My Docbook

Patrice Cotte
Software engineer
patrice_cotte@hotmail.com
01 43 25 10 33

Turn your Eclipse IDE into an easy-to-use publishing environment

This XML source contains a number of basic examples .

Turn your Eclipse IDE into an easy-to-use publishing environment : This XML source contains a number of basic examples .

Table of Contents

Preface: Create your own publishing environment iv
1. The capabilities of Eclipse 1
    1. The XML Perspective 1
    2. XML, XSL, DTD editors. 2
2. The transformers 3
3. Create a publishing environment 4
    1. Notes about the buildSimpleBook script 4
4. Customize your environment 5
5. Customize your environment 6

Preface: Create your own publishing environment

IT professionals commonly write many documents and technical presentations. Still these documents are limited to the Microsoft formats or PDF that are quickly read and put on the side.

Chapter 1. The capabilities of Eclipse

The Eclipse splash screen

We can use these features of Eclipse to turn the IDE into a publishing environment:

- An XML perspective
- XML, XSL or DTD editors
- The ANT tool

1. The XML Perspective

The XML perspective is an environment for creating and managing projects that contain XML, XSL, DTD documents. As a publisher you will create your documents in an XML project. Your XML project will contain the XML pages, external items such as images, the Docbook XML and XSL definitions and the tools that generate the documents from your XML sources.

2. XML, XSL, DTD editors.

XML, XSL and DTD sources are structured in tags and data.

Sources in an XML project can be edited in a dedicated editor that helps the user to enter valid input.

- These editors color differently the tags and the data for an easier reading.
- They also dynamically generate the end tag for any tag user has typed in.

Chapter 2. The transformers

Docbook helps to write a structured source document but the final documents need to be generated using a number of third-party tools. They are called 'Transformers'. Depending on the format of the desired output the action of one or several transformers may be required.

In this setup we'll use the following:

- *ePub format*
  - The Xalan transformer
  - The Saxon transformer
  - Google's verification tool
- *PDF format*
  - The Xalan transformer
  - The FOP transformer
- *Webhelp format*
  - The Xalan transformer
  - The Nexwave indexer

Chapter 3. Create a publishing environment

In Eclipse an XML publishing environment can be created by adding to an XML project the capability to build outputs in different formats. This is achieved by installing right in the XML project a number of additional open source elements that can be easily found on the internet.

The build tools can be further customized so produce documents with a unique appearance consistent across the different formats

1. Notes about the buildSimpleBook script

The structure of the script is:

- A simple XML header

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
```

- A project, which contains:

  1. A description that tells what the script does

```
  <description>
      This Ant build.xml file is used to transform DocBook XML
1. xml to epub     epubinput  -> output/epub
2. xml to fo to PDF    input   -> ouput/pdf
3. xml to webhelp    input  -> output/webhelp
</description>
```

  2. A number of properties that set variables with the input, output and utilities locations

```
    <!-- inputs -->
<property name="book" value="SimpleBook"/>

<property name="epubinput.dir" value="epubinput"/>
<property name="epubimg.dir" value="${epubinput.dir}/images"/>
<property name="epubinput" value="${book}"/>
etc ...
```

Chapter 4. Customize your environment

Example of an internal link [6].

Example of an external link. DocbBook: The Definitive Guide by Norman Walsh and Leonard Muellner http://docbook.org/tdg/en/html/docbook.html

Chapter 5. Customize your environment

This paragraph is the destination of the internal link in chapter 5.

End of book