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Get your kicks with Tip 66! (It's kind of a song.)

This is a brief tip, as the tips have been waaaaaay toooooo loooooonnnnnnnngggg lately.

DocTools Tip #66: Formatting in Variables

You can use character formats in variable definitions. If you use character formats, finish the definition with the <Default Para Font> character format, to ensure that any text following the variable uses the correct format.

Examples:

Variable name: product

Variable definition: Oracle Application Server 10<Italic>g<Default Para Font>

Variable name: metalink

Variable definition: Oracle<Italic>MetaLink<Default Para Font>

Remember:

Variable names can contain only alphanumeric characters, the hyphen, and the period. If character formatting in a variable does not appear in the HTML, the variable name probably contains an invalid character.

Correct variable name: fmversion

Incorrect variable names: fm_version, fm(version), or fm version (space after)

Variable definitions (the text of the variable) can include spaces, underscores, and other special characters.

Example variable definition: FrameMaker+SGML 6.0

Note: Some special entities (items that you have to "escape" in dialog boxes, like thin spaces) are not written out to XML properly, and may not be written out to XHTML properly. Check your XHTML carefully if you use these special items.

Fixing Variable Formatting

If variable formatting appears to be incorrect in FrameMaker, try these actions:

1. Import Variable Definitions from the document into itself.
2. Import Element Definitions from the darbbook_edd.

If neither of those tricks works, check out the other solutions at [22.5 Correcting Variable Formatting](#)

Bug Fix!

In FrameMaker 7.0, George Eross has apparently fixed the bug in which some variables became BoldItalic when Italic formatting was applied to them. If you see this action occur in FrameMaker 7.0, even after downloading and installing the Kit from the DocTools Web site, please report it to fmhelp_us.