

iText DITO 2.1

Release Preview Guide

July 2021

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 happy to announce general availability of iText DITO 2.1, the latest version of our low-code, data-driven and template-based PDF generator. Since the release of iText DITO 2.0 at the end of March this year we've continued to build upon the changes it introduced, such as the further integration of the new iText DITO Manager component with the Editor. For this release we've also implemented a number of new features, including one we've been working on for quite some time. We now support the automated creation of charts in templates, which has been a much-requested feature.

There's a couple of other nice features included in this release, and some important news for iText DITO users who prefer the native Java version over the REST SDK/API.

Contents

Introduction	2
Contents	2
iText DITO Manager	2
New Composition Features	2
Conditional Template Insertion	2
Header and Footer Settings	2
Richer Template Import/Export Format	3
Legacy Template Import and Export	3
iText DITO Editor	3
Line and Column Chart Creation	3
Dynamic Lists	4
Properties Panel for Template Heading Styles	4
Conditional Logic in Header and Footer Templates	4
iText DITO SDK/API	5
The Native Java SDK/API is Back	5

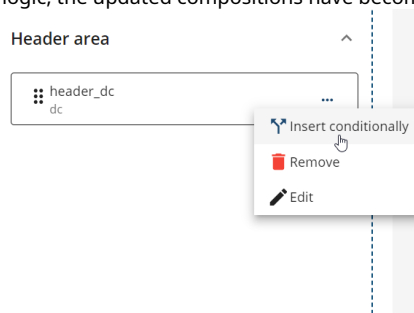
iText DITO Manager

New Composition Features

Compositions have proven to be a very effective means of centrally managing and re-using templates. The feature has received an upgrade in the new release, with more control over the header and footer area and now allowing you now to insert templates conditionally.

Conditional Template Insertion

iText DITO 2.1 brings conditional logic to the composition level. Using the same convenient conditional content wizard you may already know from iText DITO Editor, you can now define conditions for insertion of templates within a composition. Combining re-usability with conditional insertion logic, the updated compositions have become a great instrument of content asset management efficiency.



Header and Footer Settings

Many documents require a header and/or footer on the first page that differs from the other pages. iText DITO 2.1 allows you to define if headers and footers should be inserted on all pages or only on the first page. In contrast to earlier versions, no CSS coding is required to define this placement logic.

Header template settings

Configure settings for this header template

Visible on

- ☐ All pages
☒ First page

CANCEL SAVE

Richer Template Import/Export Format

iText DITO 2.1 marks the introduction of a new standard format for template export and import. The iText DITO Template Archive (*.dta) format replaces the legacy *.dito format for export and import of template packages. The main advantage of the new format is that it contains additional template metadata, such as the template type. Moreover *.dta exports can contain multiple versions of a template. As such no editing history is lost upon import.

Template name	Data collection	Template type	Modified by	Modified on ↓	
				from - to	
weather report	weather-data	Standard	Keith Maddox	2021-07-08 04:50 PM	...
compo_dc	dc	Composition	Keith Maddox	2021-07-07 05:00 PM	...
st1	dc	Standard	Keith Maddox	2021-07-07 05:00 PM	...
standard1_dc	dc	Standard	Keith Maddox	2021-07-07 05:00 PM	...

Export to .dta
 Export to .dito
 Delete template

Legacy Template Import and Export

Notwithstanding the new *.dta format, iText DITO 2.1 still allows you to import and export template projects in the legacy *.dito format. The common use case for importing *.dito files into your iText DITO Manager workspace is upgrading from version 1.5 to 2.1. The common use case for export to the legacy *.dito format is to create a standalone template project that can be used to generate PDFs with the iText DITO native Java SDK/API.

Legacy import and export can be activated through the new Advanced Settings panel in the Settings area of iText DITO Manager.

Import legacy template

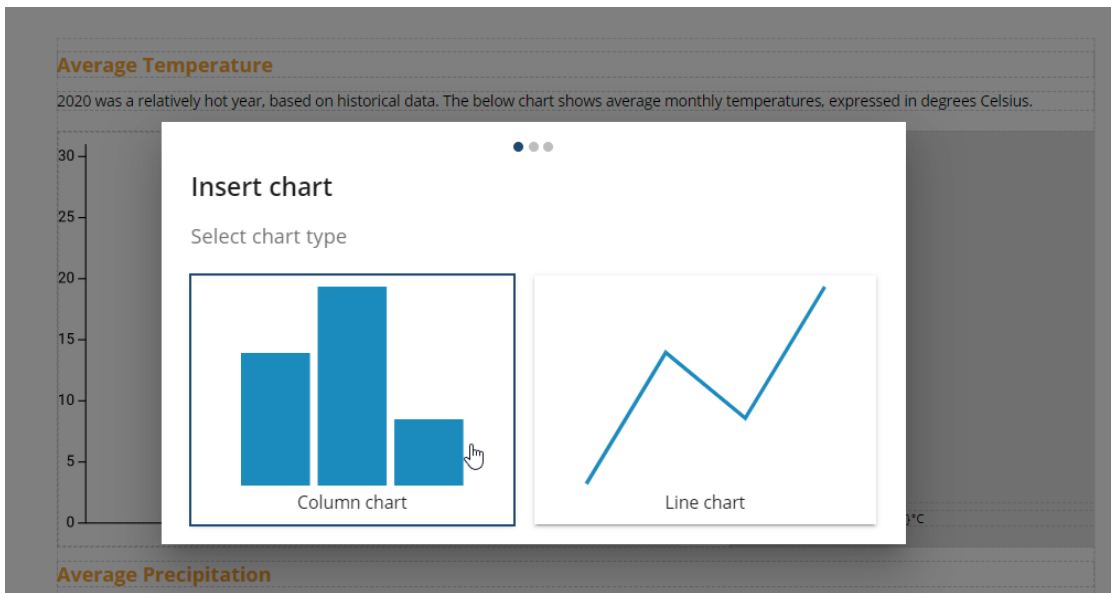
Import an iText DITO template project created with iText DITO Editor 1.5

IMPORT TEMPLATE

iText DITO Editor

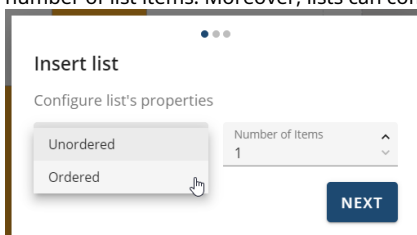
Line and Column Chart Creation

The capability of visualizing data in a chart has been a much-anticipated feature. Charting features will be introduced iteratively. Version 2.1 of iText DITO contains the very beginning of chart generation, allowing you to generate line charts and column charts based on data in an array. There is a convenient wizard to create chart elements, where you can select a data array, a field that will contain the labels on the horizontal axis and a field that will contain the corresponding values on the vertical axis. The wizard also allows you to configure chart size and colors.



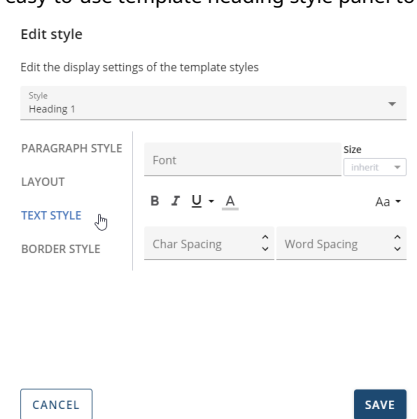
Dynamic Lists

The new version of iText DITO Editor allows you to easily build structured and unstructured lists with items from an array in the data collection associated with the template. Numbering or bullets are automatically inserted. Lists can be filtered and limited to a preset minimum and maximum number of list items. Moreover, lists can combine dynamically generated list items and static items.



Properties Panel for Template Heading Styles

From the very first version of iText DITO, there has been support for the use of headings (level 1 to 6), paragraph and other styles in templates. CSS coding has however been the only means of defining the look and feel of these text styles. Not anymore. Version 2.1 marks the introduction of an easy-to-use template heading style panel to configure layout for the different styles.



Conditional Logic in Header and Footer Templates

Conditional content insertion has been a very intensively used feature for quite a while. These features now also extend to headers and footer templates. Combined with the new conditional insertion of header and footer templates within compositions, this new addition allows you to define business logic on different levels.

iText DITO SDK/API

The Native Java SDK/API is Back

When iText DITO 2.0 was launched, we announced the deprecation of the native Java SDK/API to generate PDF documents. Upon popular demand, we are re-introducing it in version 2.1. The native Java SDK/API works in conjunction with the legacy export feature, that allows you to export the latest version of a template as a local *.dito project file, containing a single template. The native Java SDK/API can reference a project and a template within it and merge it with data to produce a PDF.

Java SDK/APIs are standalone, they cannot be included in a promotion path. In order to make full use of the template deployment and promotion capabilities of iText DITO Manager, the recommended flavor of the SDK/API component remains the iText DITO REST SDK/API for Docker.