

What's New in Author-it 5?



General Information



- ▶ Author-it 5 was recoded on .NET application platform.
- ▶ All releases since the initial 5.0 release (fall 2007) include performance improvements and bug fixes.
- ▶ The latest release is the best!
- ▶ Continuous development process rolls out new features in planned quarterly releases.
- ▶ Information about the upgrade process is available in a separate free webinar.
- ▶ See release notes on the **Author-it Knowledge Center** (<http://www.author-it.com/kc/index.mv>) for more details.
- ▶ Author-it 5.2 provides support for structured authoring.

New Features - 5.0.8.317 & 5.0.10.510



Author-it 5.0.8.317 (24-Sep-2007)

- ▶ New graphical user interface
- ▶ Publishing profiles
- ▶ Active Directory integration
- ▶ New licensing model
- ▶ Author-it Xtend (optional module)
- ▶ Integrated Project Manager (optional module)

Author-it 5.0.10.510 (12-Dec-2007)

- ▶ Integration with acrocheck™

New Features - 5.0.11.625 & 5.0.12.670



Author-it 5.0.11.625 (13-Feb-2008)

- ▶ Improved table layout controls
- ▶ Quick Tables
- ▶ Recently Used Styles listing
- ▶ Support for Word 2007 **.dotm** (macro-enabled template) files

Author-it 5.0.12.670 (14-Apr-2008)

- ▶ UTF-8 used in **dhtml_search.js** and **dhtml_search.htm** files
- ▶ Publishing Profiles: Can use the **Theme** tab to substitute any object type that can be placed into the Book Contents (e.g., Title Page, TOC, Index) as well as Styles and Media objects.

New Features - 5.1.15.759



Author-it 5.1.15.759 (23-Jul-2008)

- ▶ Object variants
- ▶ Quick Search
- ▶ Drag and drop to create file objects
- ▶ Preview pane location setting
- ▶ Quick Access toolbar
- ▶ Topic content reference tags
- ▶ Publishing profile can create additional book XML output
- ▶ Publishing profile can run specific Word macros

New Features - 5.2.71.2359



Author-it 5.2.71.2359 (28-Jan-2009)

- ▶ Structured authoring for topics
- ▶ Paste and format content using an import profile
- ▶ Save, rename, and export Quick Search settings
- ▶ Email a link to an Author-it topic
- ▶ Publish to DITA 1.1

Author-it Live (5.2.8.1766)

- ▶ Support for object variants
- ▶ Can create topics based on structured templates (but cannot validate topics or create structured templates)

New Features - 5.3.48.4159



- ▶ Structured authoring for books and enhanced structure control for topics
- ▶ Web Help templates
- ▶ Support for Microsoft Word 2007 Save as PDF feature
- ▶ New Spell Check dictionaries
- ▶ Option for creating a sitemap file



New Features - 5.3.121.4749



- ▶ Japanese IME enhancements make it easier to enter Japanese text in the Editor.
- ▶ Administrator setting controls whether changing release states marks objects as modified.



New Features - 5.3.211.6412



- ▶ Enhanced reliability for embedded topics, including an ***Embedded Topics Best Practice Guide*** (<http://kc.author-it.com/#b45755t49639n19875>).
- ▶ Enhanced capabilities for using the **acrocheck** plugin for Author-it.
- ▶ Web Help template updates.
- ▶ Performance improvements for Author-it and the Localization Manager.
- ▶ Default file encoding for publishing to web formats is now UTF-8.

New Features - 5.3.311.6519



- ▶ Improved import process for RoboHelp 8 projects.
- ▶ Publishing to XML includes publishing profiles and their variable assignments.
- ▶ New Author-it Software License Agreement included in installation folder and Knowledge Center.



New Features - 5.3.316.6868



- ▶ File encoding settings in template files that are not UTF-8 is honored.



New Features - 5.3.427.7073



- ▶ Publishing profile **Actions** tab now includes option to set file and folder to be opened after publishing.
- ▶ Publishing log shows publishing profile description instead of output format type.
- ▶ When publishing to Word 2007, output document type depends on template type:
 - .dotx > .docx
 - .dotm > .docm
 - .dot > .doc



New Features - 5.3.427.7073 - cont'd



- ▶ Web Help templates provide controls for messages and user interface text to be translated and for highlighting in the table of contents.
- ▶ Tables published to HTML include class attributes that can be used to control CSS styling of tables.
- ▶ File objects for graphics pasted into a topic will be named using the topic description when the topic is saved.
- ▶ You can re-import HTML files and replace Author-it objects that were previously imported from the same files.



Interface Changes



General Changes



- ▶ Commands are displayed in a ribbon, with tabs and command groups for different roles and functions.
- ▶ Contextual right-click commands are still available.
- ▶ New icons represent objects and actions.
- ▶ Accordions in the Navigation Pane can be selected for different functions, and their display can be customized
- ▶ File menu options, user options, and recently opened libraries are now available from the Author-it button (top left corner).



- ▶ Help options are available from the Help button at the top right of the main window or Book Editor.



Book Editor Changes



- ▶ Ribbons organize authoring task commands.
- ▶ New navigation tabs show books that use the current topic and provide access to search.
- ▶ Tabs can be repositioned and docked (including search results).
- ▶ Topic text size can be increased or decreased using zoom sidebar.



Enhanced Functions



- ▶ Search criteria include folders, groups and users, multi-select capability, and controls for matching case and complete words.
- ▶ Show Relationships dialog includes number of uses.
- ▶ Templates and styles can be organized in subfolders to control how they are displayed to writers.
- ▶ Unicode Support
- ▶ Layout tab provides table commands when you are working with a table.



Table Enhancements (5.0.11.625)



- ▶ New feature allows you to use preformatted Quick Tables to quickly insert standard tables into your document.
 - Create a separate topic for each Quick Table format (with or without standard text).
 - Designate a folder that contains Quick Tables.
- ▶ Allow Row Breaks command lets you control where a long table is broken (or not broken) across pages in your printed output.
- ▶ You can specify the exact height used by a row, or width by a column, using the cell size measurement selectors.
- ▶ You can change the direction of text in a selected cell.

Publishing Changes



About Publishing Profiles (5.0)



- ▶ Author-it 5 provides default profiles for each type of output (print, web, help, ...).
- ▶ Add other profiles for specific publishing requirements. For example:
 - Rebranded outputs
 - Draft vs. final publishing
 - A4 paper size publishing
- ▶ Customize the publishing process for different roles (organize profiles in folders with permissions).



Conditional Publishing



- ▶ Publishing profiles control:
 - Types of output available for each type of book (book templates)
 - Release states to be published
 - Replacement of specific objects included in the book
 - Exclusion of objects by release state, folder, or variable assignments
 - Actions performed before or after publishing



New Publishing Options (5.1.15.759)



- ▶ Object reference tags to indicate where topic content starts and ends can be inserted into content when publishing to XHTML.
- ▶ A new Book XML action provides the option for the book being published to also be published to Author-it XML.
- ▶ A publishing profile option to execute various Word macros before or after publishing is provided by the new Word Macro feature.



Web Help Templates



- ▶ Web Help publishing templates provide a "virtual frameset" output using Javascript and CSS.
- ▶ Provide a more modern and interactive online format:
 - Breadcrumb navigation
 - Feedback and email links
 - Enhanced search
 - Customized themes or "skins"
- ▶ Setting up Web Help requires importing new objects to support the new publishing application



New Publishing Options - 5.3.48.4159



- ▶ Support for Word 2007 Save as PDF provides clickable hyperlinks and TOC links for PDF output (used by default if the plugin is installed).
 - More complete than publishing directly to PDF using Acrobat, but still limited
 - Difficult to uninstall
- ▶ To publish a sitemap, include the Base URL on the **Web** tab of your book object
 - Useful for content that needs to be crawled by search engines
 - Base URL is added to each filename for the site to create sitemap entries

Structured Authoring (5.2 & 5.3)



Planning for Structured Authoring



- ▶ Structured authoring uses structured templates to control use of objects in books or content elements within topics.
- ▶ Decide what structured templates you will need for different types of books and topics.
- ▶ Will you be converting existing objects?
- ▶ Identify release states that require validation.
- ▶ Define structure requirements for each structured book and topic type.
- ▶ Test structured authoring in a sandbox library first.



Structured Authoring and XML



- ▶ Structured authoring does not provide native XML editing capability against a DTD or schema.
- ▶ The main design goal is to provide the ability to standardize book or topic structure without the need for XML.
- ▶ Structured authoring does enable you to create structures that are compatible with XML requirements. You can:
 - Publish to DITA, XHTML, or Author-it XML, then ...
 - Clean up using an XML editor, or ...
 - Perform an XML transform using XSLT or other transformation method.



Validation



- ▶ Validation enforces rules defined in a structured template.
- ▶ For structured objects, validation occurs when you:
 - Save the object.
 - Choose **Review>Structured Authoring>Validate**.
 - Assign a structured template to the object.
 - Modify a structured template.
- ▶ Validation can be required for specific release states.
- ▶ When structured template changes affect existing objects, you can:
 - Apply a new release state (e.g., Invalid).
 - Create a duplicate of the object or template.
- ▶ The **Rule** tab shows validation status at the element level.
- ▶ Object validation status is displayed in folders and search results.

Topic Structures (5.2 & 5.3)



- ▶ For topics, you can create rules for the following elements:
 - Paragraph styles
 - Inline content (character styles, file objects, embedded topics, hyperlinks, and variables)
 - Tables and table cells (use of paragraph styles within tables)
 - Groups of paragraph and table rules
- ▶ The initial release of Structured Authoring (5.2) only supported paragraph style rules.



Book Structures (5.3)



- ▶ For books, you can define rules for the following elements:
 - Front and back matter objects (title page, TOC, TOF, Glossary, and Index)
 - Topics and topic template usage
 - Subbooks and book template usage
 - File objects
- ▶ Book rules were added to Structured Authoring in 5.3.



Implementing Structured Authoring



- 1 Create a model object that explains the required structure.
- 2 Define release states for stages of validation: *Invalid, Valid, Ready for Translation (Valid)*.
- 3 In an object template, select **Make this object a structured template** on the **General** tab.
- 4 In a folder, select the template and choose **Manage>Data>Structure Builder**.
- 5 Create element rules using the following criteria:
 - Number of occurrences
 - **Fixed** (use a specific rule) or **Flexible** (choose from adjacent **Flexible** rules)
 - Which elements or templates can be used for the rule
- 6 Assign your model object as an example.
- 7 Identify release states that enforce validation (for publishing, also include the release state in a publishing profile).

Integration with Active Directory



Simplified Group and User Definitions



- ▶ Active Directory Groups defined by network administrator.
- ▶ Using Author-it Administrator, map Author-it groups to Active Directory groups.
- ▶ For existing Author-it users, map to users defined in Active Directory.
- ▶ For new users, being added to Active Directory Group automatically creates a user and group definition in Author-it.
- ▶ When network administrator moves a person to a different group, Author-it group definitions are automatically updated.
- ▶ Author-it users can log into an Author-it library as a trusted user (without additional password).



New Licensing Model



Licensing Changes



- ▶ Base User Licenses provide core functions.
- ▶ All Base User Licenses are floating licenses.
- ▶ Extended licenses for specific users:
 - Project Manager users
 - Offline Authoring users
 - MIF Import
 - Localization Manager users
- ▶ All license information is stored in the library (entered through Administrator)
- ▶ Enterprise Edition licenses are upgraded to a SQL Server Connector plus same number of Base User Licenses.

Server Capability Licenses



- ▶ SQL Database Connector
- ▶ Localization Manager locales
- ▶ Author-it Xtend (memory indexing server)
- ▶ Author-it Live (web editor)
- ▶ Publishing Server
- ▶ Integration Server (free)



Integrated Project Manager



- ▶ Project Manager now included in Library Explorer view.
- ▶ If licensed, Project Manager and Task functions are now available through accordion tabs in the Editor.



Other Changes



Recently Used Styles (5.0.11.625)



- ▶ Paragraph and character styles used in the current session appear in a pick list on the style drop-down menu.



Object Variants (5.1.15.759)



- ▶ New Object Variants feature enables you to create and maintain different variations of a single object.
- ▶ You can have multiple variants active at any one time.
- ▶ Variable definitions include an option to define a variable as a variant criteria.
- ▶ Criteria control how variants are displayed or published in a book.
- ▶ Select criteria values when creating variants, filtering book contents, or publishing.
- ▶ Can be used with Author-it Live in 5.2.

Enhanced Functions (5.1.15.759 & 5.2.71.2359)



- ▶ Quick Access toolbar is available in the main Library Explorer window, allowing you to navigate between recently accessed folders and to open the Quick Search window
- ▶ Quick Search also accessible from Book Editor
- ▶ In 5.1, Quick Searches were only persistent for the current session, and could not be renamed or exported)
- ▶ In 5.2, Quick Search feature allows you to perform an advanced search:
 - Save search criteria, allowing updated results at any time without re-entering search criteria (**Refresh** to update results)
 - Rename saved searches
 - Export search results to **.csv** and view in a spreadsheet or other application

Enhanced Functions (5.1.15.759 & 5.2.71.2359)



- ▶ Use Drag & Drop to create new file objects
- ▶ Preview Pane Position setting under User Options allows you to set the preview pane display at the right or the bottom of the main window
- ▶ Drag a topic from Author-it folder into an email message to email a link to the topic (recipient must have Author-it client software)



Paste Using an Import Profile (5.2.71.2359)



- ▶ Enable use of an import profile for pasting by selecting **Use for Paste** on profile properties.
- ▶ To paste using a profile, select from toolbar:
Edit>Clipboard>Paste (dropdown)>Paste Using Import Profile>Profile Name.
- ▶ Not available as a right-click option.



New Spell Check Dictionaries (5.3)



- ▶ 18 new dictionaries
- ▶ Installed automatically with 5.3
- ▶ May need to reset dictionary selection in User Options
- ▶ Updates to old dictionaries are stored and can be added to new dictionaries



(Some) Changes Not Mentioned in Release Notes



- ▶ Main window remembers previous folder location.
- ▶ Find function only finds terms in headings and text *within* topics (not object properties)
- ▶ Publishing log shows cross references that do not map to topics included in the book.
- ▶ Importing an XML file that includes variables into a different library now prompts for creation of variables if they do not exist.
- ▶ Double click on a command ribbon tab to hide or display the ribbon.



Author-it Xtend (5.0.8.317)



Automating Reuse



- ▶ Author-it Xtend provides advanced capabilities for reuse of content.
- ▶ It requires a SQL Server database and an Author-it Xtend server license.
- ▶ Suggestive reuse popup displays possible existing content that matches the words you type.
- ▶ Color highlighting displays identical or similar paragraphs in existing topics.
- ▶ Displays are configurable for each user.



Benefits



- ▶ Find content easily by typing keywords in a new topic.
- ▶ View existing content in the context of a complete topic.
- ▶ Copy content at the paragraph level.
- ▶ Paragraphs in different topics can be edited independently, but identical paragraphs are only stored once.
- ▶ Choose to paste or embed a topic when appropriate.
- ▶ Reduce review time and localization costs by reusing existing content that has already been approved or translated.

Author-it Live (4.5)



Web-Based Editing



- ▶ Access Author-it through a web browser (currently only Internet Explorer).
- ▶ No client software to install.
- ▶ Simplifies administration of software, users, and library.
- ▶ Supports contractors, remote writers, and traveling staff.
- ▶ Does not include import and design capabilities.
- ▶ Publishing Server provides publishing capability for the web editor.



Author-it Localization Manager (4.1.444)



Localization Manager Overview



- ▶ Licensed per user or locale in Author-it 5.
- ▶ Unicode support.
- ▶ Manages new and changed content for each language/locale.
- ▶ Ensures shared content is only translated once (for all documents and output formats).
- ▶ Content is packaged as XML that can be sent to translators and translated using translation memory applications.
- ▶ Translated content is published from Author-it (for all documents and output formats).

Integration Server (4.5)



- ▶ Integration Server provides a Web Services API that enables programmatic access to Author-it libraries.
- ▶ Enables programmed interaction with other Enterprise applications.
- ▶ Reference information is available on the **Author-it Knowledge Center** (<http://www.author-it.com/kc/index.mv>).
- ▶ Available free on request.



Additional Resources



- ▶ Other free webinars and training opportunities are described on our ***Author-it web pages*** (<http://www.sdicorp.com/authorit>).

