



“M” is for Manual: Open Source Tools for Documentation

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About...



Outline

What is DocBook?

Best practices

Documentation toolkits

Publican



What is DocBook?



GEEKSPEAK



XML spec for technical docs



HUMANSPEAK



Markup language for creating books, articles, etc.



Sample DocBook

```
<book>
  <title>How to write a book</title>
  <bookinfo>
    <author>
      <firstname>Johnny</firstname>
      <surname>Author</surname>
    </author>
  </bookinfo>
  <chapter>
    <title>Chapter the First</title>
    <para>Let's begin with a story! Once upon a time in
      Portland, there was a great conference...</para>
  </chapter>
</book>
```



Why DocBook?



Plain text for easy revision control



Human-readable tags



Separates content from presentation



XML transformation: LaTeX, HTML, PDF, *wiki, etc.



Which tags to use



RTFM (kidding!):
<http://www.docbook.org/tdg/>



Use an XML-aware editor



Free XML editors

Emacs (with nXML mode)

XMLmind Personal edition

Vim

Syntax Serna Free

XMLBuddy for Eclipse



Best practice: XInclude



Remix your book!



Best practice: Entities



**OK, I learned DocBook.
Now what?**



Validate it: xmllint



Transform it: xsltproc



Included stylesheets:

HTML

XHTML

XHTML 1.1

HTML Help

Java Help

Epub

Man pages

FO (use FOP ► PDF)



Clean it up: xmllint



Toolchains: Make it simple



Translation: gettext and Transifex



Introducing Publican...



Publican

Toolchain for creating and using DocBook

Another Red Hat **contribution** to the open source community

Makes it very simple to create HTML and PDF output from your DocBook text

Fedora is using Publican for **official docs**

Let's see a demo!



Revision control!



Questions?

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