

# Structured FrameMaker and XML "Round-Tripping"

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# Agenda

- About the presenter
- What is XML?
- Structured authoring concepts
- Structured FrameMaker
- Single sourcing with FrameMaker and XML



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# About the presenter

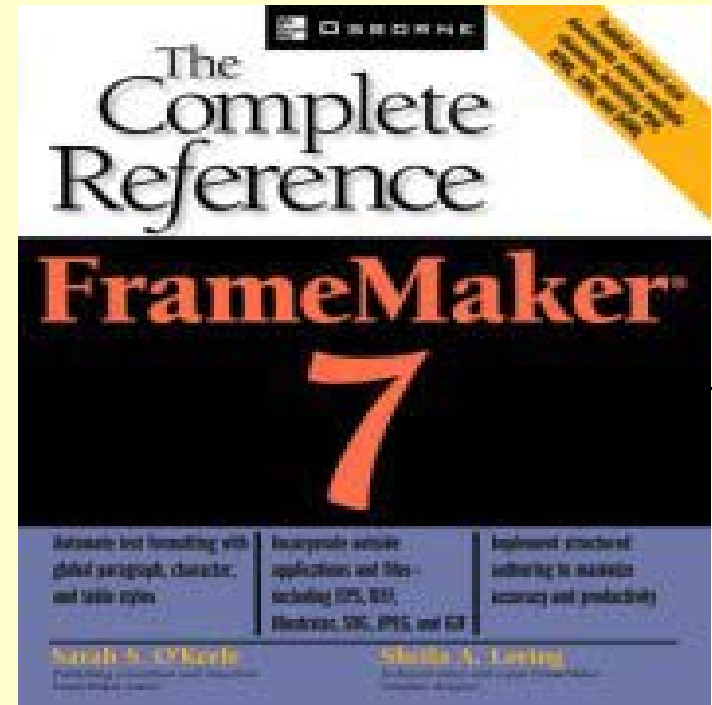
- Single-sourcing consultant
- Coauthor, *FrameMaker 7: The Complete Reference, Technical Writing 101*, and other books
- Founder, Scriptorium Publishing

The logo for DocFRAME is located in the bottom left corner. It consists of the word "Doc" in white text on a black rectangular background, followed by the word "FRAME" in green text on a white rectangular background. The entire logo is set against a light blue background with a faint pattern of geometric shapes. A vertical black line is positioned to the left of the logo, and a horizontal black line extends to the right from the bottom of the logo.

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# Free to a good home

- 888 pages
- Companion workbooks available
- More than you ever wanted to know about FrameMaker



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# An even better freebie

- **FrameMaker 7**
- **Donated by Adobe Systems, Inc.**
- **Street price: \$795**

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# What is XML?

- Extensible Markup Language
- Specification developed by World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- Intended as a successor to SGML and HTML



# HTML

- Defined set of tags.
- Minimal semantic information is captured.
- Web browsers can handle “tag soup.”



# SGML

- Completely open.
- You define tags.
- Lets you capture semantic information.
- Massive implementation effort is required.



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# XML

- **Simpler than SGML.**
- **You define tags.**
- **Lets you capture semantic information.**
- **Some implementation is required, but it is easier than SGML.**



# Structured authoring concepts

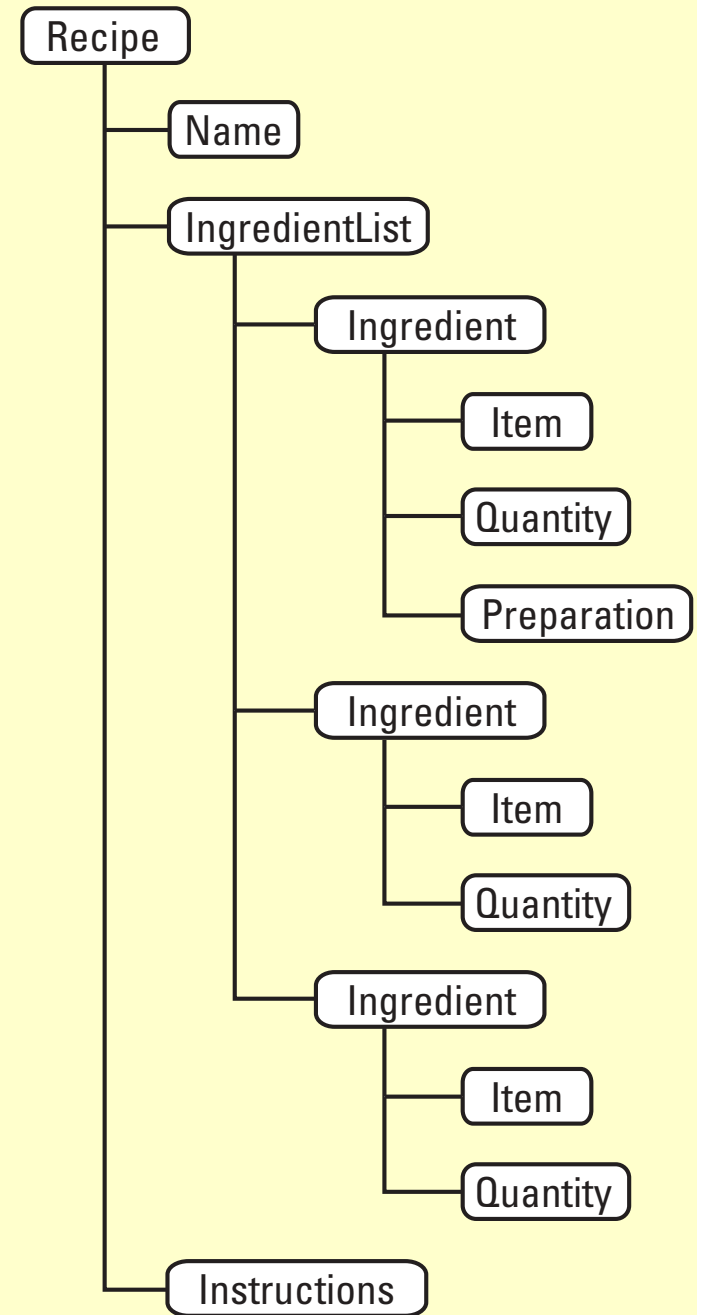
- Elements are units of content.
- Elements can have text or other elements underneath them.
- Elements are organized in a structure tree.



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# Structure in action

- Recipe contains Name, IngredientList, and Instructions.
- IngredientList contains Ingredient(s).
- Ingredient contains Item, Quantity, and Preparation.



# Attributes

- Provide additional information about an element (Cuisine = “Italian”).
- Often used for formatting information (alignment, type of bulleted list).
- Important for metadata.
- Can be attached to any element.



# Getting from XML to output

- XML to HTML and other markup through XSLt.
- Print requires print engine.



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# Structured FrameMaker

- Superset of regular FrameMaker
- Used to be an upgrade (FrameMaker+ SGML)
- Included in FrameMaker 7

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# What makes structured FrameMaker so special?

- Structured authoring
- XML round-tripping
- “Guided” editing
- Output to print and fully linked PDF (same as regular FrameMaker)



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# Interface overview

- Drag-and-drop editing
- Structure, tag, and regular views
- Attribute editing
- Formatting applied automatically based on structure



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# FrameMaker elements

- Correspond to elements in XML/SGML
- Can contain other elements or chunks of content
- Formatting tied to position in structure



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# Attributes

- Provide metadata, or information about the element
- Do not print in FrameMaker
- Can be edited and modified



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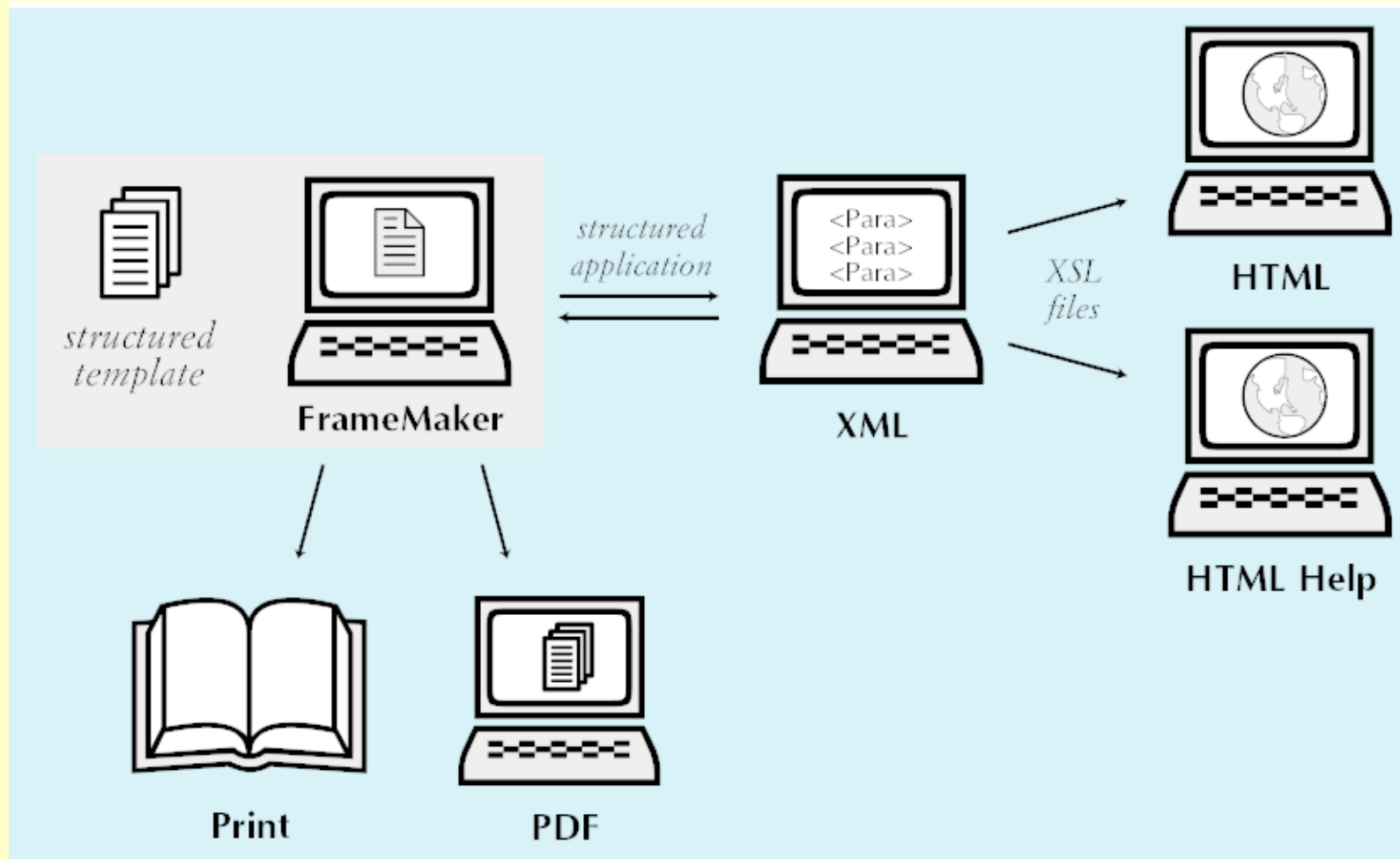
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# FrameMaker and XML integration

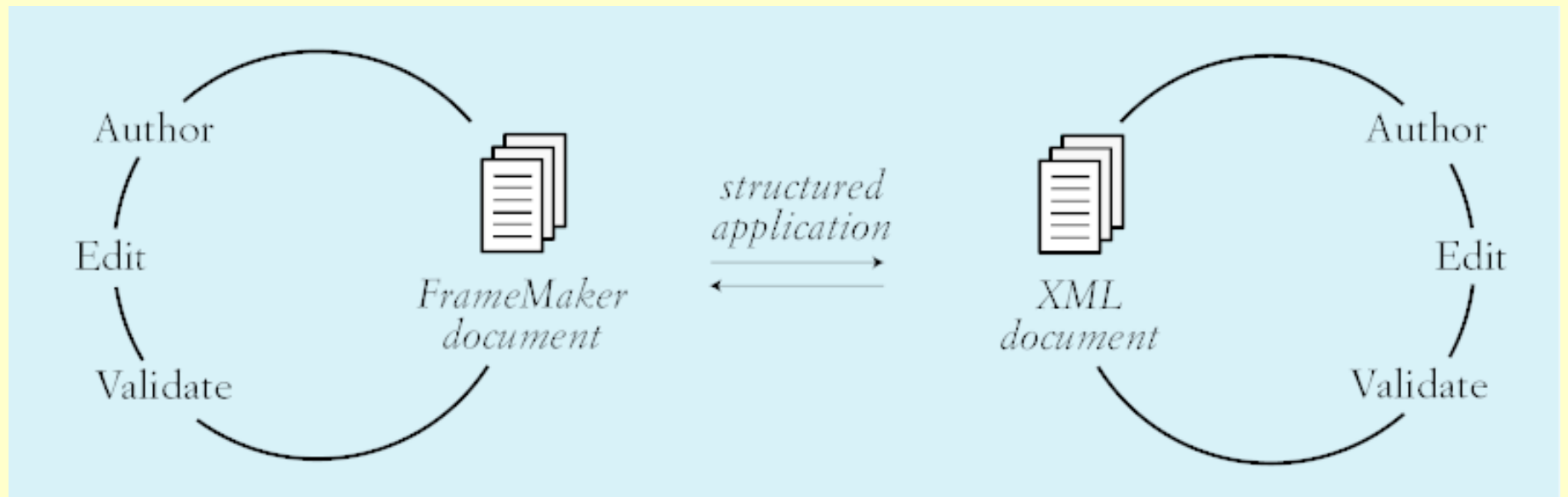
- FrameMaker-based development with XML for other formats
- XML-based development with FrameMaker for formatting
- Database publishing via XML and print/PDF publishing in FrameMaker



# FrameMaker-based development



# FrameMaker and XML authoring



# Single sourcing with FrameMaker and XML

- Develop in FrameMaker.
- Export to XML.
- Transform XML into other formats with XSL.
- Create print and PDF in FrameMaker.



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# FrameMaker development

- Authoring in structured FrameMaker instead of regular FrameMaker
- Structure interface is, well, “different”

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# Export to XML

- **Save As XML**
- **XML export configuration: very flexible, but handled under the covers**



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# Transformation

- XSL files let you create HTML, HTML Help, etc.
- XSL is an open standard (W3C), just like XML (in fact, it is XML).



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# Print and PDF in FrameMaker

- Same as regular FrameMaker

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# Summary

- XML provides framework for structured authoring.
- Structured authoring means more consistency.
- Metadata means better control over content.



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# Summary

- XSL transformation from XML makes sense for HTML and other markup languages.
- Print processing can be done through FrameMaker.
- Automated formatting means authors can focus more on content.



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# Summary

- Don't expect this to be easy.
- Mindset shift from unstructured to structured is significant.

A blue rectangular area containing a faint pattern of geometric shapes and the text "DocFRAME" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. A vertical black line is on the left side of the blue area, and a horizontal black line extends from the right side of the blue area across the bottom of the slide.

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# Q & A

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# Contact information

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