

# The Kate Plugins Handbook



# The Kate Plugins Handbook

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## **Abstract**

This is the handbook for the plugins for Kate, KDE's Advanced Text Editor.

# Chapter 1

## Kate plugins

Kate plugins are additional functions for the Kate editor. They can add extra menus and shortcuts, and extend Kate's features. You can install as many or as few as you like, from within Kate. Open Kate's configuration dialog with Settings → Configure Kate.... Select Application → Plugins to choose the wanted plugins.

More information on using Kate and enabling the plugins you want is available in the Kate handbook.

The plugins installed in this handbook are:

- [XML Completion](#)
- [XML Validation](#)
- [Insert Command](#)
- [HTML Tools](#)
- [Open Header](#)
- [Text Filter](#)
- [File Templates](#)

## Chapter 2

# Introduction

XML Completion Daniel Naber 2006-05-17 3.5.2

### **Abstract**

This plugin supports writing XML files by listing allowed tags and more.

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This plugin gives hints about what is allowed at a certain position in an XML file, according to the file's DTD. It will list possible elements, attributes, attribute values or entities, depending on the cursor position (e.g. all entities are listed if the character on the left of the cursor is '&'). It's also possible to close the nearest open tag on the left.

The DTD must exist in XML format, as produced by the Perl program **dtdparse**. We will call a DTD in this format 'meta DTD'. Some meta DTDs are supplied. They are installed in `$KDEDIR/share/apps/katexmltools/`, which is also the default folder when you choose Assign Meta DTD.... To produce your own meta DTDs, get **dtdparse** from <http://dtdparse.sourceforge.net>.

### 2.1 How to Use

Start Kate and open the configuration dialog under Settings → Configure Kate.... Then select Kate XML Completion which will appear in the Application/Plugins section and close the dialog. After that, select XML → Assign Meta DTD.... If your document contains no 'DOCTYPE' or the doctype is unknown, you'll have to select a meta DTD from the file system. Otherwise the meta DTD that matches the current document's DOCTYPE will be loaded automatically.

You can now use the plugin while typing your text:

**< (less than key)** This will trigger a list of possible elements unless the cursor is inside a tag already. Note that you currently cannot use this to insert the top level element (e.g. '<html>').

**" (quote key)** The quote key will trigger a list of possible attribute values (if there are some) if you are inside a tag.

**(space key)** This key will trigger a list of possible attributes for the current element if you are inside a tag.

**& (ampersand key)** This key will trigger a list of named entities.

### 2.2 Features and Limitations

You can test all functions and limitations by loading `$KDEDIR/share/apps/katexmltools/testcases.xml` into Kate and following the instructions. Note that working with more than one view per document is not yet correctly supported by this plugin.

### 2.3 Menu Structure

**XML → Insert Element... (Ctrl+Return)** This will open a dialog that lets you insert an XML element. The <, > characters and the closing tag will be inserted automatically. If you have selected text when this menu item is selected, the selected text will be surrounded by the opening and the closing tag. The dialog also offers completion of all elements that may be inserted at the current cursor position if you have assigned a meta DTD by using Assign Meta DTD....

**XML → Close Element (Ctrl+<)** This will search your text for a tag that is not yet closed and will close it by inserting the corresponding closing tag. The search starts at the cursor position and goes left. If it cannot find an open tag nothing will happen.

**XML → Assign Meta DTD...** This will tell the plugin which meta DTD to use for the current document. Note that this assignment will not be saved. You will have to repeat it when you start Kate the next time.

## 2.4 Thanks and Acknowledgments

Kate Plugin 'XML Completion' copyright 2001,2002 Daniel Naber [daniel.naber@t-online.de](mailto:daniel.naber@t-online.de).

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## Chapter 3

# Introduction

XML Validation Daniel Naber 2006-05-17 3.5.2

### **Abstract**

This plugin checks XML files for well-formedness and validity.

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This plugin checks the current file. A list of warnings and errors will appear at the bottom of Kate's main window. You can click on an error message to jump to the corresponding place in the file. If the file has a 'DOCTYPE' the DTD given with this doctype will be used to check the file for validity. The DTD is expected at a position relative to the current file, e.g. if the doctype refers to 'DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd' and the file is `/home/peter/test.xml` the DTD is expected to be located at `/home/peter/DTD/xhtml1-transitional-.dtd`. However, remote DTDs specified via http are supported.

If the file has no doctype it will be checked for well-formedness.

To learn more about XML check out the [official W3C XML pages](#).

Internally this plugin calls the external command `xmllint`, which is part of `libxml2`. If this command is not correctly installed on your system, the plugin will not work.

### NOTE

A temporary file needs to be written to the same folder as the file that should be checked, so you need to have write access to that folder.

To load this plugin open Kates configuration dialog under Settings → Configure Kate... Then select Kate XML Validation which will appear in the Application/Plugins section and close the dialog.

## 3.1 Menu Structure

XML → Validate XML This will start the check, as described above.

## 3.2 Thanks and Acknowledgments

Kate Plugin 'XML Validation' copyright 2002 Daniel Naber [daniel.naber@t-online.de](mailto:daniel.naber@t-online.de).

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## **Chapter 4**

# **Introduction**

Insert Command Anders Lund 2006-05-17 3.5.2

### **Abstract**

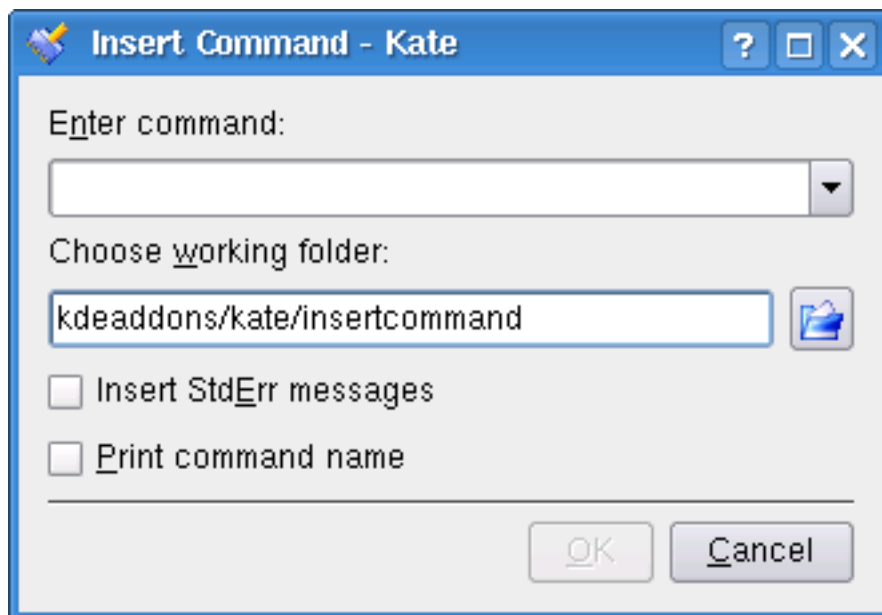
The 'Insert Command' plugin allows you to insert shell command output into a document open in Kate.

The 'Insert Command' plugin allows you to insert shell command output into a document open in Kate.

First enable the 'Insert Command' plugin by using the Settings → Configure Kate... dialog and checking Kate InsertCommand in the Application Plugins section and close the dialog.

## 4.1 Onscreen Fundamentals

To use the plugin, select Insert Command... from the Tools menu, which will present you with a small dialog for entering the command, choosing a working folder and selecting whether to include errors (STDERR output) in the inserted text. You can also have the command string printed above the output.



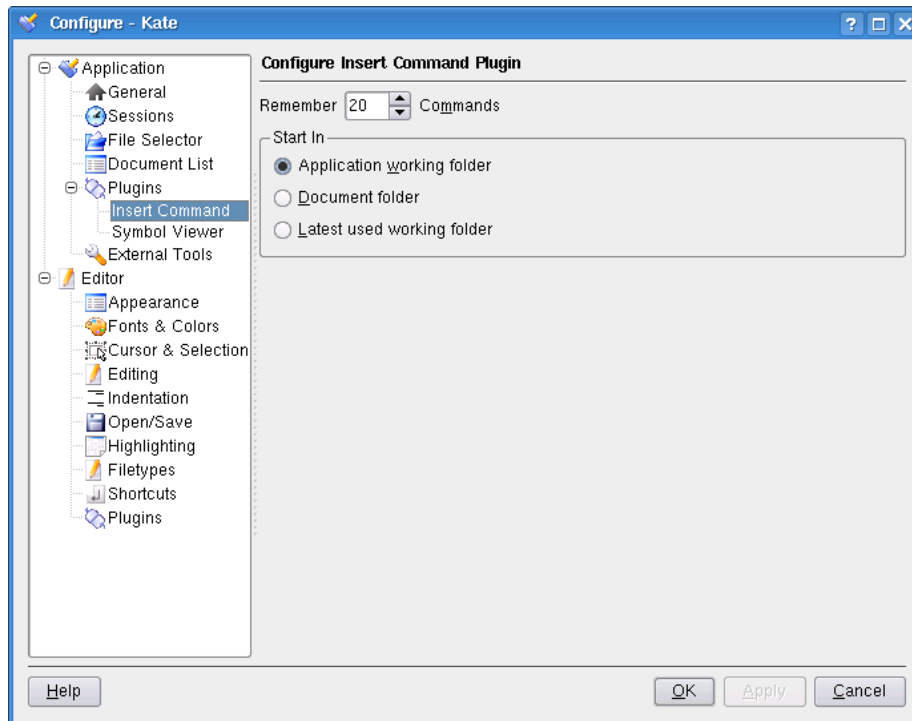
The plugin can remember a number of commands as chosen in the configuration page. These are used for autocompletion, and can be selected from a list in the command entry.

By default, the command will be run in the working folder of the kate process, which is usually your home folder. This can be changed in the configuration page for the plugin.

Note that any shell command that requires user input (for example passwd) or uses a ncurses interface or something similar (for example top) will fail to produce the expected output.

## 4.2 Configuration

To configure the 'Insert Command' plugin, open the Kate configuration dialog from the Settings → Configure Kate... menu and choose Plugins+Insert Command .



The following configuration options are available:

**Number of commands to remember** This setting is presented as a spinbox which you can set to the number of commands to be remembered. Any number from 0 to 99 is legal. Default is 20.

**Default Working Folder** This setting, presented as a set of radio buttons, allows you to decide how the working folder of a command is chosen. The options are the working folder of the Kate process (usually your home folder when Kate is started from the K menu), the folder of the document (if any, otherwise the above option is used) or the working folder of the last command run in the plugin.

## 4.3 Thanks and Acknowledgments

Kate Plugin 'Insert Command' copyright 2001 Anders Lund [anders@alweb.dk](mailto:anders@alweb.dk).

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## Chapter 5

# Introduction

HTML Tools Francis Giannaros 2002-05-15 1.00.00

### **Abstract**

A plugin to help with the insertion of HTML elements.

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This plugin will open a dialog which will prompt you for a HTML tag name. Attributes and values to be put in the opening tag should be entered *attribute-name="attribute-value"*. After pressing **Enter**, the opening `--` and respective closing `--` tag will be placed into the document.

### 5.1 Menu Structure

**Tools** → **HTML Tag...** This will open the dialogue as described above.

### 5.2 Thanks and Acknowledgments

Kate Plugin 'HTML Tools' copyright 2002 Joseph Wenninger [kde@jowenn.at](mailto:kde@jowenn.at).

Documentation copyright 2005 Francis Giannaros

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## Chapter 6

# Introduction

**Open Header** The Kate plugin 'Open Header' currently has no documentation. If you are interested in rectifying that situation, please contact Lauri Watts [lauri@kde.org](mailto:lauri@kde.org), KDE's Documentation Team coordinator.

## Chapter 7

# Introduction

**Text Filter** The Kate plugin 'Text Filer' currently has no documentation. If you are interested in rectifying that situation, please contact Lauri Watts [lauri@kde.org](mailto:lauri@kde.org), KDE's Documentation Team coordinator.

## Chapter 8

# Introduction

File Templates Anders Lund 2006-01-10 0.1 The File Templates plug-in allows you to create files based on other files. You can use any file as a template, which will create a copy of the file with an empty URL, or use a special template file which may contain macros to fill in information like your name and email address, the current date and so on, and position the cursor at a convenient position in the new file.

Furthermore, templates located in the template folder will be presented in the menu item File → New from Template.

The plug-in also provides a method to easily create a new template from an open document.

The template folder is part of the KDE file system, and consists of at least `KDEDIR/share/applications/kate/plugins/katefiletemplates/templates` and `KDEHOME/share/applications/kate/plugins/katefiletemplates/templates`. If your `KDEDIRS` environment variable contains additional directories, those are searched for a similar subdirectory as well. If equally named templates are found, the one in the local (`KDEHOME`) folder is chosen.

### 8.1 Menu Structure

**File+New From Template → Any File...** Presents you with Open File dialog that allows you to use any file as a template. If the chosen file has the extension `katetemplate` it will be parsed for template information and macros.

**File+New From Template → Use Recent** Presents a list of files recently used as templates, represented by their URL.

**File → New From Template** The remainder of submenus contains links to templates. Click a menuitem to create a file as described by the menu item text.

**Settings** → **Manage Templates...** This will launch a dialog with a list of all templates found within the template directories, along with options to add, edit or remove templates.

## 8.2 Using a Kate Template

When creating a file from a template that contain template macros, some macros appears as editable variables in the text. Such variables appears as underlined words in the text.

The first variable will be selected, so you just have to type to edit it. If the document text contains more instances of the same variable, they are changed as you edit. To move to the next editable variable, press the TAB key. When the last variable is edited, the list is dropped, and your TAB key works as normal.

## 8.3 Creating your own templates

To create a new template, use the **Settings** → **Manage Templates Item** to launch the template management dialog. In that, click **New...** to launch the **File Template Wizard**. You will be asked for an optional file to turn into a template and prompted for template information settings, and a template file will be created for you.

Alternatively, you can create a template manually by adding template information to the top of any file, add text and macros, and save it with the `katetemplate` extension.

The template menu gets automatically updated if you chose to store your template in the template directory.

## 8.4 Editing templates

To edit a template, use the **Settings** → **Manage Templates...** Select the template you want to work on and click **Edit...**, and the template file will be opened. Close the dialog, edit the template file as desired, save it and close it. Changes to templates takes immediate effect, you can activate the template to test your changes after saving it.

## 8.5 The Kate Template Format

If you use files with the extension `katetemplate`, they will be parsed for template information, macros and a cursor position.

### 8.5.1 Template information

While reading in the file, the parser keeps lines beginning with the phrase `k-atetemplate:` and searches them for template information in the form `VARIABLENAME=VALUE`. The first line not starting with `k-atetemplate:` will be taken as the start of the template contents. `VALUE` may contain any character but equal sign (`=`). Legal variable names are:

**Template** This is the template name, displayed in the File → New from Template menu.

**Group** The group places the template in a submenu of the File → New from Template menu.

**Name** This is the name that will be set for the document, and displayed in the file list and title bar. If the name contains `%N` that will be replaced with a number, increasing if more documents has the same name.

**Highlight** The plug-in will try to set the Highlight for the new document to the value of this variable. The value should be the name, as found in the Tools → Highlighting.

**Description** A short informative description of the template. This is currently used to set a Whatsthis string for the menu item, but may be used for more purposes in the future.

**Author** A string identifying the author, for example in the form `Name <email address>`. This is currently used to set a Whatsthis string for the menu item, but may be used for more purposes in the future.

### 8.5.2 Template Macros

While parsing the template contents, macros in the form `%{NAME}` or `${NAME}` are expanded. If you use the `$` prefix, the expanded macro will be treated as a editable variable when a document is created from the template, whereas if you use `%` it is not, unless expanding failed.

The following macros are expanded:

**time** Expands to the current time in your locale format.

**date** Expands to the current date in short format.

**datetime** Expands to the current date and time, formatted as a string according to your locale.

**year** The current year as a four digit number.

**month** The full name of the current month, according to your locale.

**day** Expands to the current day of the month.

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**hostname** Expands to the 'hostname' of your computer.

**index** Expands to 'i'.

**fullname** Expands to your full name, as defined by the owner addressee in your standard KDE addressbook.

**firstname** Expands to your first name, as defined in the owner addressee in your standard KDE addressbook.

**lastname** Expands to your last name, as defined in the owner addressee in your standard KDE addressbook.

**email** Expands to your email address, as defined by the owner address in your standard KDE addressbook.

Any macro not in the above list is treated as a editable variable no matter the prefix. If the same variable occurs multiple times in the template, they can be edited at once after creating a document from the template.

### 8.5.3 Setting the cursor position

The special macro `${cursor}` will be replaced with a vertical bar and added to the end of the list of editable variables, independent on its location in the text.

## 8.6 Thanks and Acknowledgments

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## Chapter 10

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