

BSDCon 2002

The FreeBSD Documentation Project: using, modifying, and joining

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mwilucas@FreeBSD.org
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What does the Documentation Project do?

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

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

presentation goal: to update FAQ during presentation

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.:

`<p>` doesn't require a trailing `</p>`

```
<p>Welcome to my Home Page!  
<p>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

Elements:

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

- ▶ Whole unit is a paragraph.
- ▶ rm is a command
- ▶ /etc/rc.conf is a filename
- ▶ "run, to make your life difficult" is text
- ▶ rm /etc/rc.conf is the sample command

Entities

An entity is shorthand for other text.

They begin with an ampersand and end with a semicolon.

&man.fdisk.8;

- ▶ current OS revision
- ▶ man pages
- ▶ chapters of books
- ▶ any frequent search-and-replace victim

Actually changing the documentation

- ▶ choose your language
- ▶ cd books/faq

sample FAQ entry in DocBook:

```
<qandaentry>
<question id="reread-rc">
  <para>How do I re-read <filename>/etc/rc.conf</filename> and re-start
  <filename>/etc/rc</filename> without a reboot?</para>
</question>

<answer>
<para>Go into single user mode and then back to multi user mode.</para>

<para>On the console do:</para>

<screen>&prompt.root; <userinput>shutdown now</userinput>
(Note: without -r or -h)

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

book.sgml setup

- ▶ first few lines are DocBook and SGML setup.

```
<!DOCTYPE BOOK PUBLIC "-//FreeBSD/DTD DocBook V4.1-Based Extension//EN" [
<!ENTITY % man PUBLIC "-//FreeBSD/ENTITIES DocBook Manual Page Entities//EN">
```

- ▶ then book opening

```
<book>
<bookinfo>
  <title>Frequently Asked Questions for FreeBSD 2.X, 3.X and 4.X</title>
  <corpauthor>The FreeBSD Documentation Project</corpauthor>
  <pubdate>${FreeBSD: doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/faq/book.sgml,v 1.398 2002/01/30 13:36:29
mwlucas Exp $}</pubdate>
```

Don't worry about these things

How this renders



Important tags, part 1

```
<qandaentry>
  <question id="reread-rc">
    <para>How do I re-read
<filename>/etc/rc.conf</filename> and re-start
    <filename>/etc/rc</filename> without a reboot?</para>
  </question>
```

important tags here:

- ▶ qandaentry: this is a question-and-answer pair
- ▶ question: this is the question part
- ▶ id: label, shows up as in HTML
- ▶ para: this is a paragraph
- ▶ filename: this is a filename

Important tags, part 2

```
<answer>
  <para>Go into single user mode and then back to multi
user mode.</para>

  <para>On the console do:</para>
```

- ▶ answer: the answer begins here
- ▶ para: this is a paragraph

Important tags, part 3

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

(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 <link 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>
</question>

<answer>
<para>Put your answer here.</para>
<para>For more information, see <ulink
url="websiteURL">name of site</ulink>.</para>
</answer>
</qandaentry>
```

editing book.sgml

- ▶ Copy existing book.sgml to book.sgml.original
- ▶ 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

- ▶ do not use web form to submit patches; reply to email from GNATS!

Perfect Patches

- ▶ correct markup
- ▶ correct information
- ▶ apply cleanly
- ▶ politeness

Thanks!

Thanks for coming!

Now get out there and submit some docs