



*He Wharekura-tini  
Kaihautu o Aotearoa*

The  
**Open**  
Polytechnic  
of New Zealand

# XML

## One Source To Rule Them All!!

By Sally Rawnsley and Steve Tongue | E Fest 2005

# Background

- Development and revision of learning materials — roughly 18% of total Polytechnic expenditure
- Majority of our courses are in print
- Traditional development process very iterative: hard copy/electronic/hard copy
- A growing number of courses offered online or in a blend of online and print
- Conversion of print courses to online not seen as best use of the medium
- Need to speed up the development of learning materials

# The project

- Origins of the XML project actually quite small-scale
- Aim was to speed up course development by
  - improving the structural and format quality of drafts from writers
  - encouraging fully electronic course development processes
- Project outcome: Word templates for the development of learning materials
- Case for using XML instead of Word:
  - future proofing
  - single source/multiple output tool
  - XML template can't be overridden
  - XML can be output to other technologies such as PDA

## Expected benefits

- Improvement in the structure of learning materials
- Encourage course developers to think in terms of a blended product
- Improved formatting, requiring less rework
- Fewer corrections arising from the editing process
- Improved speed to market

# Change management

- A long project with several phases
- Cross-functional team
- Decisions re number of templates and the elements required
- Small group of well-informed staff — champions for the project
- Started small — assessment template
- Open meetings to demonstrate progress
- Faculty staff trialled the first XML template
- A key issue — how to get critical mass?
- Convert all course materials from their existing format (mainly Word, PageMaker or Indesign) to XML
- Progress on this conversion very slow

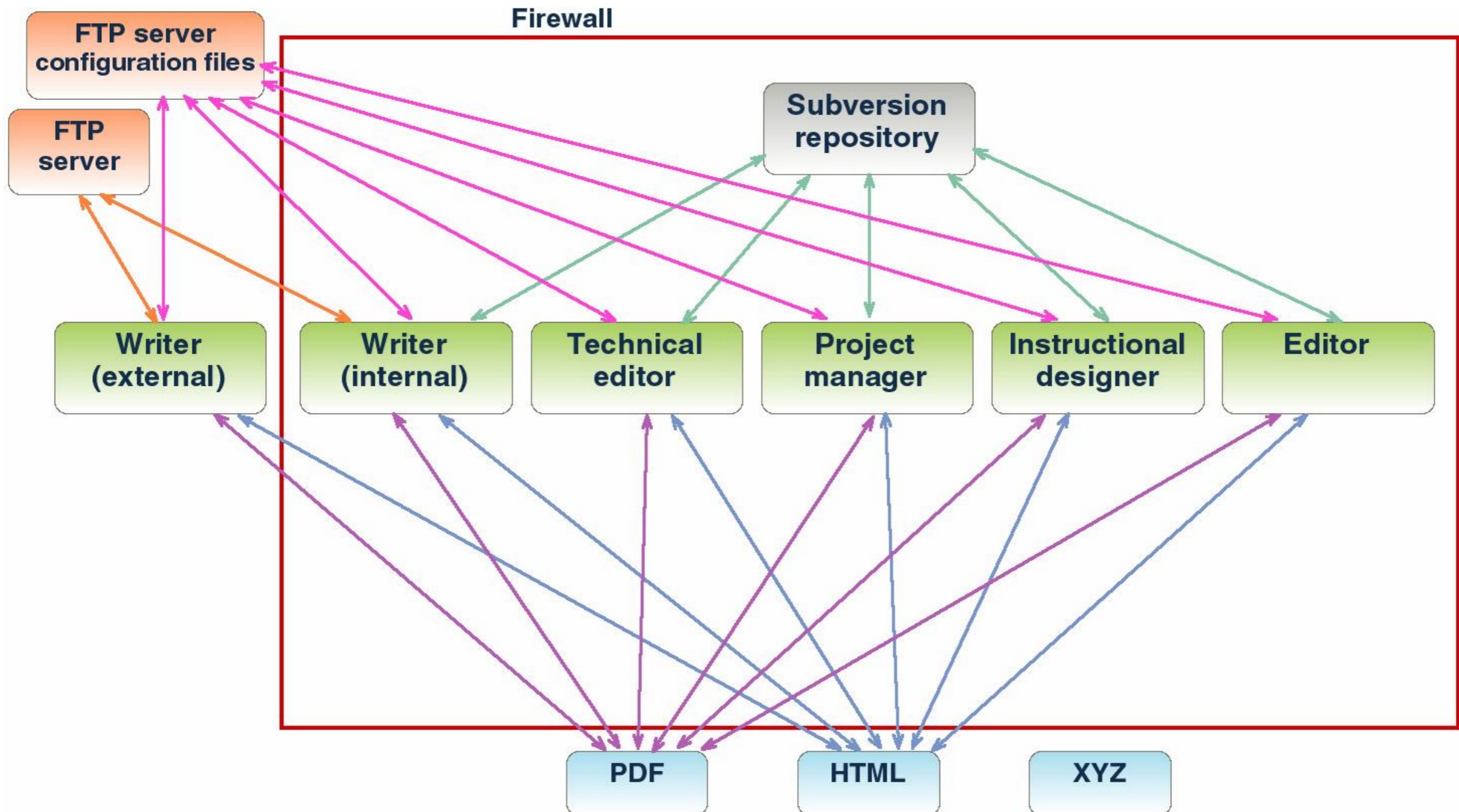
# Process re-engineering

- Final output at any time/stage
- Track changes
- All referenced documents put into repository

# Training

- Self-instructional computer-based training packages developed and trialled
- Some one-to-one training, some group training, some ‘throwing people in at the deep end’!
- Faculty staff using the new template successfully undertook two or three ‘pilot’ projects
- Perception that it is difficult
- Similar to HTML
- Different from Word
- Structured content
- Writer can concentrate on content — not appearance

# The process (a demonstration)



# Benefits

- Consistently formatted product
- Improved structure of materials
- Better workflow
- Future proofing
- Easier adaptation
- Possible savings in software
- Centralised content
- Single source/multiple content



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