

FrameMaker Structure Application Development (workshop)

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Introduction

— [Scott Prentice, President of Leximation, Inc.

— [Specializing in FrameMaker plugin development as well as structured FrameMaker conversions, consulting, and development. FrameMaker user/developer since 1991.

— [Developed DITA-FMx, a FrameMaker plugin for efficient DITA authoring and publishing.

— [Consulting for custom Help systems, creative/functional web applications, and EPUB solutions.

Workshop tools

— [FrameMaker — FM 8 to FM 2017

— [Structure Application Developer's Guide and Reference

— [Sample structure applications

Workshop goals

— [Targetted at the beginner app developer

— [Review main parts of an app

— [Clone an existing app and customize

— [Modify template, EDD, read-write rules

— [Some advanced features

— [**NOTE .. we will just be scratching the surface of this topic!**

What is a structure app?

— [Introduced in FM+SGML 5.1 (1993) and FM 7.0 XML (2002)

— [Tells FM how to interpret and render a structural model

— [Use to edit (read and/or write) XML or SGML files

— [Also, can edit “structured FM” (binary) files .. this is a bit different

Editing structured FM files

- [Source file is FM binary file

- [“Normal” FM file with content wrapped in a tree-structured model with elements and attributes

- [No import or export process, all formatting and model (EDD) are embedded within the file

- [Can apply ad-hoc formatting or break the model (bad?)

Editing XML/SGML files

— [Source file is XML or SGML (text file)

— [Editing requires a structure application designed to support the XML or SGML model

— [On file open, content is opened in template as a “FM” file

— [On file save, XML/SGML is written to disk

— [Any ad-hoc formatting is lost on file save, warned about model errors (good?)

Demo

— [Show editing XML and structured FM files

— [Include formatting and structural issues

Structure app components

— [Structure application definition

— [DTD (Document Type Definition)

— [EDD (Element Definition Document)

— [Template

— [Read/write rules

— [XSLT stylesheets

— [Import/export client

Structure app definition

- [Set of nodes in structapps.fm file (a structured FM file)

- Since FM11 there have been 2 of these (local/global)

- [Defines the “name” of the application

- [Lists files associated with the application

- [Describes the basic properties of the application

- [Sets the DOCTYPE(s) and Public ID(s)

Demo

- [Show difference between local/global structapp files
- [Show how FM decides which app to apply when opening XML file

DTD (Doc Type Definition)

— [For editing XML/SGML files

— [Provided by developer/architect of model

— [Defines structural model (elements/attributes/hierarchy)

— [Validates model on export to XML/SGML

— [Referenced by the structure app definition

EDD (Element Definition Doc)

— [Structured FM file

— [Defines structural model (elements/attributes/hierarchy)

— [Model typically based on DTD

— [Defines context rules (formatting applied based on context)

— [Styling can be hard-coded or referenced from template

— [EDD imported into template file

Template

— [“Regular” FM file

— [Defines styles, objects, page properties

— [EDD is imported into this file

— [Referenced by the structure app definition

— [Used as the “base” file when opening XML/SGML files

Read/write rules

— [Defines properties for elements and attributes when read/
written to XML/SGML

— [ASCII or FM file

— [Referenced by the structure app definition

XSLT stylesheets

- [Performs structural modifications to XML on import and/or export

- [Supports XSLT processing engines:

- SAXON (XSLT 2.0)

- XALAN (XSLT 1.0)

- [Referenced by the structure app definition

Import/export client

— [Performs custom modifications to XML or SGML files on import and or export

— [FDK client DLL

— [FDK client is a C-language DLL, developed with the FrameMaker API

— [Referenced by the structure app definition

Workshop tasks

— [Review structure app definition files

— [Clone existing structure app

— [Modify template

— [Modify EDD

— [Modify rules file

— [Review advanced options (XSLT and import/export client)

Resources

— [Structure Application Developer's Guide

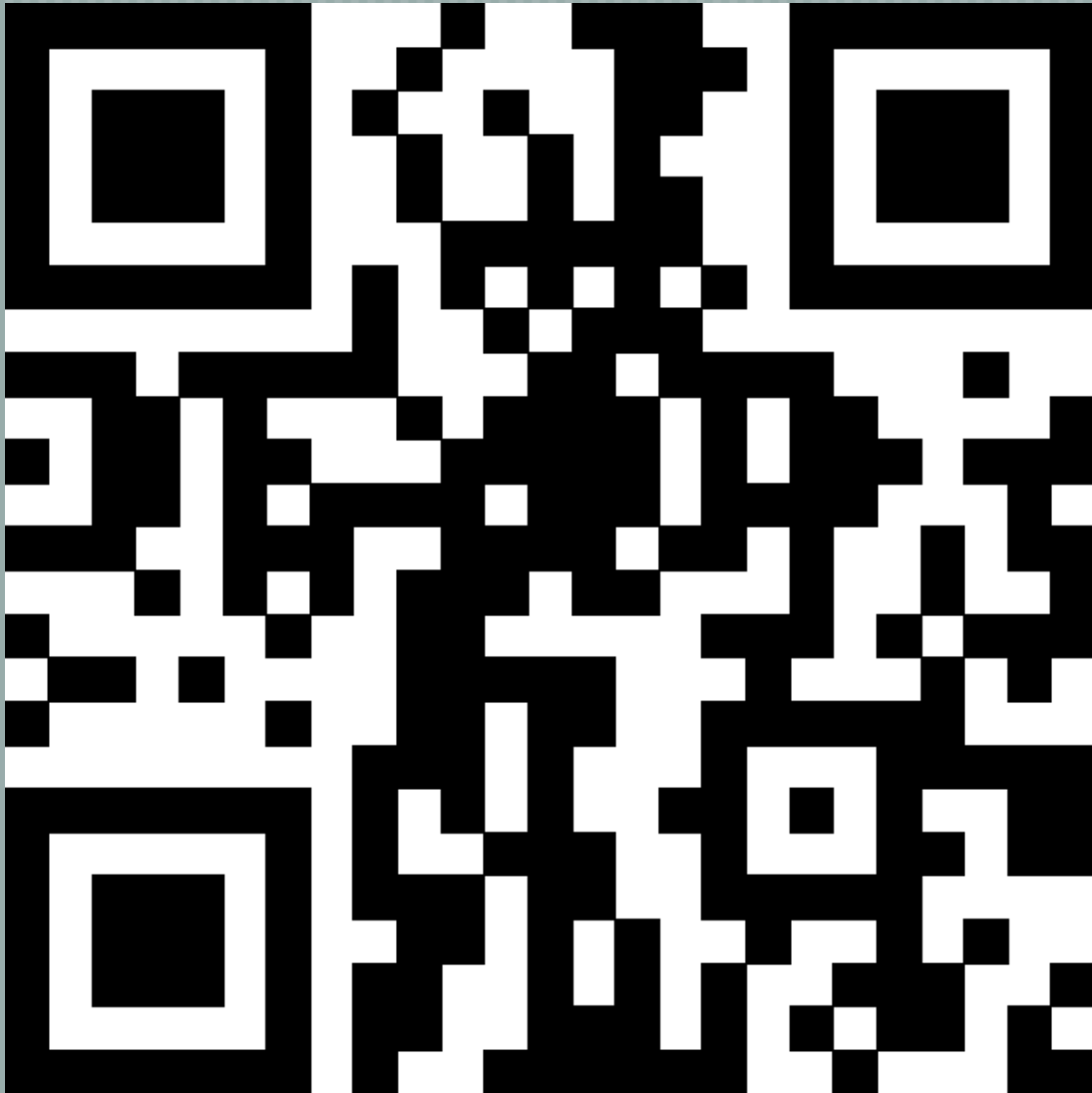
— [Structure Application Developer's Reference

— [Adobe forum - FrameMaker Structured

— [Yahoo group - frame_dev

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Feedback



Your opinion is important!

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