

Ten* Years of DITA Open Toolkit



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Why start at ten* years?

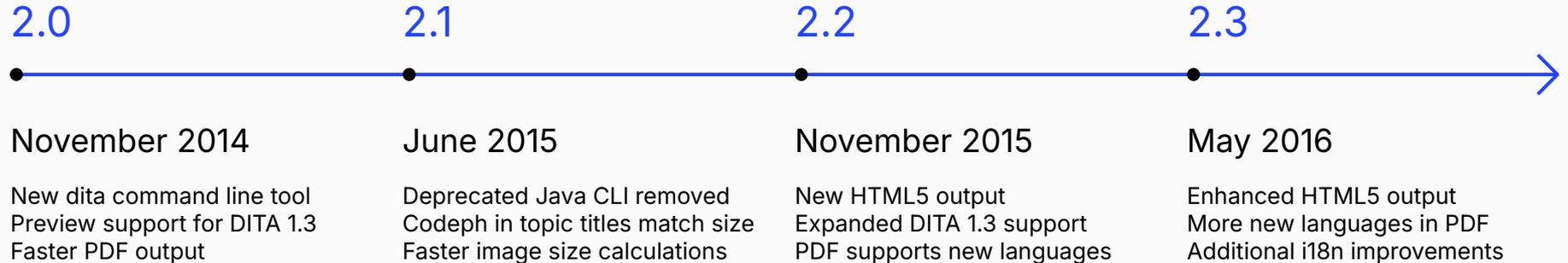
This is the tenth DITA-OT Day

Before that: always compatible(ish), always 1.x

As of release 2.0, announced at first DITA-OT Day:

- Semantic versioning
- More willing to break things
- Operate more like other software packages

Ten Years of DITA Open Toolkit



Early focus areas

Command line - shift from Java CLI to the `dita` command

Modernize with HTML5

Big feature improvements to PDF

Continue build-out of DITA 1.3 support

Ten Years of DITA Open Toolkit

2.4

November 2016

Apache FOP 2.1
Long-form syntax for dita CLI
Additional coderef extensions

2.5

May 2017

New basic Java API
Better composite DITA support
Publish with multiple DITAVALs
More consistent PDF styling

3.0

October 2017

Markdown support
Normalized DITA output
Lightweight DITA preview
Map-first pre-processing:
PDF, HTML Help, Java Help

3.1

June 2018

DITA 1.3 SVG domain elements
Enhanced <codeblock> support
Incremental improvements to
Lightweight DITA & PDF output

Focus shifting

Architectural changes: map-first preprocessing, multiple DITAVAL

New focus area: Markdown / Lightweight DITA

Enhancements outside of the spec: coderef, codeblock,

Still seeing updates to PDF, DITA 1.3 support

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3.2

November 2018

New command-line options
RELAX NG parsing & validation
XDITA processing support
Install via Homebrew
Plug-in registry

3.3

February 2019

New HTML5 attribute sets
Custom integration processing
Rotated table cells in PDF
Hazard statements in HTML

3.4

November 2019

Official Docker container image
PDF indexing plug-in
Skip HTML5 cover pages
Project files

3.5

April 2020

Multiple input resources
Alternative subcommand syntax
Initial DITA 2.0 feature support

Heading into 2020

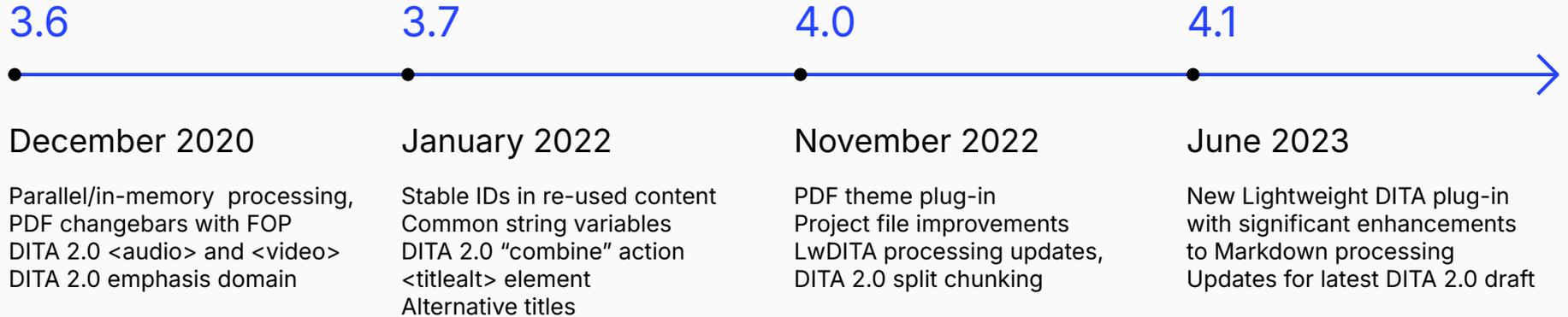
Homebrew, Docker container, plug-in registry

Project files, subcommand syntax

Extension enablement

First previews of DITA 2.0

Ten Years of DITA Open Toolkit



The work-at-home years

In-memory processing

DITA 2.0 features - chunking, multimedia, new domains

PDF Themes

Continue to see Markdown and PDF improvements

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4.2



February 2024

HTML5 map-first processing
New local configuration file
Better CLI messages, overrides
LwDITA Markdown updates

4.3



February 2025

init and validate commands
Publish multiple formats at once
Raw DITA in Markdown
PDF themes for bookmaps

4.4



February 2026

This story has yet to be told...

5.0 ?



Who knows...

Maybe DITA 2.0 ?



Bringing us up to date with...

More DITA 2.0

More PDF Themes, more Markdown enhancements

Configuration files

`init` and `validate` commands

Audience favorites...?

Any specific features that forced you to upgrade?

Tell us your favorite commit!

How many contributors?

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2.0

- New **dita** command line tool provides a simple command interface
- XSLT stylesheets have been converted to XSLT 2.0
- Processing order of keys and conrefs has been changed to optimize processing speed for many documents
- Initial preview support for many features from the upcoming DITA 1.3 standard
- Major refactoring to remove unused, out of date, or deprecated code in Java and XSLT
- Faster PDF output generation

2.1

- In PDF output, inline `<codeph>` elements in topic titles now inherit the font size from the surrounding title text.
- Image metadata processing has been refactored to improve the processing speed by determining width and height without reading the entire image into memory.
- The deprecated Java command line tool has been removed in favor of the dita command introduced in DITA-OT 2.0.
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- *(lots of other little stuff, hard to summarize...)*

2.2

- New HTML5 output

The HTML5 transformation was refactored as its own plug-in and separate plug-ins were created for each of the rendering engine-specific PDF transformations.

- DITA 1.3 support
- PDF supports new languages

2.3

- Single .zip distribution package
- Enhanced HTML5 output
- PDF supports (more) new languages
- Internationalization improvements

2.4

- Apache FOP 2.1
- New long-form syntax for dita command options
- Extended code reference processing
- Standalone HTML5 plug-in (no longer depends on XHTML)
- Legacy plug-ins removed

2.5

DITA-OT 2.5 includes a basic Java API, an experimental map-first preprocessing option, better support for DITA composite documents, publishing with multiple DITAVAL files, and more consistent styling for default PDF output.

- Java Application Programming Interface

3.0

Markdown, normalized DITA output, and the alternative authoring formats proposed for Lightweight DITA. The map-first pre-processing approach provides a modern alternative to the default preprocess operation.

3.1

Support for DITA 1.3 SVG domain elements, enhanced `<codeblock>` processing, and incremental improvements to Lightweight DITA processing and PDF output.

3.2

New command-line options, support for RELAX NG parsing and validation, preliminary processing for the XDITA authoring format proposed for Lightweight DITA, and a plug-in registry that makes it easier to discover and install new plug-ins.

3.3

New attribute sets for HTML5 customization, support for custom integration processing, rotated table cells in PDF output, and hazard statements in HTML output.

3.4

Official Docker container image, a separate plug-in for PDF indexing, a new option to skip HTML5 cover pages, and initial support for project files that allow you to define multiple deliverables in advance, and publish them all at once

3.5

Support for additional input resources, an alternative subcommand syntax for the dita command, and an initial preview of features for the latest draft of the upcoming DITA 2.0 standard.

3.6

Performance enhancements such as processing in parallel and in memory, support for PDF change bars with Apache FOP, and an updated preview of features for the latest draft of the upcoming DITA 2.0 standard, including the `<audio>` and `<video>` elements, and the new emphasis domain

3.7

Stable IDs in re-used content, a common variable format for generated text strings, and an updated preview of features for the latest draft of the upcoming DITA 2.0 standard, such as the new “combine” chunk action, the `<titlealt>` element, and the alternative titles domain.

4.0

Update to Java 17 (3.x required at least Java 8)

New plug-in for easier PDF customization, project file improvements, updates to LwDITA processing, and support for the split chunking feature in the latest drafts of the upcoming DITA 2.0 standard.

4.1

A new version of the Lightweight DITA plug-in with significant enhancements to Markdown processing, and updates for the latest DITA 2.0 draft standard.

4.2

Uses map-first pre-processing for HTML5 output and includes a new local configuration file, better CLI messages with support for overrides, a new version of the Lightweight DITA plug-in with enhancements to Markdown processing, and updates for the latest DITA 2.0 draft standard.

4.3

New `init` and `validate` subcommands that can be used to set up projects from a template and check files for errors before publishing. You can now publish multiple formats on the command line at once, add raw DITA to Markdown files, and publish bookmaps with PDF themes.