Conditional text in FrameMaker

Making manuals modular

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Introduction

- Really useful FrameMaker feature
- Allows you to create multiple books or other documents from one Frame book

Agenda

- Benefits of conditionals
- Planning conditional use
- Using conditionals

Overview

Special customer features

Online help

Similar product models

Frame file

Print/PDF book

Interrupted product releases

Review copy
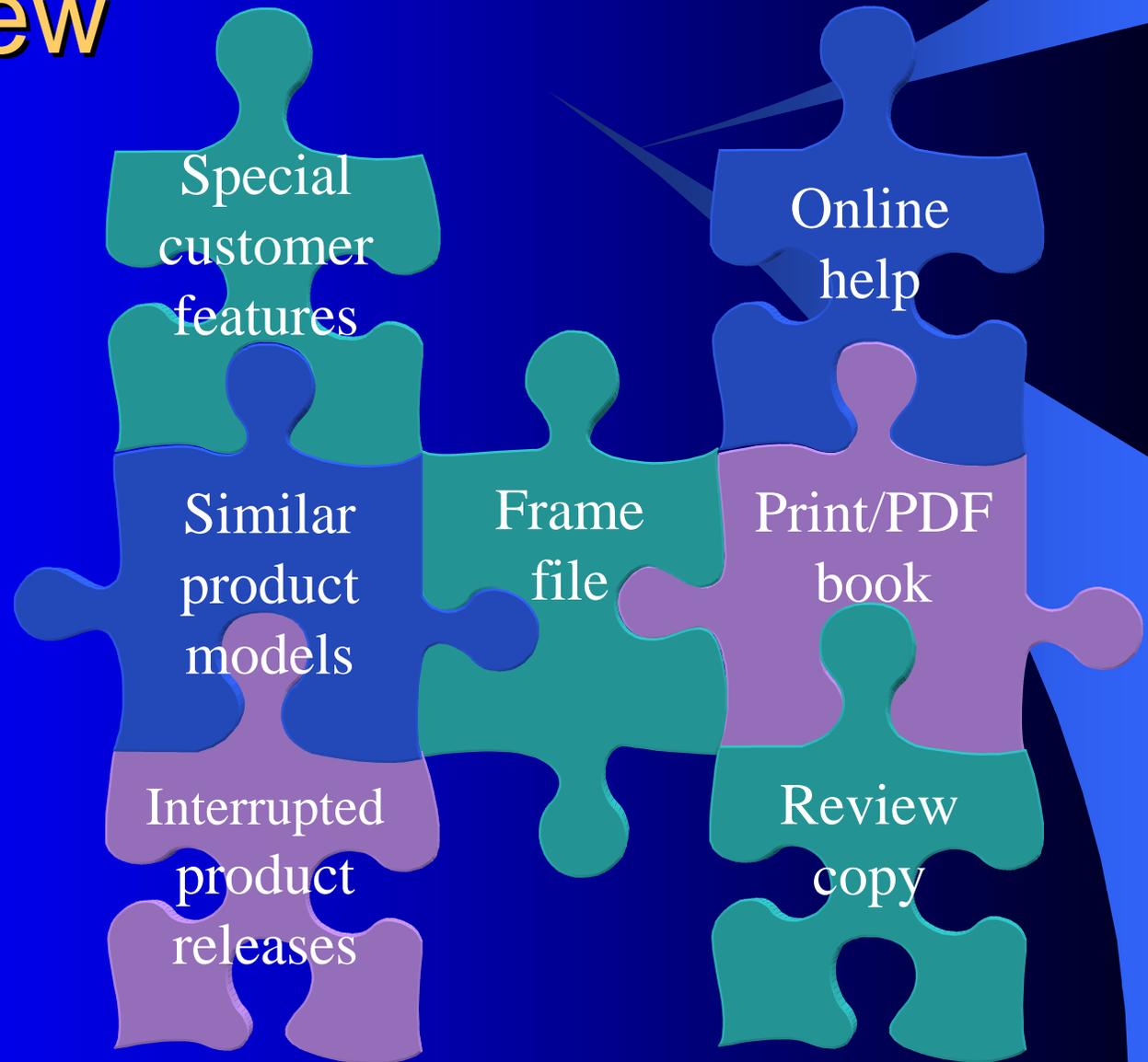
Benefits

- Reduce work when updating manuals
- Reduce number of source files
- Customize output for customer needs
- Facilitate technical reviews

Planning conditional use

- Examine similarities and differences between content
  - Related hardware, but different models
  - Product has different functionality set for various customers
  - New release version
    - Source code control
    - FrameMaker conditionals
  - Different media: PDF/print vs. online help

Planning conditional use

- Examine size of differing content
  - Particular words, such as model number: use variable
  - Entire chapter: use separate book files pointing to subsets of chapters
  - Somewhere between: use conditionals

Planning conditional use

- How many versions of the finished document?
  - Print and online help
  - Product shipped with and without KitchenSink feature
  - V3.0 and V4.0 exist and have been released. Future versions may be V3.1 and V4.1.

How many conditions?

- Print and online help
  - ⬛ Print
  - ⬜ Online

The online helpThis help system contains…

How many conditions?

- Product shipped with and without KitchenSink feature

  ☐ KitchenSink

  🟥 NoKitchenSink

The KitchenSink allows you to…This system does not include the KitchenSink. To order, please contact your sales rep.

How many conditions?

- V3.0 and V4.0 exist and have been released. Future versions may be V3.1 and V4.1.
  - ☐ V3
  - 🟥 V4

To tweak the frabnitz, do it the hard way. use the nifty wizard.

How many conditions?

- You have questions for a technical reviewer that you want shown only in the review copy
  ▣ Comment

Turn the frabnitz clockwise. Is clockwise correct? I'm guessing here.

Dealing with multi-dimensional conditions

- Don't apply two conditions to same text
- If you apply both Print and KitchenSink:
  - Might expect this behavior:
    Shown if *both* Print *and* KitchenSink is set
  - Actual behavior:
    Shown if *either* Print *or* KitchenSink is set

How many conditions?

- Print and online versions both with KitchenSink and without (4 versions = up to 8 conditions)

	Print	Online
KitchenSink	Print KitchenSink	Online KitchenSink
No KitchenSink	Print No KitchenSink	Online No KitchenSink

Things to standardize

- Condition naming
  - What's included when this condition is on?
- Variables vs. conditionals
- Conditionalizing punctuation and spaces
- Sequence of conditionals in text

Using conditionals

- Working with conditions
- Creating a condition
- Viewing and hiding conditions
- Viewing conditional settings
- Applying a condition
- Removing all conditions
- Searching for conditions
- Working with conditional documents

Working with conditions

- Special → Conditional Text

Conditional Text

Current Selection Is:

- ⦿ Unconditional
- ○ Conditional

In:	Not In:	As Is:
	Comment	

[<---] [--->]

[Apply] [Edit Condition Tag...] [Show/Hide...]
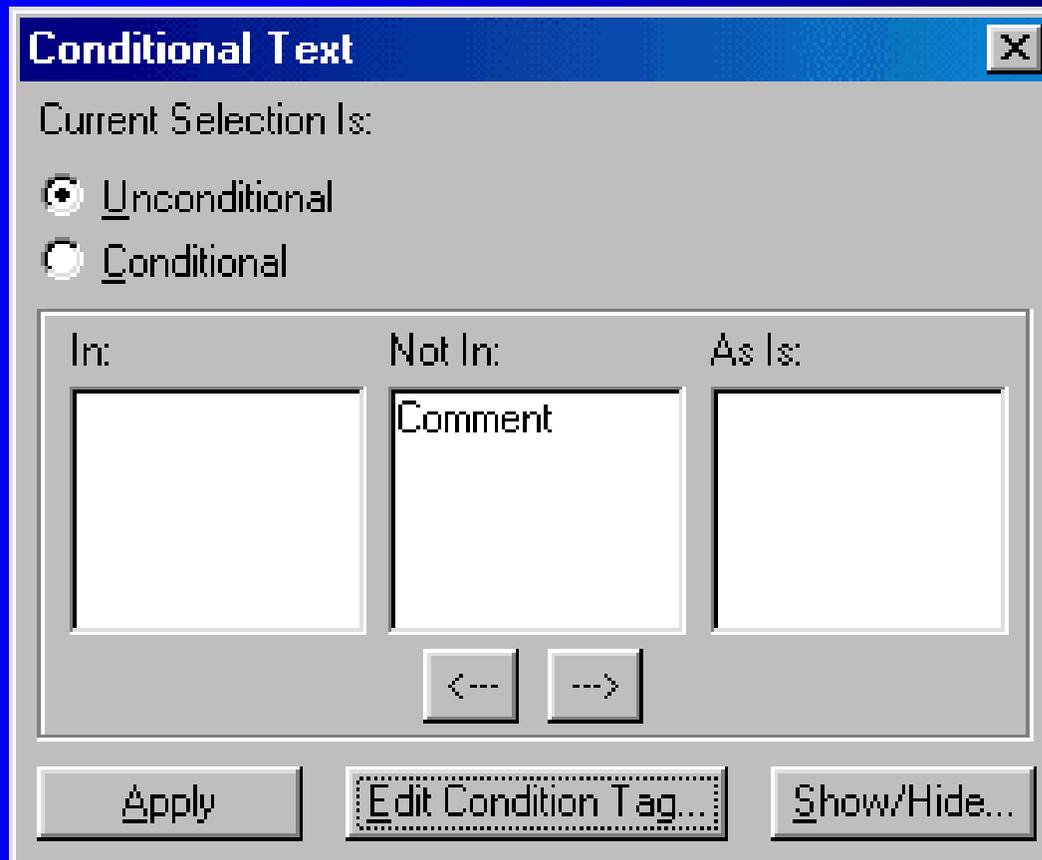
Working with conditions

- Columns: In,   Not In, As Is
- Think of: Yes,   No,   Maybe

Current Selection Is:

○ Unconditional

○ Conditional

In: Not In: As Is:

Comment

<--   -->

Creating a condition

1. Click Edit Condition Tag button
2. Type condition name
3. Select display styles
4. Click Set

Conditional Text

Current Selection Is:

Edit Condition Tag

Tag: KitchenSink

Condition Indicators:

Style: Double Underli ▼   Color: Magenta ▼

Set   Delete   Cancel

Apply   Edit Condition Tag...   Show/Hide...
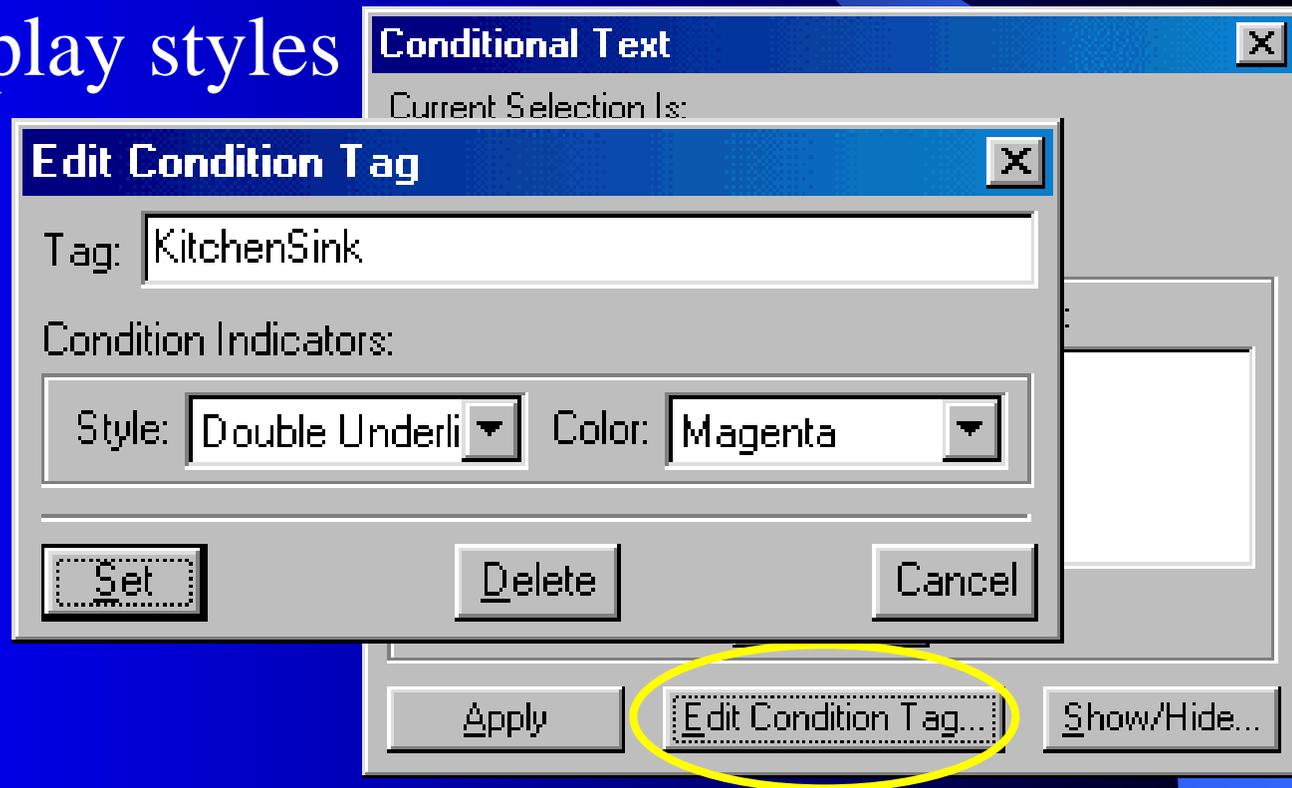
Viewing and hiding conditions

1. Click Show/Hide button
2. For editing, Show All and Show Condition Indicators

Viewing and hiding conditions

- For printing, Show only certain conditions and hide Condition Indicators

Viewing setting of selected text

- Status bar

(KitchenSink) Flow: A ¶: H1 Body

- Special → Conditional Text

Conditional Text

Current Selection Is:

- ○ Unconditional
- ● Conditional

In:	Not In:	As Is:
KitchenSink	Comment No KitchenSink	

<--- --->

Apply   Edit Condition Tag...   Show/Hide...

Applying a condition manually

1. Select text, marker, anchor, or table row
2. Special → Conditional Text
3. Move condition to In column
4. Click Apply

Conditional Text

Current Selection Is:

○ Unconditional
● Conditional

In:	Not In:	As Is:
KitchenSink	Comment No KitchenSink	

<--   -->

Apply   Edit Condition Tag...   Show/Hide...
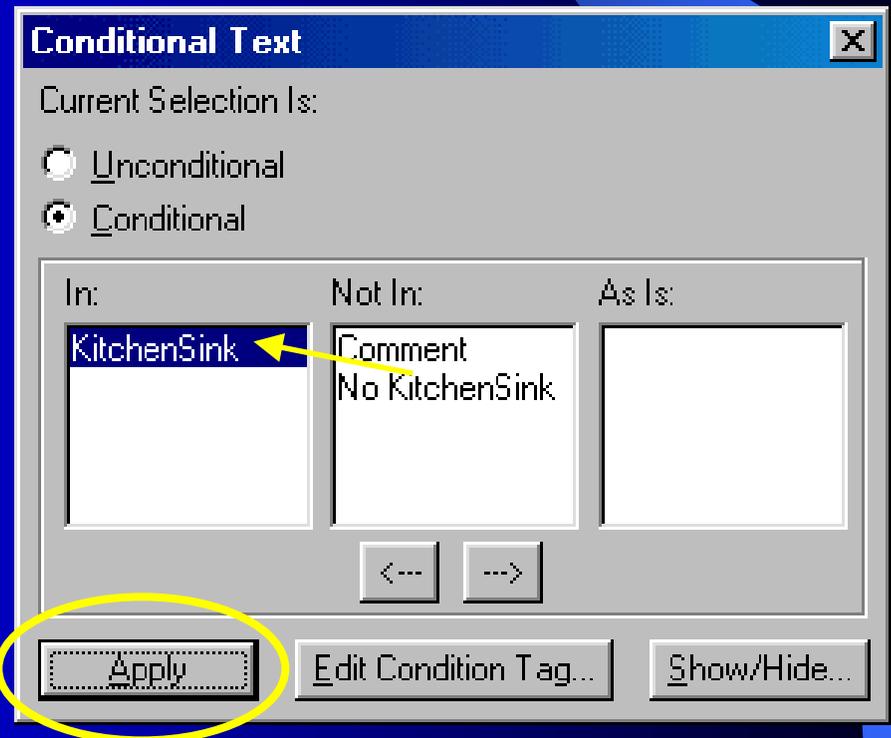
Applying a condition by pasting

1. Select text with condition you want to use
2. Edit → Copy Special → Conditional Text Settings
3. Find or select text to receive condition
4. Edit → Paste

Removing conditions

1. Select conditional text
2. Special → Conditional Text
3. Select Unconditional
4. Click Apply

Current Selection Is:
- ◉ Unconditional
- ○ Conditional
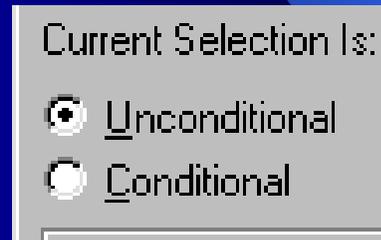
Moving conditions to Not In column and applying doesn't work

Searching for conditions

- Edit → Find/Change
- Select Conditional Text
- Move desired condition to In column
- Click Set
- Click Find

Find/Change

Find [Conditional Text...] [   ]

☐ Consider Case ☐ Whole Word ☑ Use Wildcards ☐ Find Backward

Change [By Pasting] [   ]

☐ Clone Case Look in: ⦿ Book ○ Document ○ Selection

[Find] [Change] [Change & Find] [Change All]
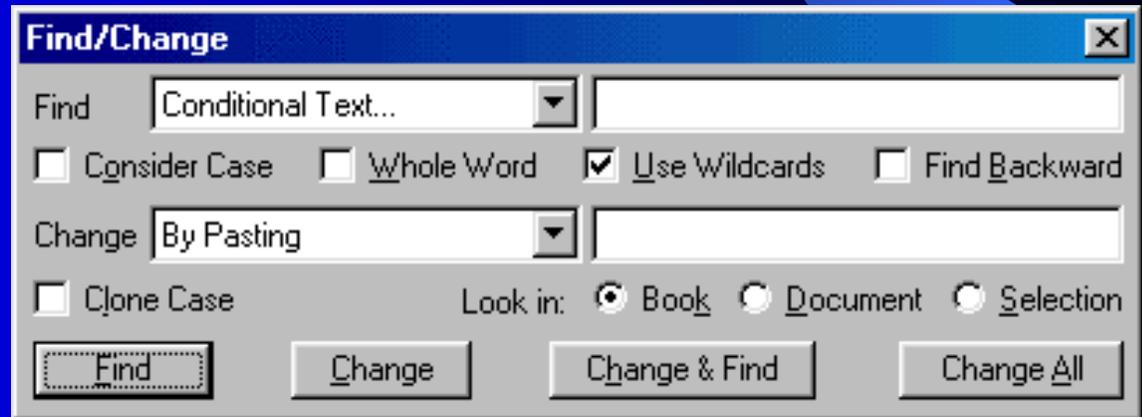
Change by Pasting in Find/Change can apply conditional settings on clipboard

Working with conditional documents

- Editing and spell checking: Show all conditions and condition indicators
- To switch settings, import conditional text settings into all files in book
- Avoid using forced page break overrides where possible – use pagination properties instead
- Always update book after making final Show/Hide settings

Next Steps

- Determine manuals that would benefit from conditional use

- Determine number of output documents and conditions

- Standardize use of conditions

For More Information

- FrameMaker manual, Chapter 15