Why "startcmd" is not your friend

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Tweets from @robander have not increased since 30 min ago
November 15, 2015
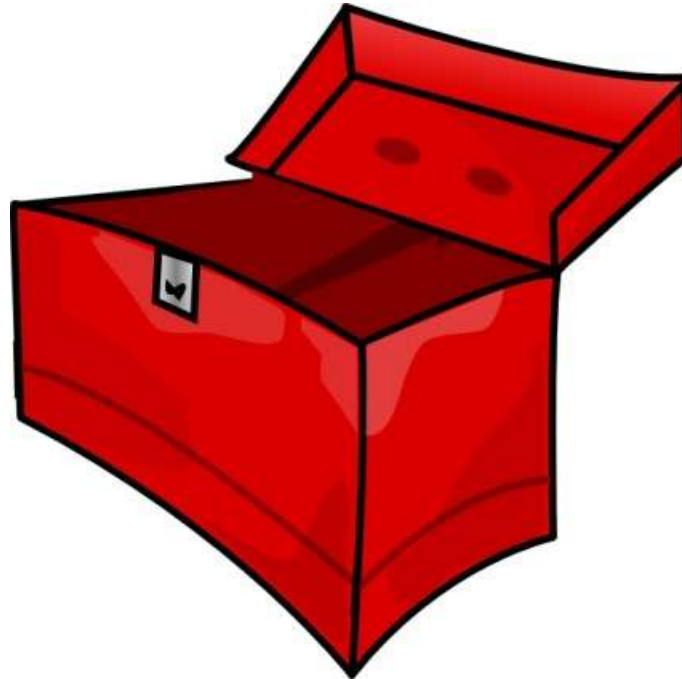
Overview

- It doesn't like you

- Resources

Why startcmd is not your friend

Who's in the audience…?

- How many of you use "startcmd"?

- How many use "dita"?

- How many do not use either (use editor menu or similar)?

Why startcmd is not your friend

DITA-OT 1.0

- *…*
- *Set up your XSLT processor and include the jar files needed into the CLASSPATH. For example, if you are using saxon, include saxon.jar into the CLASSPATH. If you are using xalan, include xalan.jar and xercesImpl.jar into the CLASSPATH.*
- *Optional: If you have installed FOP, set up your environment variable CLASSPATH to include the jar file of fop.jar, batik.jar and avalon.jar in FOP and your xslt processor*
- *…*
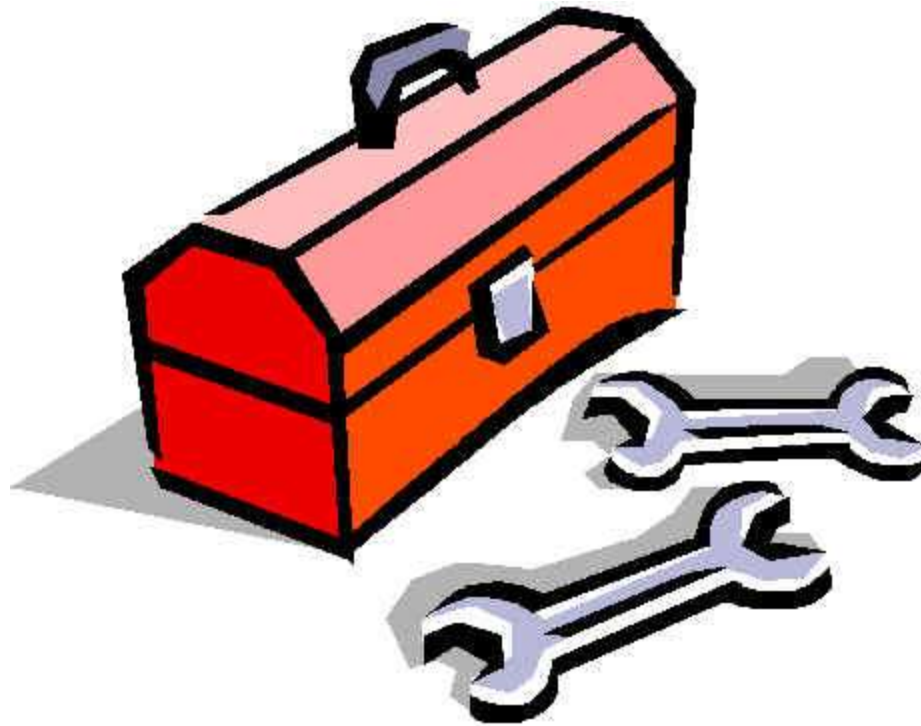
DITA-OT 1.0

DITA-OT 1.0

DITA-OT one point … three?

- Enter startcmd: "here are some tools, make them work"

DITA-OT with startcmd

So, what's wrong?

- It's a kludge, hiding the original problem.

- It doesn't persist; encourages you to call builds in a way that work until you go run a setup script, every time.

- If you copy it and make your own batch file, it may not work with the next toolkit release.

But start command = heart command!

How *should* it work?

Enter the "dita" command

- "dita" knows what you need.
- "dita" knows where to find it.
- "dita" has shortcut options for the most common commands.
  - -i inputFile
  - -f format
  - -o outputDirectory
- If there is not a shortcut, the old Ant syntax works

- In short, "dita" is your friend.

Bonus!

- It continues to work if next year's toolkit needs even more tools to be effective.

Resources

- **DITA-OT project and documentation:**
  – http://dita-ot.org

- **DITA-OT Plug-in documentation:**
  – http://www.dita-ot.org/2.2/dev_ref/plugins-overview.html

- **My post about startcmd:**
  – http://metadita.org/toolkit/startcmd.html

- **Music of DITA Project:**
  – http://metadita.org/music/

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