

# iText DITO 1.5

## Release Preview Guide

November 2020

Disclaimer - This Release Preview Guide contains highlights that are expected to be included in the next minor release of iText DITO. It is not meant to be complete, nor does it guarantee that all of the listed items will be fully implemented.

# Introduction

We are excited to announce the general availability of iText DITO 1.5. This latest release of iText's high-convenience PDF document generator is all about the user experience of the template design component. Several data and design related features have had a convenience update. It is now easier than ever before to apply layout styles and format dynamic data as numbers, dates/times and currency amounts. We would also like to make a deprecation announcement, as iText DITO will gradually remove support for input templates.

## Display Formatting Properties for Data Bindings

In iText DITO 1.5 you can easily define display formatting of bound values. You can now format numbers, currency amounts, percentages, dates and times in any supported locale with no need to type complex patterns.

## Improved Color Management

Are you using the same colors in multiple places in a template? You probably are. iText DITO 1.5 comes with a new color picker that manages template colors better and remembers the colors you recently used. So you don't have to copy and paste color codes any more.

## Broader Support for Text Decoration

iText DITO 1.5 also comes with a broader palette of text decorations. The new version supports case conversions to uppercase, lower case or capitalization of each word. But also text decorations like (colored) strikethrough are supported now. All these text decorations can be applied to static and dynamic text and their application can be conditional, depending on easy-to-define business logic.

## Deprecation of Input Templates

As from iText DITO 1.5 we will start to phase out all functionality related to input templates. Rather than designs for PDFs (which we call output templates), input templates are blueprints for web forms which you can use to collect input from users. In this version you will still be able to maintain and create such input templates, but all functionality related to input templates will be marked with deprecation warnings. Support for this feature will end in March 2021.

# Display Formatting Properties for Data Bindings

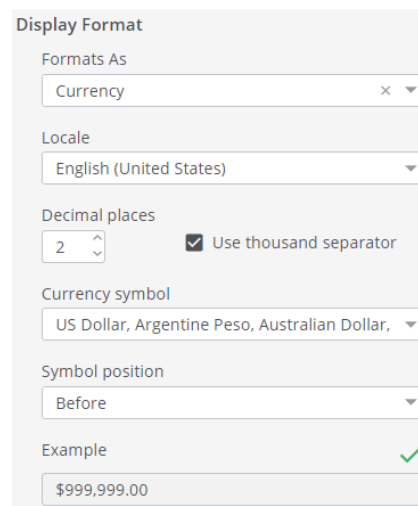
Document templates often contain placeholders for dynamic number, currency, percentage, date or time values. It is a common requirement to display such values in the output document with formatting that differs from their source formatting in the JSON payload. Maybe a timestamp that looks like 2020-11-03T09:58:52Z in the JSON needs to be printed like Tuesday, 3 November 2020 in the resulting PDF. Or maybe a simple numerical value like 9999.5000 should be converted to \$9,999.50 - a currency amount with a thousand separator and only two decimals instead of four.

In earlier versions of iText DITO knowledge of display patterns was required to define display formatting requirements. In the new iText DITO 1.5, the Properties panel contains easy to use controls to define localized display formatting, with no need to type complex pattern syntax.

## Numbers, Percentages and Currency Values

For numerical values like numbers, percentages and currency values, iText DITO 1.5 allows the template designer to easily set the following properties:

- **Locale:** the selected locale will determine which character is used for the thousand separator and the decimal separator. E.g. the value 9999.5000 would be formatted as 9,999.50 for English (United States) but as 9 999,50 for the Finnish locale;
- **Thousand separator and number of decimals:** indicate how many decimals should be displayed and whether or not a thousand separator should be inserted to ease reading of larger numbers. The characters used for thousand and decimal separators depend on the selected locale;
- **Selection and position of the currency symbol:** iText DITO supports all common currency symbols and abbreviations. You can select a currency symbol from a searchable dropdown, and position the symbol or abbreviation either before or after the value.



## Dates and Times

For date/time values, iText DITO 1.5 allows the template designer to easily set the following properties:

- **Locale:** the selected locale will determine which characters are used to separate years, months and days, hours, minutes, seconds and smaller units in a date/time value, in which order they are displayed and - when using long date formats - in which language days of the week and months of the year are displayed;
- **Type of display:** you can either choose to display only the date portion of the date/time value, the time portion or both;
- **Date pattern and time pattern:** based on the selected type of display you can choose a date and/or time pattern from a list of common patterns for the set locale.

Please note that iText DITO parses date/time data based on the ISO8601 standard for date/time notation. If your input data uses a different pattern, you can specify it in the bind format field.

Display Format

Formats As

Date/time

Locale

English (United States)

Type

Date only

Date pattern

4/23/20

Example

1/1/20

## Custom Display Formats

If you would require a formatting pattern that is not listed in the Properties panel, you can still select the Custom option and manually define the pattern you want to use. To make that easier though, iText DITO 1.5 has a new pattern syntax helper that provides an overview of all available pattern characters.

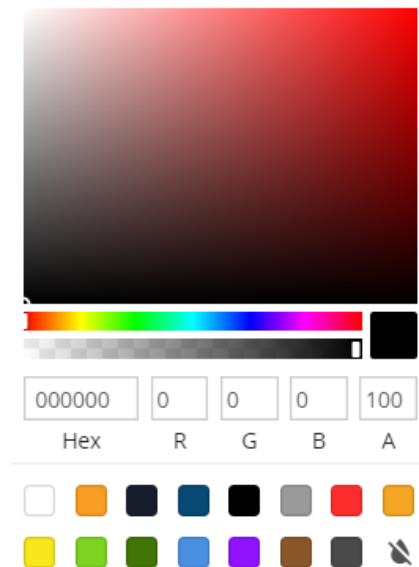
Date/time pattern characters			
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<b>Day of Year</b> <b>DDD</b> - 1 2 ... 364 365 <b>DDDo</b> - 1st 2nd ... 364th 365th <b>DDDD</b> - 001 002 ... 364 365	<b>Month</b> <b>M</b> - 1 2 ... 11 12 <b>Mo</b> - 1st 2nd ... 11th 12th <b>MM</b> - 01 02 ... 11 12 <b>MMM</b> - Jan Feb ... Nov Dec <b>MMMM</b> - January ... December	<b>Unix Timestamp</b> <b>X</b> - 1360013296	<b>Timezone</b> <b>z/zz</b> - EST CST ... MST PST <b>Z</b> - -07:00 -06:00 ... +06:00 +07:00 <b>ZZ</b> - -0700 -0600 ... +0600 +0700
<b>Day of Week</b> <b>d</b> - 0 1 ... 5 6 <b>do</b> - 0th 1st ... 5th 6th <b>dd</b> - Su Mo ... Fr Sa <b>ddd</b> - Sun Mon ... Fri Sat <b>dddd</b> - Sunday ... Saturday	<b>Quarter</b> <b>Q</b> - 1 2 3 4 <b>Qo</b> - 1st 2nd 3rd 4th	<b>Unix Millisecond Timestamp</b> <b>x</b> - 1360013296123	<b>AM/PM</b> <b>A</b> - AM PM <b>a</b> - am pm
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<b>Week of Year</b> <b>w</b> - 1 2 ... 52 53 <b>wo</b> - 1st 2nd ... 52nd 53rd <b>ww</b> - 01 02 ... 52 53	<b>Week year</b> <b>gg</b> - 70 71 ... 29 30 <b>gggg</b> - 1970 1971 ... 2029 2030	<b>Minute</b> <b>m</b> - 0 1 ... 58 59 <b>mm</b> - 00 01 ... 58 59	<b>Second</b> <b>s</b> - 0 1 ... 58 59 <b>ss</b> - 00 01 ... 58 59

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# Improved Color Management

iText DITO 1.5 has a new color picker tool. This improved experience remembers up to fifteen colors you have recently used in your templates. It still allows you to enter a Hex or RGB value and a fill/transparency percentage.

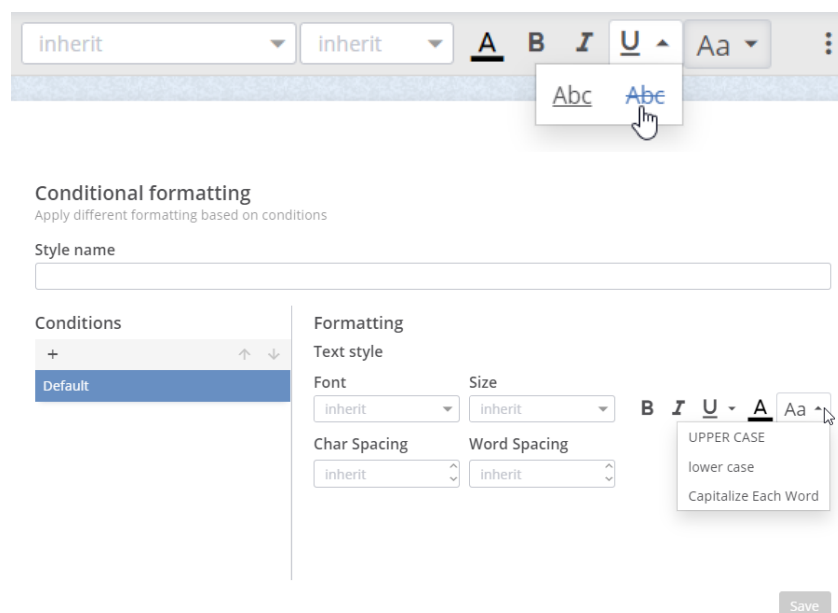


# Broader Support for Text Decoration

iText DITO 1.5 introduces broader support for a variety of text decorations and case conversions for both dynamic and static text. In the new version you will be able to:

- strikethrough rich text content;
- set underline and strikethrough color;
- convert case to lower case;
- convert case to upper case;
- convert case to capitalize each word.

All of these text decorations are also available to use in conditional formatting styles.



## Deprecation of Input Templates

In previous versions of iText DITO you were not only able to create templates for PDF documents (called output templates). You could also design web forms (called input templates) in the iText DITO Editor to capture user input data. As from iText DITO 1.5 we will gradually remove support for this feature as it does no longer fit well into the vision and the roadmap of the iText DITO Editor component.

In version 1.5 of iText DITO any input templates you may have already built will still be supported. You can continue to create new input templates as well, but we would like to discourage you to do so. Input templates that you load into iText DITO Editor 1.5 will be marked with a warning icon, informing users of the deprecation of this type of template.

If you have or were planning to create input templates with iText DITO, we would like to recommend alternative web form builders such as Form.io, Typeform, JotForm or Formstack, just to name a few options.

## Minor Improvements

iText DITO 1.5 also introduces a number of smaller improvements:

- a more responsive command bar, that provides easier access to common controls on smaller screens;
- better support for cross browser tab/window copying and pasting;
- a leaner, less bloated base image for the iText DITO REST API for Docker;
- several preparations for the iText DITO Manager component, a visual management experience for templates, data collections and resources, which will be launched with the next major release of iText DITO.