

A New Open Source Documentation Project: Lessons for Lizards

Frank Sundermeyer <fs@suse.de>

Novell, Inc.



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The Lessons for Lizards Project

The Book

- community documentation for openSUSE
- complements the internally produced documentation
- cookbook-style
- written in DocBook/XML
- licensed under the GFDL

The Tool Set

- XSLT stylesheets
- make mechanics
- SUSE aspell dictionary
- licensed under the GPL

Lessons for Lizards: The Book



What is it?

- from users for users
- covers more specific or exotic topics than the internally produced manuals:
 - complex setups (Configuring a Basic Home Network)
 - 3rd party products (Looking Glass 3D, VirtualBox)
 - specific configurations (Creating a Bootable USB Stick)
- step-by-step recipes, hands-on guide
- will ship with the openSUSE distribution
- available in PDF, HTML and wiki text



Contributing

Getting Started

Project home:

<http://developer.novell.com/wiki/index.php/Lfl>

- Documentation (Quick starts, FAQs)
- Project files hosted in SVN
- Download latest builds (PDF, HTML)

Requirements

- openSUSE login, become a project member
- DocBook/XML skills
- susedoc, java and fop installed



Tasks

Content

- write new texts
- proofread
- test lessons
- translate
- create graphics

Layout

- create or modify a book layout
- improve the stylesheets



Getting Help

- Documentation on project Web Site
- Mailing list opensuse-doc@opensuse.org
- The SUSE documentation team
 - software installation
 - migrating existing documents to XML
 - DocBook/XML
 - Stylesheet issues
 - SVN problems

Lessons for Lizards: The Tool Set



The susedoc.rpm

- contains XSLT stylesheets, make mechanics, SUSE aspell dictionary
- repository with susedoc.rpm and required packages is available through the Build Service
`http://software.opensuse.org/download/home:/thomas-schraitle/`
- updates are announced on opensuse-doc@opensuse.org

Requirements:

- Java (non-OSS openSUSE version only)
- newest FOP version (provided by susedoc repository)
- SUSE Linux 10.0 or newer



The XSLT Stylesheets

“Master” stylesheets:

- HTML
- PDF
- wiki markup

“Helper” stylesheets:

- Profiling
- Get structure, headlines, ids, etc.
- text-only



Profiling

- generates different output versions from a single XML source or
- adds special formatting to profiled elements

Examples:

```
<para os="oss">kpdf</para>
```

```
<para os="non-oss">acroread</para>
```

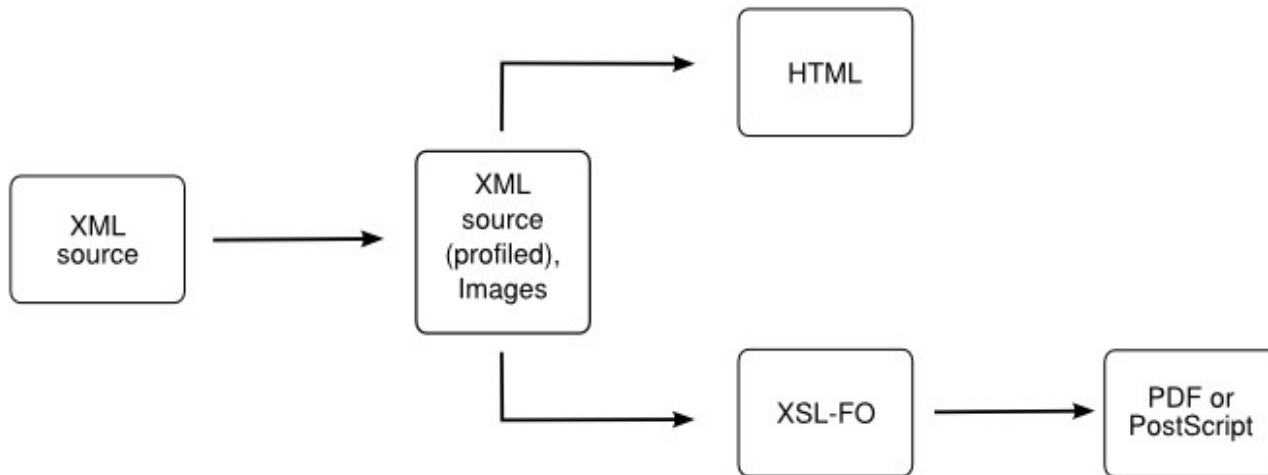
```
<phrase arch="x86_64">/usr/lib64</phrase>
```

```
<phrase arch="i386">/usr/lib</phrase>
```



Building a Book

1. Profiling the sources
2. Validating the profiled sources
3. Converting images
4. Transforming into XSL-FO or HTML
5. Generating the PDF





The make Mechanics

- make accepts a target (e. g. “pdf”) and then works off a set of rules to achieve this target
- “do stuff” approach ;-)



Benefits:

- the whole process chain is always completed
- no need to know the cryptic commands
- scriptable
- easily expandable
- unique



Customizing the Mechanics

- Customized with a set of variables defined in the projects ENV-file or the command-line:

DTDROOT: path to DTD

MAIN: XML file defining the project

BOOK: name of the book

FOP: FO processor (fop, XEP)

LAYOUT: LfL, openSUSE, ...

ROOTID: generate only the chapter with the given ID



make Targets

- pdf: generate b/w PDF
- color-pdf: generate color PDF
- html: generate HTML version
- wiki: create wiki output
- txt: create ASCII output

- validate: validate XML sources
- chklink: check HTML links
- dist-book: creates a tar ball with project and xml files

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