

Ten* Years of DITA-OT Day

Robert D. Anderson
With help from Kris Eberlein

February 1, 2026
Brussels, Belgium



Meet the team*

** when we were young....*



Robert Anderson



Jarno Elovirta



George Bina



Roger Fienhold Sheen



Eliot Kimber



Radu Coravu

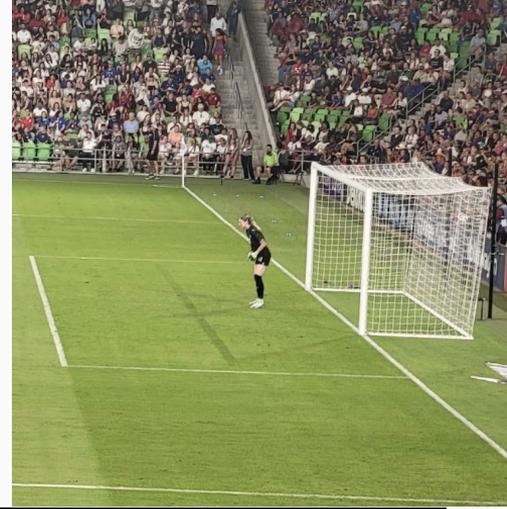


Eero Helenius



Kristen James Eberlein

What are the goals of DITA-OT Day?



01

To see the world! Or at least all of Europe

02

To share tools and expertise, and build a community around the toolkit

03

To keep the project strong and healthy

Where have we been?

And Robert's thoughts leading into the events



2014

2015

2016

2017

Munich

Munich

Munich

Berlin

I can't believe people will come to this but let's try it out

Will people really come back? Do we have anything else to say? Sure, I'm willing to give it another go

Maybe everyone just likes Munich...? Are they coming to see us, or the surfers?

I'm excited to see someplace new, and look forward to spending several days here

Also the fish at the hotel are neat, I bet that aquarium is a draw for years to come

The early years



01

Plenty of introductory material

Many sessions on toolkit basics, high level architecture, how to use DITA-OT, how to participate

02

Sessions gradually get more technical. PDF keeps coming up, every year, and remains a focus in recordings.

Also, live streaming is hard.

03

With the basics out of the way, we start looking at more mature themes and related subjects. Long term project planning becomes a running theme.



Where have we been, continued



2018

2019

2022

2024

Rotterdam

Brussels

Rotterdam

Helsinki

It's going to be weird not hearing German everywhere, but I'm game

The cloud is everywhere now

I hope people are still going to conferences after the last couple years

It's about time they held one of these in Jarno's backyard

As long as the flights are smooth this time

I hope Helsinki in February excites everyone else as much as it does me

Growing up

04

More sessions on large scale usage:
toolkit in complex build environments

05

Toolkit in the cloud!

06

Integration with other tools and
processes



Where have we been, continued



2025

2026

???

Copenhagen

Brussels

???

I wonder if people are going to talk about AI with the toolkit

I'm so glad to see you all still coming to this

???

The conference and the project mature together



07

CI/CD

Case studies of integrating the toolkit in large environments, using DITA-OT to help with validation

08

AI

We can't be a tech conference in the 2020's without it

09

Project planning and technical debt

How do we manage our backlog and technical debt without burning out

Consistent themes and topics:

What comes up (almost) every year?

01

PDF

02

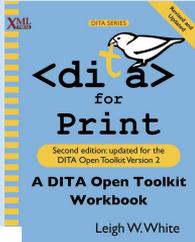
Markdown

03

We have a new release!

04

Radu has 20 new plugins



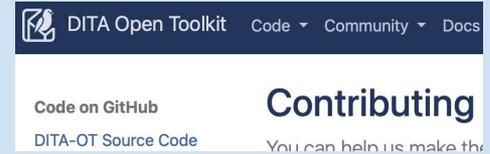
Consistent themes and topics:
What comes up (almost) every year?

04 Bootstrap, etc

05 What's new in docs

06 How to build a plugin

07 Question time



Consistent themes and topics:

Hallway conversations

01

Who can help me with...

02

Please open an issue...

03

Good local vegan food?

04

I'm stuck on 1.8 :(



Conference serendipity

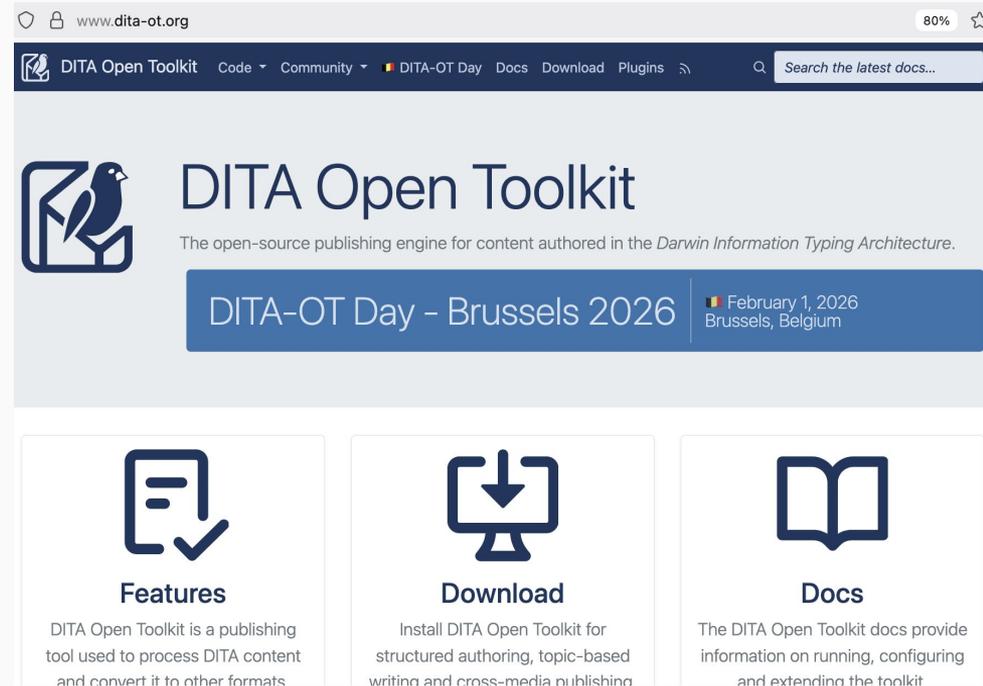
What has happened entirely because of this conference?

Who here remembers

<https://dita-ot.github.io/2.0/>

Four days after the first conference in 2014, Robert registered dita-ot.org

The docs moved later that day



The screenshot shows the homepage of the DITA Open Toolkit website. The browser address bar displays 'www.dita-ot.org'. The navigation menu includes 'DITA Open Toolkit', 'Code', 'Community', 'DITA-OT Day', 'Docs', 'Download', and 'Plugins'. A search bar is located on the right with the placeholder text 'Search the latest docs...'. The main content area features the DITA Open Toolkit logo, the title 'DITA Open Toolkit', and the subtitle 'The open-source publishing engine for content authored in the Darwin Information Typing Architecture.'. A prominent blue banner announces 'DITA-OT Day - Brussels 2026' on 'February 1, 2026' in 'Brussels, Belgium'. Below this, three main sections are highlighted: 'Features' (with a document icon and a checkmark), 'Download' (with a monitor icon and a download arrow), and 'Docs' (with an open book icon). Each section includes a brief description of its content.

Conference serendipity

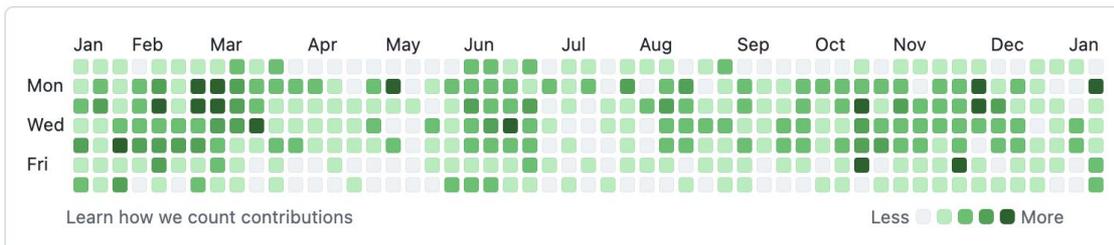
What has happened entirely because of this conference?

How many features has Jarno developed in the back row based on a question or comment from earlier in the day?

Honest question

It happens most years

2,413 contributions in the last year



Conference serendipity

What has happened entirely because of this conference?

DITA Open Toolkit got a logo!

*Two participants in 2018,
Sascha Nothofer and Stefan Eike,
got the idea and started working*

*Sascha's logo arrived in Brussels
in 2019, with stickers*



Conference serendipity

What has happened entirely because of this conference?

Anyone on the audience?



Conference surprises

Plugin Registry

Presented by Jarno Elovirta

Announced in 2018 Rotterdam

Live streaming is hard

Tried it for three years

The most stressful part of the event

Edit button on docs

Presented by George Bina

Announced in 2016 Munich

We have a new release!

Every year so far...?



Objectives of DITA-OT Day: have they been met?

01

To see the world! Or at least all of Europe

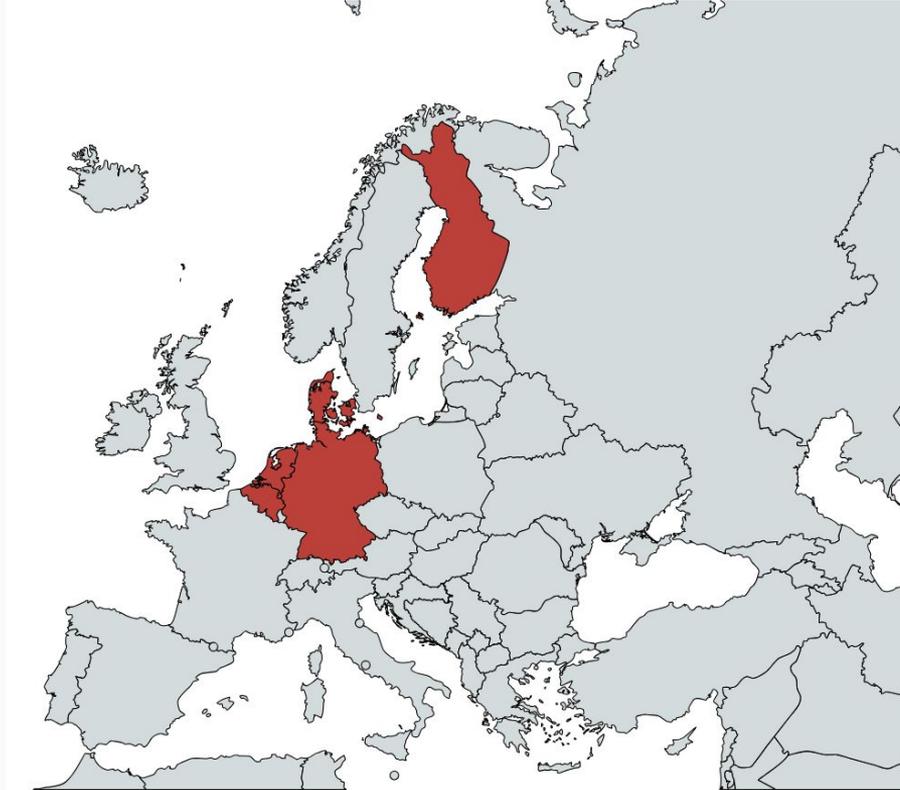
02

To share tools and expertise, and build a community around the toolkit

03

To keep the project strong and healthy

See the world, or all of Europe



Sharing tools, building community

- Over 40 unique presenters
- ??? Plugins presented to the community
- 50+ in-person attendees every year, often 70+
- Thousands of youtube views



Keep the project strong and healthy

How many folks on the first slide would still be doing this without the connections made here...?



What about the rest of you?

Many of you have been here before

What brings you back?



Resources

This year's agenda and videos: https://www.oxygenxml.com/events/2026/dita-ot_day.html

Scroll to the bottom for links to all previous DITA-OT Day events

Radu's blog with links to earlier videos: <https://blog.oxygenxml.com/topics/dita-ot-day-recordings-overview.html>

DITA-OT Day in the DITA-OT Docs: <https://www.dita-ot.org/dev/topics/dita-ot-day-videos>