

DITA CMS Case Study: SAP



The Challenge

The ways we learn are changing. The classroom has gone virtual. Our sources are wikis & blogs, tablet computers and interactive formats, not just instructors & textbooks. Companies don't just need traditional training courses anymore, they need flexible, modular, multi-channel content.

SAP Education, a world leader in IT training, anticipated this learner-demand revolution 10 years ago when they shifted to an XML-based content development infrastructure. SAP trains more than 300,000 learners each year with global consistency and quality across 40 countries.

Despite the significant efficiencies gained with XML, in 2009, SAP still needed new tools powerful and elegant enough to manage the transformation of roughly 200 traditional education courses into almost 20,000 different, smaller "chunks" of dynamic learning content to be delivered in multiple formats, nine different languages, and customizable to any client brand.

Selecting DITA

SAP chose to evolve from a proprietary XML format to the DITA open standard. DITA allows users to establish a simple and structured way of writing and organizing information elements, text and meta-data. It facilitates minimalistic writing and creates efficiencies in production times. For SAP, it became clear that DITA would become the reference for efficient content management and production.

Selecting Componize & *instinctools

SAP chose the Componize/*instinctools partnership for its DITA component content management system and its integration with SAP's other content systems.

Pure DITA

The Componize/*instinctools partnership is the leader in truly native DITA support, which ensures the longevity and flexibility of the system. Users always work and will always work in native DITA files.

Time-saving features

Time-saving features include automatic link validation, metadata synchronization and automatic categorization. An SAP manager in charge of the project noted that they expect to significantly reduce the time writers spend on preparing documents for production, and focus far more time on content development. Componize/*instinctools' own benchmarks demonstrate publishing at 10 to 15 times faster than traditional pipeline implementations.

Scalability

The SAP team expects to be producing more and different kinds of content in more channels to more target groups. The system can handle 20,000 chunks of content, used and reused in potentially dozens of contexts, in nine different languages and customizable to thousands of customers' specifications.

Componize/*instinctools Solution

Pure DITA

Efficient Features

Easy to integrate

Scalable

Fast Facts

300,000 learners

40 countries

10 to 15 times faster than traditional pipeline implementations

DITA instead of proprietary XML standard

In today's business environment, enterprise content is increasing in importance, volume and complexity. Like SAP, you can create, manage, and share enterprise content, all in a highly scalable solution with Componize/*instinctools.