PNG Support in the GNOME Project Documentation

In response to the issues that have been raised recently concerning the patents on the LZW compression often used in GIFs (http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/gif.html), the GNOME Project Documentation will be migrating to the use of PNGs.

This will cause some confusion in the creation of documentation using the DocBook DTD as it does not have native support for PNGs. To solve this problem I have created customized components for DocBook that will allow us to support PNGs in our documentation.

I have a sent an official RFE (Request for Enhancement) to the DocBook committee on behalf of the GNOME Project and have been told that it *will* be added to the 3.2 release of DocBook. Once it is officially supported we can all return to the normal way of creating documents.

Below there is a short description on how to use the customized components to create GIF free GNOME Documents. Those of you who maintain any document should edit it to included the customizations. If you need help I will be glad to assist you. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will no longer have GIFs in our documentation.

Using the GNOME PNG Support Custom DTD and Stylesheets

There are a few things you will need to do to make your GNOME DocBook document PNG compliant:

- 1. - You will need to get the png-support DTD and put it where you currently store your DTDs like DocBook.
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- 2. - You will need to add the new DTD to your SGML Catalog file. Your Catalog file location may vary depending on your system. On my Red Hat box it is in */usr/lib/sgml/CATALOG*. You will need to add the following line to your Catalog file:

  ```
  PUBLIC "-//GNOME//DTD DocBook PNG Variant V1.0//EN" "png-support.dtd"
  ```
-
- 3. - Your documents will need to have the header changed to call the custom DTD. This is simple but will not work until you have completed task numbers 1 and 2.

  Use this header in your documents:

  For Books:

  ```
  <!DOCTYPE Book PUBLIC "-//GNOME//DTD DocBook PNG Variant V1.0//EN">
  ```

  For Articles:

  ```
  <!DOCTYPE Article PUBLIC "-//GNOME//DTD DocBook PNG Variant V1.0//EN">
  ```

- 4. - Either add to your custom Stylesheets or use the main GDP custom stylesheet - gdp-both.dsl.

  If you are adding to your own custom stylesheets you should add the following lines:

  ```
  ;;What graphics extensions allowed?
  (define %graphic-extensions%
  '("gif" "png" "jpg" "jpeg" "tif" "tiff" "eps" "epsf" ))

  ;;What is the default extension for images?
  (define %graphic-default-extension% "png")
  ```

If I have left anything off please let me know at *dcm@redhat.com*