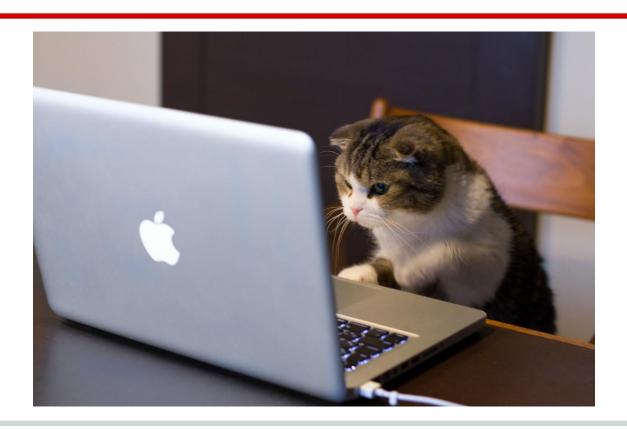# PDF plug-in generator

http://dita-generator-hrd.appspot.com/pdf-plugin/

DITA-OT Day 2014
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TL;DR

Agenda

- Background
- PDF plug-in extensibility
- Plugin generator overview
- Walkthrough
- Future development

History

- Originally in 2008 wrote a tool to automate shell DTD and specialization generation
- Added a browser based GUI, server hosted on Google AppEngine
- Same principle applies to PDF2 plug-ins:

  "Never send a human to do a machine's job"

Rationale

Rationale

- Originally proof of concept and toy project
- Allow non-technical people to customize PDF output
- Example of how PDF2 plug-in should be extended
- Skeleton generator for more complex layouts
- Dog fooding

PDF plug-in extensibility

- PDF transtype has mostly been implemented in Ant and XSLT
- Neither language has final or private, everything can be overridden
- No configuration layer
- Extension mechanisms are Customization directory or extension by plug-ins

Technology stack

- Front-end is HTML5 with Javascript
- Code generation implemented in Python
- Hosted on Google AppEngine

Features

http://dita-generator-hrd.appspot.com/

What's missing

- Cover metadata and layout
- Header and footer
- TOC
- Index
- Font configuration
- Set of pretty graphics or icon fonts for note
- You tell me

Future directions

- Rewrite the UI with something better
- Formalize intermediate JSON format for representing styling information
- Create alternative output formats

Thank you