



Elkera Pty Limited

Elkera XML Print

XML print publishing and document automation

The fastest, most flexible way to publish XML content to print, Word and PDF

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XML print publishing and document automation

The fastest, most flexible way to publish XML content to print, Word and PDF

Elkera® document automation and XML print publishing solutions streamline document production to help ensure that printed documentation is fast, accurate, targeted and standardized to enterprise styles and branding. Elkera document automation solutions can dramatically reduce the costs of creating, maintaining and generating printed documentation.

Elkera XML Print™ is a powerful, flexible and high quality solution for almost any kind of XML print publishing and document automation need. It is designed to automate the production of large volumes of complex printed documentation and to let desktop users control the publishing of individual XML documents.

Elkera XML Print uniquely simplifies style sheet development and maintenance compared to traditional approaches to XML formatting and publishing. Elkera XML Print empowers document designers without special XML publishing skills to quickly and easily manage production layouts. It makes print publishing from structured content accessible to any enterprise.

Benefits

Customers who use Elkera XML Print solutions to automate document production can:

- Slash content maintenance and document publishing costs with structured XML content.
- Ensure that all published documents conform to enterprise style and branding.
- Eliminate the redundant costs of manual styling and re-formatting for different outputs.
- Avoid duplication and inconsistency in content and maximize the accuracy of documentation.
- Publish content in multiple languages using the right presentation for each audience.

Industry solutions

Elkera XML Print provides unique solutions in demanding document publishing workflows in many industries:

- Product manufacturers and software vendors can manage topic based content (e.g. DITA XML) for efficient translation and single source publishing. These

enterprises can quickly create high quality print documentation without the need for specialist style sheet programmers.

- Government agencies can use structured XML to slash content maintenance and production costs for large volumes of long life content such as legislation, case law and other legal and regulatory materials. This content can be used to automatically create high quality print publications.
- Law firms, government agencies, financial institutions and many other businesses can use structured formats to better manage valuable precedents or templates over long periods. They can automatically generate fully styled Word documents ready to be edited by Word users.
- Any enterprise can better manage important knowledge content in a structured format and produce multiple output formats, including high quality print versions to more effectively meet user needs.

Elkera XML Print solutions

Easily create high quality publications from structured content

Publishing from structured XML content involves the development of exhaustive style rules for each desired output. Users of printed documentation expect high standards of layout and design in printed documentation. Style rules development for print publishing from XML is highly complex and traditionally is done by specialist style sheet developers in order to achieve reliable automation of high quality outputs.

Traditionally, XML based print publishing applications require a very high development effort to create code based style sheets. If print outputs must be adapted to multiple publications or customer requirements coding style sheets is simply too costly and inflexible for most users. The cost, complexity and inflexibility of code based style sheet development has been a significant barrier to the use of structured content for many enterprises.

Elkera XML Print smashes this barrier. Using pre-developed style rules for DITA and other schema, Elkera XML Print makes it easier than ever for documentation managers to design and publish high quality documentation from XML content with minimal or no style sheet coding.

Document managers can use existing skills to manage document design and style sheet changes. Page layout and style properties can be defined in Microsoft Word and imported into Elkera XML Print style sheets without programming.

Elkera XML Print provides exceptional self reliance to documentation managers so they can effectively create just the right presentation for every publication and customer. Elkera XML Print makes automated print publishing from structured content truly flexible and cost effective.

Quickly develop printed technical documentation with DITA

The Darwin Information Typing Architecture (*DITA*) is an OASIS XML language designed to manage product and user assistance documentation using a topic based architecture. A DITA topic based information architecture can greatly reduce content duplication, improve consistency, slash translation costs and facilitate automatic production of just the right content in the right format for the needs of each user group.

Print publishing solutions based on the DITA Open Toolkit and on XSL based applications are extraordinarily difficult to customize to your specific requirements and to maintain on an ongoing basis. A very high level of XSLT and XSL-FO expertise is required to make even simple changes to the DITA Open Toolkit style sheets. It can be a formidable exercise to plan and make all needed changes so your print application produces precisely the outputs you expect. It is also difficult to maintain and adapt style sheets to meet changing requirements after the initial development.

Elkera is dedicated to solving these problems. XML Print for DITA makes it easier than ever for documentation managers to quickly adapt the included style sheets into tailored print publishing applications without needing to learn new programming languages. Elkera XML Print for DITA also enables documentation designers to quickly modify print layouts to meet changing customer needs.

Elkera XML Print fully supports the DITA architecture. It includes foundation style sheets that provide all the common features required to produce product and user manuals plus article style documents. Most changes to those style sheets can be made using the visual styles design features of Elkera XML Print in Microsoft Word. Documentation managers can use existing skills to quickly adapt the foundation style sheets into tailored print publishing applications with minimal effort and expense.

Elkera XML Print for DITA slashes development effort and makes it easier than ever for documentation managers to produce high quality printed product and user documentation from topic based DITA content.

Enforce consistent styles and branding

Traditional word processor documentation is a disaster in many corporate environments. Many authors regard themselves as amateur desktop publishers with the freedom to control document appearance. The free-form nature of word processor document creation wastes vast amounts of time and reduces the effectiveness of written communication. In almost all enterprise contexts, documentation should be consistently presented using well designed standard styles to promote a consistent corporate image and facilitate effective communication. Enterprise content writers should be able to create content and never have to concern themselves with document presentation.

Elkera XML Print is a key element in solving this problem with structured content. All documentation can be generated automatically using standard layouts for each type of document. Generated documentation can be edited in a word processor, if necessary.

Elkera XML Print enables enterprises to store high volumes of structured content to reduce content maintenance costs. Valuable document content can be maintained indefinitely and used to automatically generate high quality print ready documents. Authors should not need to waste time on unproductive document formatting that is inconsistent and unreliable.

Elkera XML Print reduces the cost of creating standard documentation from enterprise content. It removes the inconsistencies and manual processes involved in conventional word processor based document production.

Automate document production

Many enterprises need to create large numbers of documents from stored precedents or templates. Traditionally, these documents are stored in word processor formats and copied to create new working documents. This is common for business proposals, legal documents and for correspondence and product documentation in financial services industries.

Maintenance of precedent and template documents in word processing formats creates many costs and disadvantages. Every time document layouts must be changed, even in minor ways, every document in the database must be edited. This is a costly and completely unnecessary burden associated with word processor based content.

Often, it is desired to store content chunks in clause libraries that can be re-used in multiple documents. It is very difficult to re-use word processing content in different documents or contexts because of the embedded styling information. If this styling is not correct for the target use, someone has to manually adjust the formatting. This is time consuming, error prone and costly.

Elkera XML Print is designed to automatically generate large volumes of print ready documents from structured XML content or Word template documents. It enables enterprises to manage precedent and template content to avoid the costs and unreliability of word processing formats without imposing change on content writers.

Organizations that produce large volumes of documents from templates can overcome the performance problems of batch processing in Word. Elkera XML Print provides exceptional performance for automated document production.

Summary of Elkera XML Print features

Features for non technical users

Elkera XML Print solutions can produce high quality print, RTF/Word and PDF outputs from any XML content.

Key features of Elkera XML Print for non technical users include:

- Style and layout properties for published documents can be designed in Word and imported into style rules without programming.
- Processing is very fast for large volume production.
- RTF/Word output is full featured and can include named styles and automatic numbering.
- The DITA architecture is fully supported using the DITA Open Toolkit.
- Use any schema or well formed XML.
- The application includes an easily configured user interface to give users extensive run-time control over printed outputs.
- It can be run via APIs for high volume, automated document generation.
- It can render content in most languages (except right to left).
- It is integrated with Microsoft Word for printing, including to API based PDF printers.

Features for developers

Elkera XML Print enables developers to easily create high quality, tailored XML print publishing solutions for any XML content.

- Elkera XML Print is a Microsoft .NET application and DLL with full API. It requires Windows 2000 or later and Word 2000 or later.
- It can be run as an application with easily configured interface or as a DLL with full APIs for high performance batch production.
- The rich style language includes variables, macros and conditional statements.
- The style language provides a powerful hierarchical and inheritance based formatting model.
- The application interface and user print options are fully configurable in an XML file.
- A project based style system allows multiple rule sets with shared rules.
- Using schema specific style rules, Elkera XML Print can render well formed XML or documents conforming to any DTD or XML Schema.
- Document layouts and styles can be designed visually using Microsoft Word and layout properties imported into style sheets with the Elkera Style Rules Manager.

- Formatting rules allow separate specification of contexts and formatting rules and the mapping of multiple contexts to a single formatting rule or style. The full XPath language is available to query XML documents in formatting rules.
- Processing instructions in the XML document can augment standard print rules.
- XML documents can be merged during processing, either in a pre-processing phase or via a command to suspend current processing and initiate a new process using a different rule set, if desired.
- The application provides full XML Namespace and Unicode support.
- Comprehensive developer documentation and example applications are available.

Visual styles design in Elkera XML Print

A unique feature of Elkera XML Print is its optional use of Microsoft Word to design page layouts and style properties for published documents. Once foundation style rules (called context rules in Elkera XML Print) are developed for a particular schema or DTD, a large part of the document layout can be defined in a Word document. Named styles in the Word document are mapped to style names in the Elkera XML Print style rules.

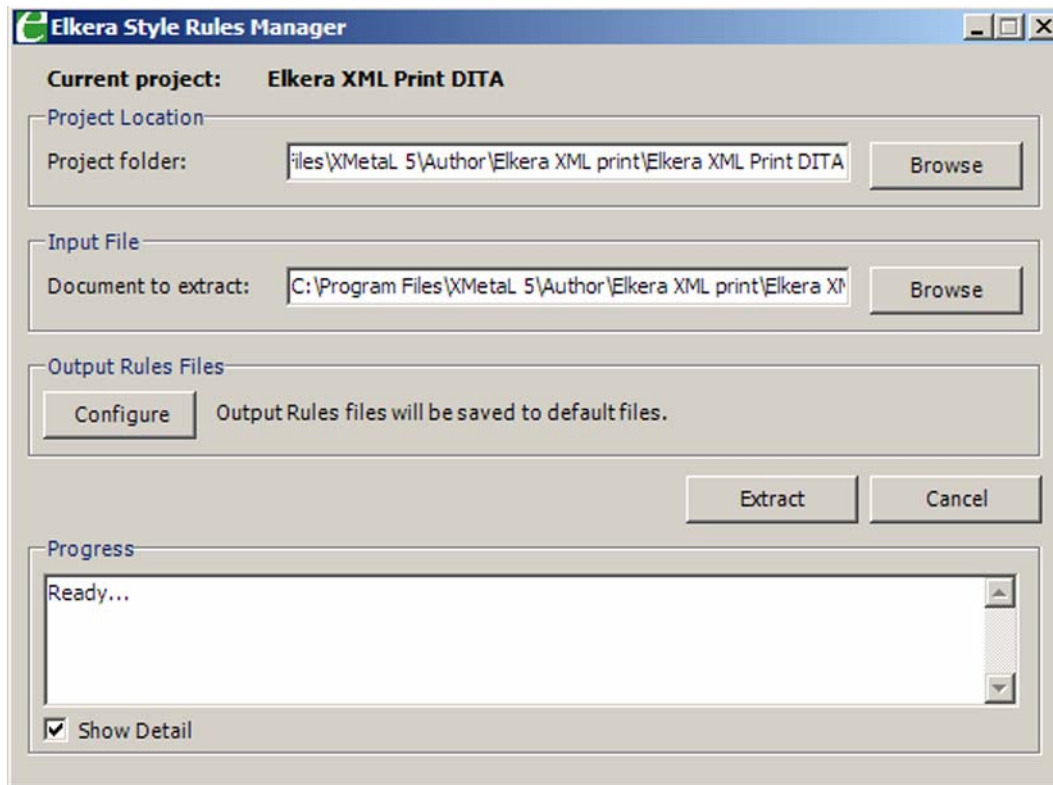
A Word document can be used to define:

- document and section page layouts;
- page layouts for headers and footers; and
- paragraph and character styles for document layouts.

Complete visual page layout capabilities for complex documents will be included in a new release in the first quarter 2007.

Foundation style rules and Word documents with layout and rule templates are provided for Elkera BNML and DITA.

After creating or revising layout and styles in a Word document, the layout and style properties (such as page margins, headers and footers, indents, automatic numbering, fonts etc.) are imported into style rules using the Elkera Style Rules Manager shown below.



Multi language support in Elkera XML Print

Elkera XML Print can render content in languages for which Unicode character sets are provided as long as appropriate fonts are installed on the system. Currently, Elkera XML Print does not support right to left languages.

Microsoft Word styles templates can use styles in any language except for multi byte languages, using the local version of Microsoft Word. In the case of multi byte languages, style names must be in English but all content can be in the local language.

The Elkera XML Print user interface provides localization support for all languages with Unicode support. Currently, the Elkera XML Print user interface is available in either English or German.

For more information about the multi language support for Elkera XML Print, please contact the Elkera sales representative.

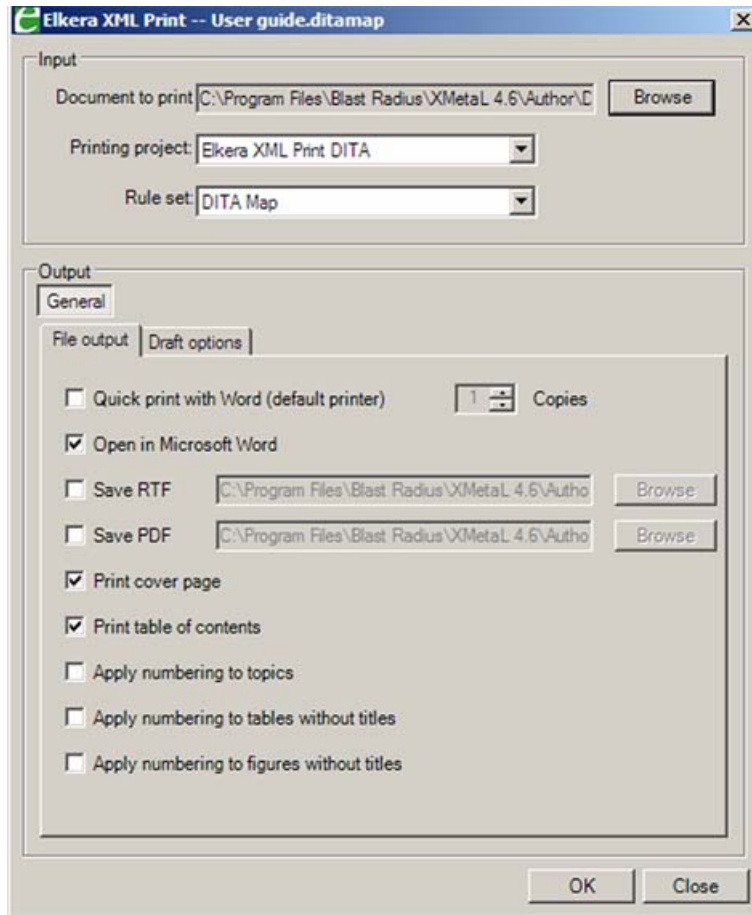
Elkera XML Print user interface

The Elkera XML Print desktop application provides a highly configurable user interface that gives unrivalled flexibility to desktop print users to control print jobs and work flows.

The Elkera XML Print user interface enables customers to provide users with run-time control over any aspect of the print job covering formatting options and generated outputs. For example, common print interface options may include:

- cover page types and content;
- contents listing;
- auto numbering of document components and numbering schemes to be applied;
- header and footer content;
- output formats to be generated;
- output file locations.

The Elkera XML Print interface provides an API that can be invoked from other Windows applications. An example user interface from Elkera XML Print for DITA is shown below.



Elkera XML Print for DITA

Self reliant, automated DITA print publishing

Traditionally, XML based print publishing applications require a very high development effort. This has been a significant barrier to the use of structured content for smaller enterprises or content management teams.

Elkera XML Print smashes this barrier. Using pre-developed style rules for DITA and other schema, Elkera XML Print makes it easier than ever for documentation managers to design and publish high quality documentation from XML content.

Document designers can now use Microsoft Word as a page layout and styles designer for XML print publishing projects. Page layout and style properties can be imported from the Word document into Elkera XML Print style sheets without programming.

DITA support in Elkera XML Print

Elkera XML Print fully supports the DITA architecture with pre-processing provided by the DITA Open Toolkit. Elkera XML Print supports DITA specialization, map and conref resolution plus conditional processing.

Print publishing solutions based on the DITA Open Toolkit and on XSL based applications are extraordinarily difficult to customize to your specific requirements and to maintain on an ongoing basis. A very high level of XSLT and XSL-FO expertise is required to make even simple changes to the DITA Open Toolkit style sheets. It can be a formidable exercise to plan and make all needed changes so your print application produces precisely the outputs you expect and to adapt style sheets to meet changing requirements.

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Elkera XML Print style sheets for DITA

Elkera XML Print for DITA provides a ready to go print publishing solution for DITA content. It includes foundation style sheets that provide all the common features required to produce product and user manuals plus article style documents. Most changes to those style sheets can be made using the visual styles design features of Elkera XML Print in Microsoft Word. Documentation managers can use existing skills to quickly adapt the foundation style sheets into tailored print publishing applications with minimal effort and expense.

Elkera XML Print for DITA slashes development effort and makes it easier than ever for documentation managers to publish high quality product and user documentation from topic based DITA content.

Contact Elkera

For more information, including evaluation software and a demonstration, please contact Peter Meyer.

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