# Starting a DITA skeleton project in oXygen

**Tutorial for the "DITA Pilot Workshop", TCUK 2015: http://tiny.cc/thinkdita-tcuk15**

**Magda Caloian, @thinkDITA**

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# Starting a DITA skeleton project in oXygen

- For this exercise, you need oXygen XML Editor installed and the (test) license activated on your computer . You can download it from the oXygen website:

  *http://www.oxygenxml.com/xml_editor/download_oxygenxml_editor.html*

  The test license is free, with unrestricted functionality, and valid for 30 days.
- Just as in real documentation projects, begin by doing your research and drafting an information model (content outline). Think of a product, its users and intended use-cases. Do your task analysis and write a simple, task-oriented outline. You can see the TCUK15 presentation slides online:

  *http://tiny.cc/thinkdita-tcuk15*

  The examples in the tutorial use an unofficial Trello Guide. You can see samples of Trello boards online:

  *https://trello.com/inspiringboards*

The aim of this tutorial is to demonstrate how to create a very simple DITA project to authors new to DITA and to oXygen XML Editor.

You might want to know:

- Use **Ctrl+Z** to undo your changes in the Editor. Don't look for an undo button.
- If a certain view is not displayed in oXygen, go to **Window** > **Show View** and select it from the sub-menu.

  You can drag and pin the views as you like on the oXygen desktop.
- When you open a ditamap for the first time in oXygen, a dialog will ask if you want to use the **DITA Maps Manager** or just the Editor to open ditamaps. Activate the Maps Manager option in the dialog before clicking **Open**.
- If you want to switch to a different tags display (full tags, partial tags, no tags), use the

  **Tags display mode** icon ⵊⵊ on the toolbar.

Disclaimer:

- The screenshots were made on oXygen XML Editor version 17, on a German version of Windows 7 (so a few German buttons and options sneaked into the screenshots).
- For simplicity, the `navtitle` attribute has been used. In the future, the `navtitle` element should be used instead of the attribute, as it becomes obsolete for localization reasons.
- As the objective of the exercise is to create a skeleton project and a publishing scenario, it does not explain DITA topic and map structure beyond topic titles, nor element nesting, etc.
- We are not affiliated, associated, authorized, endorsed by or in any way officially connected to Trello, Inc. (www.trello.com).
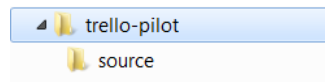
## Create main project folders

Let's first create the repository folders you'll need for the project.

1. Decide on a location for the repository, for example in your usual documents folder or on the desktop.

**2.** Create the main folder, for example `trello-pilot`.

**3.** Create a sub-folder named `source`, where you will save all the topics for the project.

So you should now have a main folder and a sub-folder.

## Create a new oXygen project

oXygen project folders (.xpr) are XML files, which "memorize" project-specific settings, such as associating publication scenarios to ditamaps, assigning values for certain attributes used for filtering content, editor settings, etc. Through .xpr files, you can share the same settings with your team for each ditamap they work on.

**1.** Start oXygen XML Editor and create a new project file.

    a) In the main menu click **Project** > **New Project**
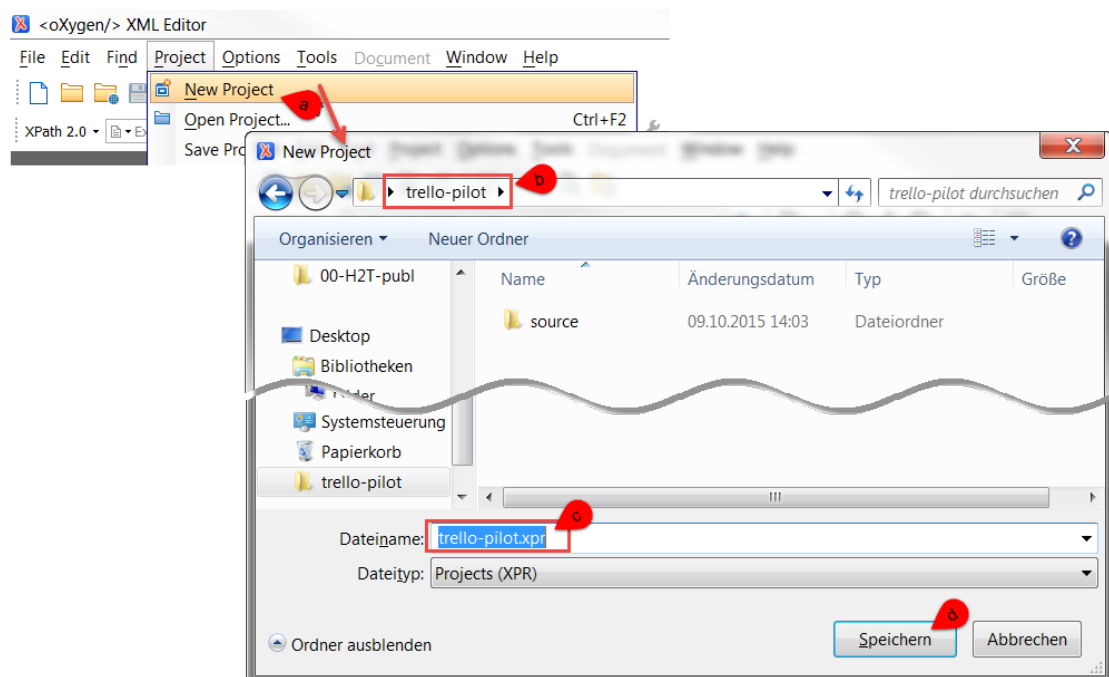
b) In the **New Project** dialog, browse to the repository folder you have created for the project, for example `trello-pilot`.

c) Type a name for the project folder, for example `trello-pilot.xpr`.

d) Click **Save**.

You can see the project file in the **Project** view, usually on the left side in oXygen.

**2.** To add the repository folders to the project, right-click the project file in the **Project** view and select **Add Folder**.

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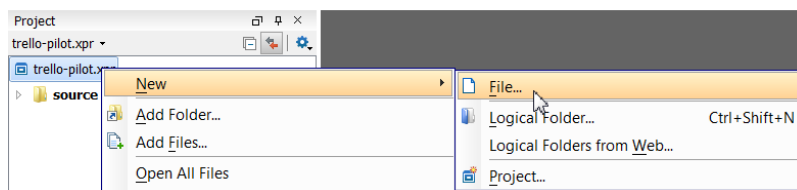improving information processes
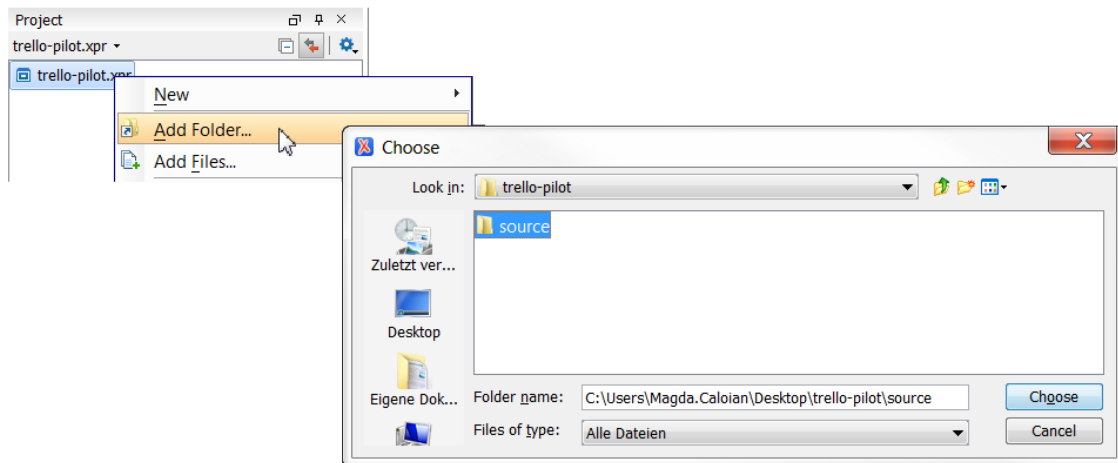
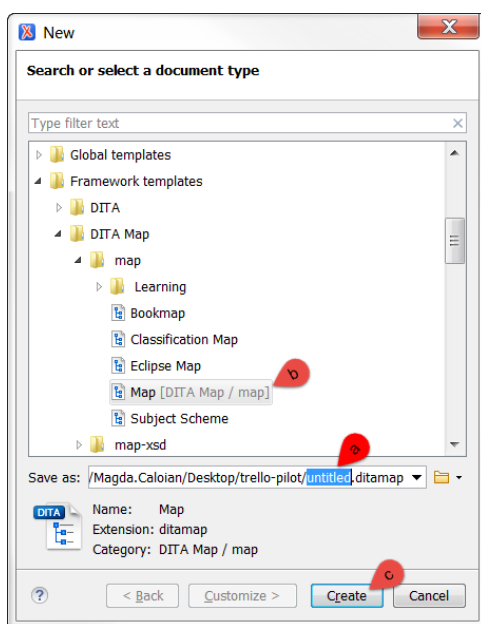3. Select the `source` folder and click **Choose**.

The `source` folder is shown under the project file in the **Project** view.
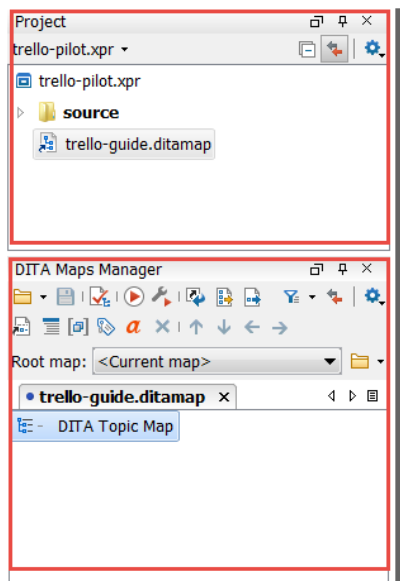
## Create a ditamap

1. In the **Project** view, right-click `trello-pilot.xpr` and select **New** > **File**.



2. In the **New** dialog, type a name for the new ditamap (a) and select the **Map** document type from the list, then click **Create** (c).
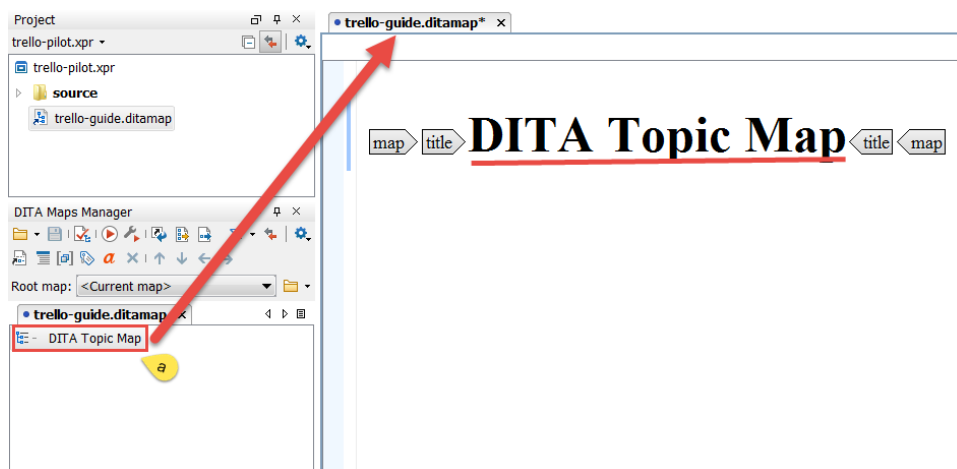


The new ditamap is listed in the **Project** and in the **DITA Maps Manager** views.

## Create an outline into the ditamap

1. To open the map in the Editor, double-click the map title `DITA Topic Map` (a) in the **DITA Maps Manager** view.



2. In the Editor view where the map opened for editing, replace the title text `DITA Topic Map` with the title of your documentation set, for example `Trello Guide`.
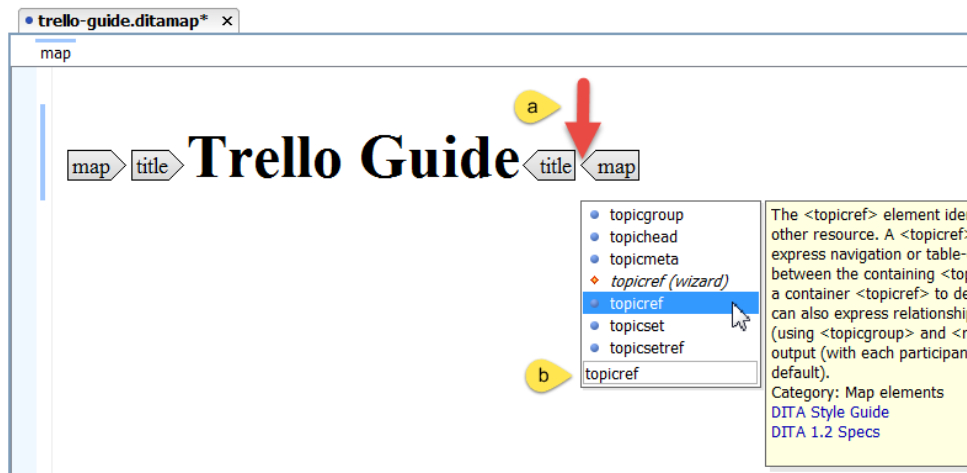


3. To save the changes in the map, press **Ctrl+S**.

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As in most editors, unsaved files are marked with a star on the filename tab.

**4.** To add the first title of the content outline into the map:

a) Click after the title text, between the closing `title` and `map` tags (a), then press **Enter**.



The embedded assistant is listing the available elements you can choose from.

b) Start typing `topicref` (b) or scroll the list until the `topicref` element is selected, then press **Enter**.

The new `topicref` element is added to the map.



c) Double-click the `topicref` element, select `navtitle` in the name field, type the first taks title in the value field, then click **OK**.

The title of the topic is added as `navtitle` attribute of the `topicref` element (just for info... no need for you to bother with the terminology at this point).
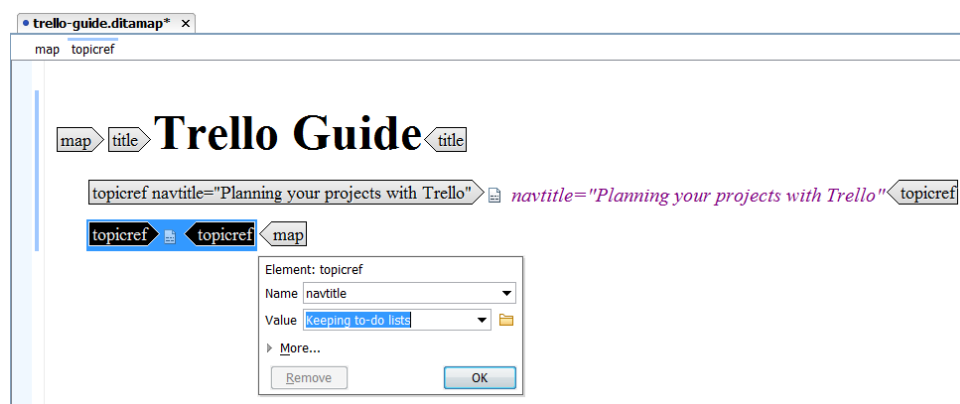
d) Press **Ctrl+S** to save the map.

The new title appears in the outline in the **DITA Maps Manager** view, also.



**5.** Add a few more titles in the same way, as `topicref` with `navtitle`.

Do not worry about the hierarchy of the titles for now.



If you prefer a simpler, plain text editor, switch to the **Text** mode and add the outline titles. oXygen offers auto-completion and embedded assistance for the text mode, too.
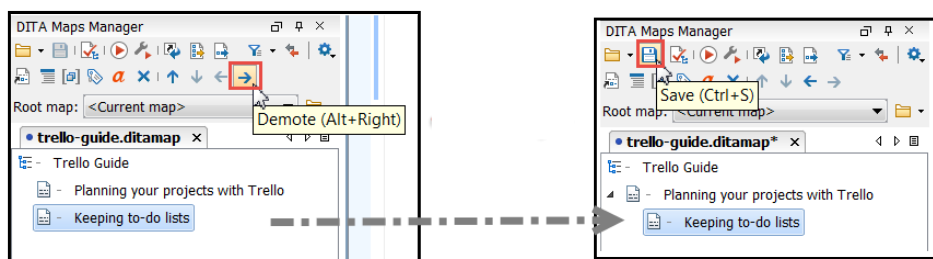
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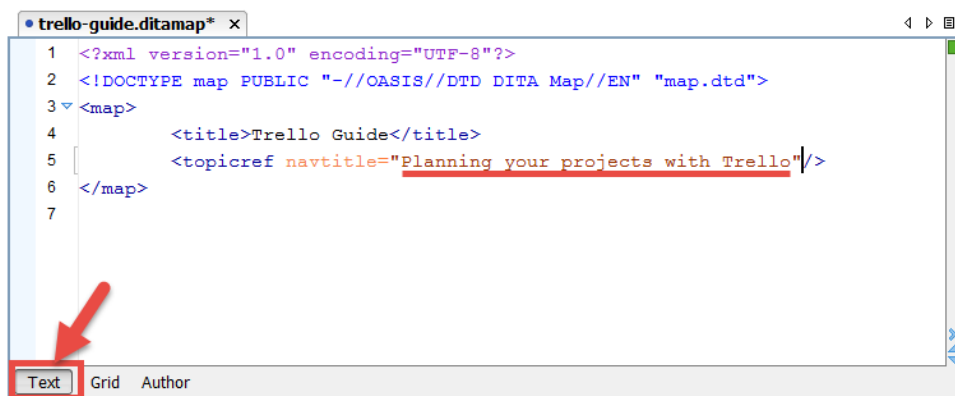
6. To solve the titles hierarchy in the outline, save the changes you made in Editor (**Ctrl+S**), then use the **DITA Maps Manager**.
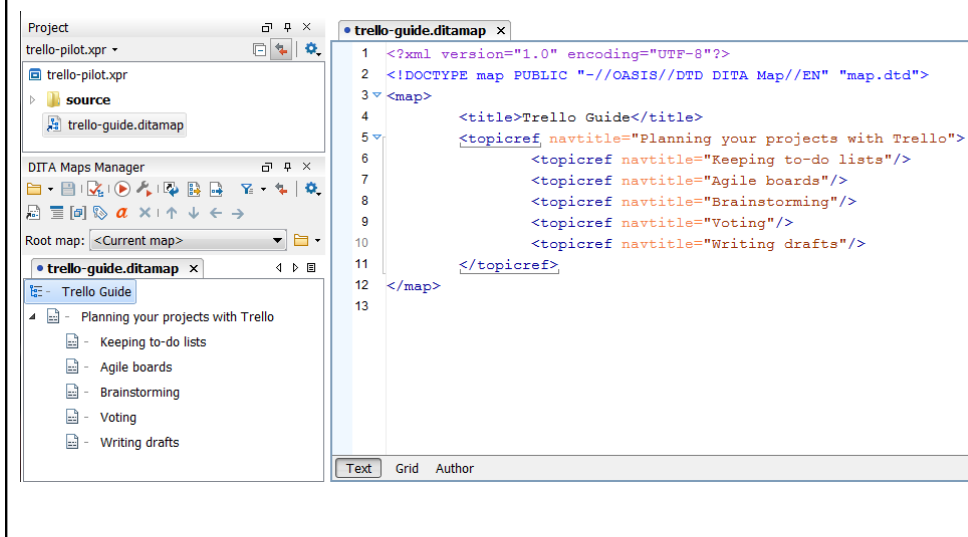
   a) Select a title you want to move in the hierarchy and click the corresponding button in the toolbar.

   For example, let's demote `Keeping to-do lists`.



   b) Use the **Save** button in the **DITA Maps Manager** toolbar.

   As a checkpoint, here is the skeleton of the first section in the Trello Guide outline.

# Create a PDF publishing scenario

Let's define a PDF publishing scenario and associate it with the `trello-guide.ditamap`, so we can publish a PDF of the outline with one click.

1. In the **DITA Maps Manager** with `trello-guide.ditamap` open, click the button **Configure Transformation Scenarios** (a).
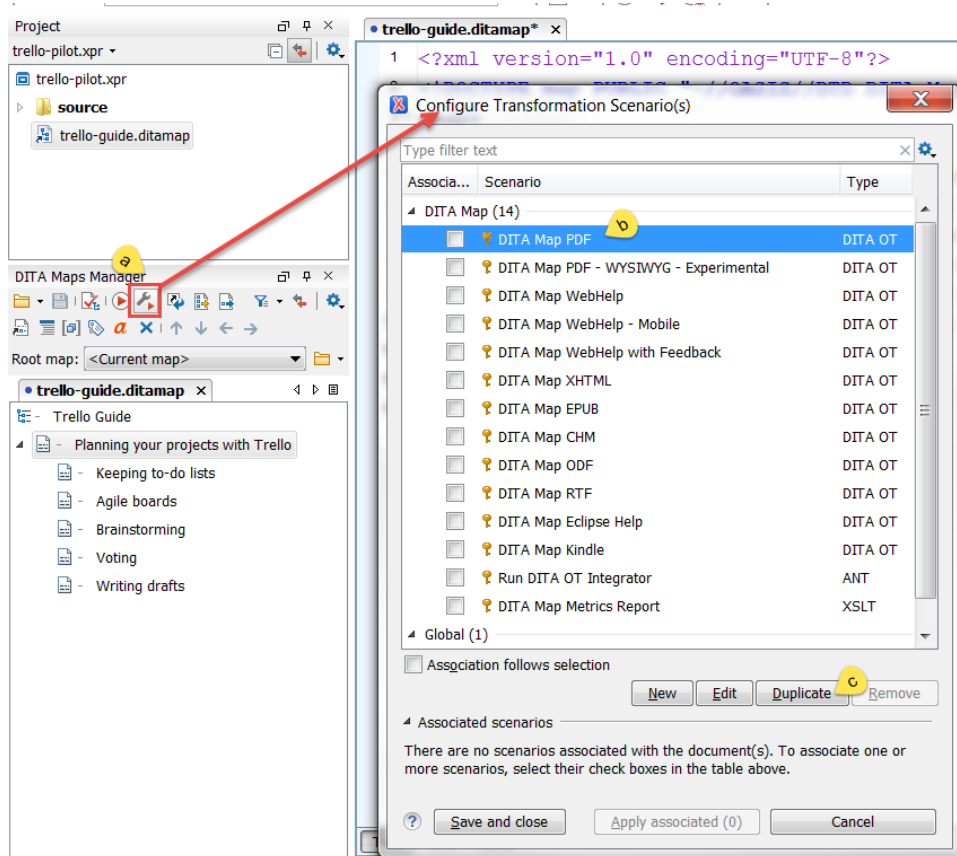


2. In the **Configure Transformation Scenarios** dialog, click **DITA Map PDF** (b), then click **Duplicate** (c).

3. In the dialog **Edit DITA Scenario** type the **Name** of the scenario, so you can identify it later, then click **OK**.
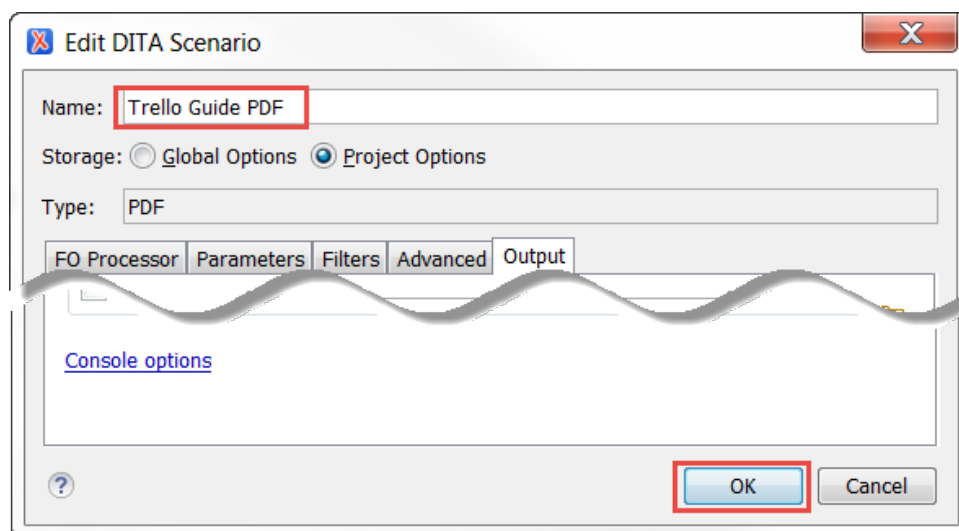
Your new scenario is listed in the Project list of scenarios, for example **Trello Guide PDF**.
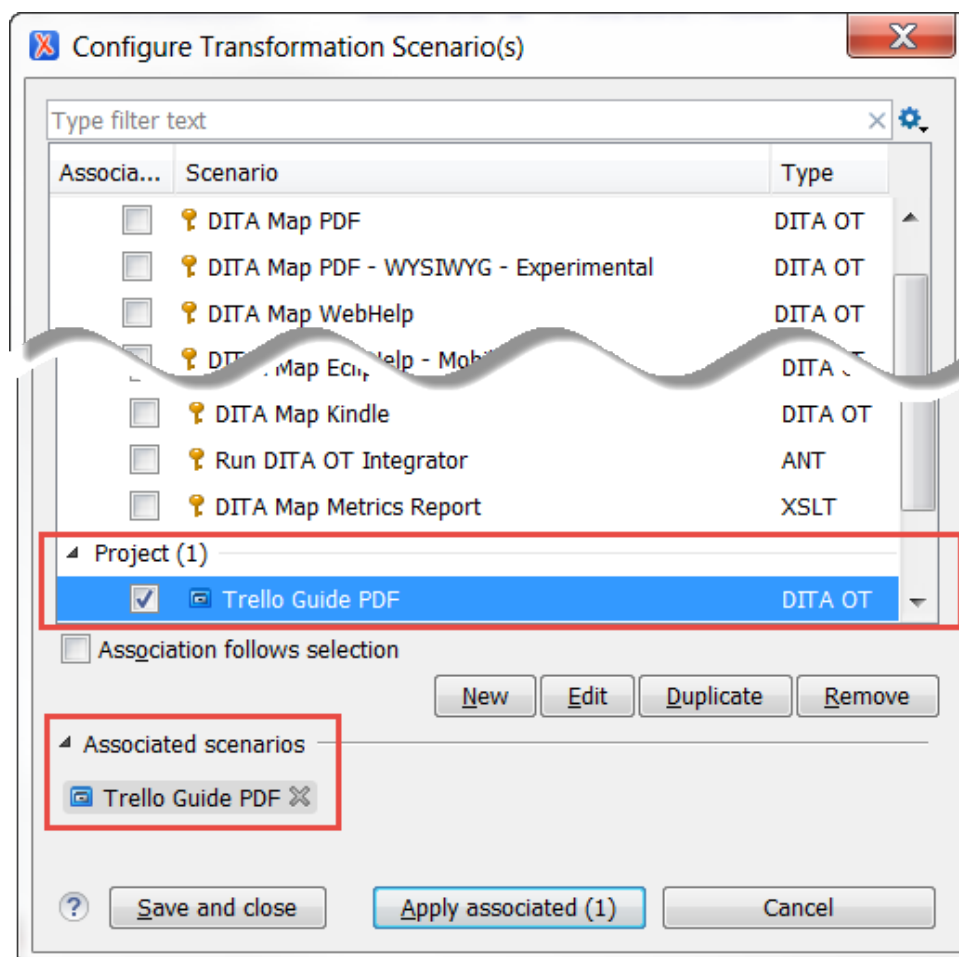


4. Make sure the checkbox for the new scenario is selected and click **Apply associated**.

   oXygen generates the PDF output and opens it when ready.

   ⚠️ **Caution:** Remember to close the PDF or save it somewhere else, before trying to generate it again, as open PDFs cannot be overwritten and the publication will fail.

To publish the associated scenarios with just one click from an open ditamap, click the button **Apply Transformation Scenario(s)** in the Map Manager toolbar.
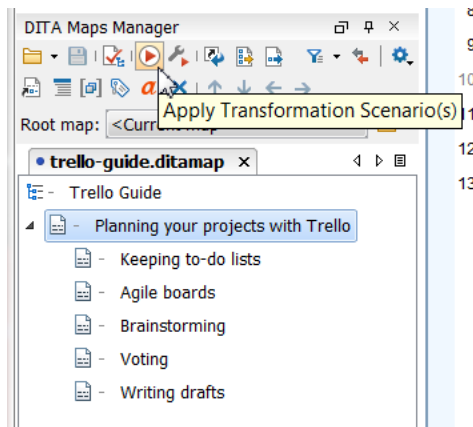


Here is the output of the skeleton project. It contains a cover, a TOC with the proper hierarchy and the titles we added in the navtitle attributes instead of the actual content:
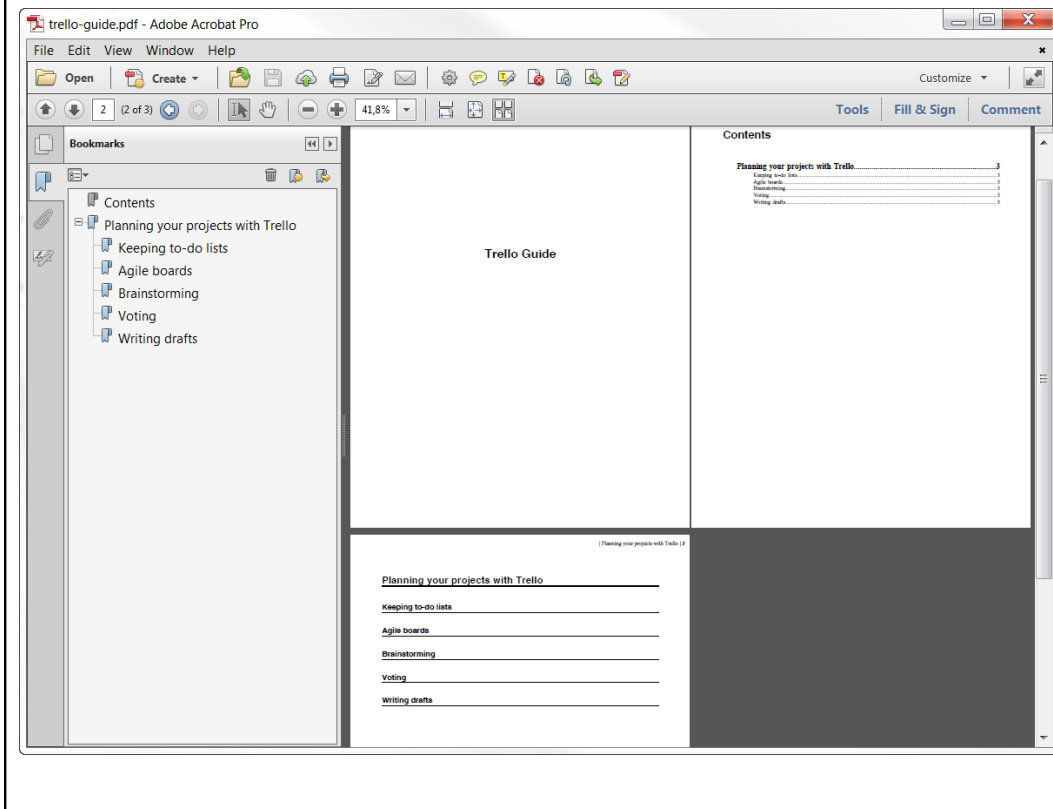


## Create topics

Let's create the actual topic files and add them to the map. We'll just type the titles and eventually a command or paragraph in the topics. You can discover the DITA elements and try editing topic contents later.

1. In the **Project** view, right-click the `source` folder and select **New** > **File**.
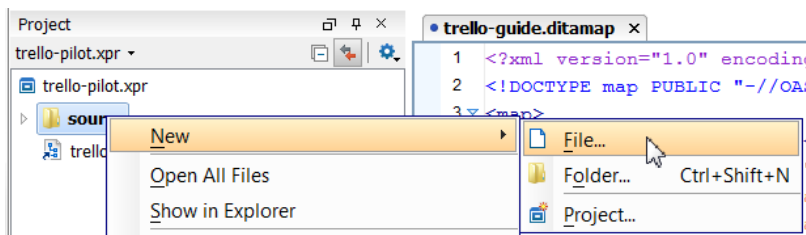


2. In the **New** dialog, type a file name (a) for the new topic, select a topic type (b) and click **Create** (c).
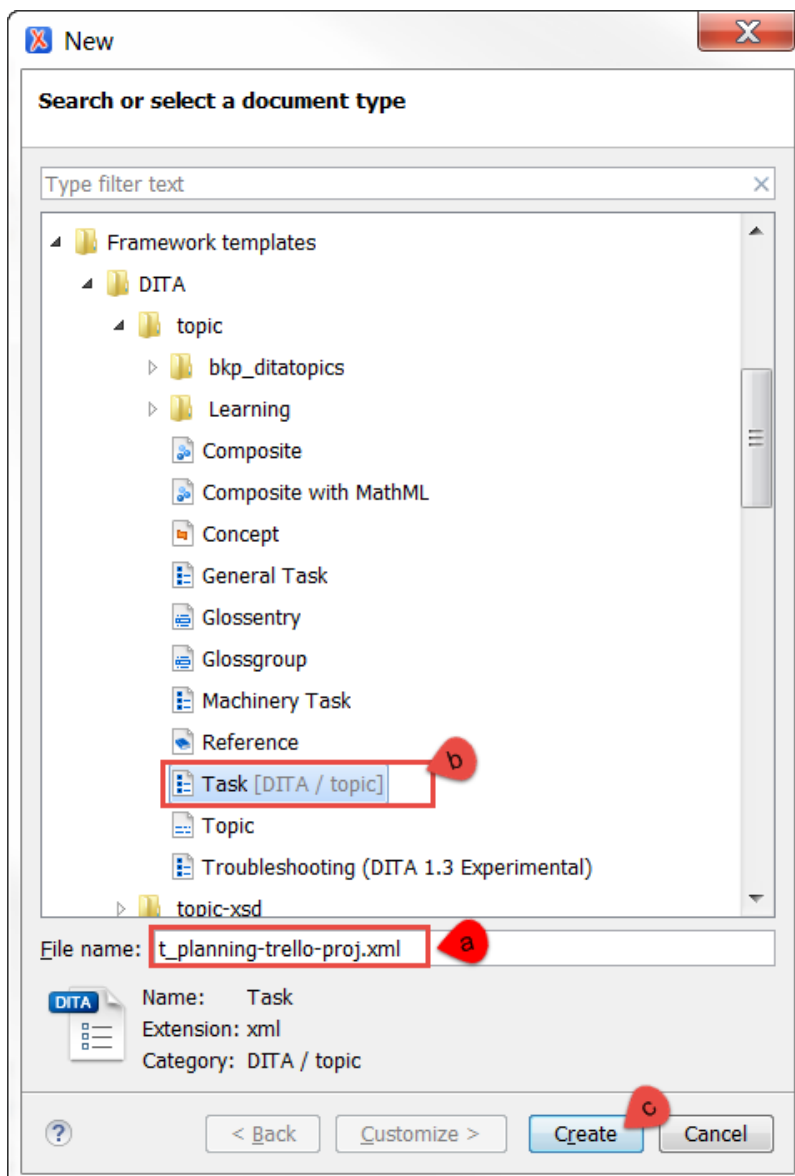


In this example, we are creating the first task, so we should start the filename with the `t_` prefix. You may notice I use the `.xml` extension, but you may also keep the `.dita` extension.

As topic type, we select **Task** under **Framework templates** > **DITA** > **topic**.

> 📝 **Note:** Don't worry, these types will stay on top of the list, once you've used them. You don't have to look for them every time. You can also use the filter field.

The new task opens in the Editor:
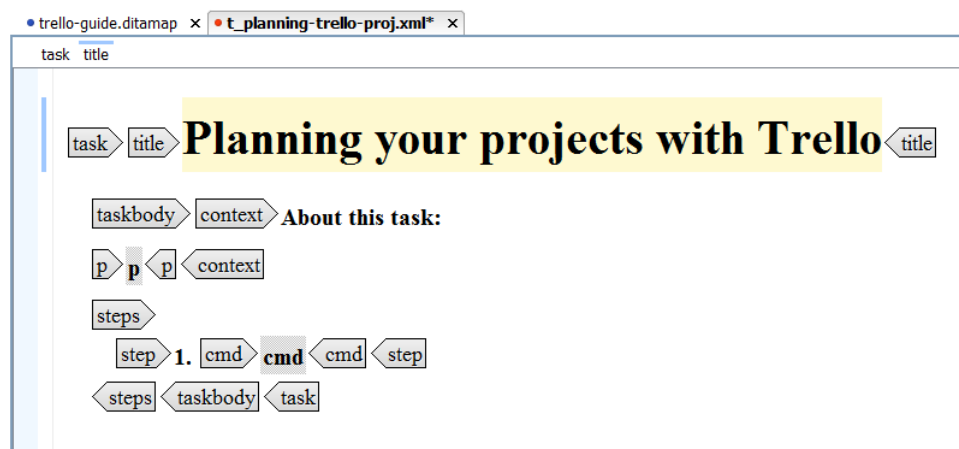


3. Type the title as you planned it in the outline, for example `Planning your projects with Trello`.
4. Just to have something new to see in the output, type an instruction in the first `cmd` element, for example `Log in to Trello`.



5. Press **Ctrl+S** to save the changes.
6. To add the actual task to the map, we have to identify the corresponding `topicref` element and add the link to the file location (as `href` attribute).



You can just type `href=""` and drag-and-drop the file from the **Project** view.

**7.** Press **Ctrl+S** to save the change and try the one-click publication to check the PDF output again.

> You should see the content of the new task in the generated PDF.
>
> 
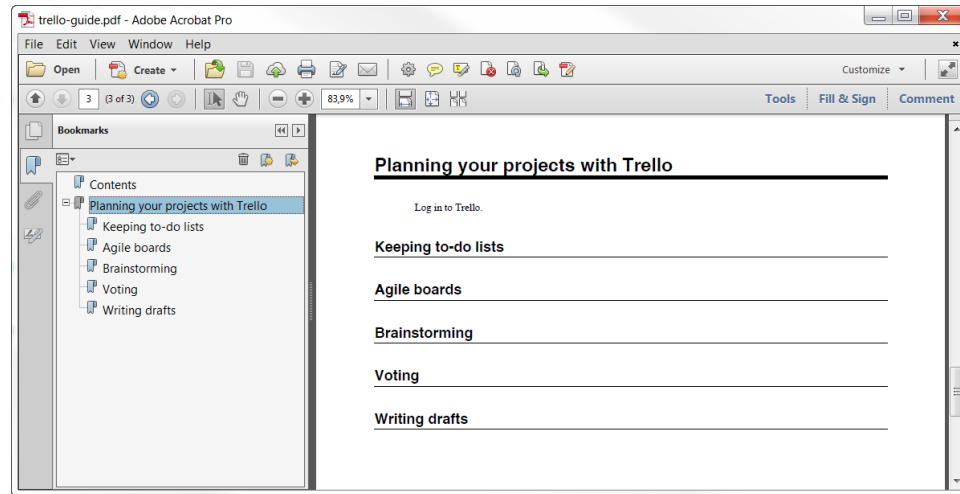
Create more topics, edit the title and a first paragraph in each topic, add the topics to the map and publish again to see your results.