

More options in <step>

This section presents a detailed overview of the various options when using steps.

you can further clarify each step by adding information in other elements, such as <info><choicetable>, <stepresult>, <stepxmp> and <substeps> elements. The following will describe the use of these elements and the output expected.

- **<info>** -The <info> element occurs inside a <step> element to provide additional information about the step.

```
<steps>
  <step importance="optional">
    <cmd>Go to the following location.</cmd>
    <info>The widget name is created when you configure the widget
    in the Widget Configuration Dialog. It is not an actual class
    name or file name, just a label for the widget as used in this
    application.</info>
  </step>
</steps>
```

- **<choicetable>** - A common question is “What’s the difference between the <choices> element and the <choicetable> element other than one is a bulleted list and the other is a table?” Use the <choices> and <choicetable> elements in the following situations:
 - Use the <choices> element for simple one-part items such as a list of options that users select. The items in a <choices> element will be rendered in output as a bulleted list.

```
<steps>
<step>
  <cmd importance="urgent">Once you have the water place it in the
  microwave.</cmd>
  <info>Try not to spill any, as water is very wet.</info>
  <choices>
    <choice>If you have a remote server you want to test on, type the
    IP address or hostname of the server here.</choice>
    <choice>If you want to do local testing, just type localhost.</
  choice>
</step>
</steps>
```

The output displayed to the user is shown below:

- Use the <choicetable> element for two-part items such as the name of an operating system and its command or a motorcycle model and its oil filter part number. The items in a <choicetable> element will be rendered in the output as—you guessed it—a table.

```
<steps>
<step importance="optional">
<cmd>Go to the following location.</cmd>
  <choicetable>
    <chhead>
      <choptionhd>Do something</choptionhd>
      <chdeschd>And this happens</chdeschd>
    </chhead>
    <chrow>
      <choption>Do this</choption>
      <chdesc>and this will happen</chdesc></chrow>
    <chrow>
      <choption>Do that</choption>
```

```

        <chdesc>and that will happen</chdesc></chrow>
    </choicetable>
</step>
</steps>

```

The output displayed to the user is shown below:

- **<stepxmp>** - The <stepxmp> element is used to illustrate a step of a task. The step example can be a couple of words, or an entire paragraph.

```

<steps>
<step importance="optional">
  <cmd>Go to the following location.</cmd>
  <stepxmp>For example, <userinput>mywidget</userinput></stepxmp>
</step>
</steps>

```

The output displayed to the user is shown below:

- **<substeps>** - allows you to break a step down into a series of separate actions, and should be used only if necessary. Try to describe the steps of a task in a single level of steps. If you need to use more than one level of substep nesting, you should probably rewrite the task to simplify it.

```

<steps>
<step importance="optional">
  <cmd>Go to the following location.</cmd>
  <substeps>
    <substep><cmd>Hold pencil in a steady, level position.</cmd></substep>
    <substep><cmd>Turn handle until resistance diminishes.</cmd>
      <info>Note: initially, it may be somewhat difficult to turn the
handle if
pencil has never been sharpened before.</info></substep>
    <substep><cmd>To determine if pencil is sharp, remove it from the
sharpeners
and inspect the tip.</cmd></substep>
  </substeps>
</step>
</steps>

```

The output displayed to the user is shown below:

- **<stepresult>** - provides information on the expected outcome of a step. If a user interface is being documented, the outcome could describe a dialog box opening or the appearance of a progress indicator. Step results are useful to assure a user that they are on track, but should not be used for every step as this quickly becomes tedious.

```

<steps>
<step>
  <cmd importance="urgent">Once you have the water place it in the
microwave.</cmd>
  <info>Try not to spill any, as water is very wet.</info>
  <substeps>
    <substep importance="required">
      <cmd>Start the Microwave.</cmd>
      <stepxmp>As an example, push the <b>Start</b> button</stepxmp>
      <stepresult>The Microwave starts running. You should hear it
humming.</stepresult>
    </substep>
    <substep importance="optional">
      <cmd>Once the water begins to boil, stop the Microwave.</cmd>
    </substep>
  </substeps>
</step>

```

```
</step>  
</steps>
```

The output displayed to the user is shown below: