Techniques for Customizing the WebHelp Responsive Output

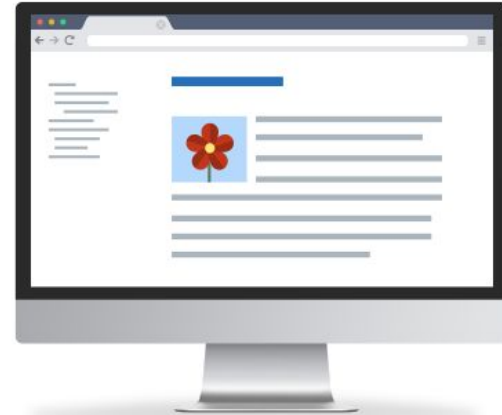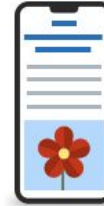## Alin Balasa

alin_balasa@oxygenxml.com

Goal

- Create a Publishing Template
- Configure the publishing process and the output via transformation parameters
- Customize the output styles via CSS
- Insert custom content and reference additional resources using HTML Fragments
- Change the default structure (rearrange components) of the HTML output files using XSLT Extensions

WebHelp Responsive

- Online help format
- Responsive layout - adapts to any screen size
- Extensible & customizable
- Can be deployed:
  - On the local file system - offline help
  - On an HTTP server - online help

Output HTML pages

- Main page
- Topic pages
- Search results page
- Index terms page

Generating the output

- Oxygen XML Editor / Author - manual process
- Command line - automated process
    - Oxygen Publishing Engine
    - WebHelp Responsive Plugin

Customizing the output

- Configure transformation parameters
- Change layout and styling using CSS
- Add additional resources (such as images and fonts)
- Extend the default processing using XSLT extension points
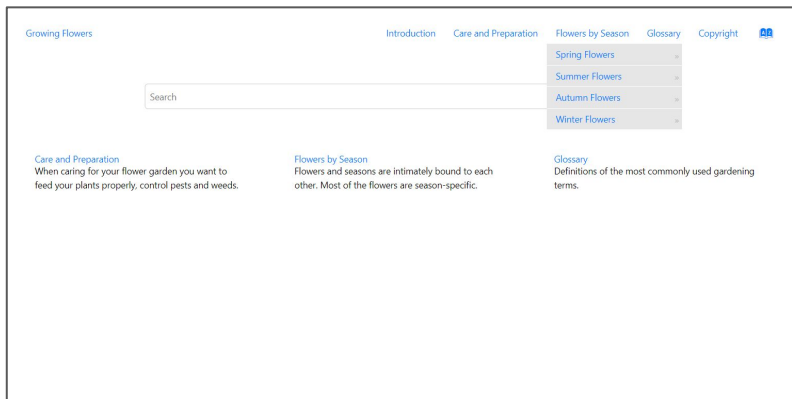
Basic
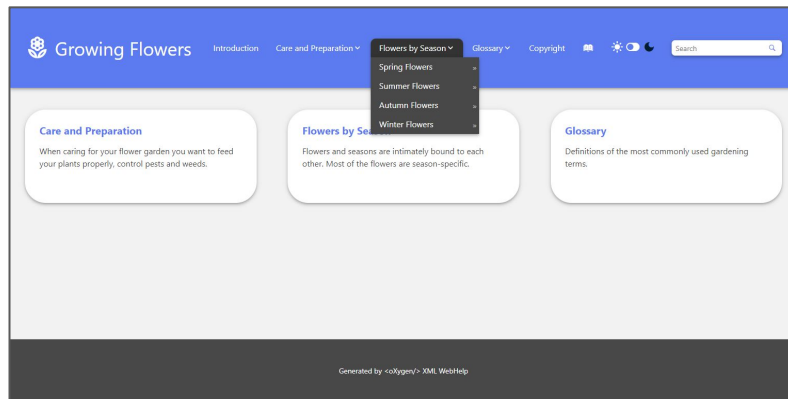
Customized

Publishing Template

- **Self contained customization package**
- **Template Descriptor File** - defines all the resources included in a template
- **Template resources** - *CSS and JavaScript files, graphics, fonts*
- **Transformation parameters**
- **XSLT Extension Points** - allow changing the structure of the HTML pages
- **HTML Fragment Extension Points** - can be used to insert custom HTML content in the output
- **HTML Page Layout Files** - define the default layout of the generated pages
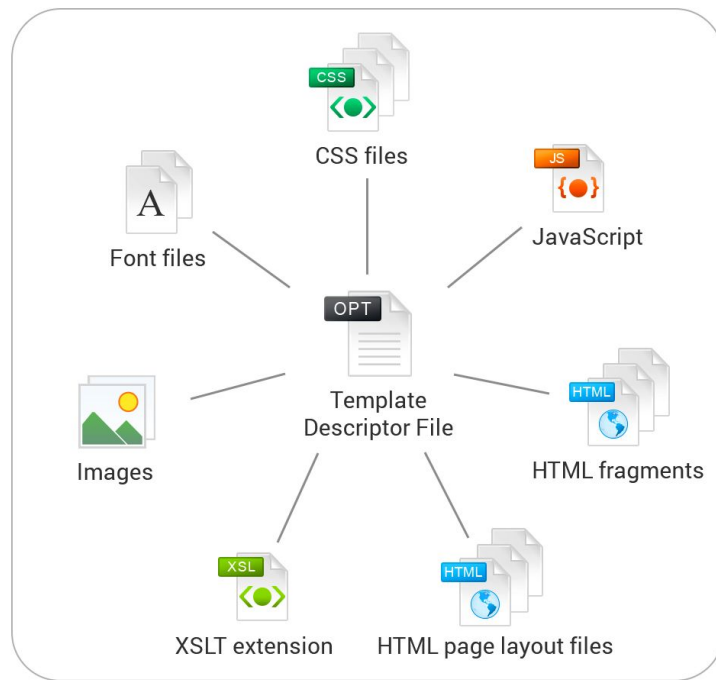
Oxygen Publishing Template Package

Creating a Publishing Template

- From scratch
- From an existing template
  - Export action available in Oxygen XML Editor / Author
- Using Oxygen Style Basket
  - Online visual customization tool
  - https://styles.oxygenxml.com/

Configuring Transformation Parameters

- Dedicated section in the Descriptor file
- Control the transformation process
- Control the output
  - Add custom logo and favicon
  - Show / hide components:
  - Configure components
  - Configure various aspects of the topic content:
  - Configure built-in search engine
  - Replace built-in search engine with a custom one
  - Configure generated site-map

CSS styling

- Create the custom CSS file
- Reference the CSS in the Publishing Template Descriptor file
- Use CSS Inspector to identify
  - The elements that need to be styled
  - The CSS rules that need to be overridden

Inserting Custom HTML Content

- HTML Fragments
- WebHelp Macros
- Referencing the HTML fragment using a Publishing Template
- Reference custom resources in the output pages

Changing the structure of the HTML pages

- XSLT Extension Points
  - Extend the default processing
  - Available for all page types
- HTML Layout files
  - Define the default layout of the generated pages
  - Not recommended customization option
- Change the output structure
- Update the layout - rearrange existing components
- Add new elements

Conclusion

- WebHelp Responsive output is extensible and customizable
- Customization scenarios
    - Implement branding styles and layout
    - Add new functionality
    - Rearrange components
- Customization package
    - Self-contained
    - Can be shared with others
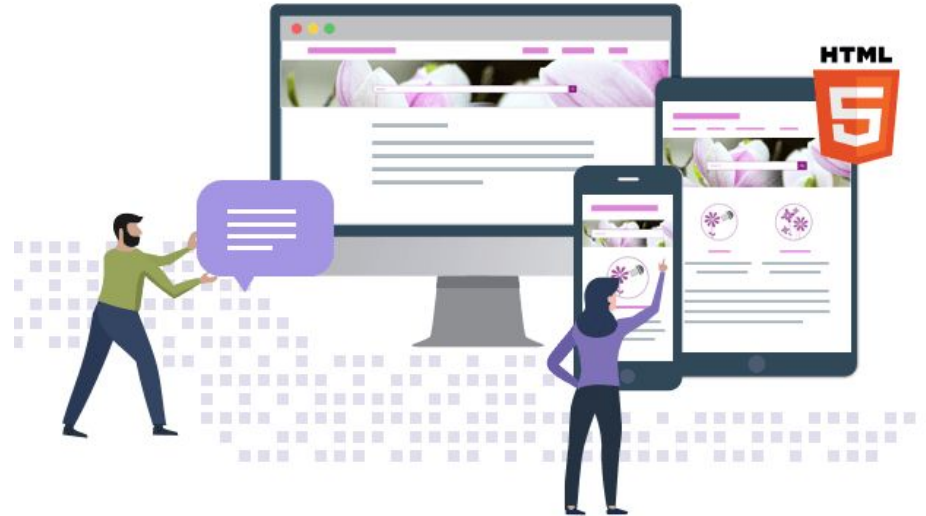
THANK YOU!

Alin Balasa

alin_balasa@sync.ro