



# Elkera Pty Limited

Product information

## Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author

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## Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author

The Elkera<sup>®</sup> Utilities for XMetaL Author extend XMetaL Author (<http://www.xmetal.com>) to provide unrivalled ease of use for XML content authors and reduce the costs of application development, training and support.

XMetaL Author is the leading XML editor, according to an independent report in 2004 *Choosing an XML editor* (<http://ahds.ac.uk/creating/information-papers/xml-editors/>). The Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author build on this platform to add even more power and to minimize development effort. They enable developers to quickly create applications that will make XML content authoring much easier than using a word processor.

The Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author can be used to simplify development with any narrative document XML DTD or schema. They are particularly suited for use with hierarchically structured schema needed for technical, business and legal documentation.

XML is becoming an essential part of enterprise content management strategies. If you need to re-use and re-purpose narrative content or automatically publish content in multiple output formats, XML is the enabling tool.

Until now, there has been a major barrier to the use of XML based content management systems outside highly specialised author groups in large publishing firms. Out of the box, XML editor applications do not provide an acceptable user interface for authors of XML documents. The design of XML Schema or DTDs and the needs of authors vary greatly for particular types of content. XML editors must be extensively customized to take account of these factors and make XML authoring truly convenient for content authors. The effort required to undertake this customization has been a barrier to many enterprises adopting XML content management strategies.

The Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author solve this problem. They minimize the development effort required to create XML authoring applications that will delight content authors and slash training and support costs. With a well designed DTD or schema, authors of narrative documents can create XML markup automatically as content is entered and without unnecessary distraction. In most contexts, authors should be able to "type, press Enter and keep typing".

With the Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author, XML authoring can enhance author productivity and open the door to more effective enterprise publishing strategies.

The Elkera Utilities also provide unique tools that greatly improve XML content creation and publishing system architecture. The powerful automatic numbering component dynamically updates component numbers and writes these into the markup. Persistent component numbers support dynamic cross references and enable flexible

switching between automatic and fixed numbering. Component numbers are calculated once only, avoiding the need to re-calculate them in multiple publishing applications.

The application context for the Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author is shown in the following diagram.



Key features of the Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author include:

- 
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Flexible, easily configured rule manager that provides powerful context rules for element insertion, element transformation and next valid location element insertion | ✓ |
| Context based rules for control of the right mouse context menu   | ✓ |
| Flexible, automatic component numbering that dynamically writes numbers into the markup   | ✓ |
| Superb cross reference utility to create dynamic cross references to other document components  | ✓ |
| Configuration rules can be shared among multiple DTDs or schema   | ✓ |
| Application configurations and settings can be shared by networked users  | ✓ |
| Powerful select, copy/cut and paste structure commands  | ✓ |
| Context sensitive pre-formed structures   | ✓ |
| Improved XMetaL Asset insertion   | ✓ |
| Bookmarks, autotext and other editor utilities  | ✓ |
| Customizable pre-print work flow utilities  | ✓ |
| Comprehensive developer documentation   | ✓ |
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## Key features for authors

The Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author are designed to make XML authoring easier than using a word processor when configured to a well designed DTD or schema. In particular:

- The Elkera Utilities provide context based element insertion at the next valid location to permit 'tags off' authoring in all common situations.
- The Elkera automatic numbering engine allows convenient and flexible numbering of document components.
- The Elkera cross reference utility makes it simple to create and maintain dynamic cross references to numbered components.
- The Utilities include powerful markup transformation and editing tools to assist authors to easily edit documents in 'tags off' view.
- Many other specific features make XML authoring simple and convenient.

Authors of standard technical, legal and business documents will be able to concentrate on content authoring, rather than the XML markup. They can be freed from all the inconveniences of document formatting without the disadvantages traditionally associated with XML content authoring.

## Key features for application developers

The Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author are designed to simplify and reduce the cost of developing author friendly XML authoring applications. In particular:

- The context rule manager allows precise use of XML contexts for all element insertion and transformation tasks by authors.
- The Elkera automatic numbering and cross reference components can dynamically create and write all values into the markup. Rendering applications do not have to re-calculate numbers and references, making those applications easier to develop and maintain.
- Application components can be shared among multiple DTDs or XML Schema to minimise development effort.
- Application resources can be easily shared among multiple authors in networked environments.
- The Utilities also include a range of pre-developed components that will greatly reduce development effort.
- Comprehensive configuration and developer guides are available to enable developers to create new components and efficiently configure existing components.

Developers can deliver superior application functionality quickly and with minimal programming effort.

## Business benefits

The benefits from using XML content in your single source or dynamic enterprise publishing system can be substantial. To achieve those benefits, content authors need XML authoring tools that make their work easier.

Frequently, internal developers of customized authoring interfaces to XML editors create large chunks of poorly documented, custom code. These *guru systems* are costly to develop and particularly costly to maintain in the long term.

The Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author solve these problems. They allow enterprises to cost effectively create XML content authoring systems that will improve author productivity and open the door to XML based single source publishing. The Elkera Utilities for XMetaL Author can replace large chunks of costly, custom developed code with a fully supported and documented application that will reduce costs, speed up application development and provide enhanced functionality.

When using a well designed XML DTD or schema:

- The Elkera Utilities make it easier to create XML authoring applications that content authors will want to use, thereby reducing change management barriers.
- They will greatly reduce application development time and cost.
- They will reduce training and support costs.
- They will simplify the work of content authors, allowing them to work more productively and create more reliable data.

enable enterprises to

## Introduction to XMetaL Author

XMetaL Author (<http://www.xmetal.com>) is a flexible, dedicated XML authoring application that provides superior features over competing applications. It is designed to be integrated with a wide range of content management systems. Key features include:

- continuous, strict validation of markup which prevents authors from creating invalid markup during element insertion;
- advanced table creation and editing features comparable to those found in word processing software;
- support for arbitrary DTDs and XML Schema;
- flexible CSS screen rendering;

- 'Normal', 'Tags on', 'Tags off' and 'plain text' editor views;
- spelling checker;
- provision for templates and precedent text;
- flexible element insertion and attribute completion features;
- find and replace; and
- macro language and application programming interface.

Detailed information about XMetaL Author and a downloadable trial version is available from the XMetaL web site ([www.xmetal.com](http://www.xmetal.com)).

## **The next step**

Elkera's experienced consultants are ready to help you define your requirements and to plan and develop an application to suit your enterprise content creation and publishing needs.

To obtain more information, including technical documentation, evaluation software and a product demonstration, please contact Elkera now.

## **Contact Elkera**

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