DITAxPresso Help

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Introduction

Topics:

- [About DITAxPresso](#)
- [Target Users](#)

This section introduces you to DITAxPresso.

About DITAxPresso

What is DITAxPresso?

DITAxPresso is a desktop-based software application developed by Metapercept technology services (LLP). It allows you to edit, style, and publish the DITA content without any knowledge of DITA or XML coding.

The simple and easy-to-use interface of DITAxPresso makes it intuitive to use without specialized training. DITAxPresso is independent of external support tools.

You can publish in PDF, WebHelp, Word, and Markdown formats. DITAxPresso allows you to style PDF and Webhelp formats as required. The default DITAxPresso plugins can be styled as per requirements. And for personalized design requirements, you can use Metapercept custom plugins.

Editor and Builder enable you to make minor modifications to the DITA map content and restructure your DITA map, respectively, without making any changes to the existing DITA map files.

Target Users

This section gives a brief introduction of the intended users of DITAxPresso.

Enterprises and professionals from diverse backgrounds can use DITAxPresso. **Marketing and Sales Professionals, Business Analysts, Management Executives, training staff, and support teams** can use DITAxPresso.

Using DITAxPresso, professionals can instantly choose the content, edit, style, and publish, without being dependent on experts. **Technical Writers** can use DITAxPresso for editing and styling the content.

Small and medium enterprises can use DITAxPresso extensively as a multi-functional tool. With Styler, Builder, and Publisher features,

DITAxPresso accomplishes more tasks within limited resources and without any hassle.

Managing a Project

Topics:

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To Begin with DITAxPresso start creating a project. Projects are basically a copy of the DITA Map folder. This project gets created separately without disturbing the existing DITA Map folder. Based on your requirement you can edit or customize the content.

Related tasks

Creating a New Project

Pre-requisite:

- JAVA runtime installed on the system in use.
- An existing DITA Map.

This task guides you to create a new project in DITAxPresso.

1. Open the DITAxPresso Software on the system.
2. In the workspace, click **New Project.**
   A project window opens.
3. Enter the following details :

- Name of the project.
- Description of the project. (optional)
- Project-related keywords. (optional)

4. Selecting DITA map folder

   a. Click folder icon against DITA map field.
   b. Browse to the existing DITA map folder and click.
   c. Click **Select Folder**.

5. Selecting destination folder

    a. Click folder icon against Path field.
    b. Browse to the required output destination folder and click on the folder.
    c. Click **Select Folder**.

6. Select the **Initialize this project with READ.ME** checkbox. (Optional)
7. Click **Create Project.**

New Project is created.

Opening an Existing Project

To open a project in DITAxPresso, follow the steps below.

1. Click **Open Project** in the workspace.
   Open Project dialog box is displayed.
2. In the dialog box:

    a. Click **Choose** and browse for DITAxPresso project with .dxp extension.
    b. Select the required file with .dxp extension and click **Open**.
    c. Click **Open Project**.

The project files are listed under the **Project Manager** on the left-hand pane of the window.

Selecting from Multiple Maps

Multiple DITA maps can be present in a folder.

To select one DITA map from multiple DITA maps in the project:

1. Open a project.

> **Note:** In the workspace, a message will appear *Multiple DITA maps detected in the project directory. Select the required DITA map.*

2. Click the drop-down list arrow following the message .
3. From the list box, select the required DITA map.

The DITA map structure is displayed under the **DITA Map Viewer** on the left-hand pane of the window.

Default Publishing

Topics:

- DITA Map to WebHelp
- DITA Map to PDF
- DITA map to Word
- DITA map to Markdown
- Selecting Plugin

You can publish multiple formats using Publisher option. The current version supports PDF, WebHelp, Word, and Markdown. DITAxPresso enables you to publish various output formats using existing DITA maps.

DITA Map to WebHelp

This task explains how to generate HTML files using DITA Map files.

1. Open the required DITA map in the DITAxPresso project.
2. From the left-hand pane of the window, click **Publisher** > **WebHelp**.
3. In the workspace, Selecting Plugin on page 6.

> **Note:** To style WebHelp before publishing, Customize XSLT for WebHelp on page 10

4. Click **Transform**.

In the project folder, WebHelp file is generated in **Output** > **webhelp**.

DITA Map to PDF

This task explains how to generate PDF files using DITA Map files.

1. Open the required DITA map in the DITAxPresso project.
2. From the left-hand pane of the window, click **Publisher** > **PDF**.
3. In the workspace, Selecting Plugin on page 6.

> **Note:** To style the PDF before publishing, Customize XSLT for PDF on page 8.

4. Click **Transform**.

In the project folder, PDF file is generated in **Output** > **pdf**.

DITA map to Word

This task explains how to generate Word files using DITA Map files.

1. Open the required DITA map in the DITAxPresso project.
2. From the left-hand pane of the window, click **Publisher** > **Word**.
3. In the workspace, .
4. Click **Transform**.

In the project folder, Word file is generated in **Output** > **word**.

DITA map to Markdown

This task explains how to generate Markdown files using DITA Map files.

1. Open the required DITA map in the DITAxPresso project.
2. From the left-hand pane of the window, click **Publisher** > **Markdown**.
3. In the workspace, .
4. Click **Transform**.

In the project folder, Markdown file is generated in **Output** > **markdown**.

Selecting Plugin

Choose the appropriate publisher plugin before publishing in DITAxPresso.

1. To select publisher plugin,

  -
  -

Default Plugin List

To select plugin from the available list during publishing in DITAxPresso, follow the steps below.

1. In the workspace, click **Select** > **Plugins**.
On the right-hand side of the workspace, a menu will appear. The menu will list available plugins.

2. Select the desired plugin.

> **Note:** Click on **Preview** to view the outline of output for the plugins.

Required plugin is selected.

Add Customized Plugins

Before you begin:

- Ensure you have a valid customized pluin key available.

To publish using the customized plugins, follow the steps as below:

1. In the workspace, under Plugins option, click **Select**.
The right pane lists the Available plugins.
2. Enter Metapercept customized plugin key:

    a. Click the **lock** icon against the required plugin name.
    b. Enter the plugin key provided for the customized plugin in the space provided.
    c. Click the **unlock** icon.

The customized additional plugin is added.
3. Select the added customized plugin.

Required plugin is selected.

Using DITAxPresso Styler

Topics:

- [Customize XSLT for PDF]()
- [Customize XSLT for WebHelp]()
- [Setting Plugin to Default Attributes]()

Styler allows you in customizing the output documents. You can change the attributes of the document with the **Styler** menu.

Current Version supports two types of Styler:

Customize XSLT for PDF

The PDF Styler allows to customize the output based on the user requirements. The user has the privileges to modify or design the document based on the branding strategy.

Below are the various properties to customize the PDF output:

Style Frontpage

This task explains how to format the front page for a customized output.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.
2. Click **Styler** > **PDF Styler** > **Front Page**.

3. If you want to add logo to the front page, follow the steps below.

    a. Click **LOGO**.

    b. Click **Browse**. Navigate to the logo.

    c. Select logo and then click **Open**.

    d. Select alignment.

    e. Select the size.

4. Click **TITLE**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

5. Click **SUBTITLE**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

6. Click **Save**.

Style Page Header and Footer

This task explains how to format the headers and footers for customized output.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.

2. Click **Styler** > **PDF** > **Header/Footer**.

3. Click **HEADER**.

    a. Click **ODD**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

    b. Click **EVEN**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

4. Click **FOOTER**.

    a. Click **ODD**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

    b. Click **EVEN**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

5. Click **PAGE NUMBER**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

6. Click **Save**.

Style TOC

This task helps in formatting the Table of Content for the customized output.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.

2. Click **Styler** > **PDF** > **TOC**.

3. Click **HEADER**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

4. Click **CHAPTER CONTENT**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

5. Click **LEADER**. Choose Leader Pattern.

6. Click **Save**.

Style Tables

This section explains how to format the tables in DITA Map content for a customized look in the PDF output format.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.
2. Click **Styler** > **PDF** > **Tables**.
3. Click **TITLE**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.
4. Click **HEADERS**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.
5. Click **FRAMES**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.
6. Click **Save**.

Style Lists

The task explains how to format the lists in DITA maps for a customized output format.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.
2. Click **Styler** > **PDF** > **Lists**.
3. Click **UNORDERED**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.
4. Click **ORDERED**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.
5. Click **Save**.

Style Commons

The task explains how to format Commons attributes of a PDF format.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.
2. Click **Styler** > **PDF** > **Commons**.
3. Click **CHAPTER**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.
4. Click **TITLES**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.
5. Click **Save**.

Customize XSLT for WebHelp

The WebHelp Styler allows to customize the output based on user requirements. The user has the privileges to modify or design the document based on the branding strategy.

Below are the various properties to customize the WebHelp output:

- Choose Themes on page 11.
- Style Header on page 11.
- Style Concept Topics on page 11.
- Style Task Topics on page 12.
- Style Topics on page 12.

Choose Themes

This task explains how to choose theme for WebHelp output.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.
2. Click **Styler** > **WebHelp** > **Themes**.
3. Select the required theme.
4. Click **Apply**.

Style Header

This task explains how to format the header for a customized WebHelp output.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.
2. Click **Styler** > **WebHelp** > **Header**.
3. If you want to add logo to the front page, follow the steps below.

   a. Click **LOGO**.
   b. Click **Browse**. Navigate to the logo.
   c. Select logo and then click **Open**.
   d. Select alignment.
   e. Select the size.
4. Click **TITLE**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.
5. Click **Save**.

Style Concept Topics

This task explains how to format the concept topics for a customized WebHelp output.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.
2. Click **Styler** > **WebHelp** > **Header**.
3. Click **HEADER**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.
4. Click **CHAPTER CONTENT**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

5. Click **LEADER**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

6. Click **Save**.

Style Task Topics

This task explains how to format the task topics for a customized WebHelp output.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.

2. Click **Styler** > **WebHelp** > **Task**.

3. Click **TITLE**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

4. Click **HEADERS**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

5. Click **Save**.

Style Topics

This task explains how to format the Topic style for a customized WebHelp output.

1. Open a DITAxPresso project.

2. Click **Styler** > **WebHelp** > **Topic**.

3. Click **TITLE**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

4. Click **HEADER**. Choose suitable options for the fields you want to customize.

5. Click **Save**.

Setting Plugin to Default Attributes

The user can change the Styler settings of the plugin to the default attributes with the steps below.

1. Click **Styler** in the left-hand side navigation pane.

2. Click **PDF** or **WebHelp** as required.

Styler menu will be displayed in the workspace.

3. On the top right-hand corner of the workspace, click **Default**.

4. A pop-up message will ask, **Restore Default Attributes**. Click **Confirm**.

The settings are restored to default values.

Building in DITAxPresso

Topics:

- [Opening Builder](#)
- [Modifying DITA map](#)

The Builder allows the user to hide or unhide the content of the DITA Map. In large DITA Map, you can easily hide or unhide the content based on your requirement before publishing the document.

Opening Builder

To open the DITA map Builder:

- In the menu bar, click **View** > **DITA Map Builder**.

In the workspace, the DITA map structure will be displayed.

Modifying DITA map

For a huge DITA map, the Builder helps in selecting the components which the user needs for the publication. The Builder lets the user hide or unhide every component of the DITA map.

This task will show you how to select the required DITA map components.

1. In builder, on the upper side of the workspace, choose the required option from:

- [Parts](#) on page 16
- [Chapters](#) on page 16
- [Topics](#) on page 16
- [Maps](#) on page 16
- [Topichead](#) on page 17

The respective working DITA map components will expand for editing.

2. Edit the map structure using the following buttons:

- Move up: Change the component position to one up.
- Move down: Change the component position to one down.
- Hide or Unhide: Hide or unhide the component while publishing.

New DITA map structure is displayed.

3. To save the edited DITA map, the user can choose from the following two options:

- **Save**: The original .dxp file will be changed. The name of the file will remain the same.
- **Save As**: The file will be saved to a new destination. The user will have to enter a new name and select a new location to save the updated DITA map.

Note: The user can select or clear **Info** checkbox. Info gives the additional color-coded information of the various DITA map components. Color codes help in easy identification of the components while working on a large DITA map.

The edited DITA map is displayed in the **Map** area in the right-hand pane of the window.

Editing content in DITAxPresso

Editor allows you to modify the contents of the DITA maps.

Glossary

Topics:

- [Parts](#)
- [Chapters](#)
- [Topics](#)
- [Maps](#)
- [Topichead](#)
- [DITA maps](#)
- [Portable Document Format](#)
- [Markdown](#)
- [Hypertext Markup Language](#)
- [Word](#)
- [Plugins](#)
- [XSLT](#)
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Parts

The `<part>` element references a part topic or a map that references part topics for the book.

Chapters

The `<chapter>` element references a topic or map as a chapter within a book.

Topics

DITA topics are the basic units of **DITA** content and the basic units of reuse. Each **topic** contains a single **subject**.

Maps

DITA maps are documents that organize topics and other resources into structured collections of information. **DITA maps** specify hierarchy and the relationships among the topics; they also provide the context in which keys are defined and resolved.

Topichead

The <topichead> element provides a title-only entry in a navigation map, as an alternative to the fully-linked title provided by the <topicref> element.

DITA maps

DITA maps are documents that collect and organize references to DITA topics to indicate the relationships among the topics. They can also serve as outlines or tables of contents for DITA deliverables and as build manifests for DITA projects.

Portable Document Format

PDF is a file format for capturing and sending electronic documents in exactly the intended format.

PDF

Markdown

Markdown is a lightweight markup language with plain text formatting syntax.

Hypertext Markup Language

Hypertext Markup Language is the standard markup language for documents designed to be displayed in a web browser.

HTML

Word

MS Word is a popular word-processing program used primarily for creating documents such as letters, brochures, learning activities, tests, quizze,s and students' homework assignments. There are many simple but useful features available in Microsoft Word to make it easier for study and work.

Plugins

A plugin is a software add-on that is installed on a program, enhancing its capabilities.

XSLT

XSLT stands for XSL Transformations. XSL (eXtensible Stylesheet Language) is a styling language for XML.

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