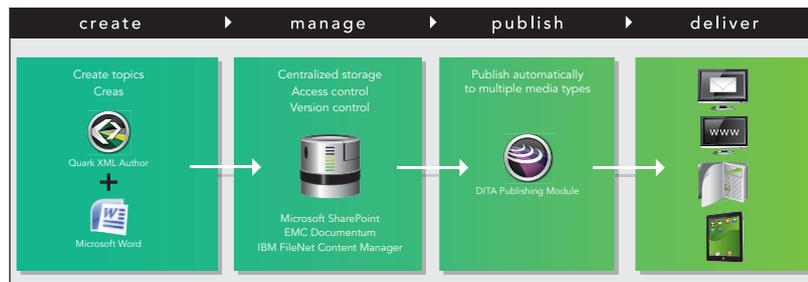# The Easy Path to DITA

For Technical Publications

Rising Expectations Outstrip Your Ability to Deliver

Technical publications departments must support increasingly complex products, faster product release cycles, and more product variations to meet the needs of increasingly segmented markets. Moreover, manufacturers are expanding into new global markets, which expands localisation requirements, and documentation must be available not only in print but also in multiple online forms including Web and hand-held browsers. At the same time, customers expect the information you deliver to be accurate, up-to-date, and relevant to their immediate needs.

Despite all these challenges, budgets are under greater pressure than ever. Small improvements to the technical publishing process cannot deliver the big gains that are required — a new approach is needed.

Revolutionise Your Documentation Processes with DITA

The solution to delivering higher-quality technical documentation while cutting costs and time is dynamic publishing built on DITA, an international standard for creating and automatically publishing single-source information. DITA supports topic-based authoring, which allows authors to create reusable components that can be combined in limitless combinations to create a broad range of documentation.

Quark DPS for Technical Publications is designed for users of the Microsoft Office Suite and makes adoption of DITA publishing easy. It lets users create XML content in the familiar environment of Microsoft Word and includes publication planning tools, review and approval workflows with commenting and change tracking in Microsoft Word, and centralised content storage and archiving through Microsoft SharePoint.

And because DITA is based on XML, it supports automated assembly of information for multiple audiences and automated publishing to multiple formats including print, Web, help files, and others.

Interest in DITA is rapidly gaining momentum because DITA addresses the needs of both the technical publications department and the organisation as a whole.

Documentation experts and corporate executives appreciate the business value of DITA — it helps increase productivity and reduce costs — while information technology experts appreciate the value of XML for the enterprise, which includes international standards, vendor independence, and broad availability of skills.

Easily Implement and Use DITA

Quark® Dynamic Publishing Solution (Quark DPS) for Technical Publications breaks down barriers that prevent technical documentation groups from adopting DITA, easing the path to adopting a

dynamic publishing solution that speeds delivery of accurate technical documentation in multiple formats, including print and online.

Designed specifically for Microsoft Word and Microsoft SharePoint, Quark DPS for Technical Publications lets users author content in Microsoft Word while hiding the complexity of XML from the user. Integration with Microsoft SharePoint, an enterprise content management system, supports sharing of technical information across the enterprise, the management of DITA document components, and the tracking of document status.

Through a collaborative workflow that integrates all participants in the process, the solution speeds up the publication process, improves overall productivity, and enhances information quality.

Core Components

Quark DITA Studio

Quark DITA Studio supports the "project" approach that most technical publications departments use to organise their work. In Quark DITA Studio, a project includes one or more publications along with their supporting files, which include the topics, illustrations, and other information components that make up the finished publications. In a single window, DITA shows all of the key information about a publication and its components, which puts everything the writers, editors, and project managers need right at their fingertips.

Quark XML Author

Quark XML Author is an add-in to Word that lets you easily create XML documents such as DITA topics. It works hand-in-glove with Microsoft Word, letting you create content within a familiar, simple, and full-featured user interface. While many functions continue to operate normally, others change in subtle ways to give you appropriate choices to ensure you are creating correct XML.

Quark Adapter for SharePoint

The adapter integrates Quark DITA Studio and Quark XML Author with Microsoft SharePoint, letting you manage DITA document components and track document status.

Quark DPS for Technical Publications

Unlike other solutions, Quark DPS for Technical Publications provides an easy path to DITA publishing because it is specifically for Microsoft Word and SharePoint — widely-used products that are familiar to most users. The solution:

- Removes the XML complexities of DITA and is easy-to-use
- Is ready to use out-of-the-box, so organisations can deploy it quickly and avoid months of integration effort often associated with other solutions
- Helps technical publications departments meet growing documentation challenges using an international standard for technical publishing

BENEFITS

Easily Adopt DITA with Microsoft Word

Increase user acceptance and reduce the learning curve with an out-of-the-box solution designed specifically for use with the Microsoft® Office Suite; the solution adds DITA-specific capabilities to Microsoft Word to hide XML complexities from users while letting them gain the benefits of XML authoring.

Content Management with SharePoint

Manage DITA document components and track document status using Microsoft SharePoint®, eliminating the need to implement expensive content management systems.

Better Information Quality

Automation of the publishing process lets writers focus on content rather than formatting, ensures that all publications match corporate design standards, and enables the production of more targeted and relevant publications.

Collaboration, Speed Time to Market

Let multiple authors work on different components of documents at the same time, which reduces project timelines; bring subject matter experts into the publishing process so they can contribute content directly.

Increased Productivity and Information Consistency

Create content once and store it in a repository, reuse the same content in multiple documents, and publish them automatically to print, Web, and other formats.

About Quark

Quark's software enables organisations of all sizes to meet customer demand for engaging, relevant communications when, where, and how they want them. Our solutions combine the power of XML with flexible layout and design to automate the delivery of customer communications to print, Web, and interactive experiences on the latest digital devices. Financial services firms, manufacturers, and governments around the world rely on Quark solutions to elevate customer communications to new levels, reduce time to market, and lower costs.

Revolutionising Publishing. **Again.**™

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