

paligo

Paligo vs DITA

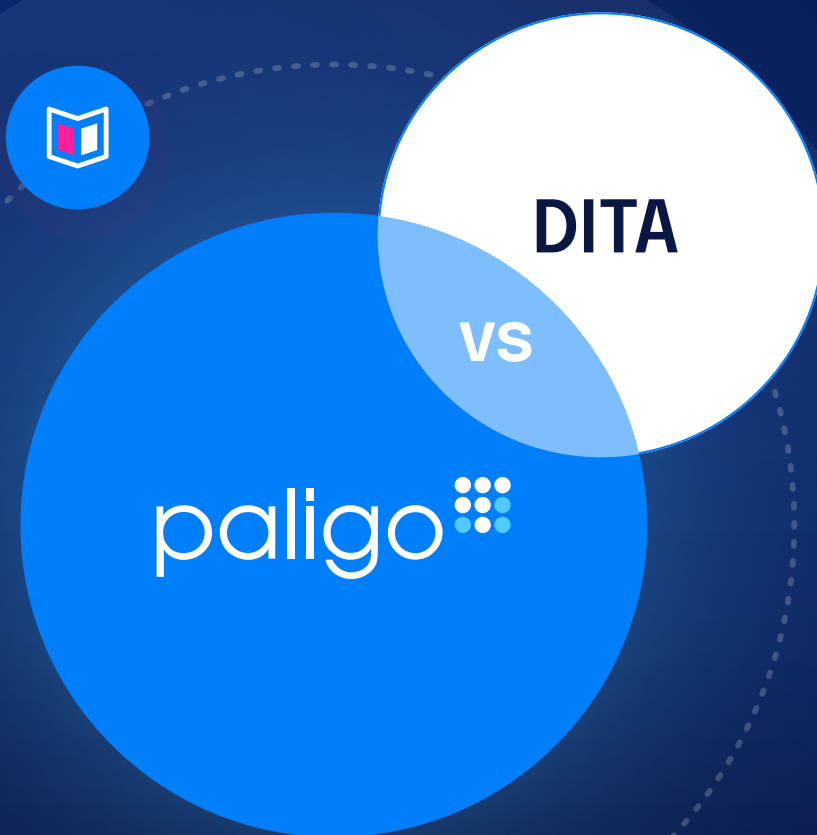


Table of Contents

Paligo vs DITA Comparison 3

Structured and Topic-Based Authoring 3

Paligo vs DITA Comparison

Both DITA and Paligo have in common the purpose of creating single-source, reusable technical documentation. But although there are great similarities, there are some very significant differences that matter for a successful implementation.

Here, we are going to look at how DITA or a tool implementation of DITA compares to Paligo, an XML-based full component management system (CCMS). The comparison is based entirely on our understanding of DITA and you should of course evaluate each assessment based on your own experience. This evaluation is intended to help you identify the main differences we believe you should be aware of, and why Paligo is a robust and efficient way to improve your technical documentation processes without all the hassle.

Structured and Topic-Based Authoring

Feature	DITA	Paligo
Single-sourcing and topic-based authoring	DITA supports single-sourcing and topic-based authoring well. But many of the reuse mechanisms depend on rather complex concepts, such as learning to use ditaval files to configure conditional content, using keyref or conkeyref to emulate variables, and so on.	<p>Paligo supports single-sourcing and topic-based authoring fully, with a rich set of built-in functionality for conditional filtering, variables, reuse text fragments, reuse blocks, taxonomies and more.</p> <p>The reuse functionality is all easily accessible with user-friendly functions.</p>
XML-based	Yes, DITA is an XML-based content model. It is, however, also dependent for much of its functionality on a rather complex Java-based framework (the DITA Open Toolkit), which can make troubleshooting more difficult.	<p>Paligo is fully XML-based, and uses an adapted topic-based version of the robust content model DocBook as the source format. This is an international open XML standard.</p> <p>Paligo has taken this XML standard and added a framework of additional features around it to offer a fully topic-based model very similar to DITA while at the same time providing the stability and maturity of DocBook.</p> <p>This XML source ensures proper structure, consistency, and an unparalleled flexibility for processing the content in multiple ways.</p>

Feature	DITA	Paligo
Structured Authoring	<p>DITA supports structured authoring with a full XML-based schema.</p> <p>DITA is very rigid in applying a strict topic-typing, where you need to select whether to write a task, concept, or reference even before starting to write.</p> <p>Many authors feel very restricted by the limitations this brings with it, where each type has a limited subset of elements.</p> <p>Some compare writing with within such restrictions to constantly having to try to fit a square peg into a round hole.</p>	<p>Paligo fully supports structured authoring with a very robust XML schema based on an open standard.</p> <p>Rules govern the content model and all authors use the same elements. This creates a consistent, future-proof structure that can easily adapt to any output format.</p> <p>it's implemented in such a way that you do not need to learn XML (unless you want to) as Paligo guides you through the process.</p> <p>While Paligo has full topic-based authoring and an XML-based structure, it takes a more pragmatic approach to topic-typing, providing the proper elements for tasks/ instructions or descriptive/concept topics, for instance, but with more freedom within this structure.</p>
Ease of Use	<p>DITA is known to be very complex to use, and often requires a lot of training even to get started.</p> <p>Many of the reuse features are baked into the XML content model, which often makes them very complicated, with concepts like "conref", "conkeyref", "keyref", ditaval files, etc that are hard for many writers to wrap their heads around.</p> <p>The complexity of the content model itself and the fact that it forces the writer to choose the topic type before creating the content often creates a sense of inhibition.</p> <p>Even with a CCMS or other tooling around it, the complexity is hard to escape because it is built into the XML schema itself, so every tool has all that "baggage", which can cause additional difficulties in such a system as well.</p> <p>A project of moving to structured authoring may often fail completely if the writers and the company have to struggle to use it.</p>	<p>Paligo has taken a mature XML model and uses it as the source for topics. But Paligo provides a full authoring environment and content management system that removes the complexity, so that writers can focus on writing great content.</p> <p>Paligo takes a much more pragmatic approach to topic-based authoring, and the writer shouldn't have to think about how to make things work technically. They just work.</p> <p>Paligo has topic reuse by drag and drop, powerful variables, dynamic text fragment reuse, block reuse, conditional filtering and much more, all managed in a very intuitive, user-friendly interface.</p> <p>One of the major factors for the success of a project to move to structured authoring has been found to be user adoption. With Paligo, technical writers enjoy working with reuse and single-sourcing.</p>

Feature	DITA	Paligo
Import and migration	<p>To migrate to DITA you have to either do it manually or produce complex conversion scripts, often requiring expensive consultants. A migration project can take months to years.</p>	<p>Paligo has direct import for many different formats, including Word, Flare, Confluence, HTML, DocBook, DITA, and more.</p> <p>The direct import speeds up the migration project significantly, and you can focus on restructuring and enhancing the content after the import.</p>
Standalone all-in-one system	<p>No, DITA is an XML content model, not a system or application.</p> <p>This means you often have to piece the different parts together, an editor, a publishing engine, versioning, etc.</p> <p>Even with a CCMS, because of the way DITA is built, much of it will be very file- and folder-based, rather than able to use smarter mechanisms.</p>	<p>Paligo is a complete all-in-one system with built-in XML editor, translation management, versioning, workflow, review, global collaboration, publishing, etc.</p>
Multi-channel publishing	<p>DITA can be used to publish to multiple output formats.</p> <p>However, even basic functionality such as publishing to different formats often take a lot of time, money, and resources to get to production quality.</p> <p>To get the output you need you often need to spend a great deal of money on consultants.</p>	<p>Paligo publishes to many different output formats out of the box, including professional print-quality PDF, HTML, HTML5 Help Center, SCORM, Word, etc.</p> <p>Being a cloud-based system, Paligo can leverage the latest technology and offers cutting edge output formats and themes out of the box.</p> <p>And not only can Paligo publish to modern formats like HTML5 Help Center output, it can also integrate and publish directly to support help desks like Zendesk, Salesforce, Freshdesk, etc.</p>
Updates and bug fixes	<p>The DITA framework is developed by an open source community consisting of very few key players. Updates are often very very slow, up to several years.</p>	<p>The fact that Paligo is fully cloud-based allows us to be truly agile.</p> <p>With Paligo new features and improvements are released continuously, free of charge, with major releases roughly every quarter. Minor improvements and bug fixes are released every 1-2 weeks.</p>

Feature	DITA	Paligo
Support	<p>With DITA itself the only support that is available is through user communities or consultants, which can become very expensive.</p> <p>With tools adapted for DITA, there are vendors that will provide support, but there may not be one point of entry for the different modules.</p>	<p>Paligo includes top-notch support, and our customers continuously attest to never having seen any support as responsive and knowledgeable about technical documentation and single-sourcing issues.</p> <p>Here are just a sample out of many many responses Paligo gets on a regular basis:</p> <p>"I just can't say enough about how great Paligo's Support is. You guys are so fast, so helpful - you really care about my issues. Thank you so much!"</p> <p>Rochelle Fisher, Sentinel One</p> <p>See more on our web site and in the Paligo User Community, or contact your account manager for references, but primarily, try it out and see for yourself.</p>
Cost	<p>The DITA Open Toolkit with the content model is itself open source and free. But actually implementing DITA is almost always very expensive.</p> <p>If a company is going it alone, the cost of consultants for an implementation period of on average 1-2 years can be prohibitive.</p> <p>Most CCMS systems for DITA are also very expensive, and often the cost of entry for the system alone is \$100,000 - \$1,000,000. After that there is usually a maintenance fee of 20-25% per year. And the cost of consulting is usually ongoing on top of this.</p>	<p>Paligo is an Enterprise grade CCMS, but priced much lower than traditional CCMS systems due to the cloud-based approach.</p> <p>Paligo offers the full Component Content Management System all-in-one package with full structured authoring and different plans fitting Small Businesses (starting at \$119/month) to Enterprises (starting at \$119/month) alike.</p> <p>The instant deployment coupled with a low subscription fee provides a great ROI.</p>