Fonto

Fonto

Structured content authoring
made easy

What will the future bring?

The future of documents will be shaped by a fundamental change in how information is exchanged. This future sees a shift from traditional 'e-paper', formatted and optimized for reading by humans, towards semantically tagged information that is exchanged in an open digital format.

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Documents will be designed for their audiences, not their authors

Not much has changed in more than 30 years' mainstream use of office authoring tools.

In many industries, Microsoft Word is still the main tool used to create content. It is the natural environment in which many subject-matter experts write, edit and review content. Every author is familiar with the Word interface, but it is not used to create structured content.

Enterprises are increasingly delivering documents to customers in forms that aren't fit for purpose. The next decade will see new cloud-native, data-driven and structured approaches to document authoring — and enterprises must get ready now.

> ## What is structured content?
>
> Structured content is information that is organized in a predictable way and is usually classified with metadata. XML is a common storage format, but structured content can also be stored in other standard or proprietary formats.
>
> Source: Wikipedia

Fonto vs. Microsoft Word

Authoring long, monolithic documents in which every section is uniquely created (or copied and pasted from other documents before being tweaked to fit) is not a process that scales. Traditional processes prevent companies from achieving business goals such as reducing time to market and developing more products within the same timeframe.

Using traditional document-based methods, companies cannot:

- Automate content creation, revisions, assembly or delivery
- Integrate data with content
- Create, update, manage, and translate content once and reuse it everywhere – in multiple geographies and across multiple delivery formats

Word templates do not provide standardized content or enforce consistency in terminology or syntax. They do not provide structures that support automation of data into the content, or optimize content for reuse. As a result, writers have a lot of freedom to write and rewrite according to their preferences.

Fonto sticks to the principles of structured content authoring.

Content created in Fonto Editor is all fully valid XML. Instead of a single document, the content consists of separate components, which can be re-used in multiple documents or at multiple positions within the same document.

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5 key benefits of Fonto

- ● Authors don't require any knowledge of XML

- ● User-friendly interface

- ● Works directly from the browser

- ● Supports any XML schema

- ● Real-time validation

Unstructured Content

Structured Content

Content such as rules, policies and procedures, corporate and regulatory compliance, R&D information, service instructions and product documentation often involves authoring and reviews from company-wide subject-matter experts (SMEs). However, collaborative authoring is usually cumbersome and inefficient. Reviews are often error-prone – typically involving many emails, multiple versions of marked-up files and labour-intensive copy-paste actions.

Fonto streamlines structured content creation, review and collaboration. It provides authors and reviewers with a simplified approach to centralized collaboration in an easy-to-use, MS Word-style user interface. Tracking changes, adding comments and providing feedback to the author becomes a well-managed, traceable process.

Advantages of Fonto

Staying close to a well-known user interface supports the transition to structured content. Fonto doesn't require the author to have any knowledge of XML. It keeps all technical XML terminology away from the user, providing them with a more traditional document experience that supports the move away from Word. Authoring a structured document in Fonto Editor is as easy as creating a document in your word processor of choice.
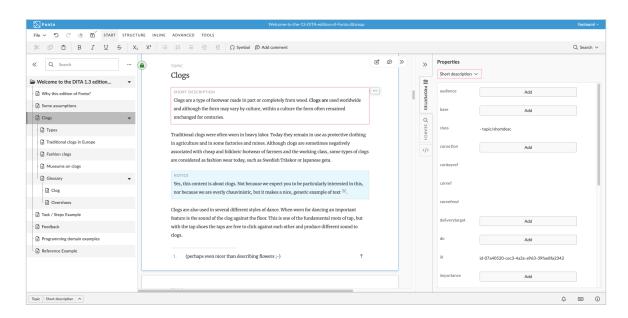
Fonto Editor

Fonto Editor performs real-time validation against the underlying XML schema. Actions that would break the validity of the content are disabled. This means that users will always create XML or schema-valid content without requiring any understanding of XML.

Another key feature of Fonto Editor is the ability to open an entire publication, including all its sub-structures and referenced components, and scroll through it as if it were one contiguous document. This can be a useful way of viewing what is actually a collection of separately managed content components.

Furthermore, an outline or 'table of content' is provided, which provides an overview of the structure of the loaded map and its topics. This outline can be used for navigation purposes and for (re)organizing the map by means of drag and drop.

Fonto Editor is also schema-agnostic. This means that Fonto can be configured for any XML schema.
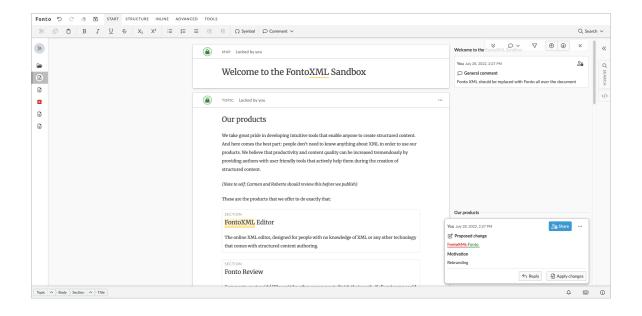

For more information see: fontoxml.com/fonto-xml-editor

Fonto Review

Fonto Review extends Fonto Editor specifically for the review phase of a content production flow. This product enables users to collaborate on reviewing a document without the need to lock it. Users can leave an annotation such as a comment, suggestion or attachment on any part of the content.

Annotations are stored in a database rather than the XML document itself. This avoids the need to lock a document in order to annotate it, which allows for unlimited concurrent users.

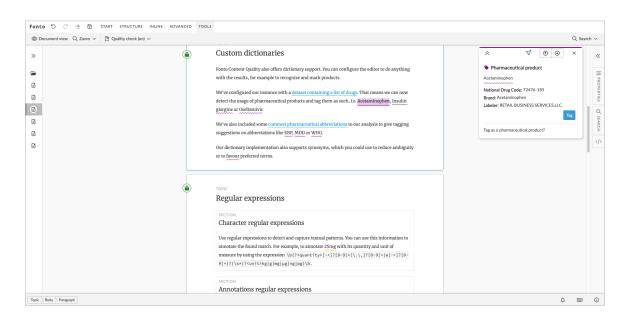For more information see: fontoxml.com/fonto-review

Fonto Content Quality

Fonto Content Quality makes it possible to integrate and manage various tools that help the author to improve content quality and work more efficiently. Fonto Content Quality consists of a Fonto Editor add-on and a server-side component. They work together to analyze the content a user is actively editing and suggest improvements. The server-side component does most of the analysis and is configured using annotators, compositors and filters.

Any errors or potential improvements that are identified are returned to the Fonto Editor front-end in the form of what we call an annotation.

Fonto Editor visualizes these annotations and gives the author the tools to solve or improve the marked content based on the received information. Examples include spell checkers, custom dictionaries, citations, tone of voice, semantics and many more.
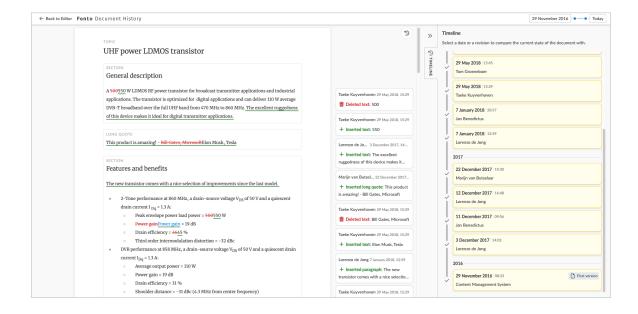

For more information see: fontoxml.com/fonto-content-quality

Fonto Document History

Fonto Document History extends Fonto Editor to allow authors to gain insights into what has been changed in a document. It allows them to quickly identify when a particular change was made and by whom.

The revision history of a document is retrieved from the (Component) Content or Document Management System – (C)CMS or DMS. This ensures the revision history is reliable, allowing it to function as an audit trail of the changes made to your documents.

For more information see: fontoxml.com/fonto-document-history

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Technical benefits

The technical benefits of Fonto are numerous.

The authoring experience is fully browser based, meaning it can be used on Windows, Linux and Mac platforms with no frontend software needing to be installed on users' computers.

The backend software can be hosted on-premises, in a private cloud environment or any other setup as desired.

Additionally, Fonto does not enforce a specific way of working. Instead, it adapts to the workflow and user roles that are defined in the Content or Document Management System.

For more information or a trial see: fontoxml.com