

Docbook study proposal

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Objectives

Over the years, Docbook became a leading standard for writing single-source technical documentation. However, we know very little today about Docbook penetration within companies and how it is being used.

A Docbook study would provide the following information:

- Who is using Docbook? Industry, company size, individuals/professionals ...
- Docbook implementations? Version, editors, framework, customization...
- The scale of the projects? # books, # pages
- Key benefits using Docbook? Content re-use, multiple outputs...
- Problems experienced with Docbook? Improvements wish list?

Such information would be helpful to prioritize Docbook future developments while aligning them with the Docbook community needs and expectations.

Implementation

Sponsorship from the Docbook Technical Committee is a pre-requisite to launch this study and ensure maximum success.

The project would have three phases:

1. **Preparation:** elaboration and validation of the questionnaire
2. **Online study:** study launch for a few weeks; email announcements (Docbook list, STC, relevant groups/associations)
3. **Results:** data collection, result analysis, executive report

Fabrice Talbot is offering to take on operational responsibilities on this project.