
Chapter 8

Single Sourcing

In 2003, we began single-sourcing some of the Wise documentation, using a single Frame book file to produce deliverables for multiple products. Example: The version of Software Manager that is shipped with Wise for Windows Installer is somewhat different from the version that is shipped with Wise Package Studio. We use conditional text, variables, and text insets to manage the differences between the versions.

Topics include:

- ◆ [Planning Conditional Documents.](#)
- ◆ [Managing Single-Sourced Books.](#)
- ◆ [Condition Tags in Single-Sourced Documents.](#)
- ◆ [Rules for Tagging Conditional Text.](#)
- ◆ [Product Name Variables.](#)
- ◆ [Text Insets.](#)
- ◆ [Documenting the Visual Studio Integrated Editor.](#)

Planning Conditional Documents

This information was copied from *Planning Conditional Documents* in the FrameMaker help and modified for our purposes.

- ◆ When planning a conditional document, examine the nature of the material and, because others may have to work in or maintain a conditional document you create, look at how several people can take turns working with it. Plan to treat conditional material consistently to make the document easier to use and maintain. Others will need to know the conventions you followed as you applied condition tags. (See [Rules for Tagging Conditional Text](#) on page 128.)
- ◆ Number of versions. Define how many versions your finished project will contain. Example: If you're creating a manual that describes a program that runs on both Windows and UNIX platforms, you might want to be able to produce at least 2 versions: a Windows version and a UNIX version. To produce these versions with editorial comments sprinkled in the text during the review process, you'll need even more versions: UNIX with comments, UNIX without comments, Windows with comments, and Windows without comments.
- ◆ Number of condition tags required. Decide how many condition tags you need to produce the desired versions. A version of a document is defined by a unique set of condition tags. Example: A version of a finished Windows manual might be defined by having a Windows condition tag showing, a UNIX condition tag hidden, and a Comments condition tag hidden. In this example, you would need to decide whether to use one condition tag for Windows comments and another for UNIX comments, or whether to use a single condition tag for both Windows and UNIX comments.
- ◆ Organization of content. Evaluate the extent to which the document can be conditional and how you can organize the material to simplify development and maintenance. Example: You might be able to organize a book so that conditional text is limited to a few documents. Or you might choose to keep versions of a particular chapter in separate files rather than in conditional text, and then use a different book file for each version of the book.
- ◆ Variables. Words and phrases that are used repeatedly in a document (example: product and company names) are easier to work with as variables than as conditional text.

Decide whether your conditional documents will need different variable definitions for each version. You can create a template for each version of the document. Each template should have only one version visible and should define the variables for that version. You can then use File > Import > Formats to switch the variable definitions from one version to another. See [Product Name Variables](#) on page 132.

Managing Single-Sourced Books

- ◆ For each version of the book, decide which conditions to show or hide.
- ◆ Whenever you edit the book, show all conditional text and show condition indicators.
- ◆ Always leave files with the Show/Hide settings set to Show All, and the Condition indicators shown. Otherwise, someone editing a different book might encounter broken cross-references to a hidden section of your book.
- ◆ When printing a single-sourced document for review, print each version of the book.
- ◆ When searching for unresolved cross-references during the finishing steps, first show all conditional text. Then show only one version at a time and search again.
- ◆ When performing a spell check during the finishing steps, do a separate spell check operation for each version of the book. This will help find problems with word spacing caused by incorrect condition tagging.
- ◆ When you make a .PDF or PostScript of a book, check conditional text settings *every time*. Example: Suppose you make a .PDF of the WfWI version of Software Manager and then you make a .PDF of the WPS version. A few days later, you need to remake the WfWI version. Even if you think you remember what state the book is in, you must always check because someone else might have changed the settings. Use condition templates to facilitate changing conditional text settings. See [Changing the Book View](#) on page 158 and [Creating Condition Templates](#) on page 131.
- ◆ When you create help, you do not need to change the Show/Hide settings in the Frame book because they are specified in WebWorks.
- ◆ Maintain a single Map ID file for single-sourced books.

Also see [Archiving Single-Sourced Books](#).

Archiving Single-Sourced Books

After you complete the finishing steps and the product is released, archive the single-sourced book files with each product that was included in the release.

Examples:

- ◆ If Wise releases version 6.0 of WfWI, but there is no corresponding release of WIE, archive the Windows Inst files with WfWI only.
- ◆ If Wise releases WfWI and WPS at the same time, archive a copy of Software Manager for each of those products.

Note

Up to July 2003, we archived the Software Manager and WiseScript Express books under their own directories in the Archives directory.

Also see [Archiving Documentation Files](#) on page 124.

Condition Tags in Single-Sourced Documents

We use conditional text to manage the differences between multiple versions of a book. We also use conditional text in the FrameMaker files to hide certain elements from the book and help. See [Using Conditional Text](#) on page 110.

See:

[Rules for Tagging Conditional Text](#) on page 128

[Creating a New Condition Tag](#) on page 129

[Creating Condition Templates](#) on page 131

Rules for Tagging Conditional Text

- ◆ If you are using conditional text in one chapter of a book, then all chapters must contain that condition tag. Otherwise, when you show/hide text for the entire book, that tag will not be listed.
- ◆ The smallest unit of conditional text is one sentence. This facilitates translation.
- ◆ If the conditional text begins or ends with punctuation, make the punctuation conditional too.
- ◆ To avoid word spacing problems, always include the space after a sentence in the conditional text, except at the end of a paragraph.
- ◆ Be very careful about including the paragraph mark (§) in conditional text.
 - Include the paragraph mark if the entire paragraph has the same condition tag.
 - Do not include the paragraph mark if the paragraph contains more than one condition tag, or if part of the paragraph is unconditional.
- ◆ Do not put conditional text on the same paragraph line as a table, especially if the table is unconditional.
- ◆ Apply conditional text in the same order throughout the document. Our convention is to apply the conditional tags in alphabetical order. In the example below, the condition tags have been applied in this order: WfWI only, WPS.

Text for WfWI only.



Custom report information is stored in the file Report.ini, which is located in the Reports directory specified in Wise Options. Custom report

Text for WPS only.



information is stored in the file Report.ini, which is located in the Reports directory specified in Workbench Preferences.¶

- ◆ Do not apply more than one condition to text, because when text has more than one condition tag, the text will be visible when *any* of its tags are shown. Text that has multiple condition tags is displayed in magenta, so it should be easy to see when this happens.

Tagging Anchored Frames

- ◆ If an anchored frame and its entire contents are conditional, then you can apply the condition tag to the anchored frame. Also select the paragraph mark that the frame is anchored to, otherwise you'll end up with an empty paragraph when that condition is hidden. You then do NOT have to apply the condition tag to every callout within the frame.
- ◆ If the anchored frame contains an image and callouts, and the image is conditional, then you must repeat the anchored frame and change its contents accordingly for

each situation. Then apply the condition tag to the entire frame and its paragraph as above.

- ◆ If only some of the callouts in an anchored frame are conditional, then apply the condition tag only to that specific text.

Tagging Tables

When tagging tables, the same principles apply as for anchored frames:

- ◆ If the entire table is conditional, tag the paragraph marker that the table is anchored to.
- ◆ If only certain contents are conditional, tag the contents.

Tagging Help Navigation

Sometimes a series of help navigation cross-references (that typically appear at the end of a topic) contains a reference that must be made conditional. In such cases, do not apply the help navigation condition to the cross-references. Apply the appropriate condition to the cross-reference that must be conditional. This is because applying more than one condition tag to any text produces undesirable results.

Creating a New Condition Tag

Before you create a new condition tag, discuss the change with the Technical Publications Manager.

1. In *In Frame*, open a chapter of the book to which you're adding the condition tag.
2. Define the color for the new condition tag. For details, see *Defining and modifying colors and tints* in the FrameMaker help. Also see [Conditional Text Colors](#) on page 130 for color suggestions.
3. Select **Special > Conditional Text**.
4. Click **Edit Condition Tag**.
5. In the **Edit Condition Tag** dialog:
 - In **Tag**, enter the name of the new condition. Typically, this should be an abbreviation of the product name (example: WfWI only, or WfWI+WIE).
 - Leave **As Is** in the **Style** drop-down list.
 - From **Color**, select the new color you defined.
 - Click **Set**.
6. Save the file.
7. Make the book file active and select all files in the book, except the one you added the condition tag to.
8. Select **File > Import > Formats**.
9. In the **Import Formats** dialog,
 - From **Import from Document**, select the chapter you added the condition tag to.
 - Mark **Color Definitions** and **Cross-Reference Formats**.
 - Clear all other options.
 - Click **Import**.
10. Save and close the open chapter and the book.
11. Document the new color and condition in the Doc Procedures.