

# **dbslide - DocBook presentations in a web browser**

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# Objective

Computer-based presentations gain popularity in meetings and fairs. A certain product from a Redmont, WA based company has a huge marketshare, which is not good for these reasons:

- The said product is neither free nor Free
- The said product is not portable to other platforms but M\$ Windows

dbslide offers a simple alternative, which may be sufficient for many but the most sophisticated presentations.

# Key features of dbslide

## Features

- dbslide is a SGML application using the DocBook DTD
- dbslide is implemented as driver files for Norman Walsh's modular DocBook stylesheets plus some helper files
- The appearance can be customized in all output formats

## Applications

- Computer presentations
- Overhead presentations
- Slide presentations

# Components of dbslide

`dbslide.dsl`

A driver file for the HTML output of the modular DocBook stylesheets. It implements experimental JavaScript/JScript code to assist the keyboard- and mouse-based navigation in the presentation.

`dbslideovh.dsl`

A driver file for the print output of the modular DocBook stylesheets. It implements large fonts for the output of conventional overhead sheets.

`dbslidehdout.dsl`

A driver file for the print output. Used for the handouts and the speaker's copy

`fixdbslide`

A helper shell script to fix the JavaScript/JScript code generated by (Open)Jade

`dbslide.css`

A cascading stylesheet which implements large fonts for projection purposes.

# Output formats

dbslide uses three DSSSL stylesheets to generate the different output formats from the SGML source.

<b>output</b>	<b>stylesheet</b>
screen presentation	dbslide.dsl
overheads/slides	dbslideovh.dsl
handout	dbslidehdout.dsl
speaker's copy	dbslidehdout.dsl

# The dbslide screen presentation I

## **Keyboard**

Compatibility: MSIE, Netscape (not Unix)

**Return, space, n** (as in *next*)

Moves on to the next slide

**Backspace** (only Netscape), **p** (as in *previous*), **b** (as in *back*)

Moves back to the previous slide

**h** (as in *home*)

Goes back to the start page.

# The dbslide screen presentation II

## Mouse

Compatibility: MSIE, Netscape

Left click  $\geq$  200 pixel from the left margin

Moves on to the next slide

Left click  $<$  200 pixel from the left margin

Moves back to the previous slide

Left click and Alt key

Goes back to the start page

# Why does dbslide use DocBook?

1. DocBook is an acknowledged industry standard for technical documentations.
2. DocBook is platform-independent. Therefore
  - Create the presentation with any text editor
  - Show the presentation on any platform with a browser
  - Make hotfixes to your presentation minutes before you start - on any platform, with any editor
3. Use all those nifty SGML tricks to process your document:
  - Use the dbslide stylesheets for the presentation and for slides/overheads
  - Use the DocBook print stylesheets for the handouts
  - Use marked sections for the presenters comments

# Limitations

dbslide is a quick hack, so it has its very own limitations:

- The CSS is not fully implemented, so many elements are displayed using default settings.
- The DSSSL files are kludgy, e.g. they lack simple user-customization.

dbslide presentations are also limited by browser capabilities:

- JavaScript navigation is somewhat unreliable on Netscape ("press and pray")
- JavaScript keyboard navigation fails in Netscape on Unix

# Document processing

## Unix/Linux

- Get or compile Jade (<http://www.jclark.com/jade/>)/OpenJade (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/openjade/>)
- Use Emacs (<http://www.gnu.org>) and PSGML (<ftp://ftp.lysator.liu.se/pub/sgml/psgml-1.2.1.tar.gz>) to edit the documents

## Win32

A complete suite of free SGML tools for Win32 is described at SGML for Windows NT ([http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/hoenicka\\_markus/ntsgml.html](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/hoenicka_markus/ntsgml.html))

**SG  
ML<sup>NT</sup>**

# Summary

- dbservice is a package to create computer presentations or slides/overheads
- dbservice is based on DocBook
- dbservice is fully customizable
- dbservice presentations can be written and run on any platform with a text editor and a web browser
- dbservice is free (as in free beer and in Free speech)

