

Tag Set Promulgation

Norman Walsh

Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Norman Walsh...

- **XML Standards Architect at Sun Microsystems.**
- **Chair, DocBook Technical Committee at OASIS. Member of the DocBook maintenance organization for a decade or so. (Principle maintainer of the schemas, primary author of the reference documentation.)**
- **Standards wonk: member of lots of XML-related working groups**
- **Markup geek, programmer, XML hack.**

DocBook...

DocBook is an XML schema maintained by the DocBook Technical Committee of OASIS. It is particularly well suited to books and papers about computer hardware and software (though it is by no means limited to these applications).

DocBook...

- **Designed for prose content, particularly technical content.**
- **Widely used, extended, and subsetted. Staggering quantities of commercial and open-source documentation are maintained in DocBook.**
- **Also: works of fiction, books about architecture, websites, slides (like these), and all manner of things.**

Encouraging Adoption...

- **Good timing**
- **Adaptable but focused**
- **Stable**
- **(Relatively) Easy to customize**
- **Community support:**
 - > **Websites, mailing lists, wikis, IRC, ...**
 - > **Presentations at conferences (like this one)**
 - > **Make it free, provide free tools**

Successful?

Totally.

- **Ironically, not in exactly the way intended.**
- **DocBook, conceived as an interchange format, has become an authoring format.**

Unsuccessful?

- **Structured authoring is *hard*.**
- **Free tools are too hard for novices to install and use.**