



IBM Software Group

# Developing Sustainable Content Strategies: A DITA XML Design Pilot for Learning Content

For presentation at the Gilbane Conference on Content Management Technologies, December 1, 2005, Boston, Massachusetts

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# Extending DITA to support learning content

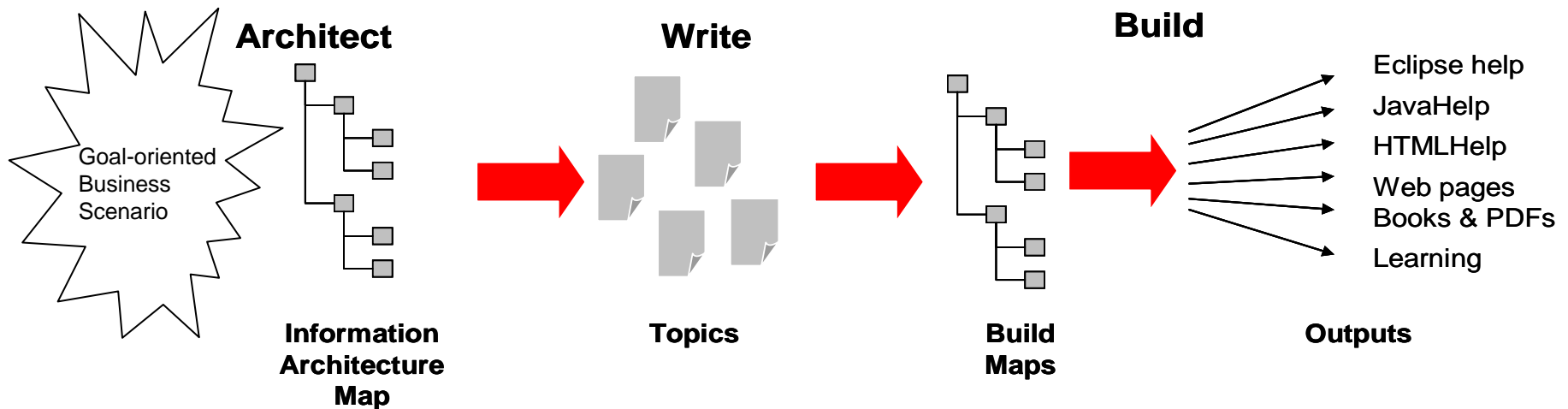
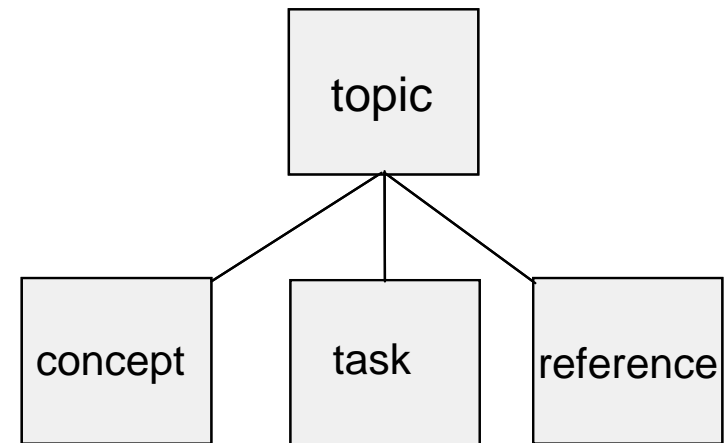
- Background
  - DITA XML
  - Learning & content reuse
- DITA **process model** for developing learning content
- DITA **topic types** for learning content
- DITA **map domain** for learning objects

# Darwin Information Typing Architecture

**Darwin:** DITA utilizes principles of inheritance for specialization similar to OO programming

**Information Typing:** DITA was designed for technical information based on information architecture types of Concept, Task and Reference

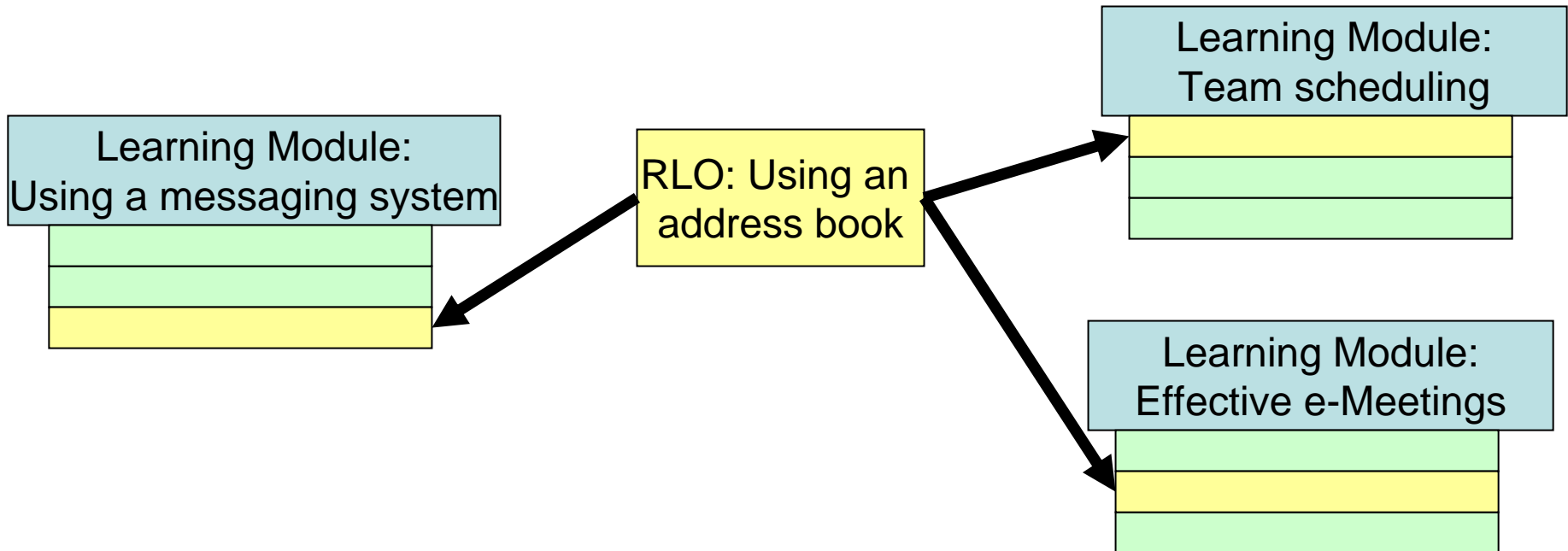
**Architecture:** DITA is based on XML and supports extending design and processes through inheritance and specialization



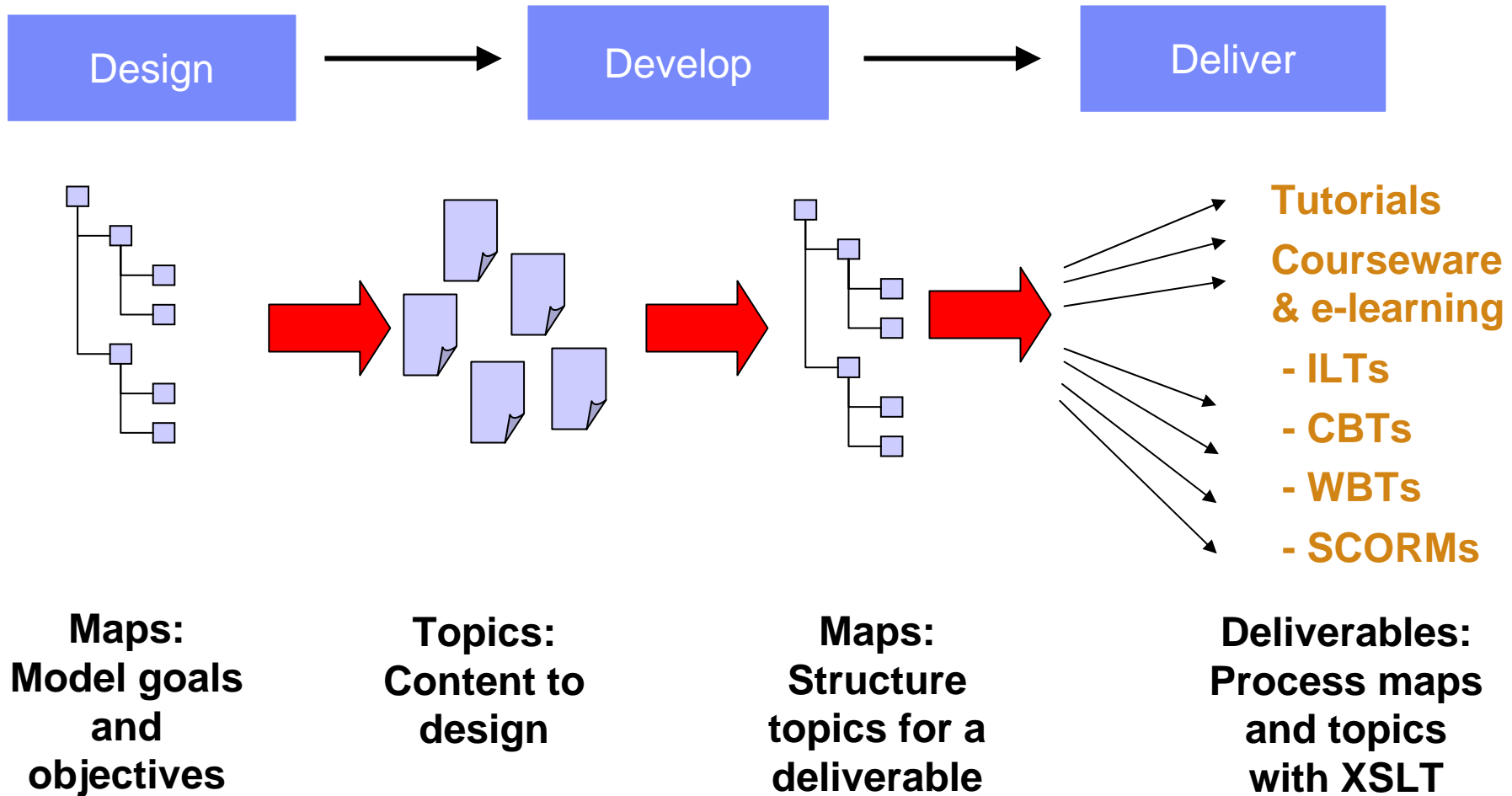
# Background: Learning and content reuse

## ■ Reusable Learning Objects (RLOs)

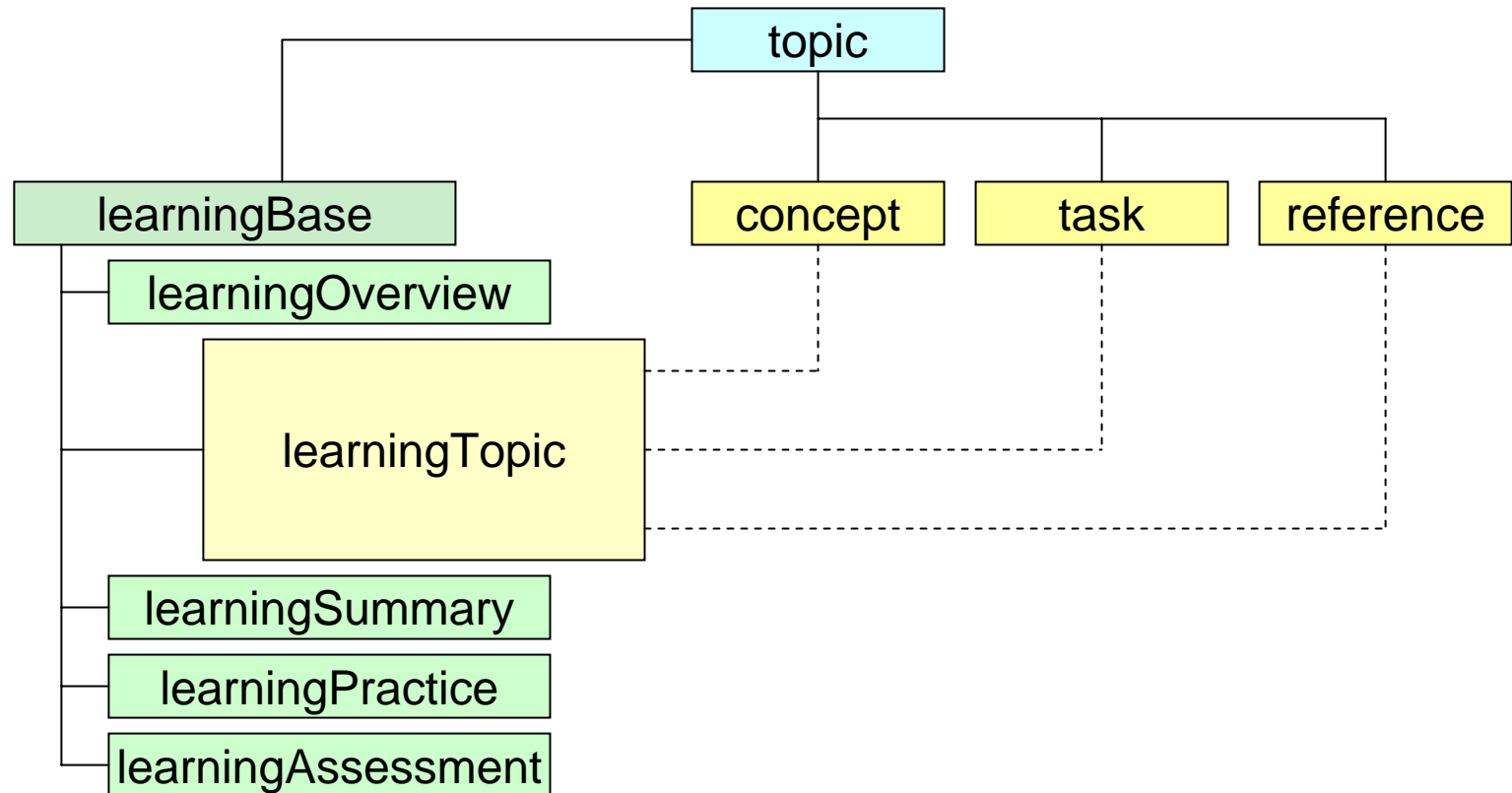
- All the content needed to support a particular learning objective.
- Follow a consistent structure.
- Available for reuse and repurposing in a variety of learning contexts.



# A DITA Process model for learning content



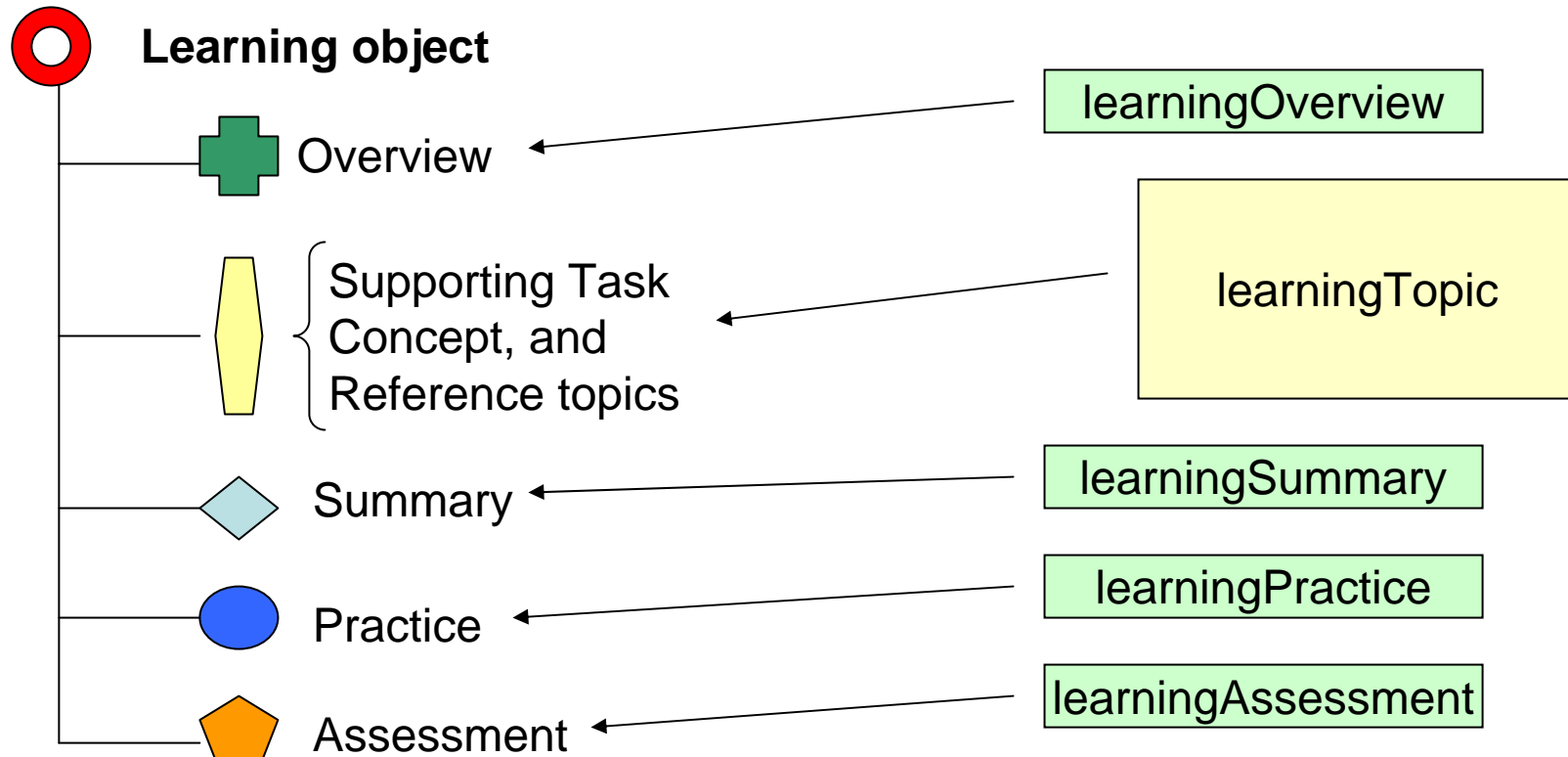
# DITA topic types for learning



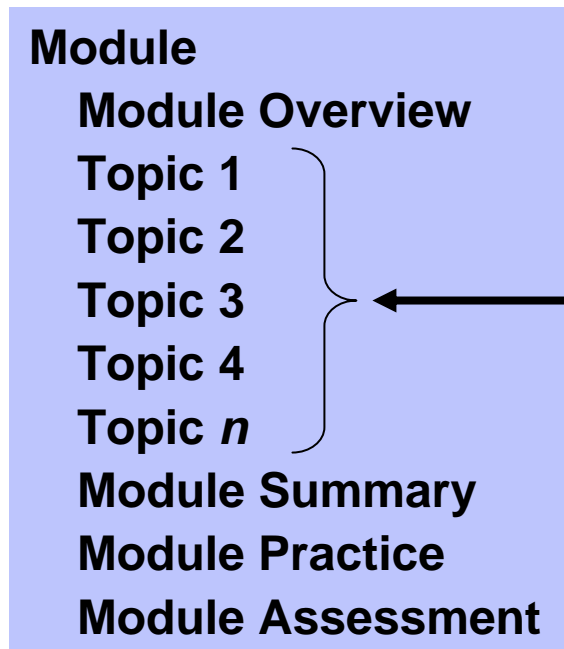
# DITA map domain for a learning object

## Map domain

## Supporting topic types



# Example: Mapping topic-based lesson content



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## 3. Module 3: Using Filters and Profiles

3.1 Overview and Objectives (learningOverview)

3.2 Using Filters and Profiles

3.2.1 Creating or Inserting Filter Lines (learningTopic)

3.2.2 Working With Defined Filters (learningTopic)

3.2.3 Using IBM DB2 QM for z/OS (learningTopic)

3.2.4 Range Filters (learningTopic)

3.3 Working With Monitoring Profiles

3.3.1 Monitoring a Profiles Panel (learningTopic)

3.3.2 Creating a Monitoring Profile (learningTopic)

3.3.3 Managing Profile Lines (learningTopic)

3.3.4 Comparisons for a Dropped Index (learningTopic)

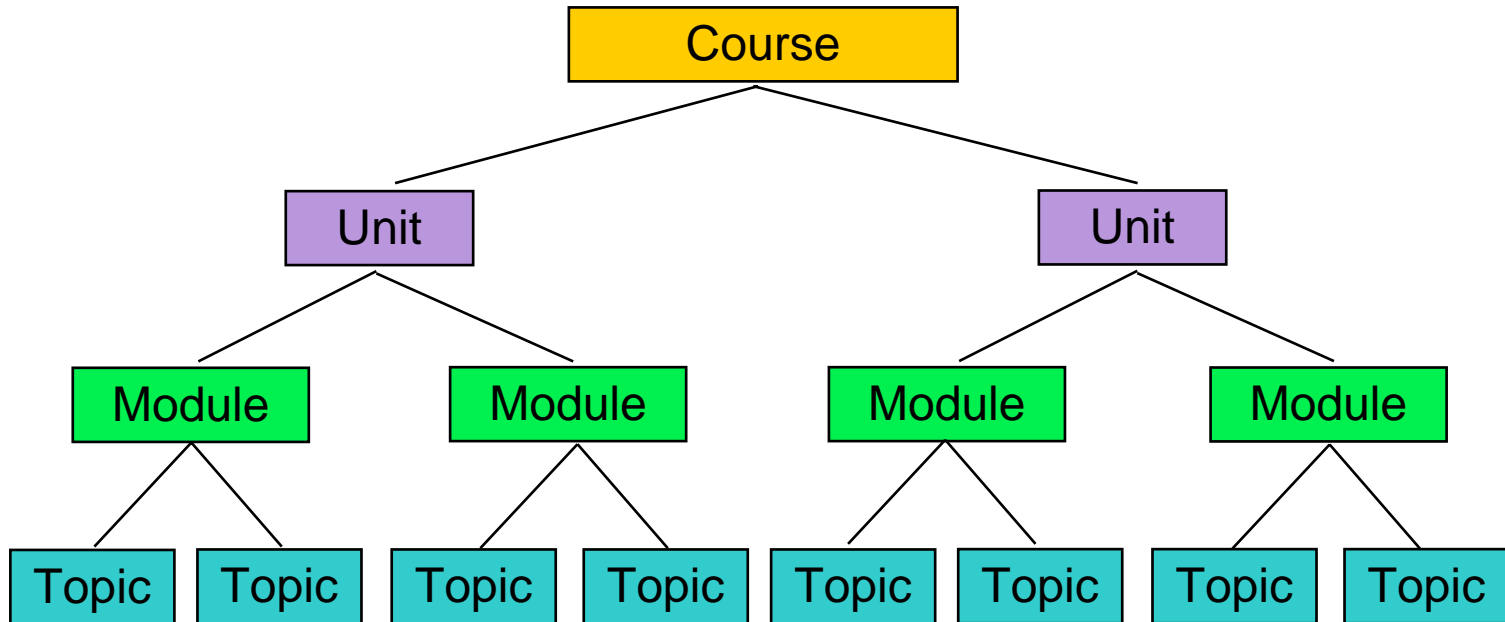
3.4 Module Summary (learningSummary)

3.5 Lab Exercises (learningPractice)

3.6 Assessment (learningAssessment)

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# Structure for an ILT Course With DITA Topics

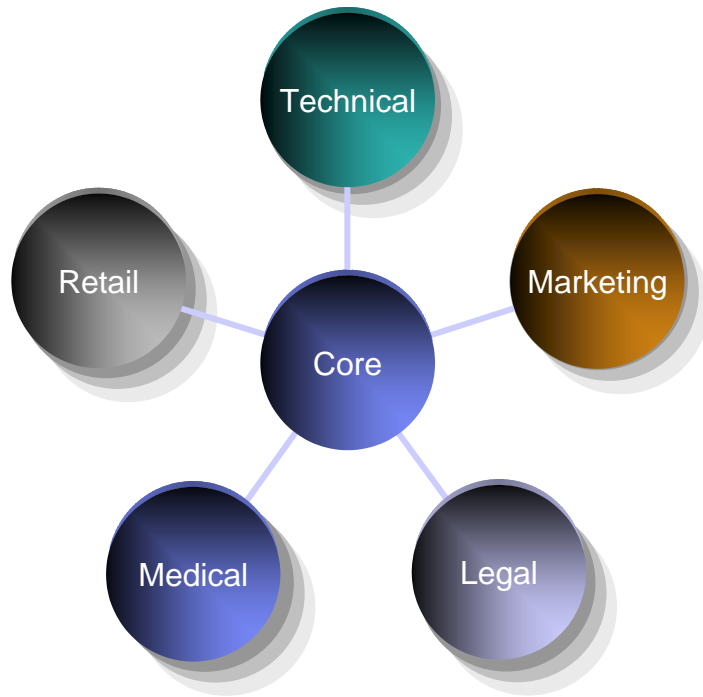


“Topics” provide a formal boundary based on logical content. Lessons are a logical collection of topics addressing one learning objective.

# The challenges

- Thinking in topics
  - ▶ Mindset shift to thinking of the content as discrete chunks of information, rather than as one single long-flowing narrative
  
- Structuring content with information types
  - ▶ Each topic-based chunk of content conveys knowledge about one specific piece of content without directly overlapping with information in other topic-based chunks.
  
- Minding the context
  - ▶ Develop content that supports the overall context of the learning objective.

# The DITA vision: A platform for collaboration



- **Content markup that's specific to the subject area**
  - Marketing event announcements, Development functional specifications, or Real estate appraisal forms
- **Shared markup modules**
  - Across industry segments or communities and between partners
- **Local markup for the organization**
  - Agree on the shared basics, diverge on the local idiosyncrasies

## Where next?

- **Learn more about DITA**
  - OASIS – <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/dita>
  - Cover pages – <http://xml.coverpages.org/dita.html>
  
- **More about DITA and learning on IBM developerWorks**
  - **An XML-based information architecture for learning content**  
→ [Google “dita learning”](#)  
Part 1 - <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/xml/library/x-dita9a>  
Part 2 - <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/xml/library/x-dita9b>
  
- **Where do we take DITA together?**
  - Join the dialog on the DITA forum –  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dita-users/>
  
- **Download the DITA Open Toolkit**
  - <http://sourceforge.net/projects/dita-ot/>

# Announcing the Greater Boston DITA User's Group

- Just forming
- Second meeting coming up...
  
- **WHEN**  
Monday, December 12  
6:30 pm for refreshments  
7 – 8:15 pm for presentation and discussion
  
- **WHERE**  
IDIOM Technologies  
200 Fifth Avenue  
Waltham, MA
  
- **CONTACT**
  - Nancy Harrison: [nancyph@us.ibm.com](mailto:nancyph@us.ibm.com)

## My contact information

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