TLDP-XSL HOWTO

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Abstract

This document provides instructions for installing the TLDP XSL style sheets and using them to produce various output formats from DocBook XML source files.

1. Introduction

1.1. About TLDP-XSL

The TLDP-XSL package is a customization layer for the standard DocBook XSL style sheets. The customizations include things like automatic numbering for chapters and sections as well as controlling how documents are broken into multiple HTML pages. For additional information about these customizations, please refer to the comments within the XSL files in the `html` and `fo` directories of the tldp-xsl package.

1.2. Legal Information

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2. Installing

Installation is very straightforward and simply involves copying the TLDP-XSL style sheets into the appropriate directories of the DocBook XSL style sheet package.

2.1. Prerequisites

The following tasks should be completed prior to installation of the TLDP-XSL style sheets:

- Download Norman Walsh's docbook-xsl style sheet package
  [http://sourceforge.net/projects/docbook/] and copy the contents of the package into an appropriate directory on the target system. The actual directory path is not critical, just make a note of where the files are placed.

- Download the latest version of the tldp-xsl package
  [http://my.core.com/~dhorton/docbook/tldp-xsl/].

2.2. Installation

Once the prerequisites are taken care of, installation is easy.

- Copy all of the files from the tldp-xsl package `html` directory into the `html` directory of Norman Walsh's style sheets.

- Copy the file from the tldp-xsl package `fo` directory into the `fo` directory of Norman Walsh's style sheets.

3. Processing

Using the XSL style sheets to produce HTML output requires an XSLT processor. Producing other output types, like PDF, requires a Formatting Objects (FO) processor. These style sheets have been tested with xsltproc, the Saxon-6.5.2 XSLT processor and the Apache fop-0.20.5 formatting objects processor, but any processor that is compatible with the target system should work equally well.

Note

Processor installation is beyond the scope of this document. Please refer to the instructions included with the chosen product.

There are several different XSL style sheets in the tldp-xsl package and each one is intended to address a particular formatting task. The style sheets and their intended uses are summarized below:

- `fo/tldp-print.xsl` works with a formatting objects (FO) processor to create PDF and other non-HTML formatted documents. This type of document is good to use when printed output is desired.

- `html/tldp-single-page.xsl` places all document output on a single HTML page. This

works well for short, on-line documents like FAQ's or mini-HOWTO's.

- `html/tldp-sections.xsl` divides the document into sections with each section having a separate HTML page. This is good for producing HOWTO documents for on-line viewing.

- `html/tldp-chapters.xsl` divides the document into chapters, each having a separate HTML page. This style sheet can be used as an alternative to `tldp-sections.xsl` to provide better continuity in the document.

Note

the `tldp-common.xsl` file is intended to be used by other XSL style sheets and should *not* be called directly in an attempt to produce HTML output.

The sections below give some examples of how to use the XSL style sheets to produce different types of output with various processors. Please be aware that file names and paths may be different on the target system and will need to be adjusted accordingly.

3.1. HTML Output Examples

This example shows the style sheets being used to create a single-page HTML document with xsltproc [http://www.xmlsoft.org/XSLT/xsltproc2.html] on a GNU/Linux platform:

```
xsltproc -o faq.html ~/docbook-xsl/html/tldp-one-page.xsl faq.xml
```

Here is an example using the style sheets with Instant Saxon [http://sourceforge.net/projects/saxon/] on a Windows platform to create multiple-page HTML output with each section on its own HTML page:

```
cd output_dir
saxon c:\source_dir\howto.xml c:\docbook-xsl\html\tldp-sections.xsl
```

It is also possible to create multiple-page HTML documents with each chapter on its own HTML page as show in this example:

```
xsltproc ~/docbook-xsl/html/tldp-chapters.xsl ~/xml-files/howto.xml
```

3.2. Examples of Other File Formats

The following example uses the `tldp-print.xsl` style sheet with Apache FOP [http://xml.apache.org/fop/] to create a .PDF document:

```
fop -xml guide.xml -xsl ~/docbook-xsl/fo/tldp-print.xsl -pdf guide.pdf
```

The `tldp-print.xsl` stylesheet and Apache FOP may also be used to produce formatted output in an on-screen window or send formatted output directly to a printer. Examples of this are shown below:

```
fop -xml howto.xml -xsl ~/docbook-xsl/fo/tldp-print.xsl -awt
fop -xml howto.xml -xsl ~/docbook-xsl/fo/tldp-print.xsl -print
```

It is theoretically possible to produce other types of output, however the examples shown above are give the best results at this time. Check the Apache FOP home page [http://xml.apache.org/fop/] to see which other output types are supported and what the current limitations are for those formats.

4. Styling HTML With CSS

HTML produced by the tldp-xsl package contains a `link` tag that refers to a cascading style sheet called `style.css`. To add some style to HTML output simply copy any valid CSS file with the name `style.css` into the directory that contains the HTML document. A sample `style.css` is included in the `doc` directory of this package and is used to style the HTML version of this howto. Browsers that do not support CSS should probably ignore the link with no ill effects.

For information on CSS visit http://www.w3c.org/Style/CSS.

5. Feedback

Please send feedback concerning this document and the tldp-xsl style sheets to dhorton@NOSPAM.member.fsf.org [mailto:dhorton@NOSPAM.member.fsf.org]