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Getting to know Lightweight DITA

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Who are we?

- OASIS Distinguished Contributor
- IBM Senior Technical Staff Member
- Architect of DITA 1.0, Editor of OASIS DITA Specifications 1.0 and 1.1
- Career progression:
  - Technical writer
  - Information architect
  - Tools/standards guy
  - Enterprise content tech strategy
  - Website product owner
  - Marketing taxonomy lead
  - Marketing analytics/information architect

Who are we?

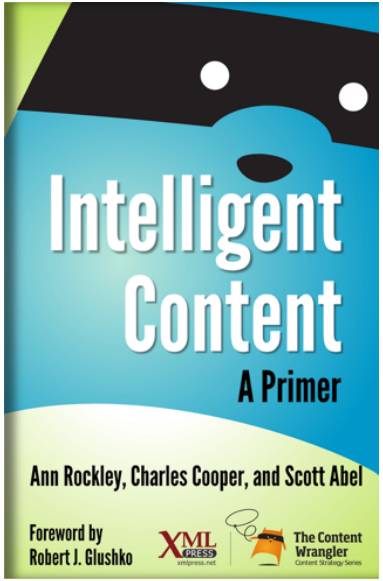
- Associate Professor of Communication
- Career progression:
  - Journalist
  - Technical writer
  - (Bad) User interface designer
  - PhD in Technical Communication and Rhetoric from Texas Tech University
  - Director of Professional and Technical Writing at VT
  - Author of the book “Creating Intelligent content with Lightweight DITA”
  - Professional Communication curriculum developer

Who are we?

Co-chairs of the Lightweight DITA subcommittee at OASIS

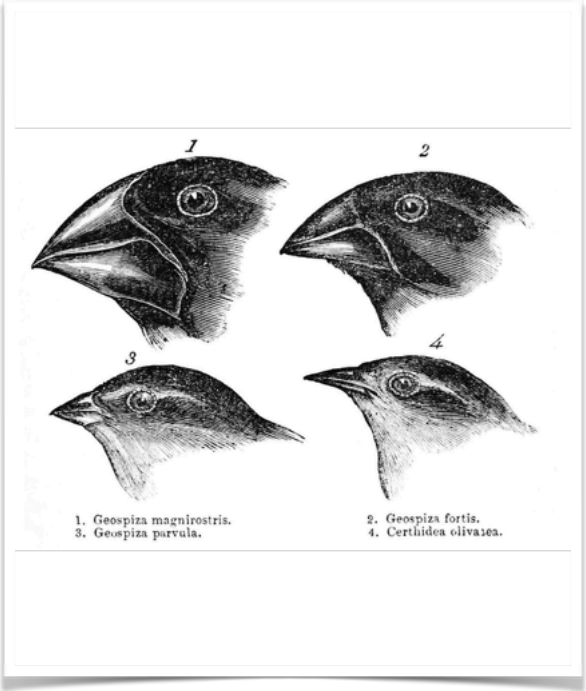
What is intelligent content?

… is designed to be modular, structured, reusable, format free, and semantically rich and, as a consequence, discoverable, reconfigurable, and adaptable.



What is DITA?

The Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA) is an XML-based architecture for authoring, producing, and delivering topic-oriented, information-typed content that can be reused and single-sourced in a variety of ways



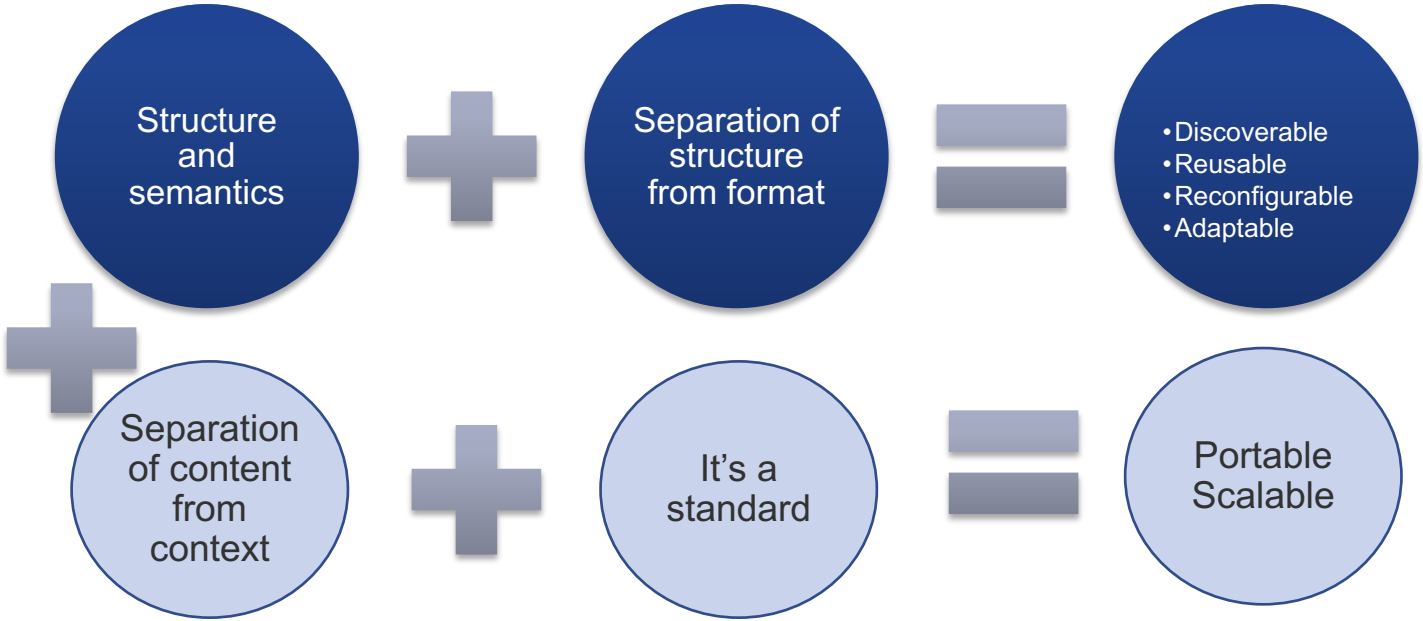
What is Lightweight DITA (LwDITA)?

A simplified version of DITA, with a smaller element and attribute set, stricter content models, and a reduced feature set.

What is Lightweight DITA (LwDITA)?

LwDITA defines mappings between XML, HTML5, and Markdown, enabling authoring, collaboration, and publishing across different markup languages.

What's the DITA delta?



What did the intelligent content silo say to the other intelligent content silo?

If DITA's so great, why isn't everyone using it? (And does LwDITA help)

Adoption barriers	LwDITA approach
Tools you use won't support it – because too complex, or bias against XML, or already implemented proprietary model	Lower cost of supporting it by simplifying standard Map to HTML5 as most common content standard
Authoring community standardized on another format	Bring LwDITA to Markdown, instead of trying to replace/migrate
Seen as too complex/high learning curve	Provide simple starting point, let people grow from there

What value can LwDITA provide (eventually)?

Department level

- More tool options
- Standardized entry point
- Start simple, then extend

Enterprise level

- Collaboration opportunities
- Sharing of tools in ecosystem without one size fits all
- Support end to end customer journey

With great power…

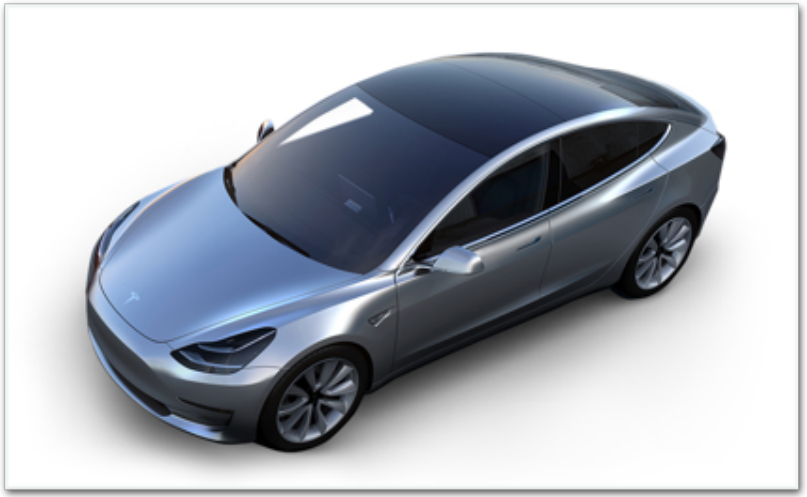
DITA 1.3 (all-inclusive)

- 26 document types
- 621 element types

So Lightweight. Such DITA.

LwDITA

- 2 document types
- 40 element types
  - 33 defined in DITA 1.3
  - 7 expected to be in the multimedia domain for DITA 2.0



LwDITA Flavors

- XDITA
- HDITA
- MDITA

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XDITA

- Based on a generic DITA XML topic type (**LwDITA 1.0**)
- Limited constraints, but also limited choices
- Allows single-sourcing, reuse, and all that good stuff.

XDITA example

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE topic PUBLIC "-//OASIS//DTD LIGHTWEIGHT DITA Topic//EN" "lw-topic.dtd">
<topic id="install-and-setup">
<title>Installing and Setting up Remote Lighting</title>
<shortdesc>Installation of your lighting kit includes installing the light bulbs into  light fixtures</shortdesc>
<body>
<p>The following video demonstrates a recommended installation:</p>
<video><media-controls /><video-poster value="remote-poster.jpg" />
<media-source value="remote.mp4" /></video>
</body>
</topic>
```

HDITA

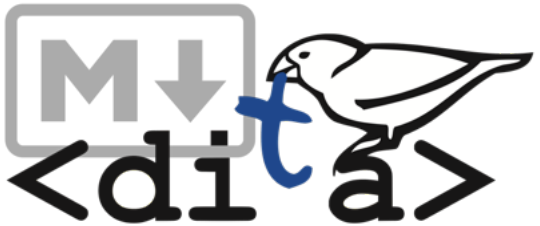
- Based on HTML5
- Can be used for format and presentation
- Allows single-sourcing, reuse, and all that good stuff (using HTML5 custom data attributes).

HDITA example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<title>Low-Power Networking</title>
<article id="low-power-networking">
<h1>Low-Power Networking</h1>
<p>Network lighting operates at a low level of networking power
but can successfully connect at long distances because they can
send information from light bulb to light bulb.</p>
<p data-conref="disclaimers.dita#osha-disclaim/electrical"></p>
</article>
```

MDITA

- Based on GitHub-Flavored Markdown
- Does not need tags (core profile)
- Uses HDITA snippets and some Markdown magic for advanced reuse features (extended profile).



MDITA example

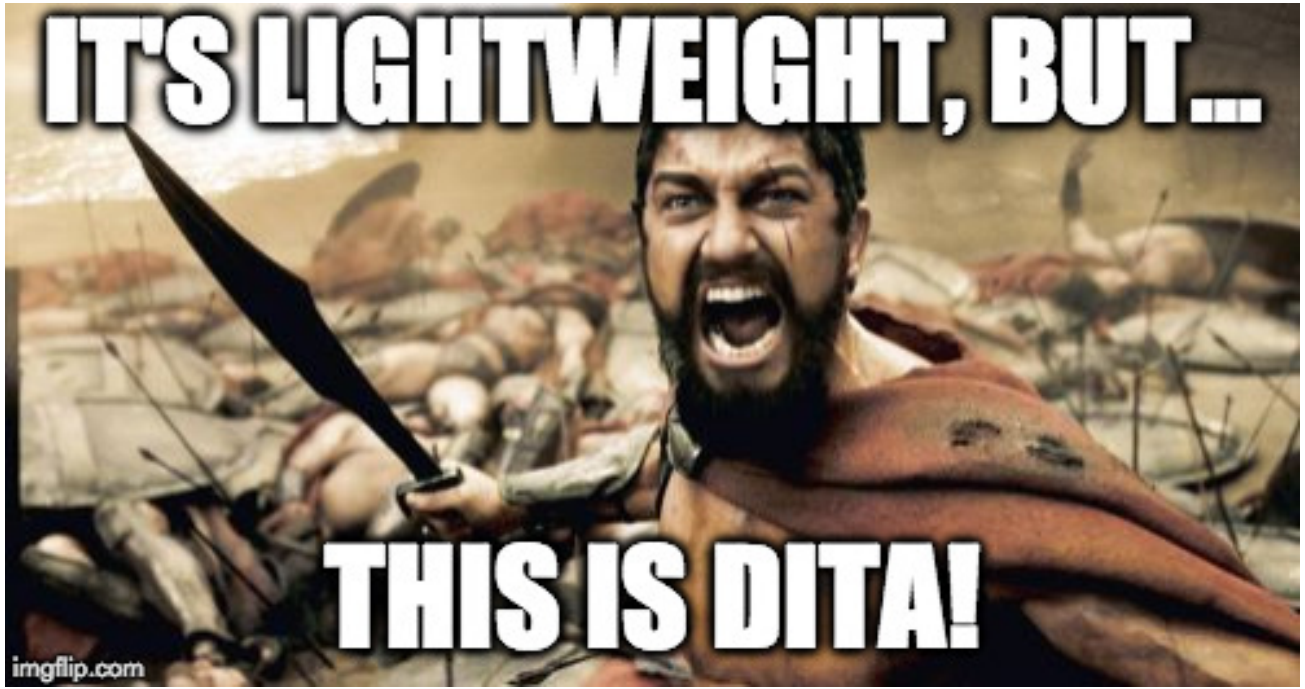
```
# Remote Control Components

The remote control has components that allow you to program and
operate the light bulbs on your lighting network.

## Disclaimer

<p data-conref="disclaimers.dita#osha-disclaim/electrical"></p>
```

Specialization, anyone?



No more DITA?

Are we all going Lightweight?

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Which is right for you?

Full DITA

- Advanced features
- More flexibility
- Mature tooling

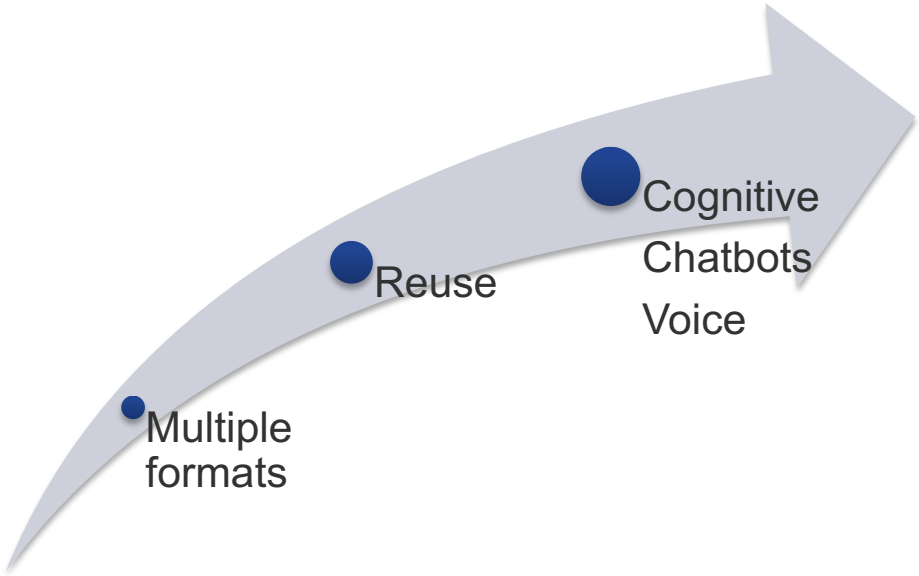
Lightweight DITA

- Start simple
- More tooling options
- Don’t need XML

Both

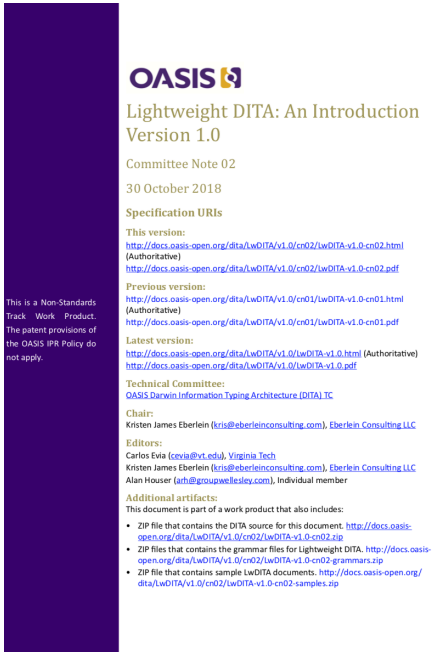
- Collaboration across enterprise
- Common tooling components
- Cross-format standard

Think ahead



Future friendly

I want more information!



This is a Non-Standards Track Work Product. The patent provisions of the OASIS IPR Policy do not apply.

OASIS

Lightweight DITA: An Introduction Version 1.0

Committee Note 02

30 October 2018

Specification URIs

This version:
http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/LwDITA/v1.0/cn02/LwDITA-v1.0-cn02.html (Authoritative)
http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/LwDITA/v1.0/cn02/LwDITA-v1.0-cn02.pdf

Previous version:
http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/LwDITA/v1.0/cn01/LwDITA-v1.0-cn01.html (Authoritative)
http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/LwDITA/v1.0/cn01/LwDITA-v1.0-cn01.pdf

Latest version:
http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/LwDITA/v1.0/LwDITA-v1.0.html (Authoritative)
http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/LwDITA/v1.0/LwDITA-v1.0.pdf

Technical Committee:
OASIS Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA) TC

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Additional artifacts:
This document is part of a work product that also includes:

- ZIP file that contains the DITA source for this document. http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/LwDITA/v1.0/cn02/LwDITA-v1.0-cn02.zip
- ZIP files that contains the grammar files for Lightweight DITA. http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/LwDITA/v1.0/cn02/LwDITA-v1.0-cn02-grammars.zip
- ZIP file that contains sample LwDITA documents. http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/LwDITA/v1.0/cn02/LwDITA-v1.0-cn02-samples.zip

CREATING INTELLIGENT CONTENT WITH LIGHTWEIGHT DITA

Carlos Evia

ATTW

ROUTLEDGE

How can you help?

- Reach beyond your silo
  - Talk to marketing, engineering, training, support, sales...
- Represent your requirements
  - Talk to your vendors about cross-silo requirements and standards
  - Talk to your IT department about sharing tools/processes
- Review your options
  - https://wiki.oasis-open.org/dita/LightweightDITASubcommittee/lwditatools
- Track our status
  - https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=dita-lightweight-dita
  - https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4943862