

Drew Hodge

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Profile

Technical writer with eighteen years experience working with a wide range of software products, writing API and user documentation, and developing and maintaining document processing tools. Twenty years experience as a biomedical engineering technologist working in medical electronics. Strong communication, problem solving, and analytical skills. Keen student who enjoys learning and taking on new challenges.

Computer Skills

Programming languages: XSLT, some familiarity with: Java, C, C++, C#, Python, Javascript, and NodeJS
Markup languages: XML (familiar with standard XML dialects, DITA, DocbookX), XHTML, HTML5, HTML, LaTeX, and Markdown
Operating systems: Apple Mac OS X, Microsoft Windows, Linux
Tools: IxiaSoft DITA CMS, oXygen XML Editor, XMetaL, XML Spy, Doc-O-Matic, Frame Maker, several text editors, Eclipse, WebStorm, Camtasia Studio, Microsoft Visual Studio, Microsoft Office, LibreOffice, Saxon, Xalan, FOP, Ant, SVN, Git, and other open source tools

Career History

Wind River Systems Inc.

April 2014 – present

Staff Technical Writer/Infrastructure Tools
Developer

Planning and writing user documentation for Wind River Intelligent Device Platform and Wind River Installer. Configuring, customizing, and maintaining document processing tools to produce a variety of document formats, including PDF and Eclipse HTML, from sets of XML source files.

- Writing documentation for developers and end-users in the form of programmer's guides and on-line help to support the company's Internet of Things and custom installer products.
- Configuring and maintaining the company's IxiaSoft DITA Content Management System.
- Developing custom XSLT transformations to generate DITA XML to convert legacy FrameMaker documentation into DITA XML.
- Performing on-demand and weekly updates of the company's web-based knowledge library using in-house web applications and custom-built tools and scripts.
- Participating in various committees to discuss writing standards and styles and the migration of legacy documentation into the CMS.

QNX Software Systems Limited
Technical Writer

April 2011 – November 2013

Installed, configured, and maintained the company's document processing system based on the DITA Open Toolkit, both standalone and in the IxiaSoft DITA Content Management System.

- Customized standard DITA OT stylesheets using overrides to implement special-purpose styles and formatting for XHTML and PDF output types.
- Developed custom XSLT transformations to generate DITA XML to meet requirements of Eclipse-based and Web-based documentation sets.
- Developed and maintained a set of XSLT transformations to generate valid DITA topics from Doxygen XML.
- Developed, maintained, and ran custom documentation builds using Apache Ant and in-house Python tools and in IxiaSoft DITA CMS.
- Coordinated QNX documentation source and tooling as part of a migration project to move documentation from a standard version control system (SVN) to a DITA-based content management system.
- Prepared and presented short courses to introduce writers to XML-based, task-oriented writing using DITA.

Wind River Systems Inc.
Staff Technical Writer

March 2010 – April 2011

Planned and wrote user documentation for Wind River Workbench Eclipse-based development suite used for VxWorks and Wind River Linux embedded software development.

- Collaborated with writers and software developers in various geographic locations.
- Created XML schemas for document types supporting the company's in-house XML vocabulary.
- Designed and created CSS stylesheets for welcome and getting-started information in Wind River Workbench.
- Planned and created tutorial videos and screencasts.

Infonium Inc.
Contract Technical Writer

January and February 2010

Temporary contract – planned and set up a document processing system using the DITA Open Toolkit. Wrote installation guide for the company's Capital Budget product.

Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Contract Senior Biomedical Engineering
Technologist

March 2009 – March 2010

Temporary contract – repair and preventative maintenance of medical electronic equipment at Montfort Hospital, Ottawa.

Autodesk Inc.
Senior Technical Writer

June 2007 – January 2009

Planned and wrote application programming interface (API) and user documentation for geospatial and computer assisted design products.

- Led (jointly) API writing group through two releases of an application for managing design, asset, and GIS information.
- Collaborated with software developers at remote sites throughout the world to deliver complex and detailed C# reference documentation.
- Actively participated in technical discussions and wrote best-practices for the company's primary API reference documentation tool.
- Designed and wrote XSLT transformation scripts for use in a time tracking application developed in-house.

IBM Rational Software
Senior Technical Writer

August 2003 – June 2007

Planned and wrote online help for the Rational architect and software developer products. Received two Best of IBM awards: for published article on XSL, and for DITA specialization.

- Developed XSLT transformations to specialize DITA information topic types for tutorials and samples.
- Managed translation project for several releases of the Rational product suite, coordinated source files and help files in thirteen languages, addressed defects, and communicated with translation centres around the world.
- Established and maintained documentation build process using the Apache Ant build tool, implemented complex TOC and file linking for Eclipse features and plug-ins.

Entrust Inc.
Senior Technical Writer

February 2000 – July 2003

Planned and wrote API documentation for a Java software development kit that integrated cryptographic security into third-party applications.

- Designed (jointly) and implemented a modularized XML vocabulary for writing Java, C, and C++ API documentation.
- Designed and wrote XSLT scripts for transforming XML source documentation into HTMLHelp and XSL:FO in preparation for generating PDF.
- Designed, wrote, and implemented a Java application to process XML source documentation to produce HTML, HTMLHelp, and PDF documents ready for release.

Internetivity Inc./Databeacon Inc.
Technical Writer

May 1999 – February 2000

Planned and wrote user information for print and online documentation.

- Customized documentation for OEM partners
- Designed, wrote, and maintained internal process documentation

Brytech Inc.
Medical Product Manager

October 1996 – September 1998

Managed the development of a health care monitor (combined apnoea monitor and pulse oximeter) as far as the prototype stage.

- Built and tested prototype monitors, coordinated certification inspections, scheduled patient trials
- Planned and wrote quality system and policy documents in accordance with the requirements of ISO 9001

Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Technologist III, Biomedical Engineering
Department

May 1990 – September 1996

Carried out repair and preventative maintenance of medical electronic equipment in all hospital departments at CHEO and in eleven hospitals in the Ottawa region.

- Installed, maintained, and repaired medical equipment requiring skill and knowledge in electronic, electro-mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic engineering technologies
- Communicated with department heads and hospital staff regarding routine maintenance and emergency repairs

Voluntary Work in Africa
Manager, Provincial Medical Officer's Office,
Kabwe, Zambia

August 1989 – December 1989

- Established a medical equipment workshop for the Central Province of Zambia under the auspices of the British Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) organization
- Trained local staff members in basic safety and routine maintenance procedures

S&W Vickers Ltd.
Training Manager

May 1988 – July 1989

- Designed and wrote technical training courses for the company's complete range of neonatal equipment
- Supervised field service and workshop technicians and technologists
- Negotiated maintenance contract agreements with customers
- Provided technical support for QA department regarding defect reports, customer complaints, and field modifications
- Performed routine business administration and workshop stock control

Royal Air Force Service

August 1975 – March 1988

Education

Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc. Mathematics)

2001

Professional Development and Training

compuSkills Information Technology Training Centre
Programming language training in: Java, C, C++, XML,
HTML, JavaScript, Web technologies, Linux operating
system

September 1998 – May 1999

Algonquin College
Technical writing, C programming

January 1998 – April 1998

Bellvue Community College
Technical writing

September 1997 – December 1997

University of Waterloo
Technical writing and SGML

January 1997 – December 1997

**Royal Air Force Hereford, General Service Training
School**
Senior NCO's management course

1984

Swindon Technical College
Technician Education Council Certificate in Electronics

1982

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME)
School of Electronic Engineering, medical electronics
and technologies

1978

Royal Air Force Halton
No. 1 School of Technical Training, electrical and
electronic engineering technologies

1976

Voluntary Activities

Project North Star Association of Canada
Member of the board of directors 2012-2014
Newsletter typesetter since 2005

2005-present