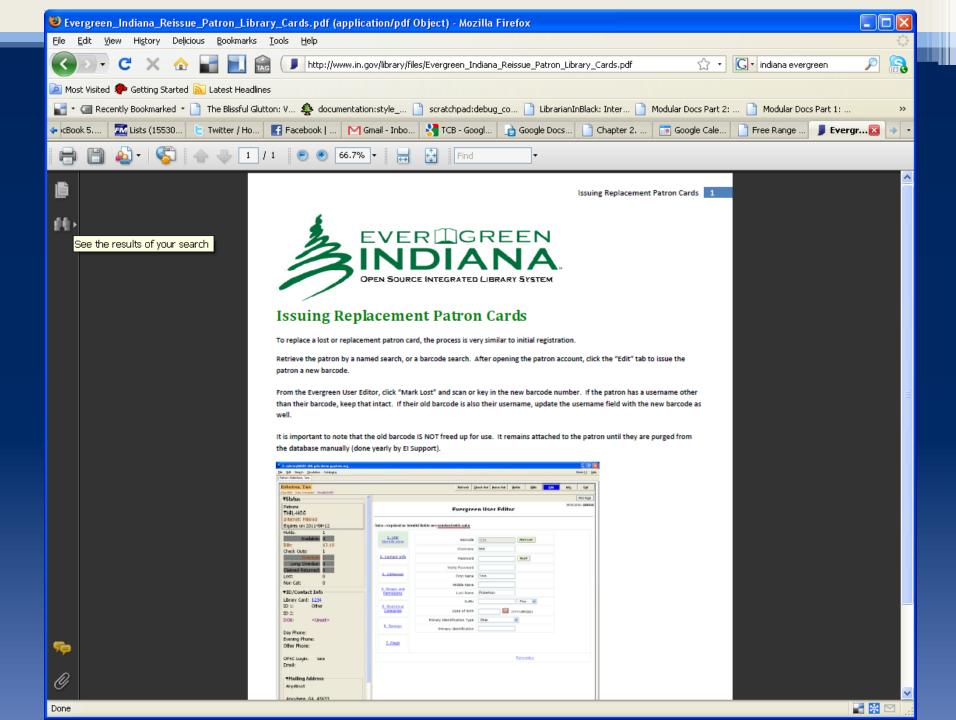
Recap: Evergreen documentation (Current)

- Some technical documentation generated during development processes
- Some legacy materials from PINES roll-out
- An increasing quantity of communitygenerated end-user documentation





Previous EG documentation activities

- Mailing list (ongoing)
- Training sessions (early on)
- A proposal (Sep 07)
- Another proposal (Jan 09)
- Conifer intern (Jan Apr 09)
- A response (May 09)

Documentation challenges

- Not integrated into development or tied into releases
- No standardized, community-chosen toolset
- Lack of committed resources
- No intentional production process

Current Evergreen documentation formats: The 3 Ws

- Wiki the Dokuwiki instance
- Word word processing documents
- Whatever random formats for movies, audio, etc.

Unintended consequences...

- Software knowledge locked in developers' brain trust
- Poor first impression for the project
- Much time wasted asking basic questions
- Much time wasted answering basic questions

Resources and Opportunities

- Growing perception of need
- Critical mass
- Good communication tools
 - Discussion list
 - GoToMeeting
 - Evergreen blog
- Areas of in-house expertise

Evergreen Documentation Project Has Very Basic Needs...

- Some People (you)
- A Plan (this)
- And a Pickaxe (toolset, website, etc.)

People: Evergreen community members interested in...

- Documentation production (writing)
- Documentation project planning*
- Documentation project management*

* These are new to the Evergreen documentation project

Workflow: Writers

- Create or edit chunks of documentation
 - DocBook XML preferred, most formats accepted
 - Documentation targeted at specific releases

Workflow: Field Editors

- Convert files to DocBook XML as needed
 - Follow Evergreen style guidelines
 - Upload documents to Subversion repository
 - Located relative to release: e.g. rel_1_6, trunk, rel_2

Workflow: Senior Editors

- Review DocBook XML
- Transform XML to HTML/PDF
- Moves file(s) to website

DocBook XML

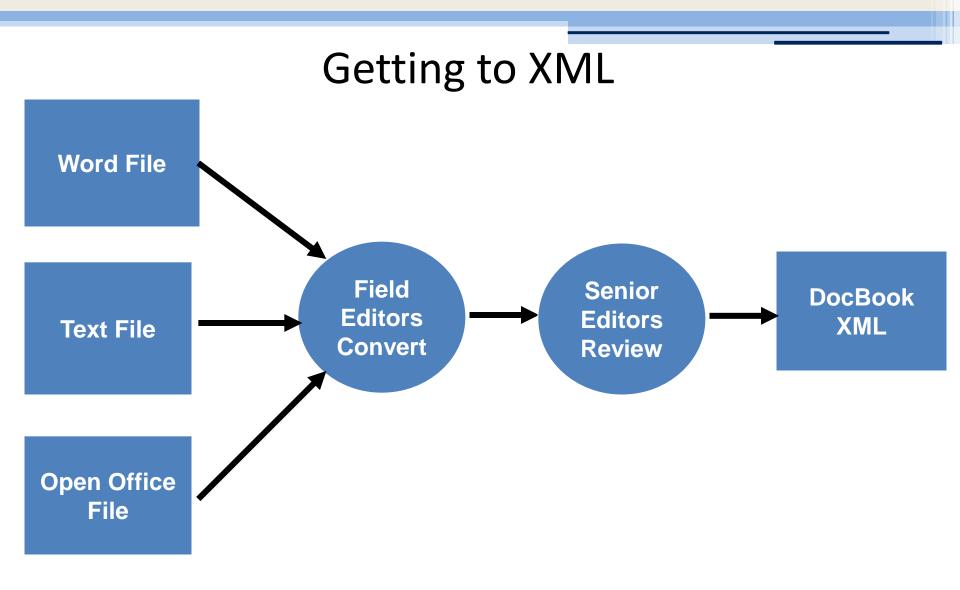
- Open
- Text-based (non-binary)
- Cross-platform
- Widely-used
- Standards-based (OASIS)
- Single-source, reusable content
- Support for distributed authoring
- Supports translation
- Well-established, friendly user community
- Free and "fee" publishing tools available

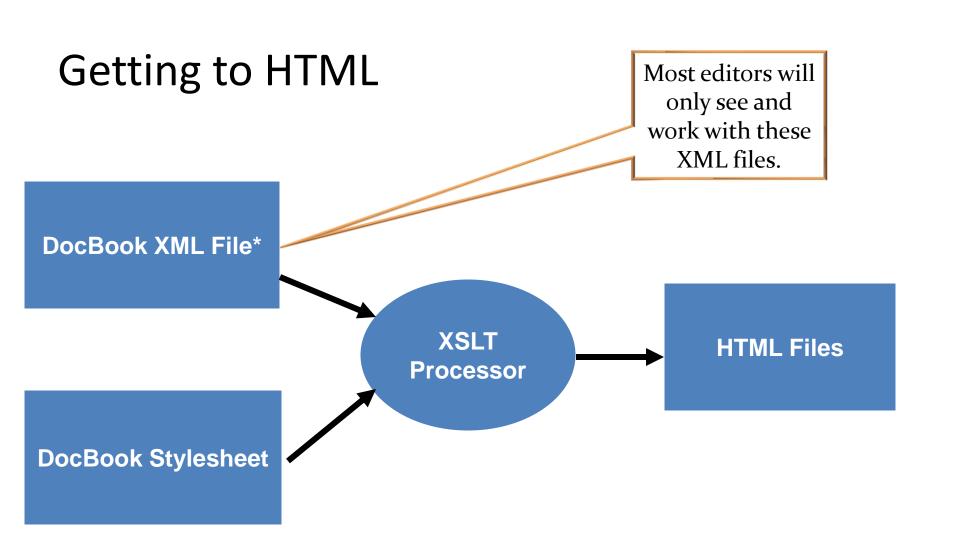
Single-Source Publishing: One Spirit, Many Gifts

- Same source produces print, PDF, HTML, help files
- Can tie source to versions
- Lends itself to translations
- Central control for look/feel/style
- Good for distributed labor efforts

Significant OSS DocBook Implementations

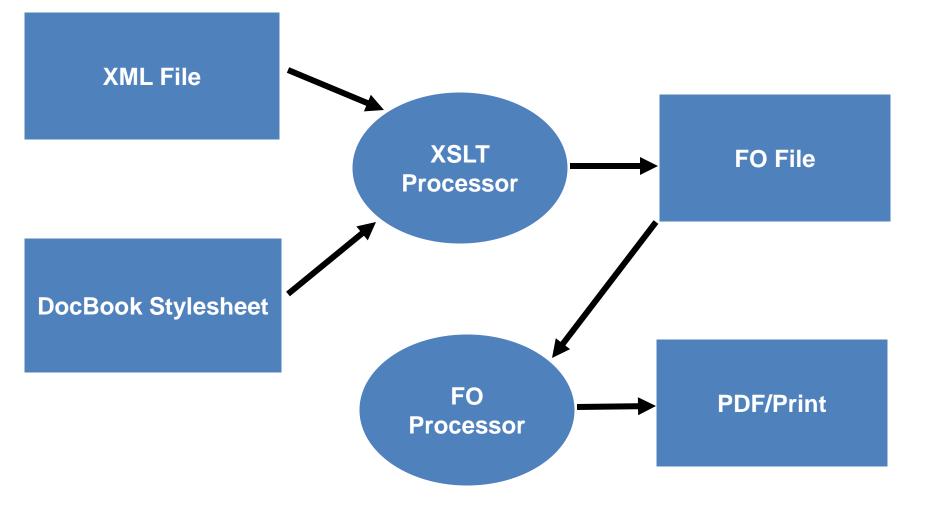
- Linux
- Fedora
- PostgreSQL
- PHP
- TortoiseSVN
- Subversion
- FreeBSD
- Gnome





*May also include CSS and a Makefile

Getting to PDF (or other print formats)



Essential DocBook Resources

- Web: Docbook.org
- Email list: Docbook-apps
- Book: Norman Walsh, DocBook: The Definitive Guide
- Book: Robert Stayton, DocBook XSL, 4th Edition