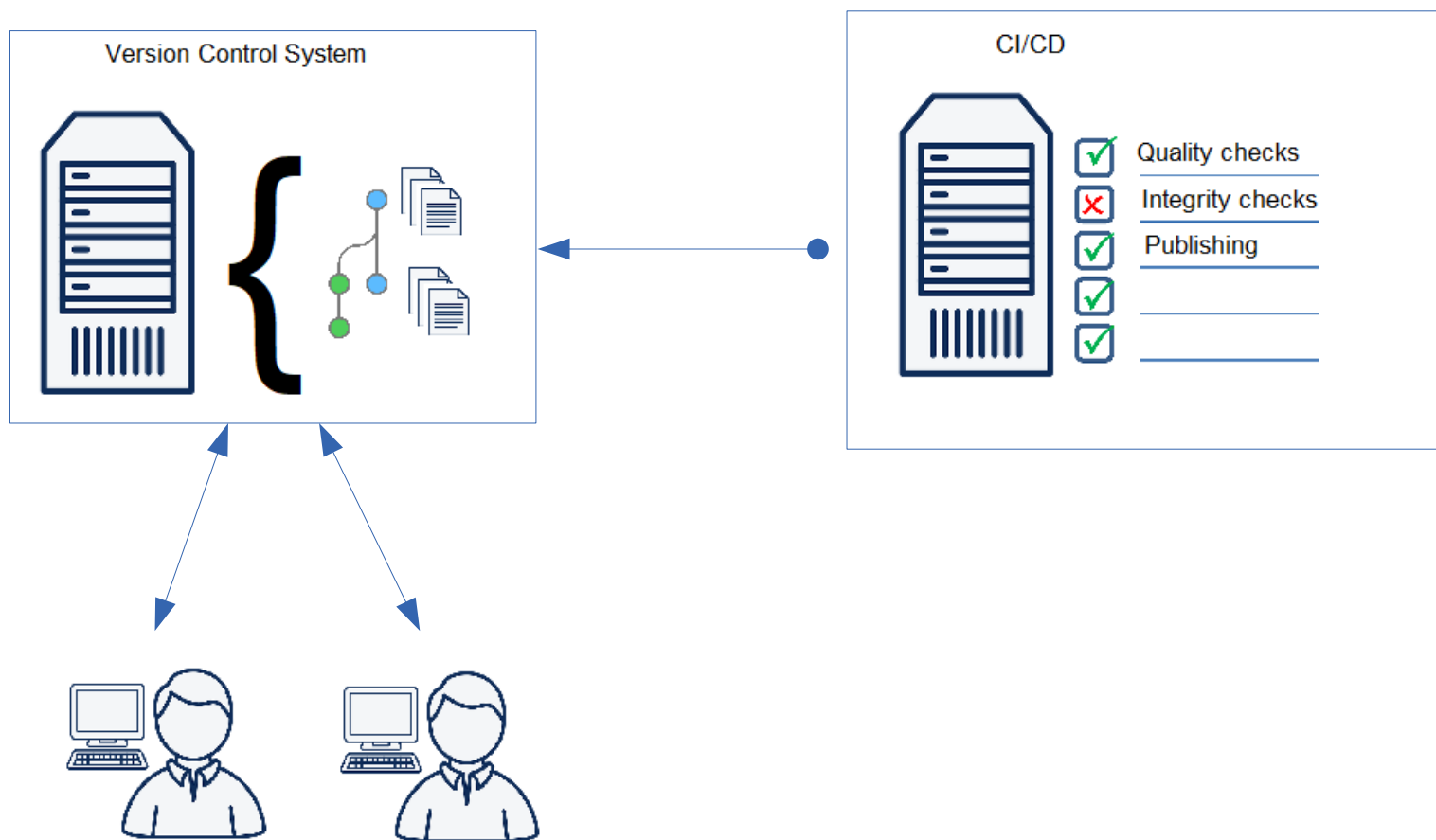
What can we automate for a documentation project?

- Quality checks
 - Business rules (Schematron, Vale)
 - Integrity checks (Validate and Check for Completeness)
- Reuse metrics
- Publishing pipelines
- Translation packages

4. Continuous Delivery (CD)

- The goal of CD is to make sure the software is always ready to go to production
 - You have automated your release process
 - You can deploy your application at any point of time by clicking on a button.

CI/CD



CI/CD Platforms/Servers

- Jenkins
 - GitLab CI/CD
 - Travis CI
 - Netlify
- | | |
|--|-------------|
| | On Premise |
| | Cloud-based |

5. Collaboration


- Using version control (Git)
- GitHub pull requests
 - <https://github.com/features/code-review/>
 - <https://github.com/oxygenxml/blog/pull/25>
- Using dedicated solutions (Oxygen Content Fusion, Oxygen XML Web Author)

Issue Tracking


- GitHub Issue Tracker
 - <https://github.com/oxygenxml/userguide/issues>
- GitLab Issue Tracker
 - <https://gitlab.com/jitianualex83/my-test-project/issues>
- Atlassian Jira
 - <https://www.atlassian.com/ro/software/jira>

Issue Tracking

- One issue to track software and doc changes (*software documentation*)

▼  Steven Higgs added a comment - 20/Oct/20 5:08

I removed the deprecated parameters from the topics that have procedures and I fixed the examples. I left the deprecated parameters in the few topics that list the transformation parameters so that they are still defined (and marked as deprecated) in the UG in case someone searches for them.

 Steven Higgs made changes - 20/Oct/20 5:08


Resolution

Done [7]

Status

Open [1]

Documented [10001]

▼  Syncro Bot added a comment - 21/Oct/20 1:22

Commit to review: Removed deprecated parameters from procedures and fixed some examples

- DITA/topics/pdf-edit-link.dita [[source](#)] [[published](#)] [[diff](#)]
- DITA/topics/webauthor-integrate-embedded-launch.dita [[source](#)] [[published](#)] [[diff](#)]
- DITA/topics/wh-edit-link.dita [[source](#)] [[published](#)] [[diff](#)]

Diff on [GitHub](#)

Editing tools

- Any text processor
- GitLab, GitHub built-in text editors
- Commercial XML editors
 - Oxygen Web Author
 - Oxygen XML Editor

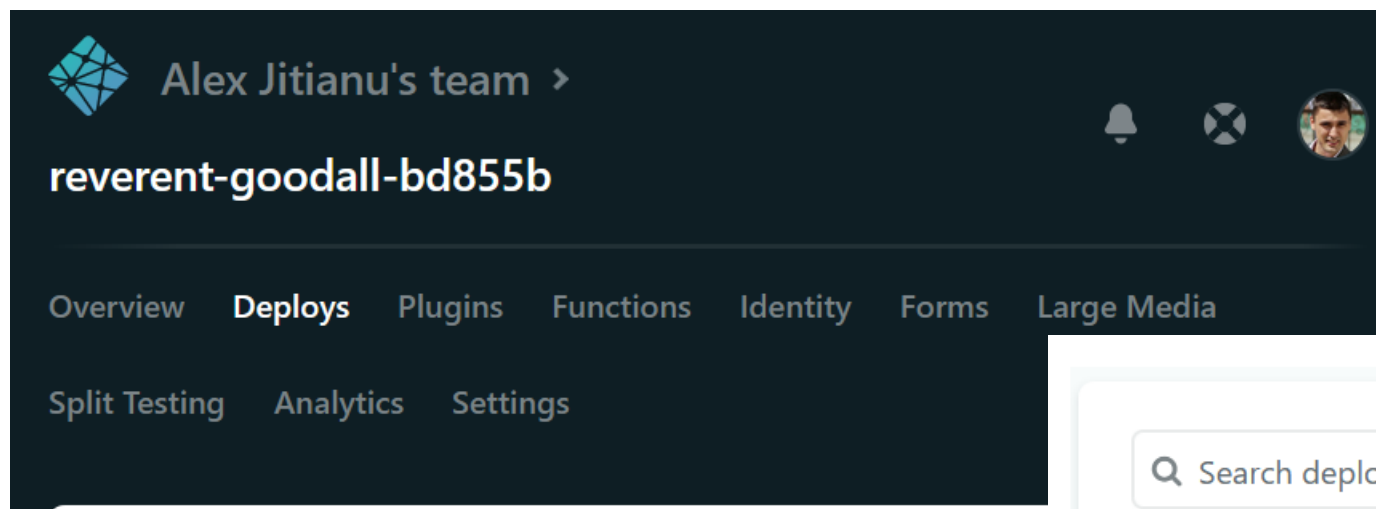
6. Docs as Code setup

- Text Markup: *DITA + Markdown*
- Version control: *GitHub*
- Issues tracker: *GitHub*
- CI/CD : *Netlify + SonarCloud*
- Collaboration: *Oxygen Web Author* [links in published output]

What can we automate for a documentation project?

- Quality checks
 - Business rules (Schematron, Vale)
 - Integrity checks (Validate and Check for Completeness)
- Reuse metrics
- Publishing pipelines
- Translation packages (DITA Translation Package Builder)

Netlify



Alex Jitianu's team >

reverent-goodall-bd855b

Overview Deploys Plugins Functions Identity Forms Large Media

Split Testing Analytics Settings

A platform offering:

- Hosting (free!)
- Continuous Deployment from a Git Repo

Deploys for reverent-goodall-bd855b

- <https://reverent-goodall-bd855b.netlify.app>

github.com/AlexJitianu/dita-docs-as-code, published master@9baf0c1

Auto publishing is on. Deploys from master are published automatically

⚙️ Deploy settings

⚙️ Notifications

Stop auto publishing

🔍 Search deploys

Trigger deploy ▾

Production: master@9baf0c1 **Published**

Push issues to a new sonar project

Today at 12:18 PM >

Production: master@HEAD

No deploy message

Today at 12:09 PM >

SonarCloud

An open-source platform for continuous inspection of code quality to perform automatic reviews with static analysis of code to detect bugs, code smells, and security vulnerabilities.

sonarcloud

AJ Alex Jitianu / dita-and-markdown master

Overview Issues Measures Code Activity

▼ Rule

Search for rules...

Schematron:id
VCC:Key definition
VCC:Profile
VCC:Reference

4 shown

source/markdown-dita/concepts/lawnmower.dita

File not found: "/opt/build/repo/source/markdown-dita/image/lawn-mower-311862_640.png".

See Rule

VCC

2 months ago ▾ L8

No tags

Code Smell Minor Open Not assigned 5min effort

source/markdown-dita/garage.ditamap

Condition "novice" set on the "audience" attribute can never be effective because it is not present in the list of conditions from the ancestors: "expert".

See Rule

VCC

2 months ago ▾ L20

No tags

Code Smell Minor Open Alex Jitianu 5min effort

Unreferenced key definition: "carwash".

See Rule

VCC

2 months ago ▾ L45

No tags

Code Smell Minor Open Alex Jitianu 5min effort

source/rule_based_validation_samples.dita

List items should not end with a semi-colon (;). If it is a sentence then end it with a full stop (.), otherwise leave it without an ending character.

See Rule

SCHEMATRON

2 months ago ▾ L18

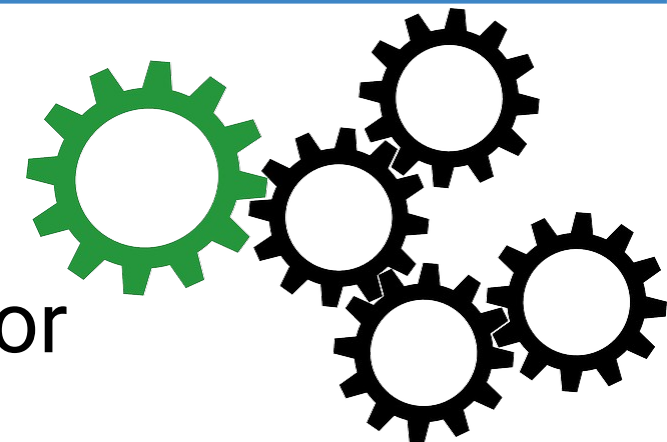
No tags


Code Smell Minor Open Alex Jitianu 5min effort

What can we automate for a documentation project?

- Quality checks
 - Business rules (Schematron, Vale)
 - Integrity checks (Validate and Check for Completeness)
- Reuse metrics
- Publishing pipelines
- Translation packages (DITA Translation Package Builder)

Hands on Time



- Deploy to Netlify our *docs-as-code* solution for DITA and Markdown
 - Go to: <https://github.com/AlexJitianu/docs-as-code/>
 - Click the button 
 - In the launched wizard, click *Connect to Github*
 - Click *Save & Deploy* to finish

Repository name

docs-as-code

We'll create a repository in your GitHub account with this name.

Save & Deploy

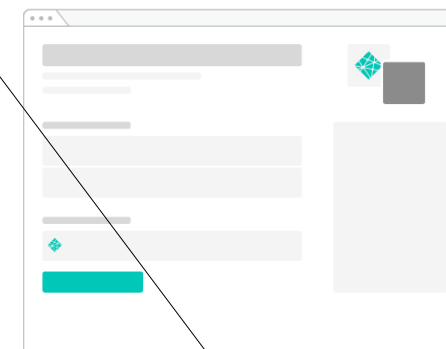
1 Connect to GitHub.

Connect Netlify to your GitHub account to create your `docs-as-code` repository.

2 Configure your site.

3 Your site is live!

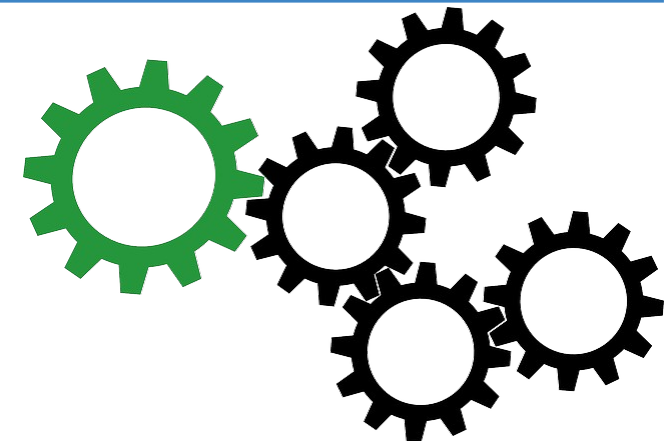
Just push your changes to GitHub and we'll automatically deploy them to our global CDN.



Connect to GitHub

Prefer a different provider? You can also connect to GitLab.

Hands on Time Result



- You now have a Netlify Site accessible from <https://app.netlify.com/teams/{github-account-name}/sites>
- A first deploy is in progress

Production deploys

Production: main@HEAD **Building**

5:02 PM: No deploy message

angry-clarke-11d837

- Site deploy in progress

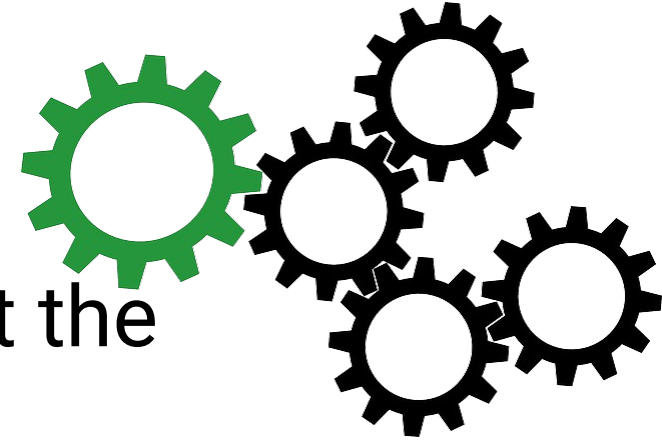
Deploys from [GitHub](#). Created at 5:02 PM.

⚙ Site settings

⚙ Domain settings



Hands on Time Result



- After the deploy is **Published** you can inspect the **results of the build**


🔗 Production deploys

Production: main@HEAD **Published**
5:02 PM: No deploy message

angry-clarke-11d837

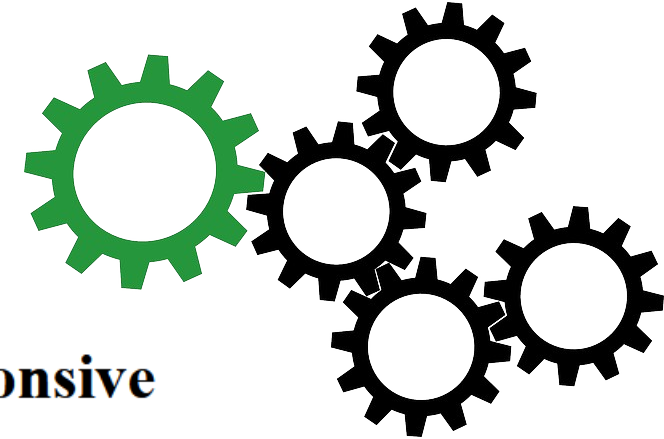
<https://angry-clarke-11d837.netlify.app>

Deploys from [GitHub](#). Last published at 5:06 PM.



[⚙ Site settings](#) [⚙ Domain settings](#)

Hands on Time Result



- **Results of the build**
 - Our published content
 - The Quality Checks results
 - A package with the modified files that must be translated

WebHelp Responsive

WebHelp Responsive features a very flexible layout, is designed to adapt to different DITA document types.

[Generated Webhelp Responsive](#)

Quality gate

Issues detected during by running the quality checks.

[Sonar Cloud](#)

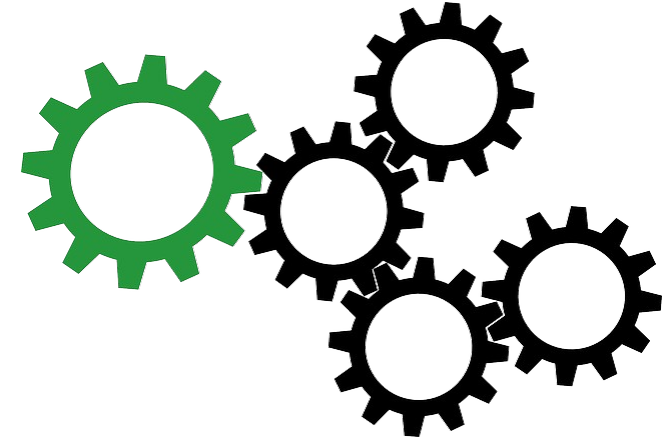
Translation Package

A package created with the DITA Translation Package Builder script.
translation.

[Download Translation Package](#)

Hands on Time

Sonarcloud



- Right now Netlify is deploying the QA results to my SonarCloud account:
<https://sonarcloud.io/project/issues?id=docs-as-code&resolved=false>
- We will create a new SonarCloud account and upload to it instead

SonarCloud Configuration

- Setup SonarCloud
 - Create account
 - Go to <https://sonarcloud.io/about>
 - On the top right corner, click *Log In*
 - Log in with your GitHub account

Log in



Log in or Sign up
to SonarCloud



With GitHub



With Bitbucket

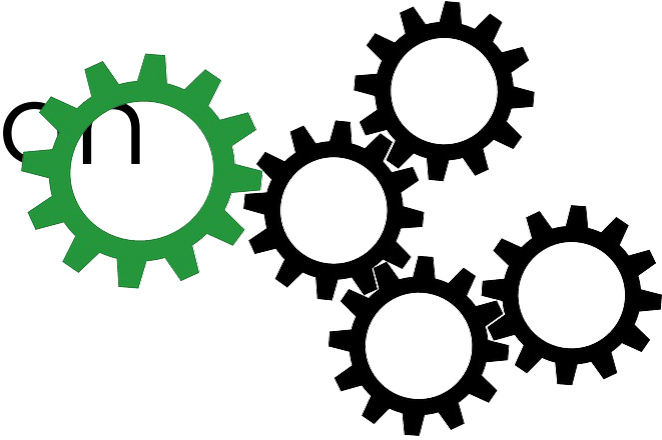



With GitLab




With Azure DevOps

SonarCloud Configuration




- Setup SonarCloud
 - Create organization
 - Go to <https://sonarcloud.io/account/organizations>
 - Click *Create* 
 - Click [create an organization manually](#)
 - Give a unique organization name

1 Enter your organization details

 Manual setup is not recommended, and leads to missing features

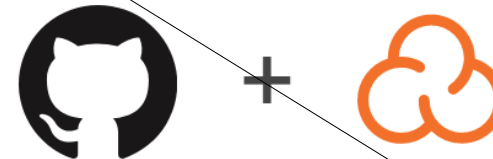
Key* 




Organization names must start with a letter or number, followed by letters, numbers or hyphens, and must end with a letter or number. Maximum length: 255 characters.

Create an organization

An organization is a space where a team or a whole company can collaborate across many projects.

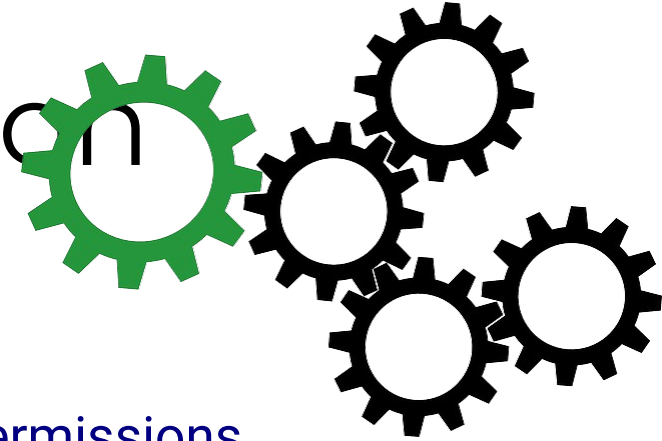


You will be asked to grant access to the SonarCloud application on your organization or user account, which will allow you to choose which repositories you want to analyze.

 Choose an organization on GitHub

Just testing? You can [create an organization manually](#)

SonarCloud Configuration



- Set permissions (*Execute Analysis*)
 - <https://sonarcloud.io/organizations/{organization-name}/permissions>

Projects Issues Quality Profiles Rules Quality Gates Members Administration

Permissions

Grant and revoke organization permissions. Permissions can be granted to

All Users Groups

Search for users or groups...

Organization settings

Billing

New Code


Groups

Permissions

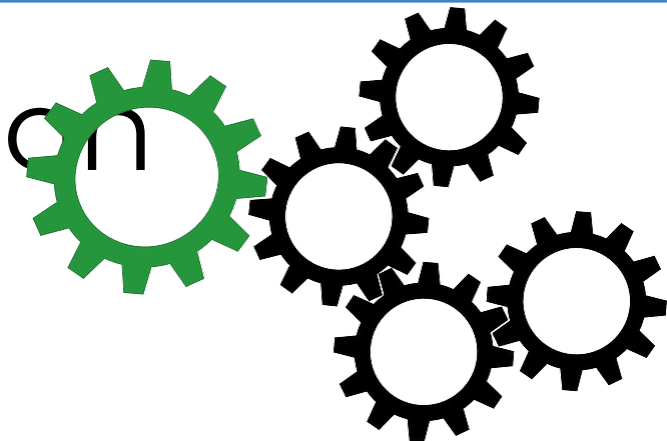
Permission Templates

Projects Management

Webhooks

	Administer organization	Administer	Execute Analysis	Create
Owners Owners of organization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality Gates <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality Profiles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Projects
Anyone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality Gates <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Projects
Members All members of the organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality Gates <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Projects
 dorinajitianu dorinajitianu@github	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality Gates <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Projects

SonarCloud Configuration



- Generate token
 - Go to <https://sonarcloud.io/account/security/>
 - Enter a name and click generate
 - Copy the token and keep it in a text editor for the next step

Generate Tokens

My_new_token

Generate



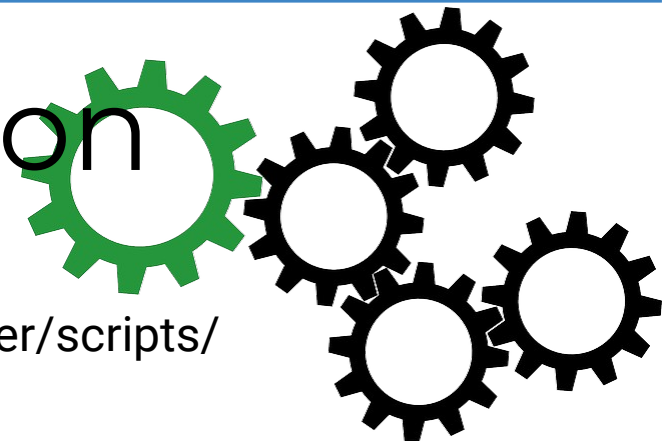
New token "My_new_token" has been created. Make sure you copy it now, you won't be able to see it again!



Copy

3c437c27d0da95cce86f4533dde523682b1f4a7a

SonarCloud Configuration



- **Open** <https://github.com/{github-account-name}/docs-as-code/blob/master/scripts/sonar/sonar.properties>

- **Edit**

- **Replace these values with your owns**

These details need to be filled in on a per-project basis

sonar.organization=**{sonarcloud.organization.name}**

sonar.login=**{sonarcloud.auth.token}**

sonar.projectKey=**{unique.project.name}**

The name of the organization you've created

The value of the generated token

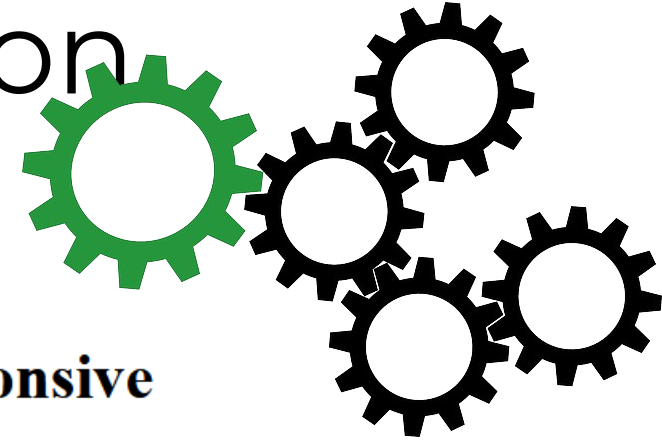
*A unique project name. For example: **{github-account-name}**-docs-as-code*

- **Click *Commit changes* on bottom of the page**

Commit changes

Cancel

SonarCloud Configuration Result



- The quality gate link will open your own SonarCloud project

WebHelp Responsive

WebHelp Responsive features a very flexible layout, is designed to ac
DITA document types.

[Generated Webhelp Responsive](#)

Quality gate

Issues detected during by running the qulity checks.

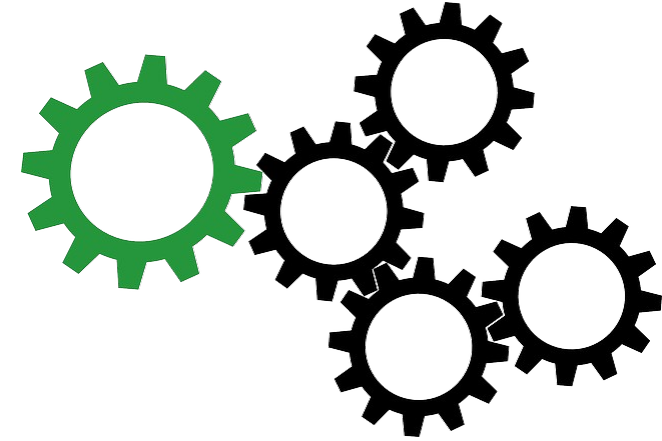
[Sonar Cloud](#)

Translation Package

A package created with the DITA Translation Package Builder script.
translation.

[Download Translation Package](#)

Trigger a change



- Edit a topic and trigger the build
 - Either using the Git pull/push mechanism
 - Or through Oxygen XML Author powered Edit Links

WebHelp Responsive

WebHelp Responsive features a very flexible layout, is designed to adapt to various DITA document types.

1.

[Generated Webhelp Responsive](#)

Home / Garage Tasks / Painting the car



Painting the car

2.

[Edit online](#)

How to paint your car.

A few things that you need:

- A power sander
- Sanding pads
- An air compressor
- A paint sprayer

THANK YOU!

Alex Jitianu

alex_jitianu@oxygenxml.com

[@AlexJitianu](#)