## BSDCon 2002

# The FreeBSD Documentation Project: using, modifying, and joining

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# What does the Documentation Project do?

- responsible for FAQ, Handbook, other books, articles
- shared responsibity for man pages
- shared responsibility for www.freebsd.org

presentation goal: to update FAQ during presentation

presentation focus: the FAQ, Handbook, books, and articles

# Who works on the Project?

The readers and participants in doc@freebsd.org

- committers commit work discussed there
- contributors submit patches

# Tasks of presentation

- install and build documentation from source
- recognize DocBook on sight
- ▶ basic DocBook editing
- submitting changes back to DocProj

#### DocBook vs HTML

► HTML:

The <bold>send-pr(1)</bold> command

DocBook:

The <command>send-pr(1)</command> command

# DocBook vs HTML, part 2

- ▶ all tags with closes must close!
- ▶ HTML lets you be sloppy, i.e.:

doesn't require a trailing

Welcome to my Home Page!
Please give me your credit card number.

#### Return to the Planet of DocBook vs HTML

▶ in DocBook, this same text must be:

<para>Welcome to my Home Page!</para>
<para>Please give me your credit card number.</para>

some DocBook tags have no close.

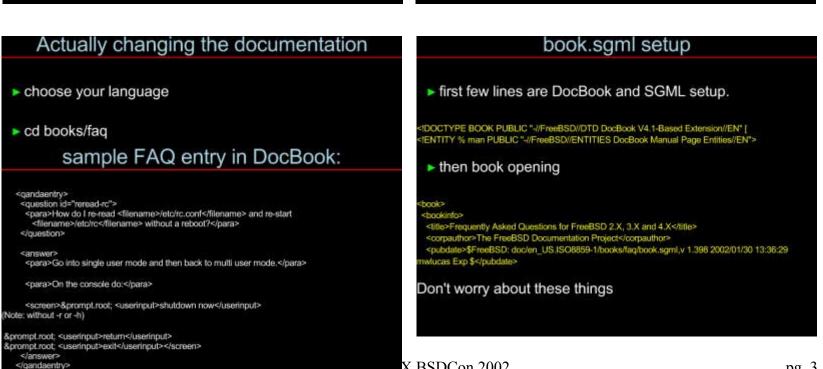
## DocBook/SGML: Content & Elements

content: what you actually write

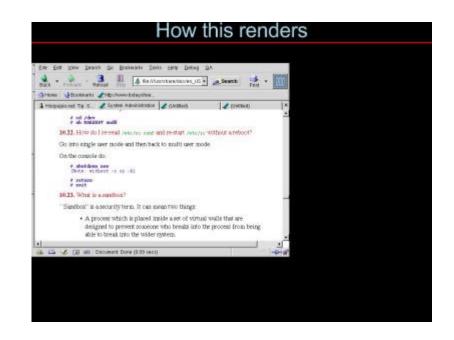
"type 'rm /etc/rc.conf' to make your life difficult"

Elements: identifiable sections of what you write.

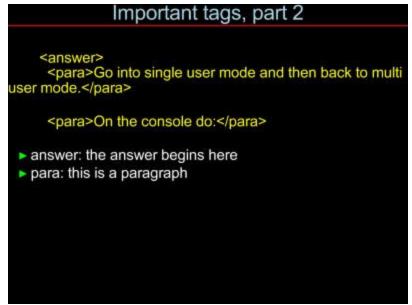
#### DocBook/SGML: Elements Entities An entity is shorthand for other text. Elements: type rm '/etc/rc.conf' to make your life difficult" They begin with an ampersand and end with a semicolon. Whole unit is a paragraph. &man.fdisk.8; current OS revision rm is a command man pages /etc/rc.conf is a filename chapters of books "run, to make your life difficult" is text any frequent search-and-replace victim rm /etc/rc.conf is the sample command



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#### Important tags, part 3

<screen>&prompt.root; <userinput>shutdown now</use
rinput>

(Note: without -r or -h)

&prompt.root; <userinput>return</userinput> &prompt.root; <userinput>exit</userinput></screen> </answer> </qandaentry>

- screen: this is text that appears on the screen
- &prompt.root: the root system prompt entity
- userinput: this is what the user types

# Tag overlaps

important note:

all elements that start within an element must end before you can close the element.

Wrong:

<para>Just use <port>net/cvsup.</para></port>

Correct:

<para>Just use <port>net/cvsup</port>.</para>

# More Common DocBook tags

most listed in FreeBSD Documentation Project Primer.

- <emphasis> italics
- <devicename> device
- <command> in-line
- programlisting> text from file
- <varname> variable value, i.e., YES in rc.conf
- <errorname> literal errors
- Many other tags: <chapter>, <sect>, for large changes and chapter additions.

# How to learn tags

- like learning to read source code: read DocBook code to learn DocBook.
- If you have a problem, find an example of something similar.

# Linking to other documents

Links have two parts:

- where you link to
- what you link from

# Link targets

link targets:

▶ any area linked to must have an id=tag

<chapter id="rebuilding-kernel">
<question id="too-much-detail">

if target is within text, use <anchor>

<anchor id="kernelpanic-example">

#### Link Source

where you put the link

link: within same document

See the k linkend="rebuilding-kernel">Kernel Building</link> section.

xref: within same document, but text is auto-generated

<para>See <xref linkend=rebuilding-kernel>.</para>

# Linking to Web Pages

Linking to a web page

use <ulink>

See <ulink url="../handbook/rebuilding-kernel.html">Kernel Building</ulink>.

be sure link names work in non-HTML docs!

# Writing a new FAQ

- ► Find appropriate section people must be able to find your FAQ!
- Find correct answer
- mark up your answer

#### The Ideal FAQ

should be short, to-the-point, and refer to elsewhere if more info is needed.

- question: What is X?
- answer: X is blah blah blah. For more detail, please see Y

# Bad FAQ! Naughty FAQ!

- Current FAQ covers 2.0.X, 2.1.X, 2.2.X, 3.X, and 4.x.
- ▶ Tutorials should be part of Handbook, or stand-alone articles.
- Generalized FAQs are bad: "Why does compiling latest ISC BIND fail?"
- Project plans to "start anew" with 5.x FAQ.

#### FAQ Template

- <qandaentry>
  <question id="string-describing-question-here">
- <para>Put your question here</para> </guestion>
- <answer>
- <para>Put your answer here.</para>
- <para>For more information, see <ulink</pre>
- url="websiteURL">name of site</ulink>.</para>
- </answer>
- </gandaentry>

# editing book.sgml Copy existing book.sgml to book.sgml.original Edit book.sgml Edit book.sgml build part of documentation that you patched verify change Submitting your Patch diff -c book.sgml.original book.sgml send-pr(1), or use FreeBSD web form to submit PR build part of documentation that you patched from GNATS!

Perfect Patches	Thanks!
correct markup	Thanks for coming!  Now get out there and submit some docs
► correct information	Now get out there and submit some docs
► apply cleanly	
► politeness	