

Case Study

# Helping Wrycan and NFPA reduce publishing costs and create new digital products

## Challenge

To help the NFPA reduce the time and labour needed to compare hundreds and thousands of pages when a standard or code is updated.

## Solution

Wrycan delivered a solution which integrated XML Compare with their Content Base product. This allows NFPA to manage all of their content in a single repository, adding automated comparisons in a product-agnostic form.

## Results



Reduced the time to create each new publication from 70 hours to less than 1 hour



A total labour saving close to 3500 hours



New interactive HTML versions of the publications are now being planned



*Senior technical specialists at Wrycan carried out detailed evaluations of the available technologies and concluded the best results and lowest project risk would be achieved by integrating XML Compare from DeltaXML.*



The NFPA is a major standards body in the USA and has a catalogue of around 300 fire and electrical safety codes and standards. In print form they are typically hundreds or even thousands of pages long.

When a standard or code is updated, typically every three to five years, many of their customers – including officials, professionals and training and certification bodies – need to know exactly what has changed. The NFPA publishes detailed documents, ‘Redlines’, which compare the current and previous editions of a specific standard or code. In the past they were prepared manually, taking many hours of painstaking work, so it was only practical to create them for their top fifty publications and only in traditional form, not as interactive HTML products.

## Challenge

The NFPA had tried to reduce this manual effort with different approaches. Tracking changes during the complex editorial process proved unwieldy, while adding change markers was prone to errors. Programmatic approaches looked promising, but quickly went wrong or became unreliable, for example when sections were renumbered or similar phrases were repeated in different sections.

As they embarked on a project to streamline digital product creation, they asked their chosen technology partner, Wrycan, to provide a fully integrated solution to automate comparing and differencing.

## Build or buy

With their substantial expertise in publishing technology, Wrycan evaluated existing differencing products against the cost of developing the capability in-house.

They recognised the NFPA wanted flexibility, rather than adapting their working to suit the product; they needed fine control of the differencing for different situations; and there were numerous complex scenarios that it needed to handle.



When producing the print version of their Redline products, the change markup and storage approach used by Wrycan and DeltaXML ensures the pagination of the final document is preserved perfectly from the original safety code or standards document.



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is a global nonprofit organization, established in 1896, devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. NFPA delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering our mission. NFPA membership totals more than 50,000 individuals around the world.



Founded in 2003, Wrycan, Inc. delivers Content Engineering services and technology to publishers and content producers. Wrycan's Content Engineering solution bridges the gap between content production and digital delivery. Companies building web and mobile platforms leverage our turn-key solution to successfully deliver content to their customers.

Senior technical specialists at Wrycan carried out detailed evaluations of the available technologies and concluded the best results and lowest project risk would be achieved by integrating XML Compare from DeltaXML.

## Solution

Wrycan delivered a project which combined their Content Base product with XML Compare. This allows the NFPA to manage all of their content in a single repository, adding automated comparisons in a product-agnostic form.

Comparisons are made on the source content and saved in the same place. This allows NFPA staff to generate different products using the exact same difference data, including printed documents and HTML editions.

For HTML products, the system automatically applies styling to each change, in a way that is familiar to users of the printed publications. It also includes the capability to provide more comprehensive change indicators, including toggling the view of all deletions, additions and other changes.

When producing the print version of their Redline products, the change markup and storage approach used by Wrycan and DeltaXML ensures the pagination of the final document is preserved perfectly from the original safety code or standards document.

## Results

With an automated differencing capability, the NFPA has reduced the time to create each new Redline publication from seventy hours to less than one hour. Across the current Redline catalogue of fifty products, this means a total labour saving close to 3500 hours.

With the resources freed-up by this new system, the NFPA has now started creating Redline products for all of their 300 publications.

They are also planning new, interactive HTML versions of the series. Thanks to the product-agnostic approach of Content Base and XML Compare, these new products will also be generated automatically, with a fraction of the resources previously required.

△ 11.5.2.3 Kerosene heaters shall be accordance with UL 647, *Standard for Room Heaters and Portable Heaters*, and the following:

- (1) Adequate ventilation shall be provided.
- (2) Kerosene heaters shall not be placed in a room with a combustible ceiling.
- (3) Kerosene heaters shall be located (0.9 m) from combustible furnishings.
- (4) Only approved Type 1-K water

△ 6.1.14.1.1 Multiple occupancies shall comply with the requirements of 6.1.14.1 and one of the following:

- (1) Mixed occupancies — 6.1.14.3
- (2) Separated occupancies — 6.1.14.4 [101:6.1.14.1.1]

6.1.14.1.2 Where exit access from another occupancy, the multiple occupancies shall be treated as a mixed occupancy. [101:6.1.14.1.2]

△ 6.1.14.1.3\* Where incidental to another occupancy, the multiple occupancies shall be treated as follows shall be permitted to be treated as follows:



Whether you are working with documents, data or code, DeltaXML gives you the most reliable, efficient XML based comparison and merge. Working within the structure of your XML, it focuses on real, significant changes, not wasting your time with irrelevant differences. Its comprehensive API and configurable output types make DeltaXML perfect for integration into your document management systems or embedding into your own commercial products.

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