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Mind The Gap – new XML book fills important void in technical communication market

The technical communication sector is now feeling the effects of Extensible Markup Language (XML) in a similar way as the software development and data interchange sectors before.

Supported by the ISTC, author Charles Cowan FISTC shares his knowledge and guidance in his new book. A Principal Technical Writer with the Oracle Corporation and an IBM Certified Developer in XML, Charles Cowan is perfectly placed to witness the major impact of XML on technical communication and deliver first hand a comprehensive but easy to read overview of the use of XML.

“This book is an ideal companion for the technical communicator who has heard of Extensible Markup Language (XML) but wants to understand the inner workings of the language” writes John Straw CITP.

“This easy-to-read guide focuses on providing the reader with an insight into the terminology and syntax of XML and explains the evolution of the language from Standard Generalised Mark-up Language (SGML) to Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA)”.

Providing a platform-independent, vendor-neutral source language for publishing documentation of all kinds and in any output format, XML solutions have already been adopted by many technical publications departments and are being considered by others.

Technical communicators, therefore, need to understand what XML has to offer. John Straw CITP continues: “All of the advantages of XML are discussed, together with some extremely useful tips that the developer can use to avoid the inevitable pitfalls they will encounter when implementing an XML system. A comprehensive list of XML editors and management tools is given, as well as an excellent reference section”.

He continues “the terminology used in the book is clearly defined and will help the reader develop their understanding of a complex subject in an easy and concise manner”. By providing a broad introduction to XML, its role in technical communication and the advantages it can bring to the production of technical documentation, this book fills an important gap in the market and in doing so provides for all business sectors, from organisations deploying an XML based documentation solution to freelancers who need to keep pace with technical trends.

“a must for all communicators who wish to understand what XML has to offer” John Straw CITP

“a very thorough and useful introduction” Rick Webster MISTC

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