

**ecromedos 3.0<sup>[beta]</sup>**  
**The easy cross-media document preparation system**

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ecromedos

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This manual in PDF format:

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# 1. Introduction

If you are the type of person whom the typical word processor drives out of their mind. If your blood pressure goes up when a program tries to be smart about every single key press you make, even interpreting the backspace key in a myriad of ways that you never expected. Or if you find yourself spending more time on reformatting your documents than doing actual writing, then *ecromedos* might be just for you.

This is about a piece of software that can change your life as a technical writer and restore your belief in the power of the backspace key for good. Making use of modern technologies, but building on proven concepts that stem from the early days of computing, *ecromedos* is a text processing system of a different kind. If you are ready to break with old habits and willing to learn something new, then hopefully you will find that *ecromedos* can render you more productive by letting you focus on writing, and nothing else.

## 1.1. What is it?

*ecromedos* is an integrated solution for XML-based publishing in print and on the Web. It is primarily targeted at, but not limited to, the creation of technical documentation in the field of Computer Science. Documents are written in a semantic markup language and converted to representational formats with a dedicated processing toolchain. *ecromedos* supports the target formats HTML and  $\LaTeX$ , where the latter can be compiled into high-quality PostScript and PDF via the  $\TeX$ <sup>(1)</sup> typesetting system.

The *ecromedos Markup Language* (ECML) is modelled closely after HTML with some ideas and additional elements borrowed from  $\LaTeX$ . It allows you to compose comprehensive, well-structured documents from a comparably small set of language elements. Users who are already familiar with HTML or document markup languages like DocBook will find learning ECML particularly easy.

The *ecromedos Document Processor* (EDP) uses XSL Transformations (XSLT) to convert source documents from ECML to the supported output formats. In addition, the EDP contains a special pre-processor, which operates directly on the XML-DOM tree of a document and carries out additional preparational tasks that cannot be implemented with bare XSLT, such as the conversion of images to processable formats or on-the-fly syntax-highlighting of source code listings.

*ecromedos* is well-suited for environments where many writers collaborate on many documents. Since documents are written in a semantic markup language, writers do not have to worry much about following a style guide. There is very little coordination required in achieving a consistent layout and look over an entire range of documents, because the layouting and formatting is done automatically by the EDP and assorted tools during the conversion to representational formats.

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<sup>(1)</sup>More information on  $\TeX$  and  $\LaTeX$  can be found on the *Comprehensive  $\TeX$  Archive Network* at <http://www.ctan.org>.

## 1.2. Changes in Version 2

Version 2 saw significant cleanups in the DTD, the XSL stylesheets and improved styling of HTML output via CSS. The table model was enhanced to support block elements in table cells and to allow splitting table cells into subtables. This version also introduced support for automatic generation of glossary and keyword indexes.

## 1.3. Changes in Version 2.1

Since version 2.1, Pygments<sup>(2)</sup> has replaced the old, built-in syntax highlighter. Pygments supports lexing a vast amount of programming languages and scripts and is a very mature and robust product.

## 1.4. Changes in Version 3

After years of collecting dust, ecromedos has been ported to Python 3 and modernized for the era of wide-screen displays and handheld devices. In this version, support for annotations in the margin had to be dropped for practical reasons. This is the only backward-incompatible change. Apart from that, documents written for version 2 should translate without problems.

## 1.5. Licensing

ecromedos is both Free and Open Source Software, published under the permissive MIT license [MIT88]. This means that you can modify it, re-distribute it and use it in your own software projects without restrictions.

## 1.6. About this Document

This document describes the installation and usage of ecromedos and the scope of the ecromedos Markup Language. After reading this manual, you will be able to write feature-rich documents and translate them to representational on-screen or printable formats with the ecromedos Document Processor.

- In chapter 2, you will find instructions for downloading and installing ecromedos to your system.
- Chapter 3 teaches you the basics of starting a new document and transforming documents to representational formats.
- After reading chapter 4, you will know how to write simple documents, do basic text-formatting and work with cross-references and counters.
- Chapter 5 introduces more advanced language constructs for settings lists, figures, tables and mathematical formulas.

---

<sup>(2)</sup>The Pygments homepage is located at <http://pygments.org>.

## 1. Introduction

- Chapter 6 covers everything related to the backmatter of a document, including how to keep a bibliography, how to cite from it, and how to generate glossary and keywords indexes.
- Chapter 7 explains how to create your own style definitions to change the appearance of rendered output.

### 1.7. Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Prof. Dr. Heinz-Erich Erbs from the [University of Applied Sciences in Darmstadt, Germany](#) for his support and advice when work on the first version of ecromedos started in 2005.

A big “thank you” goes out to the makers of libxml, libxslt and the lxml module for writing a phantastic set of libraries for processing XML, to Guido van Rossum and the Python Software Foundation for a beautiful scripting language and to Donald Knuth for giving us superb typesetting.

Thanks to everybody working on Free Software. Your stuff is a lot of fun!

## 2. Installation

This chapter explains how to install and configure ecromedos on your system. ecromedos is developed on Debian/GNU Linux, but should run on any system which offers the dependencies listed in section 2.2.

### 2.1. Obtaining the Latest Version

If you are considering contributing to ecromedos, you may clone the complete source repository from GitHub:

```
git clone https://github.com/tobijk/ecromedos.git
```

If you are only interested in installing ecromedos for day-to-day use, you can download the sources in a tarball:

**trunk (3.0~beta, recommended)**

<https://github.com/tobijk/ecromedos/archive/master.tar.gz>

**2.1.0 (very old)**

<https://github.com/tobijk/ecromedos/archive/2.1.0-2.tar.gz>

Please note that trunk is currently being prepared for the stable 3.0 release.

### 2.2. Dependencies

In order to benefit from ecromedos' full feature set, you will need to install the following third-party tools and libraries on your system.

#### Python 3

A powerful scripting language. Python is available for all popular operating systems and can be obtained from the website of the Python Software Foundation at <http://www.python.org>. ecromedos requires a recent version of Python 3 to run. Using ecromedos with Python 2 is not officially supported anymore, your mileage may vary.

#### libxml and libxslt

Two super fast and stable libraries for processing XML, developed by Daniel Veillard for the GNOME project. The project homepage is located at <http://www.xmlsoft.org>.

#### lxml

A pythonic binding to libxml and libxslt implementing the Element Tree API with extensions. The project homepage is located at <http://lxml.de>.

## 2. Installation

### Imagemagick

A set of tools for image manipulation. ecromedos uses Imagemagick for resizing bitmap images and for format conversions. You can download the software from <http://www.imagemagick.org>.

### T<sub>E</sub>X

If you want to produce PDF output, you need an installation of the T<sub>E</sub>X typesetting system. ecromedos uses LuaL<sub>A</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X as the T<sub>E</sub>X engine. It is recommended that you use a recent version of T<sub>E</sub>X Live, available from <http://www.tug.org/texlive/>. Make sure to install the LuaTeX packages and language packs for the languages that you are going to write in.

### Pygments

Pygments is a powerful syntax highlighter that can lex a vast amount of programming languages and scripts. ecromedos uses Pygments for automatic syntax highlighting of code samples. Find out more about Pygments at <http://pygments.org>.

## 2.3. Step-by-step Installation

### Step 1: Installing Dependencies:

Double check that you have installed all the dependencies listed in section 2.2. If you are working on Debian/GNU Linux, you can install all dependencies using APT from the command line as root:

```
apt-get install python3 python3-lxml imagemagick python3-pygments \  
    texlive texlive-latex-extra texlive-luatex texlive-lang-english \  
    texlive-lang-german texlive-fonts-extra fonts-noto-color-emoji
```

### Step 2: Unpacking the Tarball

ecromedos can be installed anywhere in the file system. It is recommended, however, that you place it in `/opt`. In order to do so, open a shell and become superuser root by typing

```
su -
```

Then change your working directory to `/opt`

```
cd /opt
```

and unpack the tarball. The following example assumes that the tarball resides in the home directory of user tobias:

```
tar -xvzf ~tobias/ecromedos-x.y.z.tar.gz
```

### Step 3: Adding the Executable to the System Path

Now change to `/usr/local/bin` and create a symbolic link to the main executable:

## 2. Installation

```
cd /usr/local/bin
ln -s /opt/ecromedos-x.y.z/bin/ecromedos
```

By placing this link in the system path, you will be able to call `ecromedos` by name without having to enter the canonical path to the executable.

### Step 4: Pre-compiling the Source Files

Since you would typically install `ecromedos` in a location to which unprivileged users don't have write access, you should pre-compile the Python source files to bytecode, so that users can benefit from faster start-up times. In order to do so, go into the installation directory and issue the following command:

```
find . -name "*.py" -exec \
python -c "import py_compile; py_compile.compile('{}')" \;
```

### Step 5: Adapting the Configuration

Having completed the installation procedure described above, you may now want to edit the configuration file `ecmds.conf`, which is located in the `etc` subdirectory below the installation folder. `ecromedos` is designed to be relocatable, so in many cases it should just work out of the box. However, `ecromedos` interfaces with a number of third-party programs whose installation paths may differ between platforms. Pay particular attention to all configuration parameter names ending in `_bin` or `_dir`.

Parameter values can be reused in arguments to other settings by prefixing the name of the parameter to be referenced with a dollar sign. For instance, if `base_dir` is set to

```
/opt/ecromedos-x.y.z/
```

then you can set `lib_dir` to

```
/opt/ecromedos-x.y.z/lib
```

by simply writing

```
lib_dir = $base_dir/lib
```

`ecromedos` version 2 introduced the automatic variable `$install_dir`, which is always available and contains the path to the installation directory.

## 3. General Usage Instructions

This chapter explains how to start a new document by generating an empty document template and how to convert documents to representational formats from the command line.

### 3.1. Beginning a New Document

Starting a new document is easy and boils down to (a) choosing a document class and (b) generating a template from which to continue editing.

#### 3.1.1. Choosing a Document Class

When starting a new document, you first have to choose a document class fitting the type of document you intend to write. Document classes are abstractions of typical real-world document types, such as *letter*, *book*, *newspaper article*, etc.

The ecomedos Markup Language provides three document classes: **article**, **book** and **report**. The primary difference between these is how many levels of sections they provide and how they are rendered when generating printable output.

##### **article**

The article class is intended for short documents without the need for a glossary or keyword index. On paper, articles are rendered single-sided with an in-page title. Articles offer three section levels through the sectioning elements **section**, **subsection** and **subsubsection**.

##### **book**

The book class is for large documents that may contain glossary and keyword indexes. In print, documents are rendered double-sided with a separate title page. This class' top-level sectioning element is the **chapter**. Chapters start on odd-numbered pages and may be further grouped into **parts**.

##### **report**

A report is essentially the same as a book, but documents are rendered single-sided when generating printable output.

#### 3.1.2. Starting from a Template

When you have decided on which document class you want to use, the recommended way of starting your document is to generate a bare document template. For example, in order to start a new document of type **report**, open a terminal window and issue the following command:

### 3. General Usage Instructions

```
ecromedos -n report > main.xml
```

When you open the file `main.xml` in your editor, you should see something similar to the following listing:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE report SYSTEM
  "http://www.ecromedos.net/dtd/2.0/ecromedos.dtd">
<report lang="en_US" secnumdepth="3" secsplitdepth="1">
  <head>
    <subject>Subject</subject>
    <title>Title</title>
    <author>Author</author>
    <date>Date</date>
    <publisher>Publisher</publisher>
  </head>
  <make-toc depth="3" lof="no" lot="no" lol="no"/>
  ...
  <chapter>
    <title>Chapter Title</title>
    <p>
      First paragraph in first chapter...
    </p>
  </chapter>
  ...
</report>
```

Even if you are not yet familiar with the ecromedos Markup Language, you should be able to interpret the general structure of the markup. For now, you don't need to know the details. You will dive deeper into document writing in chapter 4.

#### 3.1.3. Using Markdown

As an alternative to writing documents in the ecromedos Markup Language, you can also write your content in Markdown. The `md2ecml` command converts a Markdown source file to ECML, which can then be processed with ecromedos as usual. For example, to convert a Markdown file to an ECML article:

```
md2ecml --doctype article source.md > main.xml
```

The output is written to standard output, so you can redirect it to a file. Once you have the ECML file, you can transform it to any supported output format as described in the following sections.

### 3. General Usage Instructions

If you prefer to go directly from Markdown to the final output, you can combine the two steps in one go:

```
md2ecml --doctype article source.md | ecromedos -f html -
```

Instead of passing options on the command line, you can place a preamble at the top of your Markdown file. The preamble is delimited by lines of dashes and uses a `key: value` format. Here is an example:

```
---  
  
subject: My Subject  
title: My Document Title  
author: Jane Doe  
date: 14 February 2026  
publisher: Example Publishing  
  
document-type: article  
lang: en_US  
papersize: a4  
parskip: half  
secnumdepth: 5  
secsplitdepth: 1  
tocdepth: 5  
have-lof: no  
have-lot: no  
have-lol: no  
  
---  
  
# First Section  
  
Your content starts here...
```

The preamble supports the following metadata fields:

**subject**

The subject line of the document.

**title**

The document title.

**subtitle**

An optional subtitle.

**author**

The document author. This field can be repeated to specify multiple authors.

**date**

The publication date.

### 3. General Usage Instructions

**publisher**

The publisher name.

**dedication**

An optional dedication.

**legal**

Optional legal text (e.g. copyright notice). This field may span multiple lines.

The following layout settings can also be specified in the preamble. Values given on the command line take precedence over the preamble.

**document-type**

Document class, one of **article**, **report** (default) or **book**.

**lang**

Document language (default: **en\_US**).

**papersize**

Paper type, e.g. **a4** (default), **letter**, **legal**.

**parskip**

Paragraph skip, one of **half** (default), **full** or **off**.

**secnumdepth**

Number headings down to this section level (default: 2).

**secsplitdepth**

Chunk the document to this section level (default: 1).

**tocdepth**

Depth of the table of contents (default: 5).

**bcor**

Binding correction (default: 0cm).

**div**

Page grid resolution (default: 16).

**have-lof, have-lot, have-lol**

Include list of figures, tables or listings in the table of contents, respectively. Set to **yes** or **no** (default).

The `md2ecml` command also accepts these layout settings as command line options (e.g. `--doctype`, `--lang`, `--papersize`). Command line options override values set in the preamble. Run `md2ecml --help` for a full list of options.

## 3.2. Transforming Documents

In order to convert your documents from ecromedos Markup Language to one of the supported output formats, you have to call the ecromedos Document Processor from the command line. The exact procedures are explained in the following subsections.

### 3.2.1. Producing HTML Output

The default output format is HTML. You can change this by modifying the `target_format` setting in `ecmds.conf`. In the default installation, to convert a document from ECML to HTML, you simply have to issue the following command:

```
ecromedos main.xml
```

Mind that the output files will be placed into the *current* working directory. If you don't want the output in the same directory as the source files, simply create an empty folder, change into it and call `ecromedos` from there:

```
mkdir spool
cd spool
ecromedos ../main.xml
```

`ecromedos` will automatically copy all resources required for viewing the document to the output folder and (when the target format is HTML) adjust the references inside the document accordingly. This means, for example, that even though you can share images between source documents, each instance of a document will be completely self-contained.

After the transformation, load the file `index.html` into your Web browser to view the results.

### 3.2.2. Producing PDF

If you want to produce a PDF version of your document, you will have to generate Lua $\LaTeX$  output first. But don't worry, you don't need to know anything about  $\LaTeX$ . Think of it as an intermediate output format. Use the `-f` command line switch to tell `ecromedos` the desired target format:

```
ecromedos -f luatex main.xml
```

Depending on your setting of `secsplitdepth` (see section 3.3.2), you will obtain one or more output files with the extension *tex*. The main  $\TeX$ -file will be called `main.tex`. In order to compile the  $\LaTeX$  sources of your document, invoke the Lua $\LaTeX$  compiler like this:

```
luatex main.tex
```

You may have to call Lua $\LaTeX$  two or three times until all cross-references are resolved and the table of contents is completely built. The result will be a PDF file.

## 3.3. Output Options

Even though we are dealing with semantic markup, there are some decisions about the presentation of a document that are left to the author, such as whether the document should have a table of contents or not, whether sections are to be numbered and if so, down to which section level, and so

### 3. General Usage Instructions

on. The language elements and element attributes that are described below, give you some limited control over these presentational aspects.

#### 3.3.1. Specifying the Document's Language

By setting the `lang` attribute on the document's root element you can select the language to be used for automatic titles, i.e. section titles that are generated by the document processor automatically, such as “table of contents” or “bibliography”. When generating  $\text{\LaTeX}$  output, this also activates the hyphenation patterns for the specified language.

In ecromedos version 1 you could simply supply the English name of the desired language such as `german` or `english`. Starting with version 2, you have to supply an ISO locale identifier such as `en_US`. This is to better take into consideration regional differences. For example, there are countries that speak the same language but use different scripts.

Currently, ecromedos supports the following language/territory combinations:

Language	Territory	Identifier
English	Canada	en_CA
	Great Britain	en_GB
	New Zealand	en_NZ
	USA	en_US
German	Austria	de_AU
	Germany	de_DE
	Switzerland	de_CH

If you would like to add a new language/territory combination, please contact the developers through the mailing list and provide translations for the strings in the English localization catalog located at `xslt/i18n/english.xml` below the installation folder.

#### 3.3.2. Chunking Into Multiple Files

Set the `secsplitdepth` attribute on the root element of your document to an integer value between 0 and 5, in order to control down to which section level the document will be chunked into individual files. This is especially useful when generating HTML output. Splitting up large HTML documents into multiple files will improve the user experience, because the document will be easier to navigate, individual parts will load more quickly, and the user's browser doesn't have to keep the entire document in memory, at once.

Here is an example on how it works. When you write a book or report (without making use of the `part` element), setting `secsplitdepth` to 1 will result in each chapter being written to a separate file. The level count always starts at zero. So if, one day, you decide to group the chapters into parts, leaving `secsplitdepth` at 1 means that the document is now split at the parts' level. If you still want each chapter to go to a separate file, you have to increment `secsplitdepth` to two. If you set `secsplitdepth` to zero, the entire document will be rendered into a single file.

When generating HTML, the document processor will take care of linking the individual parts together via a navigation bar that will appear at the top and bottom of each output file.

#### 3.3.3. Chapter and Section Numbering

Set the `secnumdepth` attribute on the document's root element to an integer value between 0 and 5, in order to control down to which section level sections are to be numbered. Setting it to zero will turn section numbers off completely.

#### 3.3.4. Generating a Table of Contents

In previous versions of `ecromedos`, the generation of the table of contents (TOC) was controlled by setting the root element's `tocdepth` attribute appropriately. Starting with version 2.0, there is a new language element `make-toc` for that purpose, which should be inserted right after the document header.

By setting the element's `depth` attribute to an integer value between 0 and 5, you determine the deepest section level that will be included in the TOC. In addition, you may set either of the attributes `lof`, `lot`, `lol` to `yes` or `no`, to toggle whether the TOC should contain a "List of Figures", "List of Tables" or "List of Listings", respectively.

#### 3.3.5. Per-Section Overviews

`ecromedos` has experimental support for per-section overviews. This feature is not extensively tested and has some limitations. In order to generate a mini table of contents for a section, put a `make-overview` element right at the beginning of the section.

There is one caveat however:  $\text{\LaTeX}$  only supports section overviews for the base sections, i.e. in the book and report classes you can have section overviews for parts and chapters but not for sections and subsections. For HTML this limitation does not exist.

#### 3.3.6. Options Specific to Printable Output

The attributes `papersize`, `bcor` and `div` on the root element are passed through to  $\text{\LaTeX}$  and influence how your document is rendered when producing PostScript and PDF.

The purpose of the `papersize` attribute should be pretty obvious. Supported values are `legalpaper`, `letterpaper`, `executivepaper`, `aXpaper`, `bXpaper`, `cXpaper`, `dXpaper`. The default is `a4paper` which is the standard office paper format used in Germany. You can activate landscreen mode by adding the keyword `landscape` separated with a comma.

The `bcor` attribute lets you specify a binding correction. That is the amount in centimeters (cm) or points (pt) by which the text body should be indented to make up for margin space lost when binding the document. For example write `bcor="1.5cm"` to get a binding correction of 1.5 centimeters.

The `div` attribute indirectly controls the dimensions of the text body. Its argument is passed through to the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  macro package KOMA-Script which is responsible for layouting the document. KOMA-Script tries to automatically determine the optimal dimensions for the text body by applying a set of typographic rules. To this end, the page is divided into `div x div` rectangles of equal size, which serve as the basic units for splitting the page into margins and text body. The greater you choose `div`, the larger the text area will be. Try values between eight and 16.

### *3. General Usage Instructions*

Use the `parskip` attribute to specify the amount of horizontal space to insert in between paragraphs of text. You have the choice between `full` for a full line, `half` for half a line (default) or `off` to have no skip in between paragraphs. In the latter case, the first line of each paragraph will be indented.

## 4. Basic Document Editing

This chapter teaches you the essentials of writing documents in ecomedos Markup Language (ECML).

### 4.1. How to Structure Your Documents

In general, you should start new documents from an empty document template, as described in section 3.1.2. Such a template will contain a complete skeleton for a document of a given document class.

#### 4.1.1. General Structure

For a book or report the overall structure of a document can be represented by the following tree:

```
report
|-head
|-legal
|-make-toc
|-preface
.
.
|-chapter
|  |-title
|  |-<BLOCK ELEMENTS>
|  |-section
|  .  |-title
|  .  |-<BLOCK ELEMENTS>
|      |-subsection
|      .  |-title
|      .  |-<BLOCK ELEMENTS>
|          |-subsubsection
|          .  |-title
|          .  |-<BLOCK ELEMENTS>
.
.
|-appendix
|  |-title
|  |-<BLOCK ELEMENTS>
|  |-section
|  .
```

## 4. Basic Document Editing

```
| .  
.  
.  
|-glossary  
|-biblio  
|-index  
.  
.
```

This tree is greatly simplified and incomplete, because naturally any type of sectioning element, with the exception of `subsubsection`, can contain multiple subordinate sections. When using the article class, the `preface` element is replaced by the `abstract` element and the elements `legal`, `glossary` and `index` are not available. Also note that the most top-level sectioning element in an article is the `section`.

Block elements may be figures, equations or tables; or simply paragraphs of text, which are set with the `p` element.

### 4.1.2. Document Header And Legal Section

The very first child element of a document's root element is always the document header section, which has the following structure:

```
<head>  
  <subject>Special Subject, e.g. Ph.D. Thesis</subject>  
  <title>Document Main Title</title>  
  <subtitle>Subtitle</title>  
  <author>Author 1</author>  
  <author>Author 2</author>  
  ...  
  <date>Date of Publication</date>  
  <publisher>Name of Publisher</publisher>  
</head>
```

In contrast to HTML, where the order of the header elements can be arbitrary, in ECML the order is fixed. In books and reports the header can be followed by an optional `legal` section, which consists of plain paragraphs of text and which is meant to hold copyright information. The legal section should generally fit on one single page of whatever paper format you have chosen for printable output. Have a look at the sources of this manual for an example.

### 4.1.3. The preface Element

In books and reports you may use the `preface` element to set an arbitrary number of introductory sections right after the document header and the table of contents. The title of a preface will not be numbered and it will not appear in the table of contents when generating printable output. A preface may contain paragraphs of text, as well as other block elements, such as figures and tables.

## 4. Basic Document Editing

It must not contain any deeper sections except for minisections. If you feel that you need to divide your preface, you should consider making it a chapter.

### 4.1.4. Minisections

A *minisection* is a special kind of section, that can occur anywhere in the section hierarchy. The title of a minisection will be set in smaller letters than any regular section title, it will not be numbered and also not listed in the table of contents.

### 4.1.5. Paragraphs

A paragraph is set with the `p` element and is the simplest block element available, containing only formatted text and inline elements. Paragraphs can also optionally have a `title`, which will be set inline. See section 4.4 for an example of how this can be useful.

## 4.2. Formatting Inline Text

ecromedos gives you some control over how text is formatted and rendered and you may indeed discover that ECML isn't purely semantic in this area. If that bothers you, just pretend `i` stood for *emphasis* and discard the other elements. Alternatively, you can use these features to develop your own, specialized markup language on top of ECML, which is very much encouraged!

### 4.2.1. Formatting Elements

From your word processor you may be used to being able to emphasize text by setting it in bold or italic letters or by underlining it. With ecromedos you can achieve this by enclosing the span of text to be formatted inside the tags `b` for bold print, `i` for italics or `u` for underlining. You may also combine these arbitrarily. In addition, you may use the `tt` tag to make text appear in typewriter letters, which is useful for setting, for example, internet addresses or code fragments.

**Table 4.1:** Using text-formatting elements

Markup	Resulting Output
<code>&lt;u&gt;underlined text&lt;/u&gt;</code>	<u>underlined text</u>
<code>&lt;i&gt;text in italics&lt;/i&gt;</code>	<i>text in italics</i>
<code>&lt;b&gt;bold-faced letters&lt;/b&gt;</code>	<b>bold-faced letters</b>
<code>&lt;b&gt;&lt;i&gt;bold face and italics&lt;/i&gt;&lt;/b&gt;</code>	<b><i>bold face and italics</i></b>
<code>&lt;tt&gt;text in typewriter letters&lt;/tt&gt;</code>	text in typewriter letters
Super <code>&lt;sup&gt;script&lt;/sup&gt;</code>	Super <sup>script</sup>
Sub <code>&lt;sub&gt;script&lt;/sub&gt;</code>	Sub <sub>script</sub>
<code>&lt;xx-small&gt;text in XXS&lt;/xx-small&gt;</code>	text in XXS
<code>&lt;x-small&gt;text in XS&lt;/x-small&gt;</code>	text in XS
<code>&lt;small&gt;small letters&lt;/small&gt;</code>	small letters
<code>&lt;medium&gt;regular size&lt;/medium&gt;</code>	regular size

**Table 4.1:** Using text-formatting elements (continued)

Markup	Resulting Output
<code>&lt;large&gt;large letters&lt;/large&gt;</code>	large letters
<code>&lt;x-large&gt;text in XL&lt;/x-large&gt;</code>	text in XL
<code>&lt;xx-large&gt;text in XXL&lt;/xx-large&gt;</code>	text in XXL
<code>&lt;color rgb="#880000"&gt;text in red letters&lt;/color&gt;</code>	text in red letters

For the sake of completeness, there are the seven elements `xx-small`, `x-small`, `small`, `medium`, `large`, `x-large` and `xx-large` that let you control the font size. However, there should hardly ever be a reason to change the font size explicitly. Use the elements `sup` and `sub` in order to set text in super or subscript.

You can color text with the `color` element as shown in table 4.1. The `rgb` attribute expects a color value in CSS-style hexadecimal notation.

### 4.2.2. Controlling Hyphenation

In printable output, text is set justified over the entire width of the page’s text area. In order to avoid large gaps of white space between words,  $\text{\LaTeX}$  uses a clever algorithm and language-specific patterns to hyphenate words automatically. However, sometimes the hyphenation algorithm fails and in rare cases it cannot hyphenate certain words, at all. You can provide hints, telling  $\text{\LaTeX}$  where a word may be broken up, by inserting `y` tags in the right spots. For example, in order to tell  $\text{\LaTeX}$  that it may split the word “bibliography” only in between *biblio* and *graphy*, you would write `biblio<y/>graphy` in your markup.

### 4.2.3. Manually Inserting Line or Page Breaks

In general, you should not have to worry about where a line breaks or where a new page begins, because it is the job of the formatting engine (i.e.  $\text{\LaTeX}$  or your web browser) to take care of this. In rare cases, however, you may have to intervene manually. You can use the `br` element to break the current line or `pagebreak` to start a new page. You should *not* use multiple line or page breaks in a row.

When you need to *prevent* linebreaks in certain places, you can either use the non-breaking space (see section 4.7) or protect the specific strip of text with the `nobr` tag. For example, a title or academic degree should not be separated from the name that follows it. Consequently, you should write `Dr. &nbsp;Pepper` or `<nobr>Dr. Pepper</nobr>` to prevent the formatting engine from possibly breaking the line right before Pepper.

## 4.3. Working with Cross-References

`ecromedos` allows you to cross-reference locations in the same document or to create hyperlinks to external resources on the Web.

### 4.3.1. References in the same Document

Sometimes you will want to refer to another section in your manuscript, i.e. you may write something like, “[...] you will find out more about this on page XYZ”. However, at the time of writing your markup, you cannot tell on which page the section you are referring to will actually be printed. The solution is to label the locations you wish to reference and let ecromedos take care of filling in the correct number whenever it encounters a reference to a label in your document<sup>(1)</sup>.

The syntax for the definition of cross-references has changed slightly in ecromedos version 2. To label a certain spot in the text, use the `label` tag. This tag has a single, mandatory `id` attribute. This must be a unique identifier among *all* elements that carry an `id` attribute. Take a look at the following example:

```
<chapter>
  <title>The Show about Nothing</title>
  <p>
    Seinfeld<label id="seinfeld"> is the best
    sitcom of all times.
  </p>
</chapter>
```

You can now use the `ref` element to obtain the section number and `pageref` to get the page number like this:

```
<chapter>
  <title>About Myself</title>
  <p>
    I really enjoy watching Seinfeld. You can read more
    about Seinfeld in section <ref idref="seinfeld"/> on
    page <pageref idref="seinfeld"/>.
  </p>
</chapter>
```

The `ref` and `pageref` elements can also point to any other object with an `id` attribute, such as a `figure` or a numbered `equation`. In that case `ref` will resolve to the corresponding object counter instead of the section counter.

### 4.3.2. Hyperlinks to External Resources

You can insert hyperlinks into your document with the `link` element, which has a single, mandatory attribute `url`, which is used in exactly the same way as the `href` attribute on HTML anchors:

```
Click this <link url="mailto:bobburnquist@example.com">link</link> to
send a mail to a non-existent e-mail address or visit
```

---

<sup>(1)</sup>Depending on the target format, ecromedos may actually delegate the task of filling in cross-references to the formatting subsystem, such as is the case for  $\text{\LaTeX}$  output.

```
<link url="http://www.shredordie.com/">shredordie.com</link> for some  
cool skate videos.
```

## 4.4. Automatic Counters

You can create new object counters with the `counter` element. For example, you may decide to create an “example” environment with its own object counter. An instance of such an “example” might look like this:

```
<p>  
  <title>Example <counter group="example"  
    simple="no" id="ex:counterhowto"/>:</title>  
  <i>  
    This is an example on how to use the <tt><b>counter</b></tt> element ...  
  </i>  
</p>
```

By giving the counter an `id`, you can cross-reference the counter using the `ref` and `pageref` elements (see section 4.3). If you set the optional `simple` attribute to `yes`, the section count will be omitted. In the rare event that you need to start counting from zero, set the optional `base` attribute to 0.

## 4.5. Footnotes

Footnotes are inserted via the `footnote` element into the running text:

```
ecromedos supports the target formats HTML and &latex;, where  
the latter can be compiled into high-quality PostScript and PDF  
via the &tex;<footnote>More information on &tex; and &latex;  
can be found on the <i>Comprehensive &tex; Archive Network</i> at  
<link url="http://www.ctan.org"><tt>http://www.ctan.org</tt></link>.  
</footnote> typesetting system.
```

You may remember this footnote from section 1.1.

## 4.6. Inline and Block Quotes

Unless you are setting your text in typewriter letters, you will not be able to enter the correct quotation marks for your language directly with your keyboard. You could use XML character entities to access the glyphs, but that is tedious. Instead you should use the tags `q` and `qq` for single and double quoting, respectively.

When quoting large portions of text, consider using the `blockquote` element, which acts as a block element and may contain multiple paragraphs of text. Block quotes will be indented left and right to set them off from the rest of the text.

## 4.7. Useful Pre-Defined Entities

ecromedos defines a small set of entities that may come in handy occasionally. Table 4.2 shows the available entity names and what they stand for. The zero-width space is particularly useful for making long path names or Internet addresses break across lines without introducing hyphens or spaces.

**Table 4.2:** Pre-Defined Entities

Entity	Resolves to
<code>&amp;tex;</code>	T <sub>E</sub> X
<code>&amp;latex;</code>	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
<code>&amp;luatex;</code>	LuaT <sub>E</sub> X
<code>&amp;lualatex;</code>	LuaL <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
<code>&amp;nbsp;</code>	The non-breaking space
<code>&amp;zwsp;</code>	The zero-width space
<code>&amp;endash;</code>	–
<code>&amp;emdash;</code>	—
<code>&amp;dots;</code>	...
<code>&amp;check;</code>	✓
<code>&amp;cross;</code>	✗

For direct access to these entities, you must include the following document type declaration at the top of your document:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE report SYSTEM "http://www.ecromedos.net/dtd/3.0/ecromedos.dtd">
```

If you start your documents by generating a template, as described in section 3.1.2, the document type declaration will already be in place. Entities can also be accessed by name, through the `entity` element, without including the document type declaration. For example, you can insert an em-dash into the text by writing `<entity name="emdash"/>`.

## 5. Advanced Language Features

What you have learned up until now, won't get you far if you intend to write anything but plain prose. This chapter introduces some of the more advanced language constructs, that let you spice up your documents with illustrations, tables, structured lists, program listings and mathematical formulas.

### 5.1. Using Lists

ecromedos knows three types of lists:

- ordered lists,
- unordered lists (a.k.a bullet lists),
- and definition lists.

#### 5.1.1. Bullet Lists and Ordered Lists

Bullet lists are set with the `ul` element and ordered lists with the `ol` element. List items are enclosed inside `li` tags. Both list types may be nested within each other up to four levels deep. Starting with ecromedos version 2, list items may contain arbitrary block elements. But please note that a block element inside a list *must not* bear a caption. The following listing shows an example of a nested list structure:

```
<ol>
  <li>
    <p>First paragraph in first list item</p>
    <p>Second paragraph in first list item</p>
  </li>
  <li>
    <p>Second list item</p>
    <ul>
      <li>
        <p>First subitem of second list item</p>
      </li>
      <li>
        <p>Second subitem of second list item</p>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </li>
  <li>
    <p>Third item in outer list</p>
  </li>
</ol>
```

```

<ol type="i">
  <li>
    <p>Item one in ordered sublist</p>
  </li>
  <li>
    <p>Item two in ordered sublist</p>
  </li>
  <li>
    <p>Item three in ordered sublist</p>
  </li>
</ol>
</li>
</ol>

```

Ordered lists at different nesting levels will receive different enumeration marks, such as arabic numbers, latin letters, or roman numerals, to reflect their position in the list hierarchy. The type of enumeration mark at a given level is selected automatically, but may be overridden by setting the list's `type` attribute as follows:

```

<ol type="1"> for arabic numbers (1, 2, 3, ...)
<ol type="i"> for roman numerals in lowercase (i, ii, iii, iv, ...)
<ol type="I"> for roman numerals in uppercase (I, II, III, IV, ...)
<ol type="a"> for latin letters in lowercase (a, b, c, ...)
<ol type="A"> for latin letters in uppercase (A, B, C, ...)

```

### 5.1.2. Definition Lists

Definition lists are set with the `dl` element. An item in a definition list has two components: a term or expression to be defined and its respective definition. Take a look at the following example:

```

<dl>
  <dt>ecromedos</dt>
  <dd>
    A document publication system that allows generating
    different target formats from one document source.
  </dd>
  <dt>ECML</dt>
  <dd>
    The ecromedos Markup Language is an XML based markup
    language for describing the logical structure of
    standard text documents.
  </dd>
</dl>

```

While the `dt` element may contain only simple text and text-formatting elements, the `dd` element may contain arbitrary sequences of block elements.

## 5.2. Defining Tables

Starting with version 2, `ecromedos` features a complete table model with table captions, cells that can span multiple columns, nested subtables and minute control over the visibility of the table grid. The language elements for setting tables were largely borrowed from HTML. However, there are some subtle differences between the HTML and the ECML table model, which will become apparent in the course of this section.

### 5.2.1. Basic Tables

Tables are likely the most complicated part of ECML. But once you know the ins and outs of the ECML table model, you will appreciate the ease with which you can create good-looking tables in your documents. To get started, take a look at the following example of a basic 4 x 4 table:

```
<table print-width="100%" screen-width="600px"
  align="left" id="tbl:example_4x4">
  <caption>
    Example of a simple 4x4 table without frame borders
  </caption>
  <shortcaption>
    Example of a 4x4 table (continued)
  </shortcaption>
  <colgroup>
    <col width="45%" />
    <col width="55%" />
  </colgroup>
  <tr>
    <td>First column, first row </td>
    <td>Second column, first row </td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>First column, second row </td>
    <td>Second column, second row</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

The attributes `print-width` and `screen-width` determine the horizontal expansion of the table. For printable output, you can specify the table width in centimeters (cm), points (pt) or as a percentage (%) of the overall width of the page's text area. For HTML output, you can use all units commonly used in HTML Cascading Stylesheets or the statement `auto`, to leave the calculation of the table's dimensions completely to the browser. The function of the `align` attribute should be self-explanatory, it can take the values `left`, `center` and `right`. The `id` attribute gives the table a unique id, which can be referenced with the `ref` and `pageref` elements (see section 4.3).

The optional `caption` element can be used to give the table a descriptive annotation. If you supply a `shortcaption` it will be printed on continuing pages when a table extends over more than one page. The `colgroup` element describes the column layout. For each column in the table, there must be a `col` element specifying the relative width of the column. Make sure that these total up to 100%, or you may experience strange effects!

The table may start with one or more header rows distinguished by the `th` element and end with one or more footer rows distinguished by the `tfoot` element. Regular rows are set with the `tr` element, individual table cells with `td`. Table head and foot will be repeated on each page, if the table extends across multiple pages. Apart from that, no special formatting will be applied to text in header or footer cells.

### 5.2.2. Activating the Grid Rules

The table above does not have a visible grid. To draw a frame around your table, use the `frame` attribute on the table element and add an arbitrary combination of the keywords `left`, `right`, `top` and `bottom` to it, in a comma separated list. Each of the keywords turns on drawing of the respective line on the table's outer frame border.

Using the keywords `rowsep` and `colsep`, you can activate the dividing lines in between table cells. You can do this globally, by adding them to the table's `frame` attribute, or for individual rows and cells. Copy the following listing into an empty document and try adding and removing lines from the table grid, to get a feel for it.

```
<table print-width="100%" screen-width="600px"
  align="left" id="tbl:example_grid" frame="top,bottom"
  print-rulewidth="1pt" screen-rulewidth="1px" rulecolor="#000000">
  <colgroup>
    <col width="25%" />
    <col width="25%" />
    <col width="25%" />
    <col width="25%" />
  </colgroup>
  <th frame="rowsep">
    <td colspan="4"><b>Header</b></td>
  </th>
  <tr frame="colsep">
    <td frame="rowsep">1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td>
  </tr>
  <tr frame="colsep">
    <td>5</td><td frame="rowsep">6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td>
  </tr>
  <tr frame="rowsep,colsep">
    <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td frame="rowsep">12</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

The thickness of the grid rules may be specified with the attributes `print-rulewidth` and `screen-rulewidth`. The color of the lines can be controlled via the `rulecolor` attribute. Color values must be given as CSS-style RGB triplets in hexadecimal notation. So in this example, the table rules would be black, which is also the default.

### 5.2.3. Coloring Table Cells

You may color individual rows or cells by setting the `color` attribute on the corresponding tag. For example, to give the second cell in the first row from the previous example a gray background, you could write:

```
<tr frame="colsep">
  <td frame="rowsep">1</td><td color="#d4d4d4">2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td>
</tr>
```

Please note that colored cells may appear to overlap with dark grid rules when viewing PostScript or PDF documents on screen. Therefore, you should avoid using colored cells and grid rules together or instead use white rules when working with colored tables.

### 5.2.4. Text-Alignment in Table Cells

The vertical alignment of text in tables can be controlled only for entire rows, but not for individual cells. This is due to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's limited capabilities in this respect. To determine the vertical alignment of text in a table row, set the `valign` attribute on the corresponding row element to one of the specifiers `top`, `middle` or `bottom`.

Horizontal text alignment can be controlled per row or for each cell individually, by setting the `align` attribute to `left`, `center` or `right`. Starting with ecromedos 2.0, text in tables can also be set `justified`. Per default, text is set left-aligned.

### 5.2.5. Rows Spanning Multiple Columns

Sometimes it may be necessary to make a table cell stretch across multiple columns. You can achieve this by setting the `colspan` attribute on a cell to the number of columns that it should cover. Unfortunately, there is no corresponding `rowspan` attribute, as it exists in HTML. However, in most cases it should be possible to work around this limitation using subtables.

### 5.2.6. Subtables

With ECML it is not possible to create tables with cells that span multiple rows, i.e. there is no `rowspan` attribute. Starting with version 2.0, you can use subtables to partially get around this limitation. A subtable is created by simply putting a `subtable` element in place of a `td` element. Here is an example:

```
<table print-width="100%" screen-width="600px"
  align="left" id="tbl:example_subtable" frame="top,left,right,bottom"
  print-rulewidth="1pt" screen-rulewidth="1px" rulecolor="#000000">
  <colgroup>
    <col width="25%" />
    <col width="75%" />
  </colgroup>
```

```

<tr valign="middle">
  <td align="center" frame="colsep">January 2009</td>
  <subtable frame="colsep,rowsep">
    <colgroup>
      <col width="14%" /><col width="14%" /><col width="14%" />
      <col width="14%" /><col width="14%" /><col width="15%" />
      <col width="15%" />
    </colgroup>
    <tr align="right">
      <td><b>Mon</b></td><td><b>Tue</b></td><td><b>Wed</b></td>
      <td><b>Thu</b></td><td><b>Fri</b></td><td><b>Sat</b></td>
      <td><b>Sun</b></td>
    </tr>
    <tr align="right">
      <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> 1 </td>
      <td> 2 </td><td> 3 </td><td> 4 </td>
    </tr>
    <tr align="right">
      <td> 5 </td><td> 6 </td><td> 7 </td><td> 8 </td>
      <td> 9 </td><td> 10 </td><td> 11 </td>
    </tr>
    <tr align="right">
      <td> 12 </td><td> 13 </td><td> 14 </td><td> 15 </td>
      <td> 16 </td><td> 17 </td><td> 18 </td>
    </tr>
    <tr align="right">
      <td> 19 </td><td> 20 </td><td> 21 </td><td> 22 </td>
      <td> 23 </td><td> 24 </td><td> 25 </td>
    </tr>
    <tr align="right">
      <td> 26 </td><td> 27 </td><td> 28 </td><td> 29 </td>
      <td> 30 </td><td> 32 </td><td> </td>
    </tr>
  </subtable>
</tr>
</table>

```

As you can see, the syntax for subtables is exactly the same as for regular tables, except that a subtable does not have an id or a caption and you cannot specify the table width, as it is fixed at 100%, stretching over the entire cell.

### 5.3. Embedding Graphics

Graphical figures are incorporated into a document via the `figure` element. You can give figures a caption and an id. A figure that carries an id attribute can be referenced via the `ref` and `pageref` elements (see Section 4.3). Take a look at the following example:

```

<figure align="center" id="fig:thebeach">
  <caption>The Beach</caption>
  
</figure>
<p>
  Figure <ref idref="fig:thebeach"/> shows a beautiful sunset at
  the Galveston Beach.
</p>

```

With the `src` attribute, you specify the location of the image on your harddisk. If the image's file format is not suitable for use with a particular output format, the document pre-processor will automatically convert it. For instance, when generating L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X output, raster images are automatically converted to encapsulated postscript. Make sure you supply images in a high-enough resolution for proper representation in all target formats.

The attributes `print-width` and `screen-width` determine the width of the image in printable output and in HTML output, respectively. For printable output this can be a value in points (pt) or centimeters (cm) or a percentage (%) of the overall width of the page's text area. The width for HTML output is specified in pixels (px).

The figure's horizontal alignment is controlled by setting the `align` attribute to `left`, `center` or `right`. If you would like a thin black border around your figure, set the `border` attribute to `yes`.

There is experimental support for letting the text flow around figures. Simply place the `figure` element *inside* a paragraph like an inline element and make sure that you explicitly set the figure's alignment to `left` or `right`.

You may also load small images or icons into the running text using the `img` element as an inline element.

## 5.4. About Floating Objects

Per default, figures and tables are placed exactly where specified in the source document. Imagine though, that you are generating printable output and so far the page has been filled by two thirds with text. Technically, the next thing to be inserted would be a picture, but it occupies more space than remains and thus has to be moved to the next page, leaving the page before empty by one third.

This is not only visually unpleasant, but also bloats your document unnecessarily. As a solution, you can turn figures or tables into *floating objects* by setting the `float` attribute on the main element to `yes`. Making an object float means that you give the formatting engine (i.e. L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X) permission to move it to a different location in the text in order to warrant optimal text flow across pages.

## 5.5. Verbatim Text and Code Listings

You can use the `verbatim` element when you need to print scripts and want whitespace to be preserved. Text inside a verbatim tag will be printed in typewriter letters and whitespace will be displayed just as it appeared in your editor.

## 5. Advanced Language Features

For program code you should use the `listing` element, which has as a single child the `code` element. You can have your code syntax highlighted by specifying the name of the programming language or script in the `syntax` attribute. Here is an example for the classic “Hello World” in C:

```
<listing>
  <code syntax="c" colorscheme="borland" strip="yes"
    startline="1" linestep="100" tabspaces="2"><![CDATA[
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int main(void) {
    printf("Hello World!\n");
    return 0;
}
    ]]></code>
</listing>
```

ecromedos internally uses the powerful [Pygments](#) syntax highlighter, which can lex a vast amount of programming languages and scripts. Pygments also comes with a number of predefined coloring schemes (styles) that you may select with the `colorscheme` attribute. For a complete list of supported languages and available styles, run the command

```
pygmentize -L
```

If you specify a `startline`, the syntax highlighter will number each line in your code. The `linestep` attribute specifies the increment from one line to the next.

Setting the `strip` attribute on the `verbatim` or `code` elements to `yes` will result in whitespace being stripped from the beginning and end of your listing. You can override the background color of the selected coloring scheme with the `bgcolor` attribute.

Per default, ecromedos converts all tabulators inside a `verbatim` or `code` element to 4 spaces. You can override the number of spaces using the `tabspaces` attribute.

## 5.6. Mathematical Formulas

Mathematics are entered in T<sub>E</sub>X notation. Explaining T<sub>E</sub>X is beyond the scope of this document. For more information, please refer to appropriate literature, such as [\[LSHORT\]](#).

### 5.6.1. Inline Math

In order to set mathematical expressions inline, i.e. in the running paragraph, use the `m` element, as shown in this example:

```
<p>
  Einstein's law of equivalence of mass and energy is expressed
```

```
as <m>e = mc^2</m>.  
</p>
```

### 5.6.2. Formulas as Block Elements

Formulas can also be set as block elements. Simply enclose the `m` element in an `equation` element. To have your equation numbered, set the `number` attribute to `yes`. The following listing shows how to set the equation from the previous example as a block element:

```
<equation number="yes">  
  <m>e = mc^2</m>  
</equation>
```

Support for setting math is not extremely sophisticated. Future versions of `ecromedos` may provide better control over the alignment and grouping of formulas.

## 6. The Backmatter

This chapter deals with creating the backmatter of a document. The backmatter comprises the appendices, glossary and bibliography, as well as the keyword indexes.

### 6.1. The Appendices

An appendix is technically identical to a chapter, which also implies that you cannot have an appendix in an article. The only difference is that appendices are enumerated with latin letters. The appendices follow directly after the last chapter in a document. You can suppress an entry in the table of contents by setting the `tocentry` attribute to `no`.

### 6.2. Creating a Glossary

Creating a glossary can be as easy as pulling out your magic wand and saying `make-glossary`. If you are afraid, that spell might fire backwards, you can also create your glossary manually instead.

#### 6.2.1. Making Definitions on the Spot

Whenever you come across a term or expression in your manuscript that you want to add to the glossary, use the `defterm` element to make the definition right there on the spot. The `defterm` element is a definition list (see also section 5.1.2) with only a single entry and it is used inline in the running paragraph as shown in this example:

```
<p>
Users who are already familiar with HTML or document markup
languages like DocBook

<defterm>
  <dt>DocBook</dt>
  <dd>
    DocBook is a semantic markup language, originally developed by HAL Computer
    Systems and O'Reilly & Associates to enable document interchange between
    document publications systems of different vendors. DocBook has since grown
    into a comprehensive document authoring system. Modern versions of DocBook
    use XML for the markup and come with templates based on the Extensible
    Stylesheet Language for the transformation of documents to representational
    formats.
  </dd>
</defterm>
```

```
will find learning ECML particularly easy.  
</p>
```

There may be special cases, in which the collation rules of your locale have to be modified. This can be done indirectly by providing explicit sortkeys for glossary entries, using the `defterm` element's `sortkey` attribute. For example, in order to make “crocodile” sort as “krokodil”, you would write:

```
<defterm sortkey="krokodil">  
  <dt>crocodile</dt>  
  <dd>  
    ...
```

### 6.2.2. Automatic Generation of the Glossary

Putting instances of `defterm` in your document will not automatically trigger the generation of a glossary section. For this to happen, you have to insert a `make-glossary` element right after the appendices, or after the final chapter if the document does not have an appendix. A typical occurrence of this element in a document written in American English might look like this:

```
...  
</appendix>  
  
<make-glossary locale="en_US" tocentry="yes"  
  alphabet="[Symbols],A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,X,Y,Z"/>  
  
<biblio number="no">  
...
```

The `alphabet` attribute holds a list of letters according to which your glossary will be *sectioned*. This has nothing to do with how the glossary will be *sorted*. In order to determine the collation, use the `locale` attribute instead. The `alphabet` attribute should contain a comma-separated list of characters. It may also contain a denominator of the form `[name]` – where *name* would typically be the word “symbols” – for entries that consist of only symbolic characters. The default alphabet is the basic latin alphabet.

The `locale` attribute indicates the language whose collation rules will be used to *sort* the glossary. Use one of the locale identifiers listed in section 3.3.1. Even though this attribute is optional, it is highly recommended that you always set it, or your glossary will be sorted according to the default locale of the system or account in which `ecromedos` is being run. If you select a locale, which is not supported on your system, `ecromedos` will fall back to standard C sorting.

The `tocentry` attribute, which can occur on any sectioning element, may be set to `no` to prevent the glossary from showing up in the table of contents (TOC), when generating printable output. In HTML output, the glossary will *always* be listed in the TOC.

### 6.2.3. Creating the Glossary Manually

If you don't like the idea of having `defterm` elements all over your document, or for some other reason would prefer to set the glossary yourself, then here is how to do it:

```
<glossary>
...
<glsection name="D">
  <dl>
    <dt>DocBook</dt>
    <dd>
      DocBook is a semantic markup language, originally developed by ...
    </dd>

    <dt>Doxygen</dt>
    <dd>
      A tool for documenting C++ code.
    </dd>
  </dl>
</glsection>

<glsection name="E">
...
</glsection>
...
</glossary>
```

As you can see, the `glossary` is split into `glsections`. Typically, there will be a separate section for each letter of your alphabet, and the `name` of a section would be the letter that it represents. Each section contains a single definition list with all the entries for the respective letter. Simply put your glossary in place of the `make-glossary` element.

## 6.3. Keeping a Bibliography

Bibliographies are entered with the `biblio` tag and individual entries with `bibitem`. The bibliography comes after the last section in your document or after the glossary, if one exists. `ecromedos` does not support bibliographies for individual sections. A typical bibliography might look like this:

```
<biblio number="yes">
  <bibitem label="KOCH09" id="bib:KOCH09">
    Tobias Koch. <i>ecromedos 2.0 - Users' Manual</i>.
    <tt>ecromedos.net</tt>, 2009.
  </bibitem>
  <bibitem label="WALSH03" id="bib:WALSH03">
    Norman Walsh, Leonard Muellner.
    <i>DocBook: The Definitive Guide</i>.
    O'Reilly, 2003.
  </bibitem>
```

```
</biblio>
```

The `biblio` element encloses a series of `bibitem` elements, which represent the individual entries in the bibliography. Each `bibitem` carries a `label` and an `id` attribute. If the `number` attribute on the `biblio` element is set to `no`, then the user-supplied label will be shown next to the entry and in citations. If numbering is set to `yes`, which is the default, then the ordinal number of an item will be used as its label and the user-supplied identifier will be discarded.

### Citing from the Bibliography

Use the `cite` element, when citing from a source listed in the bibliography, to point the reader to the corresponding entry like this:

```
...  
<p>  
For more information on DocBook, please refer to <cite idref="bib:WALSH03"/>.  
</p>  
...
```

The document pre-processor will replace each occurrence of the `cite` element with the label of the corresponding entry set in square brackets. For example, to refer to the first entry in the listing above, you would write `<cite idref="bib:KOCH09"/>`, which the document pre-processor would replace with `[1]` when numbering is turned on and with `[KOCH09]` when numbering is off.

## 6.4. Generating Keyword Indexes

ecromedos facilitates the generation of keyword indexes by allowing you to place index markers in the text as you are writing. These markers are collected, sorted and turned into corresponding index sections by the document pre-processor without requiring any additional effort from the writer. Just as for the glossary (see section 6.2.3), you can also set indexes manually, if required.

### 6.4.1. Placing Index Markers

Index markers are embedded inline into the running paragraph. However, in order to not cause too much visual disturbance in the source document, it is recommended to aggregate markers at the beginning or end of paragraphs. The listing below is an excerpt from the source code of this chapter:

```
<p>  
  <idxterm group="ecml">  
    <item>biblio</item>  
    <subitem>number</subitem>  
  </idxterm>  
  <idxterm group="ecml">  
    <item>bibitem</item>  
  </idxterm>
```

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```
<idxterm group="ecml">
  <item>bibitem</item>
  <subitem>label</subitem>
</idxterm>
<idxterm group="ecml">
  <item>bibitem</item>
  <subitem>id</subitem>
</idxterm>
```

The `<tt><b>biblio</b></tt>` element encloses a series of `<tt><b>bibitem</b></tt>` elements, which represent the individual entries in the bibliography. Each `<tt><b>bibitem</b></tt>` carries a `<tt><b>label</b></tt>` and an `<tt><b>id</b></tt>` attribute. If the `<tt><b>number</b></tt>`

...

</p>

As you can see, you can arrange keywords into a hierarchy. In the example above, a marker for `bibitem` is placed on the base level, using the `idxterm` and `item` elements. Then the markers for `label` and `id` are added as `subitems`. There is also a `subsubitem` element, in case you ever need a third hierarchy level.

There is one thing to note about this example: all entries are placed in a separate **group** called *ecml*. Effectively, a separate index listing all ECML language elements is created. Entries for which no group is specified will go into the *default* group.

Analogously to the `defterm` element (see section 6.2.1), you can set an explicit `sortkey` on the `idxterm` element, if you need to tweak the collation in a special way.

### 6.4.2. Automatic Index Generation

Use the `make-index` element to have the index markers in a particular group assembled into an actual keyword index. This document, for example, contains an index that links all ECML language elements and attributes to the sections in which they are discussed. The generation of this index is triggered with a `make-index` element like this:

```
...
</biblio>

<make-index group="default" locale="en_US" alphabet="[Symbols],A,B,C,
D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,X,Y,Z" tocentry="yes"
columns="2"/>
</report>
```

The `make-index` element goes logically after the `biblio` element.

The `locale` attribute indicates the language whose collation rules will be used to *sort* the index. Use one of the locale identifiers listed in section 3.3.1. Even though this attribute is optional, it is highly recommended that you always set it, or your index will be sorted according to the default

## 6. The Backmatter

locale of the system or account in which ecromedos is being run. If you select a locale, which is not supported on your system, ecromedos will fall back to standard C sorting.

The optional `title` attribute allows you to override the automatic title.

### 6.4.3. Manual Index Creation

Creating a full index single-handedly, can be a lot of work, but if you really must, here is how to do it: Instead of placing index markers in the document, you leave ordinary `labels` in places that you wish to reference from the index. Then in the index, simply use the `idxref` element, which behaves just like `pageref` (see section 4.3), to obtain the page number of a label. The following is an excerpt from the XML that the document pre-processor may have generated for the listing of ECML language elements that can be found at the end of this document.

```
<index title="Language Elements" columns="2" tocentry="yes">
  <idxsection name="A">
    <item>abstract <idxref idref="idx:label1"/></item>
    <item>appendix <idxref idref="idx:label2"/></item>
    <item>article <idxref idref="idx:label3"/></item>
    <subitem>bcor <idxref idref="idx:label4"/></subitem>
    <subitem>div <idxref idref="idx:label5"/></subitem>
    <subitem>lang <idxref idref="idx:label6"/></subitem>
    <subitem>papersize <idxref idref="idx:label7"/></subitem>
    <subitem>secnumdepth <idxref idref="idx:label8"/></subitem>
    <subitem>secsplitdepth <idxref idref="idx:label9"/>,
      <idxref idref="idx:label10"/></subitem>
  </idxsection>
  <idxsection name="B">
    ...
  </idxsection>
  ...
</index>
```

As you can see the structure of an index is somewhat similar to that of a glossary. The `index` is split into `idxsections`, each of which typically represents one letter of your alphabet. A section contains a series of `items`. Please note that `subitems` are *not* nested inside items. A `subitem` is considered as belonging to the `item` element immediately preceding it.

## 7. Styling Your Documents

For each supported output format there exists a subfolder `xslt/<format>` below the installation folder. Inside this folder, the XSL stylesheets with the transformation rules for the given target format and a style definition file named `style.xml` are stored.

To modify the style definitions for a given target format, create and edit a copy of the corresponding `style.xml` file. Then use the `-s` command line switch to point the ecomedos Document Processor to the new style file. The format and contents of the style definition file differ depending on the output format.

### 7.1. Modifying the CSS-Stylesheet

The central style definition for HTML is a CSS stylesheet wrapped inside an XML container. The CSS stylesheet is generated from a number of SCSS stylesheets located in the `style/scss` subfolder in the source distribution. SCSS is an extended syntax of CSS that needs to be translated to regular CSS with a special compiler.

In order to get started with with SCSS, read the SASS guide at <http://sass-lang.com/guide>. After installing one of the available SASS compilers call the `make.sh` script in the `style` folder:

```
./make.sh css
```

The resulting stylesheet will be written to the file `style.css`. Take the full contents of this file and paste them into the XML container inside your `style.xml` file.

### 7.2. Changing the Look of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-based Output

In the style definition file for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, you will find a separate section for each of the supported document classes, with each section containing a list of stylable elements for the corresponding document class. Some basic knowledge of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X will be required to be able to edit these.

The following style elements exist:

#### **caption-setup**

The package options that are passed through to the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X `caption` package. Please consult [CAPTION], pages 5 ff., for more information on the available options.

#### **chapterpage-style**

The page style to be used for pages starting a new chapter (see [KOMASCR] for details). Use `empty` for a page without any decorations, `scrplain` for a page that is undecorated but has a page number or `scrheadings` for a page with page number and column titles.

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### **chapter-title**

The font properties of a chapter title.

### **description-label**

The font properties of a label marking up a term in a definition list.

### **document-font**

Use this element to change the font settings. For instance, in order to set your document in a sans-serif font family, you could set this element to

```
\renewcommand{\rmdefault}{\sfdefault}\normalfont
```

### **document-options**

The package options that are passed to the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X macro package KOMA-Script. Please consult [KOMASCR] for more information on the available options.

### **document-subtitle**

The font properties of the document subtitle.

### **document-title**

The font properties of the document title.

### **footnote**

The font properties of a footnote.

### **footnote-label**

The font properties of a label in a footnote.

### **footnote-reference**

The font properties of a footnote reference.

### **indexpage-style**

The page style to be used for pages starting a keyword index (see [KOMASCR] for details). Use `empty` for a page without any decorations, `scrplain` for a page that is undecorated but has a page number, or `scrheadings` for a page with page number and column titles.

### **minitoc-chapter-title**

Font properties of the title of a chapter overview.

### **minitoc-part-title**

Font properties of the title of a part overview.

### **minitoc-section-title**

Font properties of the title of a section overview.

### **page-head**

Font properties of the column titles of a page of style `scrheadings` (see [KOMASCR] for details).

### **page-head-fields**

This element is meant to contain the definitions of the column titles for pages of style `scrplain` and `scrheadings`. For a detailed description of the contained elements, consult [KOMASCR].

### **page-number**

Font properties for page numbers.

## 7. Styling Your Documents

### **page-style**

Sets the default page style to one of `empty`, `scrplain`, `scrheadings` (see [KOMASCR] for details).

### **paragraph-title**

Font properties of an inline paragraph title.

### **part-number**

Font properties of a part number.

### **partpage-style**

The page style to be used for pages starting a new part (see [KOMASCR] for details). Use `empty` for a page without any decorations, `scrplain` for a page that is undecorated but has a page number, or `scrheadings` for a page with page number and column titles.

### **part-title**

Font properties of a part title.

### **sectioning-title**

Default font properties for section titles. This affects, for example, the `minisection` titles, for which no separate style element exists.

### **section-title**

Font properties of the title of a `section` element.

### **subsection-title**

Font properties of the title of a `subsection` element.

### **subsubsection-title**

Font properties of the title of a `subsubsection` element.

### **titlepage-style**

The page style to be used for the title page (see [KOMASCR] for details). Use `empty` for a page without any decorations, `scrplain` for a page that is undecorated but has a page number, or `scrheadings` for a page with page number and column titles.

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Version 1.3, 3 November 2008

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