

# DITAmashups™

DITA-based structured/unstructured information solutions



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# What is a DITAmashup?

- A term we coined to describe:
  - A DITA-based structured information collection combined with...
  - Unstructured content on a...
  - WordPress/Drupal/Joomla website

# Key characteristics of our model sites

[www.xmldocs.info](http://www.xmldocs.info) (WordPress) and [www.ditainfo.info](http://www.ditainfo.info) (Drupal)

- Our DITAinformationcenter™ (free DITA information resource) at the DITA 1.2 level
- Published with a custom Python 3.2 script using an XML-RPC interface
- Semantically linked with static/basic pages and posts/articles/blogs

# Structured/unstructured challenges

- Structured information collections typically...
  - Have accurate product information but...
  - Lack “real-world” credibility
- Unstructured collections typically...
  - Have that popular “in-the-trenches” look and feel but...
  - The information is often down-level and...
  - Lacks professional polish and structure
  - Are difficult for product owners to influence or control

# Our solution objectives

- Combine the structured and unstructured information (“have it all”)
- Minimize cost and complexity
- Publish to popular, function-rich Web 2.0 platforms
- Customize the solution with easy-to-use scripts
- Use the semantics of the structured collection to establish and maintain overall architectural integrity

# Example site (WordPress)

XMLdocs.info

A free XML/DITA resource

Home DITAinformationcenter™ Garage sample Grocery sample Downloads About XMLdocs About DITA About us For more information

DITAinformationcenter™

## Elementary Topics

[Introduction](#)

[Getting started](#)

[Trends and challenges in global communication](#)

[Evaluating DITA](#)

[Key concepts](#)

[Installing the DITAinformationcenter distribution](#)

Structured,  
DITA-based  
content

Enhanced search

Unstructured  
content

Common,  
controlling  
metadata

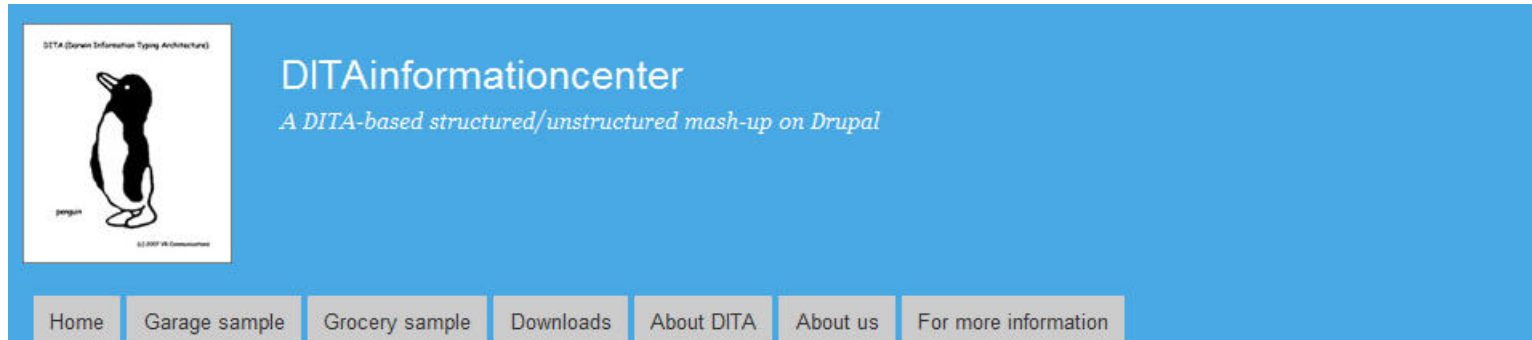
## Recent Posts

- [WSDL to DITA Script Updated to Python 3.2](#)
- [Styling DITA XHTML Pages with WordPress](#)
- [Ant processing parameters \(updated for 1.5.2\)](#)
- [WordPress Problems with Publishing DITA Content](#)
- [DITAinformationcenter™ as a DITAmashup™](#)

## Categories

- [automating](#) (8)
- [customizing](#) (1)
- [DITA](#) (9)
- [DITA Open Toolkit](#) (2)

# Example site (Drupal)



Home

## Caveat

Because of bugs in Drupal 7 RPC, the structured documentation has not yet (Feb 1, 2011) been published to this site.

## Articles

- [DITAinformationcenter 7.0 released](#)

## Elementary DITA topics

## Home / About DITAinformationcenter

### What is DITAinformationcenter?

DITAinformationcenter™ is a DITAmashup™, that is, a DITA-based, structured/unstructured information solution published as a collection of content topics that share the same category/tag keywords to facilitate information access. We coined this term to describe the solution, which consists of the following components.

#### A structured information collection

- Approximately 350 DITA source files
- Created using a DITA-aware editor (for example, oXygen or XMLSpy)
- Written to the DITA 1.2 language standard
- Organized as elementary, advanced, and reference topics
- Custom-published with a Python 3.2 script using an RPC or Atom interface

# DEMO



# Possible usage scenarios

- Need for a relatively inexpensive, content-managed solution published to popular Web 2.0 sites
- Need for an interactive solution that includes capabilities like multi-person blogs, comments, etc.
- Need or desire to keep development of structured and unstructured content solutions separate
- Content solution is not complete without BOTH structured and unstructured information
- Product documentation or internal site is produced and assembled by multiple in-house organizations that use different tools and content paradigms

# Perceived benefits

- “Best of both worlds”
  - Structured collection is tightly controlled, single-sourced, and was created using the most up-to-date professional tools
  - Informal posts (basic pages, articles, blogs) can be added independently from formally published docs
- Writers/contributors can choose their favorite editing tool and publishing environment
- Information is available to users in an environment familiar to and popular to users

# For More Information



[www.vrcommunications.com](http://www.vrcommunications.com)

[www.xmldocs.info](http://www.xmldocs.info)

[www.ditainfo.info](http://www.ditainfo.info)