

DITA Open Toolkit Customization Training

When and Where?

The DITA Open Toolkit Customization training course is offered by Sperotech as an open or on-site training. Dates and locations can be fixed in agreement with the client.

Purpose

The DITA Open Toolkit Customization Training is for organizations and individuals who need to create their own customized processing and style sheets for the DITA Open Toolkit. The course guides the participants to the customization techniques and covers a selection of tools for developing these customizations.

Course Outline

This intensive 2-day course is designed to guide the delegate through the various features of XSLT, XPATH, XSL:FO, CSS, and Ant build files for creating customized processing and style sheets for producing HTML, HTML Help, Eclipse help and PDF output deliverables. Delegates will also get an understanding of the DITA OT customization framework that will allow them to wrap-up their customization as a conformant DITA Open Toolkit plug-in.

The course is delivered as slide presentations, demonstrations and hands-on lab based exercises. Delegates will receive course handouts, lab exercise material and links to books and articles on the web that they can use for future reference.

This course covers a broad range of topics and technologies. To fit the available time frame, a selection of topics can be made to meet the client's requirements.

The course covers the following:

DITA Open Toolkit customization framework

- Running the DITA Open Toolkit
- Understanding the output of the DITA Open Toolkit
- Plug-in folder structure
- How to organize your custom style sheets
- DITA specialization types and where to put them
- Ant integration files
- Packaging up plug-ins
- Testing and debugging plug-ins
- Distributing plug-ins

XSLT and XPath basics

- How to use XPath to access any node in the XML node tree
- How to create and call templates
- How to use conditions in templates
- How to control XSLT program flow
- How to use XPath functions including string searching and manipulation
- DITA specializations and XSLT override templates
- How to include/import other style sheets

XSL:FO

- XSL:FO overview
- Classes of style sheets
- Page Layout, Blocks, and Inline Content
- How to use XSLT to create PDF documents
- Centralized maintenance through property sets
- PDF rendering engines: RenderX, AntennaHouse, Apache FOP

HTML and CSS

- CSS overview
- HTML headers and footers
- The *outputclass* hack
- Stub templates provided with the DITA Open Toolkit
- Adding your own custom CSS files
- Creating and viewing HTML and Eclipse Help

Objectives

After completion of the course, participants will be able to create their own customizations for the DITA Open Toolkit and know how to package and distribute these customizations as plug-ins.

Who Should Attend

The course is aimed at information architects, technical writers, style sheet developers, IT professionals and project managers who already have a basic understanding of DITA and XML and need to know about DITA Open Toolkit customizations and understand how to develop them.

Instructional Method

The course is 2 days, in English, delivered either as an open training or on-site. It is made up of a mixture of:

- Classroom instruction
- Hands-on lab exercises
- Interactive question and answer sessions
- Tool demonstrations