

# DITA and Markdown

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# Agenda

- Structured authoring
- Content and markup
- Markdown
- DITA
- Markdown and DITA inside a documentation project

# It all starts with the content

Create a Google account

How to create or set up your Google Account on your mobile phone.

From a Home screen, swipe up to access Apps.

Tap Settings > Accounts

Tap Add account > Google.

# Content alone is not enough

# Why do we need structure?

- Defines the organization/model of content
- Helps us enforce the defined model
- Increases consistency
- Automatic processing
- Faster publishing workflows

# What Meaning Lies Beneath

Create a Google account

Title

How to create or set up your Google Account on your mobile phone.

Short description

From a Home screen, swipe up to access Apps.

Tap Settings > Accounts

Tap Add account > Google.

Procedure

# Encode it with a Markup Language

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Procedure

# Markdown

- Easy to learn
- Minimalistic
- Many authoring tools available
- Publishing tools

Create a Google account  
=====

How to create or set up your **Google Account** on your mobile phone.

- \* From a Home screen, swipe up to access Apps.
- \* Tap **Settings** > **Accounts**
- \* Tap **Add account** > **Google**.



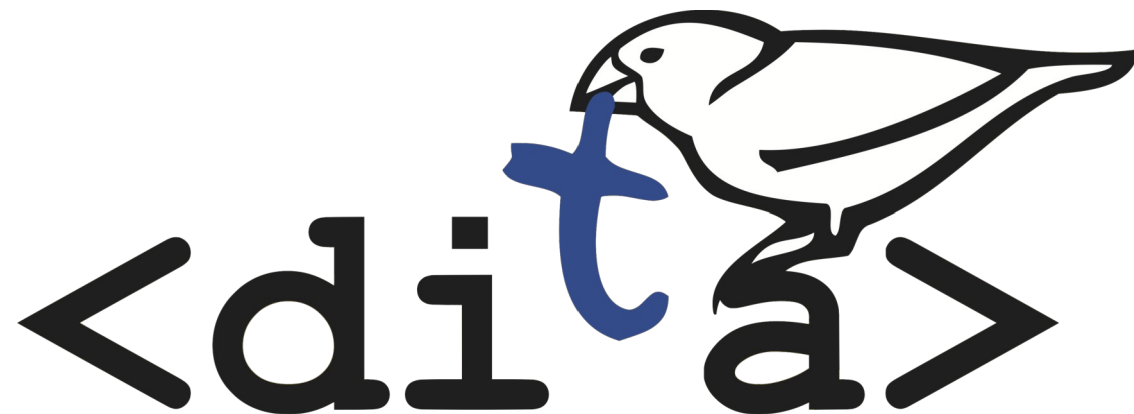


# XML

- e(**X**)tensible (**M**)arkup (**L**)anguage
- Define your own tags/markup
- Powerful mechanisms to enforce valid content structure (DTD/Schema/Schematron)

# DITA

- DITA is an XML-based open standard for structuring, developing, managing, and publishing content.
- Semantic markup (separates formatting from content)
- Strong content reuse concepts
- Restrictions and specializations



# Side by side

Create a Google account

=====

How to create or set up your **Google Account** on your mobile phone.

1. From a Home screen, swipe up to access Apps.
1. Tap **Settings** > **Accounts**
1. Tap **Add account** > **Google**.

```
<task id="create_google_account">
  <title>Create a Google account</title>
  <shortdesc>How to create or set up your <term>Google Account</term>
on your mobile phone.</shortdesc>
  <taskbody>
    <steps>
      <step>
        <cmd>From a Home screen, swipe up to access Apps.</cmd>
      </step>
      <step>
        <cmd>Tap <menucascade>
          <uicontrol>Settings</uicontrol>
          <uicontrol>Accounts</uicontrol>
        </menucascade></cmd>
      </step>
      <step>
        <cmd>Tap <menucascade>
          <uicontrol>Add account</uicontrol>
          <uicontrol>Google</uicontrol>
        </menucascade></cmd>
      </step>
    </steps>
  </taskbody>
</task>
```

# Side by side – visual mode

## Create a Google account

How to create or set up your **Google Account** on your mobile phone.

1. From a Home screen, swipe up to access Apps.
2. Tap **Settings > Accounts**
3. Tap **Add account > Google**.

## Create a Google account

**Short Description:** How to create or set up your *Google Account* on your mobile phone.

1. From a Home screen, swipe up to access Apps.
2. Tap **Settings→Accounts**
3. Tap **Add account→Google**

# Scenario

- Main documentation project written in DITA
- Contributors (devs) sending content in Markdown

# [1] Convert MD to DITA

- MD => HTML => DITA
  - <https://pandoc.org/>
  - <http://dita-ot.sourceforge.net/1.5.2/readme/DITA-h2d-ant.html#h2d-ant>
- MD => DITA
  - DITA-OT plugin developed by Jarno Elovirta  
<https://github.com/jelovirt/dita-ot-markdown>
  - Oxygen Batch Converter plugin  
<https://github.com/oxygenxml/oxygen-resources-converter>

## [2] Keep MD and use it in DITA

- Dynamic conversion (custom URL)
  - `<topicref href="md2dita:/topic.md" format="dita"/>`
  - <https://github.com/oxygenxml/dita-glass>
- Refer MD files directly in your map
  - `<topicref href="tasks/changingtheoil.md" format="markdown"/>`
  - `<topicref href="tasks/changingtheoil.md" format="mdita"/>`
- Seamless publishing

# Using specific DITA concepts in MD

## [Demo]

- Titles and document structure
- Specialization types
- Image and Key references
- Metadata

<https://github.com/jelovirt/dita-ot-markdown/wiki/Syntax-reference>



# What is Lightweight DITA?

- LwDITA is a proposed standard for expressing *simplified DITA documents* in *XML, HTML5, and Markdown*.
- The core goals of LwDITA:
  - Provide a simpler DITA experience
  - Provide mappings between XML, HTML5, and Markdown that enable individuals to:
    - Author content in the format of their choice
    - Easily exchange and publish content whose source exists in these different markup languages

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# Advantages

- Single sourcing across DITA and Markdown
- Collaboration on Markdown source
- Use DITA publishing options with Markdown
- Use Markdown publishing options
  - <https://github.com/jelovirt/dita-ot-markdown#generating-markdown-output>
  - Make use of publishing platforms like Jekyll, Vuepress, etc.

# Disadvantages

- Lacks semantics
- Consistency challenges
- Markdown language restrictions
- Reuse restrictions
- Review/Collaboration tracking challenges
  - When done on the Markdown source
    - No support for tracking changes
    - Difficult to visualize changes (diffs needed)
  - When done on converted content, like PDF
    - Encoutered workflow: Generate PDF => Devs review on PDF => Writer incorporates Review.
    - Extra overhead to incorporate review into source

# Why Devs tend to use Markdown?

- It has a low learning curve
- You do things fast
- Don't have time to learn another language
- They don't need any additional tool installed on their system

## [3] Could Devs write DITA?

- Learn it as you use it through Markdown2DITA controlled conversions. Like a *“Learning assistant”*.
  - Powered by Schematron Quick Fixes
  - <https://github.com/oxygenxml/ditaMark>
- Give Devs specialized editing environments (cloud based):
  - Specialized UI (e.g. HTML form) that generates consistent DITA
  - Specialized Web based DITA editors (e.g. oXygen Web Author)

# Could Devs write DITA?

## Task template

Title

Create a Google account

Short Description

How to create or set up your Google Account on your mobile phone.

Step

From a Home screen, swipe up to access Apps.

+

Submit

# Could Devs write DITA?

## The name of the task

**Short Description:** Writing short descriptions induces the writer to clarify the main thesis of the topic. We recommended a 50 word limit.

1. ▶ The step that the user must perform. [+] ◀



# Conclusion

- There is no one-size-fits-all solution
- Convert if it's a one time thing
- Keep them together and achieve single sourcing
- Consistency/Collaboration might require a switch to DITA

# THANK YOU!

**Any questions?**

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