

Integrating InDesign and XML

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Agenda

- Importing XML
- Exporting XML
- Round-tripping
- InDesign namespace
- Assessment



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Executive summary

- FrameMaker is much better suited for XML-based projects than InDesign.
- Then again, InDesign has some things that FrameMaker doesn't:
 - Unicode support
 - The *perception* of support from Adobe



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Importing XML into InDesign

- No support for standard table models
- No support for formatting based on element hierarchy (ex: nested titles)
- BUT...cloning feature lets you create a single design and then repeat it for additional instances (ex: recipes, business cards)
- Can filter by setting up an InDesign template that omits certain elements



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Demo – importing XML



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Exporting XML from InDesign

- Can map paragraph/character styles to XML elements
- Can explicitly assign elements
- If you use styles rigorously, you have a chance.



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Demo – exporting XML



Round-tripping

- It can be done.
- It won't be pretty.
- InDesign is not intended for XML-based authoring (assigning elements and attributes).



InDesign namespace

- aid: prefix
- Table structure
- Paragraph and character formatting
- Rubi



Table output

```
<Table xmlns:aid="http://ns.adobe.com/
AdobeInDesign/4.0/" aid:table="table"
aid:trows="5" aid:tcols="3">
  <Cell aid:table="cell" aid:thead=""
aid:crows="1" aid:ccols="1"
aid:ccolwidth="126.05">Dessert</Cell>
  ...
  <Cell aid:table="cell" aid:crows="1"
aid:ccols="1"
aid:ccolwidth="126.05">mousse</Cell>
</Table>
```



Embedding formatting information in XML

```
<title aid:pstyle="heading1">xxx</title>
...
<title aid:pstyle="heading2">yyy</title>
```



Scripting is your friend

- XSL to process XML.
- AppleScript, VBScript, or JavaScript inside InDesign.
- Any serious XML implementation will require scripting.



Bottom line

- A surprising number of people are using the XML features
- Technical reference white paper (written by moi) provides needed background
- I do not recommend attempting to round-trip, but an export-only or import-only workflow could work.
- CS3 should be interesting.



More opinions

- Structured authoring is really not realistic in InDesign.
- InDesign namespace potentially very helpful.



Resources

- InDesign product pages at adobe.com
 - InDesign and XML Technical Reference
 - XML case studies
 - And more...



Your questions



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