dita_syntax_markup.ditamapg6g6

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Chapter 1. Introduction to DITA

The Darwin Information Typing Architecture (name) DITA is an XML-based architecture for authoring, producing, and delivering topic-oriented, information-typed content that can be reused and single-sourced in a variety of ways. While historically has been driven by the requirements of large-scale technical documentation authoring, management, and delivery, it is a standard that is applicable to any kind of publication or information that might be presented to readers, including interactive training and educational materials, standards, reports, business documents, trade books, travel and nature guides, and more.

DITA is designed for creating new document types and describing new information domains based on existing types and domains. The process for creating new types and domains is DITA called specialization. Specialization enables the creation of specific, targeted XML grammars that can still use tools and design rules that were developed for more general types and domains; this is similar to how classes in an object-oriented system can inherit the methods of ancestor classes.

Because topics are conforming XML documents, they can be readily viewed, edited, and validated using standard XML tools, although realizing the full potential of requires using -aware tools.

Related information

Organization of DITA elements *(on page 4)*

Chapter 2. Organization of DITA elements

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Topic elements

DITA element

An XML element instance whose type is a DITA element type. DITA elements must exhibit a `@class` attribute that has a value that conforms to the rules for specialization hierarchy specifications. DITA element type

An element type that is either one of the base element types that are defined by the DITA specification, or a specialization of one of the base element types.

Related information

Organization of DITA elements *(on page 4)*

Map elements

The *map elements* are the elements used in ditamaps and bookmaps.

The map elements are a small set of elements, some of which have been specialised into

other elements for use in bookmaps.

The map elements include:

- map
- topicref
- topicmeta
- topicgroup
- topichead
- reltable

Related information

Organization of DITA elements *(on page 4)*

Body elements

The simple block structures within the body of topics are categorized as the body elements.

The simple block structures within the body of topics are categorized as the body elements.

- paragraph
- list
- phrase
- figure

Related information

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Prolog elements

A topic's metadata is stored in a range of *prolog elements.*

The DITA prolog elements contain the main metadata for a topic or collection.

The types of information recorded in the prolog include:

- author
- copyright information
- critical tracking dates
- permissions for use/management of the content
- extensive metadata about the content of the document

Related information

Organization of DITA elements *(on page 4)*

Domain elements

The domain elements are comprised of a number of separate sets of elements that relate to specific documentation fields.

Remembering that DITA started life within IBM as a tool for creating software and hardware documentation, it shouldn't be a surprise to discover that DITA's base elements reflect that background.

Elements that relate to a particular field (such as software) are called *domain elements*.

The domain elements within DITA are grouped into:

typographical elements

generic word-processor like elements used to highlight text

programming elements

terms and structures related to programming environments

software elements

terms and structures related to the operation of a software program

table elements

table elements

user interface elements

terms and structures related to a software user interface

utilities elements

elements that don't fit anywhere else!

If you are writing a programmer's reference, you will mainly use elements in the programming domain.

If you are writing a mobile phone user guide, you should avoid using programming domain elements, and mainly use user interface domain elements.

Related information

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Programming domain elements *(on page 7)*
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Programming domain elements

The elements in the programming domain each have a specific semantic purpose.

Element Name

Semantic Purpose

Apiname

API name

Codeblock

code block

Codeph

code phrase

Option

one of a set of options

Parmname

parameter or argument

Parml

parameter list

Plentry

parameter list entry (within parml)

Pt

parameter term (within plentry)

Pd

parameter definition (within plentry)

Synph

syntax phrase

syntaxdiagram

syntax diagram

Groupseq

group of syntactic units (used only for syntax diagrams)

Groupchoice

choice of a group of syntactic units (used only for syntax diagrams)

Groupcomp

group of composite syntactic units (used only for syntax diagrams)

Fragment

fragment of syntax (used only for syntax diagrams)

Fragref

cross-reference to a fragment of syntax

Synblk

block of small pieces of syntax

Synnote

footnote within syntax (syntax note)

Synnoteref

cross-reference to a syntax note

Kwd

syntax keyword (used only for syntax diagrams)

Var

variable that a user must supply (used only for syntax diagrams)

Oper

operator character (such as +, -, and =) within syntax

Delim

delimiter character (such as /, |, and ;) within syntax

Sep

separator character within syntax

Repsep

separator character for repeated syntax elements

Related information

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User interface domain elements

This element is part of the DITA user interface domain, a special set of DITA elements designed to document user interface tasks, concepts and reference information. The **<screen> element contains or refers to a textual representation of a computer screen or user interface panel (window)**.

Element Name

Semantic Purpose

Uicontrol

user interface control

Wintitle

window title

Menucascade

menu cascade

Shortcut

shortcut

Screen

character (text only) screen

Related information

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Software domain elements

The elements in the software domain each have a specific semantic purpose.

Element Name

Semantic Purpose

Msgph

message phrase

Msgblock

message block

Msgnum

message number

Cmdname

command name

Varname

variable (to be provided by user) name

Filepath

file name or path, or URI

Userinput

user input

Systemoutput

system output

Related information

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Utility domain elements

The elements in the utilities domain each have a specific purpose in defining image map properties.

Element Name

Semantic Purpose

Imagemap

client-side image map

Area

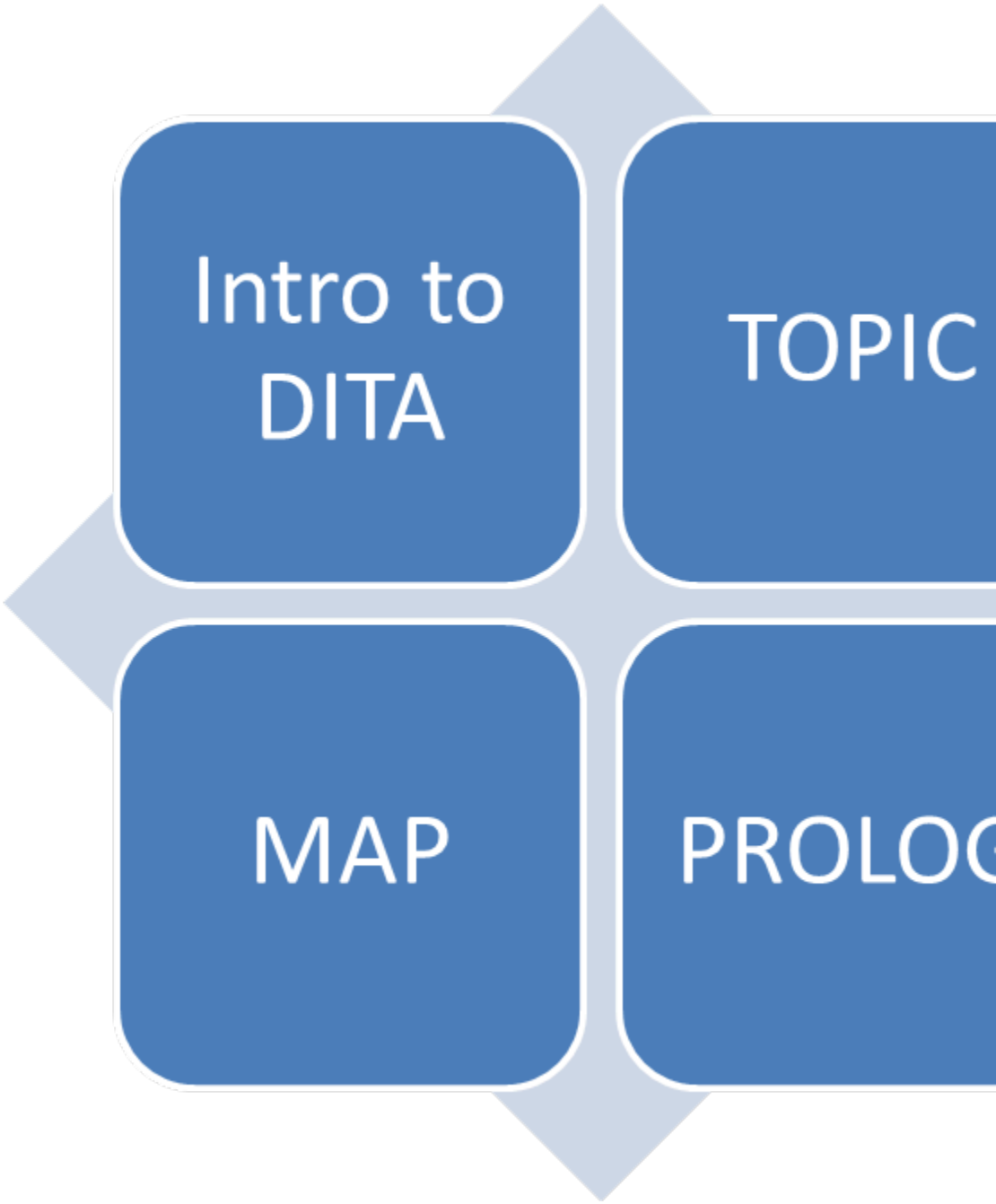
hotspot area within an image map

Coords

co-ordinates of a hotspot area within an image map

Shape

shape of a hotspot area within an image map



1.
2. Click here to learn more about DITA. *(on page 3)*
3. Topic elements *(on page 4)*
4. click here to learn map element
5. Prolog elements *(on page)*

Metadata domain elements

The elements in the metadata domain each have a specific semantic purpose.

Element Name

Semantic Purpose

index-see

redirection to another index entry

index-see-also

additional redirection to another index entry

index-sort-as

alternative sort phrase for an index entry

Topicgroup

non-hierarchical group of topics in a ditamap

Topichead

title only heading entry in a ditamap

authorinformation

author information (in a bookmap)

addressdetails

address details (in a bookmap)

administrativearea

address county, state, province or other administrative area

contactnumber

contact telephone number within a group of contact

contactnumbers

group of contact telephone numbers within address details

Country

address country within address details (in a bookmap)

emailaddresses

group of e-mail addresses within address details (in a bookmap)

emailaddress

e-mail address within a group of e-mail addresses

Related information

Domain elements *(on page 6)*

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Typographic domain elements

The typographic domain elements each have a specific styling purpose.

Element Name

Semantic Purpose

b

bold (strong)

u

underlined

tt

teletype (typewriter)

superscript

superscript

sub

subscript

Related information

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