
Synopsis: FM-XML Round Trip

- Description: A structured FrameMaker7 file is linked to XML insets also used by active webpages.
- Read the numbered headings for a quick outline of the presentation.
- For more presentation handouts, go to: <http://www.hikaripub.com/tips.htm>

1. A demo of the final project

2. A brief XML, DTD explanation with examples

A. Examples:

- SlantAlpha XML DTD
- The XML instance that uses the DTD
- The XML as it looks in Explorer, Netscape

B. Adobe examples:

- Where Cookbook resides on Windows:
Program Files/ Adobe / FrameMaker 7.0 / XMLCookbook
- EDD in Cookbook: FrameMaker 7.0 / XMLCookbook / Completed
- FMSGML EDD: FrameMaker 7.0 / Samples, FMSGML
- Where how-to for structured documentation resides: FrameMaker 7.0 / OnlineManuals

3. Make a structured FM document

Note: As you come against problems and solve them, write a Note to Self. You'll come up against a lot of them, and may forget how you solved earlier ones when you meet them again.

A. Develop an EDD

- 1 Examine your document architecture.
- 2 Write an EDD to support it, working with a sample document as you go.
- 3 Be sure to give Stand Alone permission to the top element you are going to chunk to.

B. Apply the EDD to an unstructured FM document

- 1 Open an existing non-structured FM document.
- 2 Import the EDD into the document: With the EDD open, select:
File / Import / Element Definitions.
- 3 From the unstructured document, generate a conversion table:
File / Structure tools / Generate a Conversion Table.
- 4 In the conversion table, map the unstructured FM document tags to your EDD elements.
- 5 With the FM document active and the conversion table open in background, apply the table to the unstructured file: File / Structure Current Document.
- 6 Clean up the newly structured document, wrap text with tags.

4. Translate structured FM doc to XML doc

A. Set up support files

- 1 Update the structapps.fm file with a new application that points to your support files: File / Structure Tools / Edit Application Definition (located in Structure).
- 2 Make a blank template (rename your sample structured file and delete all text).
- 3 Make Read / Write rules (copy an existing one and edit, add support for tables).
- 4 Produce CSS stylesheets: File / Structure Tools / Generate CSS2.
And/Or: Develop XSLT style sheets to transform the XML to HTML. (I did this last after I got everything working.)
- 5 Generate a DTD from your EDD: File / Structure Tools / Save as DTD.
- 6 Make sure the support files are in the locations pointed to by structapps.fm, relative to your structured document.
- 7 Tweak them all, and tweak again...
Note: Any time you edit the EDD or the DTD, remember to edit all support files and import the changes to all fm docs and XML docs affected. You may have to edit all FM docs and XML insets!

B. Convert document

- 1 Set structapps: File / Set Structured Application.
- 2 Save the Structured FM as XML: File / Save As.
- 3 Open XML in XML-compliant browser and have a look.

5. Make XML chunks and link them to the structured FM document as XML insets

- 1 Validate the structured FM document.
- 2 Save the document as XML.
- 3 Chunk the XML document into smaller XML files to use as insets.
Note: Use only a simple XML header at the top of each XML chunk, or FrameMaker won't use it. For example: `<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>`
- 4 Make sure you have a copy of your folder of support files where you have your XML chunks stored.
- 5 Open FM document and delete the topic to be replaced by the duplicate XML chunk.
- 6 Import XML inset: File / Import / File.
- 7 Copy the entity location information from the top your original XML document and add it to the XML chunk copy (only) of the DTD.

6. Edit XML chunks

- 1 You can open an XML chunk in notepad or Dreamweaver and edit.
- 2 Update your FrameMaker file: Edit / Update References / (text insets).
The edited version shows up in your FrameMaker document.