Implementing a common information architecture using DITA

The Nokia experience

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Contents

 Why Nokia selected the Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA) as a common content architecture

How we are using DITA



Nokia DITA common architecture information candidates

EXTERNAL INFORMATION

Quick Guide (paper, PDF, HTML)

Easy Guide (HTML)

Online Help

Service Information (paper, PDF, HTML, video)

Sales Package User Guide (paper, PDF, HTML)

Interactive Tutorial (simulation)

Support information for dealers (paper, simulation)

Marketing material (paper, multimedia)

INTERNAL INFORMATION

Software & Hardware Specifications

User Interface Specifications

Test Specifications

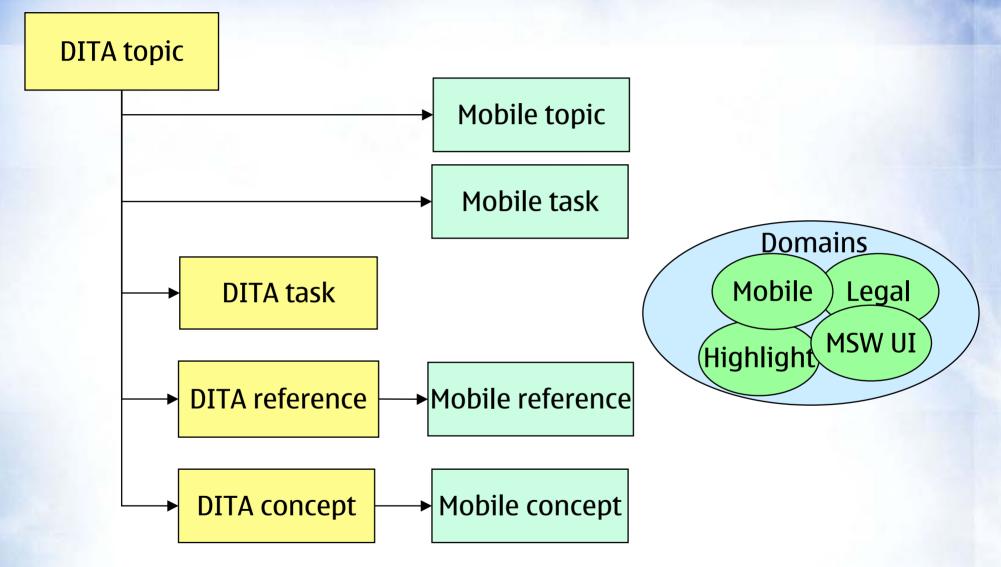
Legend:

Black – production or proof of concept

Blue - roadmapped

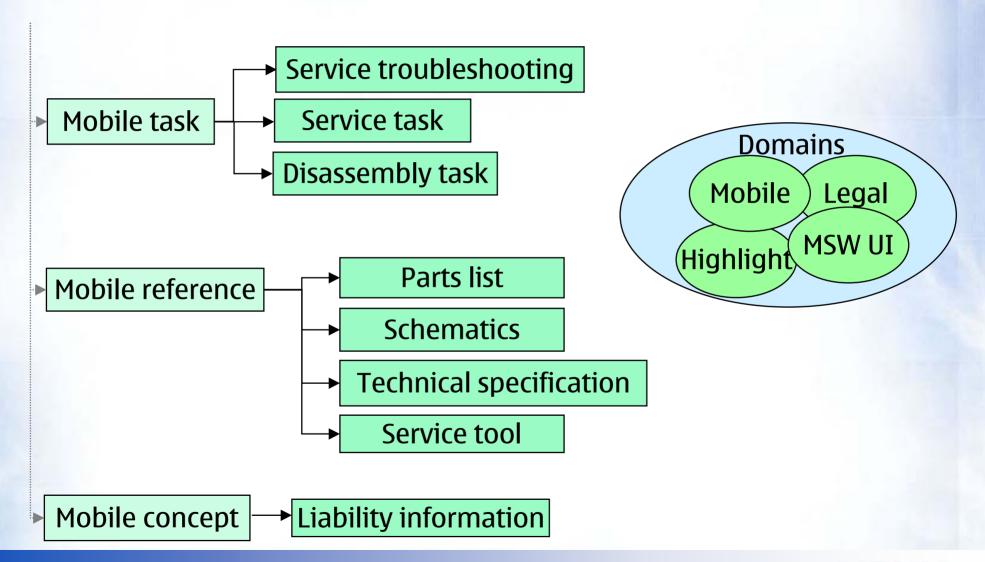


Current specialization – Base Nokia mobile topic types



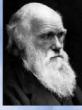


Current specialization - mobile topic types



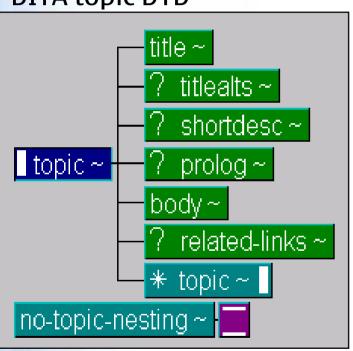


Example of task specialisation

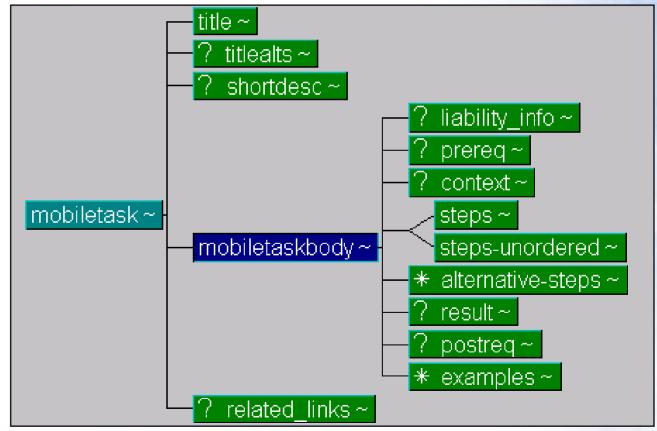


Nokia specialization of DITA topic (extract from DTD viewer)

DITA topic DTD

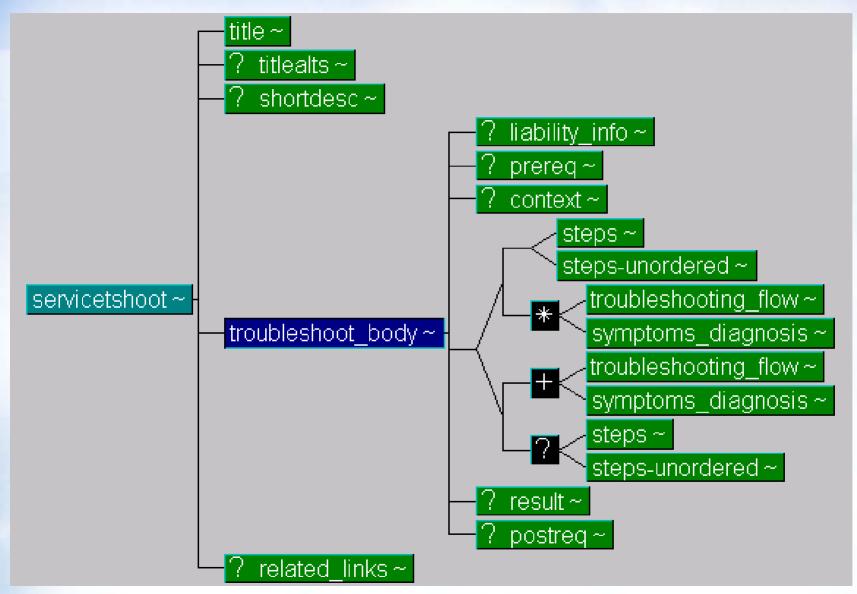


Nokia mobile task DTD



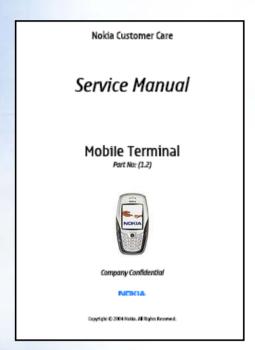


Nokia mobile service troubleshooting DTD specialization





Example 1: Mobile phone service information products



- Instructions for servicing mobile phones in dedicated service centers
- PDF, on-line and service software help information created from the same source
- High level of reuse of content for phones of the same family
- Different versions of an information product created from the same source based on agreements with service centers



Topic-based architecture for servicing

How do I replace the component?

Disassembling the phone

What is this feature?

Troubleshooting the FM radio

What component may may need replacing?

FM radio

What is the function of this component?

How do I service the radio?

FM radio schematic

What's the part number?

Module parts list

FM radio module functional description



Example 2: Standard Nokia documents

NOKIA

Version 1 No status COMPANY CONFIDENTIAL 21 (32)

Specialisation

Specialisation of stentry

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Class attribute

+ topic/stentry mobrepl-d/callout_descr

"%univ-atts"

Reuse cases

None

Issues/comments

3.2.7 legend

An explanatory caption accompanying the graphic in a figure or a description of the symbols used in the graphic.

- · ordered_list (optional, one or more)
- · porg (optional, one or more)
- · note (optional, one or more)
- · preformatted (optional, one or more)
- · simpletable (optional, one or more) · table (optional, one or more)
- · unordered list (optional, one or more)

Attributes

"%univ-atts"

Usage

Use to explain the symbols used in the graphic or to explain in more detail the purpose and function of the

Use collouts to describe callouts and caption to provide a title for the graphic

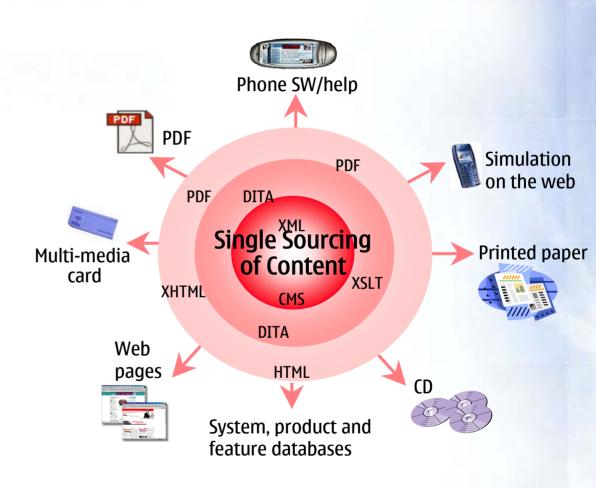
ographic hraf="GUIDMA12916E773911D9AE77000SDB6SA40A"> comption>MODE logo /caption>
<legend>cpreamMODE is a program of the Content Folutions organisation of Nokia Technology Platform.cpara>c/legend>

- For specifications and other standard documents in Nokia
- Content created using standard mobile information types – Mobile concept, Mobile task and Mobile reference
- Multiple document type styles



Information architecture goals

- ✓ Reduce content creation costs
- ✓ Reduce localisation costs
- ✓ Move quickly to XML
- ✓ Reduce content exchange costs
- Minimise maintenance costs
- ✓ Respond quickly to new needs
- ✓ Reduce creation timescales





Why DITA?

- Match with information design approach modular, task-oriented, topic-based XML, supporting single-sourcing objectives
- Built-in mechanisms and principles support reuse of individual topics and topic collections
- Support for defining links outside topic content and in collection (map) content, which increases reuse potential of topics
- Support for extending the architecture quickly and reusing investment in transformation logic
- Inheritance principles reduce cost of adding new user domains to common architecture
- Reduced information exchange costs
- Open standard (OASIS) and growing DITA community
- DITA architecture package includes DTDs, toolkit and base transforms
- Examples of implementations available



Our experience so far

DITA provides comprehensive DTDs.

 We specialized and simplified to meet the needs of our user groups, whilst retaining the generalisation and exchange benefits of DITA

Specialization benefits have outweighed constraints

Reuse business case demonstrated in first pilot projects

Architecture up and running quickly compared to our previous experience of modular XML

Transformation benefits demonstrated

New modular architecture popular with authors so far

Developing the whole content solution is challenging

