



Quick Start

DAPS 3.1

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DAPS (DocBook Authoring and Publishing Suite) helps technical writers to author and publish documentation written in DocBook XML. DAPS is a command line based software for Linux* and released as open source.

The DAPS Quick Start is a short introduction to DAPS for technical writers. It includes step-by-step instructions for key editing and publishing tasks.

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1 Target Audience

This document is intended for users who want to make efficient use of DocBook XML for editing and publishing their documentation—be it documentation sets, individual books, or articles. Key knowledge of XML and DocBook and of using the Bash Shell (or command line interfaces in general) is required.

2 Supported DocBook Versions

DAPS supports DocBook 4.x and DocBook 5.x.

3 System Requirements

DAPS itself is a lean solution that does not require a lot of system resources. However, it does use components that may need a stronger processor and more RAM, for example, for creating PDF output files. Although not required, DAPS benefits from multi-core processors.

3.1 Hardware Requirements

RAM

The required amount of RAM mostly depends on the volume of your documentation projects. For creation of PDF output, at least 2 GB of RAM are recommended.

CPU

If you have multiple or very large documentation projects, a machine with multiple cores is recommended.

Hard Disk Space

The disk space consumed mostly depends on the amount of your documentation sources and the number of output formats you want to generate.

3.2 Software Requirements

DAPS runs on any modern Linux system. It has not been attempted to port DAPS to Windows* or Mac OS X* yet.

When installing DAPS as an RPM package (on any SUSE-based system), dependencies on other software packages are automatically resolved during installation. No additional action is required.

For installing DAPS from the sources on other Linux distributions, refer to <https://github.com/openSUSE/daps/blob/main/INSTALL.adoc> where the respective requirements are covered in detail.

3.3 Additional Software

In addition to DAPS, you need the following software:

- An XML (or text) editor of your choice.
- For generating PDF output: an FO formatter, like FOP (<http://projects.apache.org/projects/fop.html>) or XEP (<http://www.renderx.com>). The FO formatter Antenna House Formatter (<http://www.antennahouse.com>) is currently not supported. Whereas FOP is an open source product, both XEP and Antenna House are commercial products.

To add further components like version management or a workflow mechanism for your projects, use DAPS in combination with the following software:

- Any version management system, like CVS, Subversion, Mercurial or Git.

Together with the software components mentioned above, DAPS can be used as a fully-fledged authoring and content management system for documentation projects based on DocBook.

3.4 Directory Structure

For DAPS to work out of the box, it requires a certain organization of your DocBook XML files and images within your documentation directory. For details, refer to [Section 5.1, "Directory Structure"](#). You can generate the necessary structure with the DAPS initialization script, **daps-init**. For instructions on how to make existing DocBook projects compatible with DAPS, refer to [Section 12, "Migration of Existing DocBook Projects"](#).

4 Installation

The DocBook Authoring and Publishing Suite can be installed and used on any Linux distribution. Currently, DAPS is available as an RPM package for the openSUSE distribution and for SUSE Linux Enterprise products. Eventually, packages for other distributions may become available. For the latest status update and installation instructions, refer to <https://github.com/openSUSE/daps/blob/main/INSTALL.adoc>.

4.1 Installing DAPS on openSUSE

There are a few ways to install DAPS on openSUSE. To always stay up-to-date with the latest version of DAPS install the `daps` package from the `Documentation:Tools` repository as outlined below.

You may also use the `daps` package that shipped with your version of openSUSE. However, you then might miss the latest features and bug fixes in DAPS.

The quickest way to install DAPS is using the `zypper` command.

PROCEDURE 1: INSTALLING DAPS VIA ZYPPER FROM DOCUMENTATION:TOOLS

1. Open a browser and enter the following URL: <http://download.opensuse.org/repositories/Documentation:/Tools>
2. Select your distribution and product number to make the browser show the URL for the respective repository.
3. Copy the URL from the address bar.
4. Open a terminal.
5. Add the repository with the following zypper command:

```
root # zypper ar -f URL Documentation:Tools
```

Replace `URL` with the URL you pasted from your browser.

6. Install DAPS with the following zypper command:

```
root # zypper in --from Documentation:Tools daps
```

In order to install DAPS you have to trust the `Documentation:Tools` repository.

4.2 Installing DAPS on SUSE Linux Enterprise

Starting with SUSE Linux Enterprise 12, DAPS is also available for SUSE Linux Enterprise. The DAPS package is provided by the SUSE Software Development Kit (SDK), a free extension for SUSE Linux Enterprise. You need to install it as add-on (or extension). You can install the SDK (without any physical media) as an extension after the registration of your system at SUSE Customer Center. If you prefer to install from a physical medium, proceed as follows:

1. Download the installation media for the SDK from <http://download.suse.com/>.
2. Install the SDK as an add-on product to SUSE Linux Enterprise.
For details on how to install add-on products (with or without physical media), see the *SUSE Linux Enterprise 12 Deployment Guide*, available at <http://www.suse.com/documentation/>. Refer to chapter *Installing Add-On Products*, https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles-12/book_sle_deployment/data/cha_add-ons.html.
3. Install the `daps` package, using either the YaST *Software Management* module or the following command:

```
root # zypper in daps
```

Dependencies on other software packages are automatically resolved during installation.

4.3 Installing DAPS on Other Linux Distributions

For the latest status update and installation instructions, refer to <https://github.com/openSUSE/daps/blob/main/INSTALL.adoc>.

4.4 Installing and Configuring the FO Formatter

For installation and configuration of an FO formatter (for generating PDF output), refer to its installation instructions (or to your system administrator). For FOP, you usually only need to install the respective FOP package. However, not all FOP packages contain the hyphenation pattern files. Using the hyphenation patterns is recommended.

5 Defining Documentation Projects

The easiest way to set up a new documentation project from scratch is to use the DAPS initialization script `daps-init`. For instructions how to do so, refer to [Procedure 2](#). The script automatically creates the *Directory Structure* and *Key Files* that you need to get started with DAPS.

5.1 Directory Structure

DAPS requires your XML files and images to be organized in a specific structure within your documentation directory. [Example 1, "Directory Structure"](#) shows the required structure including the key files for a DAPS documentation project. You can also create multiple documentation directories for individual documentation projects, but they all need the substructure outlined below.

EXAMPLE 1: DIRECTORY STRUCTURE

```
YOUR_DOC_DIR/ ①
|--DC* ②
|  |--images/
|    |--src/ ③
|      |--dia/
|      |--eps/
|      |--fig/
|      |--jpg/
|      |--pdf/
|      |--png/
|      |--svg/
|  |--xml/ ④
|    |--MAIN*.xml ⑤
|    |--*.xml
```

- ① “Working directory” for the respective documentation project (in the following also called project directory or documentation directory).
- ② Doc Config file (or files) defining the documentation project (books, articles).
- ③ Top-level directory for any original images that you want to use in the documentation project. This directory contains subdirectories for images in various formats. Any images to be referenced in the XML sources must be put in the respective subdirectories. For information about referencing images, refer to [Section 9.4, "Referencing Images"](#).

- ④ Directory holding the XML MAIN file and all other XML files for the documentation project. If you declare entities in one or more external files (for example, in `entity-decl.ent`), put the entity declaration files here, too.
- ⑤ The MAIN file of the documentation project. It contains the “starting point” (the highest-level object) of your documentation project and includes “references” to other books, chapters, appendixes, etc. For more information, refer to [Section 5.2, “Key Files”](#).

! Important: Structure of the `xml` and `image/src/*` Directories

Avoid subdirectories within the `xml` and `image/src/*` directories. Referencing or including files from subdirectories within those directories can lead to unpredictable results with DAPS.

5.2 Key Files

The following key files define a documentation project so that it can be processed by DAPS:

MAIN File

A DocBook XML file in the `xml` directory. It contains the “starting point” (the highest-level object) of your documentation project (for example, `book` or `article`). For larger documentation projects, it is good practice to name the file `MAIN-PROJECTNAME.xml`, but you can use any other file name as well. Other XML files may be included into the MAIN file via `<xi:include/>` statements.

Doc Config (DC) File

A configuration file in the project directory. It defines several parameters for your documentation deliverable (for example, the MAIN file, layout variants, or which profiling information to use). Of the multiple parameters that can be set in the DC file, the only one required is `MAIN`, pointing to the XML file that you want to process. Usually, you create one DC file per book or article. For a documentation `set` (a collection of books), multiple DC files can be defined. This allows you to set different parameters and different values for individual books in the set.

5.3 File Name Requirements

XML extension required

Always use the .xml extension, so DAPS can recognize the files, which are needed to build the document.

No Spaces and Colons In File and Directory Names

Avoid spaces and colons in file and directory names. The **make** command in DAPS has trouble understanding them. Use underscores (_) or hyphens (-) instead.

It is good practice to only use the following characters for file or directory names: alphabetic characters [a-z] or [A-Z], numerical characters [0-9], hyphens (-), or underscores (_).

Unique Image Names

Always store just one file with a particular name within the images/src directory of a project. As DAPS tries to create any missing image formats from original images, it will otherwise not know which one of the duplicate files to use for converting to the missing formats.

Additionally, having a file called example.png and another called example.svg in the same documentation project will often lead to questions like: Which file to use where? Do both files display the same content? Are both files current, or is one outdated?

When invoking DAPS with the parameter -v, a warning will be printed whenever a file name appears twice within a project. To specifically check for image name clashes upfront, use the **daps list-images-multisrc** subcommand.

It is a good idea to find a consistent file naming scheme. For example, when documenting software, it might prove helpful to include the name of the application at the beginning of the file name. You can also use prefixes like screenshot_ and diagram_ to separate between different types of images.



Note: Hint on Using UTF-8 characters in File Names

Depending on your environment, the build process could fail if you are using file names with UTF-8 characters. Run the **locale** command and check if the LANG environment variable contains UTF-8. Otherwise adjust the LANG environment variable accordingly.

6 A Documentation Project From Scratch

Use `daps-init` to set up a new documentation project from scratch. The init script automatically creates the key files and directory structure you need to get started with DAPS. By default, it creates a DocBook article as example file. By adding options you can modify parameters (such as changing the root element to `book` or specifying the DocBook version in which you want the example to be generated). View the available options with `daps-init -h`.

PROCEDURE 2: USING `daps-init`

1. To create a working environment for DAPS , including an example document, enter the following:

```
tux:~> daps-init --docdir PATH_TO_DOC_DIR
```

Specifying the project directory with `--docdir` is mandatory. If the directory does not exist, DAPS prompts you to create it.

If you want to modify the file name and the title for the document, use the options `--name` and `--title`:

```
tux:~> daps-init --docdir PATH_TO_DOC_DIR \  
--name "my_document" \  
--title "Example Documentation"
```

2. If you want to create an example book file in addition to the article, enter the following:

```
tux:~> daps-init  
--docdir PATH_TO_DOC_DIR --rootelement book
```

3. To see what the output of the XML example file looks like, follow the instructions on the screen.
At the end of the transformation process, DAPS shows a message where to find the generated output file. By default, all contents generated by DAPS is located in the `build` subdirectory. It is automatically created within your project directory.
4. Check your project directory for the new files: The text file `DC-*` is annotated and gives you a general idea which options can be defined in a DC file. For having a look at the XML source code of the example document, change to the `xml` subdirectory and open the file `MAIN-*.xml` in a text editor or XML editor.

7 Editing DocBook XML Files

As DAPS does not include any editor software, you are completely free in the choice of your XML editor. While you can use your text editor of choice, it is helpful if the editor supports editing XML in accordance with the schema you use. Several open source editors can be extended with plug-ins for automatic tag insertion and completion, insertion of `xref` elements and for checks if the XML document is well-formed. If you are already familiar with vi or Emacs, you can configure them to support XML editing mode. If you prefer an editor with a graphical user interface, [jEdit \(http://www.jedit.org/\)](http://www.jedit.org/) is a good choice.

If you have worked with DocBook before, you know about the typical top-level elements for documents, `book` and `article`. For larger documentation projects, another typical top-level element is `set` (a collection of books).

To define the individual components of a book, use structural elements such as `part`, `chapter`, `preface` or `appendix`. Chapters are usually subdivided into sections (`section` elements or `sect1`, `sect2` etc.). Smaller structural units are `para` (for paragraphs), or list elements such as `orderlist`, `itemizedlist`, or `variablelist`.

If you have set up your documentation project from scratch with `daps-init`, you can explore the example documents that are installed within the directory structure. They show the most commonly used DocBook XML constructs.

8 Validation

Generating any output requires that your XML files are valid. As soon as any output command is executed, DAPS automatically runs a validation check first. If it fails, DAPS returns the parser errors, including information about the type of error, the respective file name and the line number where the error occurred. In addition, DAPS shows the path to the profiled XML sources and the total number of errors.

EXAMPLE 2: PARSER OUTPUT FOR VALIDATION ERRORS (xref TO UNKNOWN ID)

```
daps_user_concept.xml:60: element xref: validity error:
IDREF attribute linkend references an unknown ID "itl.daps.user.inst.other.req"
Document /local/svn/daps-svn/daps/doc/build/.profiled/x86-amd64-em64t_osuse_/
MAIN.DAPS.xml does not validate
make: *** [validate] Error 3
```



Note: Validating is Done in Build Directory

Validation is always done in the `build` directory and in the profiled sources, as indicated by the path above (`/local/[...]/build/.profiled/[...]/MAIN.DAPS.xml`). However, you need to fix the validation error in the sources located in your `xml` directory, otherwise the fixes will not take effect. Profiling is similar to conditional text. For details, refer to the chapter about modularizing document projects in the DAPS User Guide.

9 Image Handling

Depending on the output format you generate (PDF or HTML, for example), DAPS automatically transforms the source images you provide (which are also referenced in your XML sources) into the appropriate output formats. For example, SVG images are converted to PNG for HTML builds, or color images to grayscale for black-and-white PDFs. You only need to decide which file format to use as source format. Of course, this decision depends on the purpose of the image. For more details, see the DAPS User Guide.

9.1 Supported Image Types

DAPS supports the following types of images:

- DIA (input format only)
- EPS (experimental)
- FIG (input format only)
- JPEG
- PDF (experimental - only works for PDF output and with XEP formatter)
- PNG
- SVG

9.2 Organization of the images Directory

DAPS requires you to use a specific directory structure for images. All images that you reference from your DocBook files must be stored in a subdirectory of the project directory named `images/src/file_extension`. For example, PNG files must be stored under `images/src/png`. If you used `daps-init` to set up your project, the appropriate directories should already exist. For a more detailed reference to the directory structure, see [Section 5.1, "Directory Structure"](#).

9.3 Image File Name Requirements

For details, see [Section 5.3, "File Name Requirements"](#).

9.4 Referencing Images

As your images need to be located in a defined directory structure, DAPS automatically finds the path to your images. Therefore, referencing images in your XML sources is very straightforward: you must not include any path in the `fileref` attribute—the file name is enough.

Furthermore, DocBook allows you to reference more than one image to distinguish between different output formats. For example, you can add two references pointing to the same file, but using different images widths for PDF and HTML output. Use the `role` attribute to specify the output format, for example `fo` or `html`.

EXAMPLE 3: IMAGE REFERENCE IN AN XML FILE

Let us assume you have a source image file named `graphic.dia`. To make DAPS use an SVG version of your image for PDF output (`role="fo"`) and a PNG version for HTML output (`role="html"`), reference the images as follows:

```
<figure>
  <title>Main Window</title>
  <mediaobject>
    <imageobject role="fo">
      <imagedata fileref="graphic.svg" width="70%"/>
    </imageobject>
    <imageobject role="html">
      <imagedata fileref="graphic.png" width="75%"/>
    </imageobject>
  </mediaobject>
</figure>
```

10 Basic DAPS Syntax

Before introducing the key **daps** commands to create output formats from your XML documents, let's get familiar with the basic syntax of the **daps** command:

```
tux:~> daps [--global-options] subcommand [--command-options] [arguments]
```

Example 4, "DAPS Syntax" shows an example command that generates HTML output. Global options are used to specify the level of verbosity, and the Doc Config file for creating the output.

EXAMPLE 4: DAPS SYNTAX

```
daps ❶ --debug ❷ -d ❸ DC-daps-example.html ❹ --static ❺
```

- ❶ Main command: **daps**
- ❷ Global Option **--debug**: Sets the highest verbosity level (number of messages shown during the conversion process from XML to HTML).
- ❸ Global Option **-d**: Defines the relative or absolute path to the Doc Config file. In this example, **daps** is called in the same directory that holds the Doc Config file.
- ❹ Subcommand **html**: Defines the output format to create.
- ❺ Command option **--static**: Instructs DAPS to copy CSS and image files to the same location like the HTML files. For more information, see *Table 1, "DAPS Output Commands and Formats"*.



Tip: Specifying the DC File

For execution of most commands, DAPS needs to know which DC file to use. Usually, you do so by specifying a DC file with the global option **-d**. For example:

```
tux:~> daps -d PATH_TO_DC_FILE pdf
```

Only in the following cases you may omit the `-d` option:

- If your documentation directory contains only one DC file. In that case, DAPS automatically uses the corresponding file.
- If you have specified a default DC file to use in `~/.config/daps/dapsrc` (as a value for `DOCCONF_DEFAULT`). In that case, DAPS automatically uses the corresponding file, unless you specify a different one on the command line.
- If you want to call the help function.

To view the global options and the available subcommands for DAPS, use the command:

```
tux:~> daps help
```

For a short help text on a specific *subcommand*, use:

```
tux:~> daps help subcommand
```

For example, if you want more information about generating HTML output, run:

```
tux:~> daps help html
```

The following section introduces the key `daps` commands for generating output formats from XML files. All examples are based on the files generated by the DAPS init script. For more information, refer to [Section 6, “A Documentation Project From Scratch”](#).

11 Output Formats

By default, the DocBook stylesheets are used for generating output formats. But DAPS also allows you to easily customize your output formats. For more details, refer to *Book “User Guide”, Chapter 9 “Customizing Layout of the Output Formats”*.

11.1 Basic Syntax for Generating Output

DAPS supports various different output formats, including also “exotic” formats like man pages or simple text. [Table 1](#) gives an overview.

Independent of the individual output format you want to create, you need to specify the DC file to use:

```
tux:~> daps -d PATH_TO_DC_FILE OUTPUT_FORMAT
```

For example:

```
tux:~> daps -d DC-daps-example pdf
```

At the end of the transformation process, DAPS shows a message where to find the generated output.

If your current directory is not the documentation directory where the DC file is located, also specify the (absolute or relative) path to the DC file. For example:

```
tux:~> daps -d /svn/daps/example/DC-daps-example pdf
```

11.2 Generating Different Output Formats

The following table lists the main output formats and their characteristics, and the DAPS subcommands to generate them. Refer to *Section 11.1* for the commands' basic syntax.

TABLE 1: DAPS OUTPUT COMMANDS AND FORMATS

Subcommand	Output/Note
pdf	Creates a color PDF. Open the result in a PDF viewer. Requires an FO formatter.
pdf --grayscale	Creates a black-and-white PDF. Open the result in a PDF viewer. Requires an FO formatter. All color images are automatically converted to grayscale images. If you need a PDF for a printing shop, add the <code>--cropmarks</code> option. Creation of crop marks is currently only supported by the XEP FO formatter.
html	Creates a subdirectory containing individual HTML files for all chapters of a book (including also preface, glossary or appendix files). The HTML files are named according to the ID of the

Subcommand	Output/Note
	<p>respective root element. Open the generated <code>index.html</code> file in a Web browser to view the generated HTML from the starting point (ROOTID of the top-level element).</p> <p>Images and CSS files are only linked in the resulting directory that contains the HTML files. To copy these files to the same location as the HTML files, use the <code>--static</code> option. This is useful for creating distributable HTML builds.</p>
html --single	<p>Creates a single HTML file, named after the DC file used to create the output. Open the generated <code>*.html</code> file in a Web browser.</p> <p>Single HTML files are more convenient for full text searches. Images and CSS files are only linked in the resulting directory that contains the HTML files. To copy these files to the same location like the HTML files, use the <code>--static</code> option. This is useful for creating distributable HTML builds.</p>
epub	<p>Creates an EPUB 2 document. Open the resulting file in a portable e-book reader (or with a software like Calibre).</p> <p>If you need an EPUB 3 document, add the <code>--epub3</code> option.</p>
mobi	<p>Creates an Amazon Kindle e-book in Mobipocket format. Open the resulting file in a portable e-book reader (or with a software like Calibre).</p> <p>Requires Calibre. DAPS first generates an EPUB file which is then converted to <code>*.mobi</code> format with Calibre.</p>
webhelp	<p>Creates a DocBook Web Help output. Open the resulting <code>index.html</code> file in a Web browser to view the generated document from the starting point (ROOTID of the top-level element).</p> <p>Experimental feature. Requires the most recent version of the DocBook stylesheets. DocBook Web Help consists of HTML pages with an additional pane, featuring a table of contents and a search function. The table of contents can be expanded and</p>

Subcommand	Output/Note
	collapsed, and is automatically synchronized with the contents pane. The search function orders the search results so that the most relevant results are listed first.
text	Creates an ASCII text output. Open the resulting file in a text editor. All images are removed from the output, but their location is indicated in the text by the respective image base name printed in square brackets. A table of contents is automatically generated and is inserted at the beginning of the text document.
man	Creates one or multiple man pages. To create man pages, your XML files must contain at least one <u>refentry</u> —be it in a <u>chapter</u> , <u>appendix</u> , or collected in a <u>reference</u> element. When processing a DocBook document with multiple <u>refentry</u> elements (regardless where they appear), DAPS generates one man page file per <u>refentry</u> element. All other parts of the document will be ignored.

The number of output formats may be extended in the future, depending on the output formats that are supported by DocBook stylesheets. For an overview of all output formats, run **daps help**. The available output formats are listed below *Subcommands > Generate Books*.

DAPS allows you to fine-tune the output in many ways. For example, you can include remarks or a DRAFT watermark in your output, or you can build parts of your documentation project only. Find some examples in the sections below.

11.3 Partial Builds

Instead of always building your complete documentation project (set, book, or article), DAPS also allows you to build only individual parts. The “starting point” of your documentation project is usually defined by the root element of the MAIN file that is referenced in the respective Doc Config. To build only a part of your documentation project, use the `--rootid` option to specify the ID of an individual book, article, glossary, appendix, part, or chapter.

For example, if you have set up your working environment with `daps-init` and an example book, use the following command to build the first chapter of the book:

```
tux:~> daps -d DC-daps-example pdf --rootid=cha.template.examples
```

11.4 Output with Remarks or Draft Watermark

For publishing a pre-release version of a document that you can send to a proofreader for review, use the `--draft` option to mark the document accordingly. For example:

```
tux:~> daps -d DC-daps-example pdf --draft
```

This command creates a color PDF that has a `DRAFT` watermark printed on each page.

If you used `remark` elements in your XML files (for editorial remarks or questions to the proofreader), you can include the remarks in the output with the `--remarks` option:

```
tux:~> daps -d DC-daps-example pdf --remarks
```

When generating PDFs with FOP, the contents of the remark elements is shown in italics within the text. XEP supports conversion of remark elements into PDF annotations. This feature is enabled in DAPS by default, but if you want XEP to treat remark elements like FOP does, you can change the respective DAPS parameter. In HTML, HTML-single and EPUB output, the contents of the remark elements is shown in red within the text.



Note: Availability of Advanced Output Options

Advanced output options are only supported for selected formats. For example, `--draft` and `--remarks` are only available in HTML, HTML-single, PDF, and EPUB output.

Using the `--remarks` option automatically turns draft mode on.

By default, DAPS adds a string to the base name of the output file to flag output formats generated with special options. Example file names are `*_draft_en.pdf` or `*_remarks_*_draft_en.pdf`.

12 Migration of Existing DocBook Projects

To migrate existing DocBook projects so that you can manage and publish them with DAPS, follow the step-by-step instructions in *Book "User Guide", .*

13 For More Information

This guide gave you a short introduction to DAPS and guided you through the key tasks. To discover more, refer to the other manuals available on DAPS at <http://opensuse.github.io/daps/>.

We want to hear your comments and suggestions about DocBook Authoring and Publishing Suite (including this guide and the other documentation included with DAPS). You can contact us on the `#opensuse-doc` IRC channel on irc.freenode.net or in the discussion forum at <https://github.com/openSUSE/daps/discussions>. For bugs or enhancement requests, open an issue at <https://github.com/openSUSE/daps/issues/new>. A user account at <https://github.com> is needed.

Patches and user contributions are welcome!

For a complete DocBook reference, see *DocBook: The Definitive Guide* (<http://www.docbook.org/tdg/en/html/docbook.html>).

For an overview of the key terms used in the context of DAPS and DocBook, refer to .

If you encounter problems with DAPS, check *Book "User Guide", Chapter 11 "Troubleshooting"* for a list of common problems and their solutions.

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