

Project Mallard

(and other doc related stuff)



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Why do we need it?

So what does "Override server-supplied folder namespace" do?

“By choosing this option you can rename the folders that the server provides. If you select this option, you need to specify the namespace to use.”

Why do we need it? (2)

- No support for plug-ins
- Docbook offers far too much choice
- Current documentation is linear
 - When you need help, it's on a specific thing
- Distro's change GNOME but not docs

What's in the duck?



Rarian

lib.gnome.org

“Mallard Markup”

Foie Gras

Updated style guide

Project Graphite

Tracker System

Rarian

- Replaces scrollkeeper
- New meta-data format
 - But still backwards compatible
 - .desktop style format
- Allows for new goodness of markup
- Available now

lib.gnome.org

- developer.gnome.org, but better
- SoC 2006 project (Goran)
- Work is ongoing
- Don't know too much about it
- Online now

Updated Style Guide

- Current style guide is too stilted and format
- Very based towards book style, assuming people will read the manual as a technical manual
- Needs work...

Tracker System

- Don't know who's working on what
- Don't know when \$MANUAL was last updated
- Don't know status of translations (some support now)
- Volunteer(s) needed! Please?

Project Graphite

- “Making the ideal developer documentation”
- “Making the ideal user documentation”
- Creating guides for all things GNOME
 - Like Havoc's book, but for all GNOME technologies
- Not really started

Foie Gras

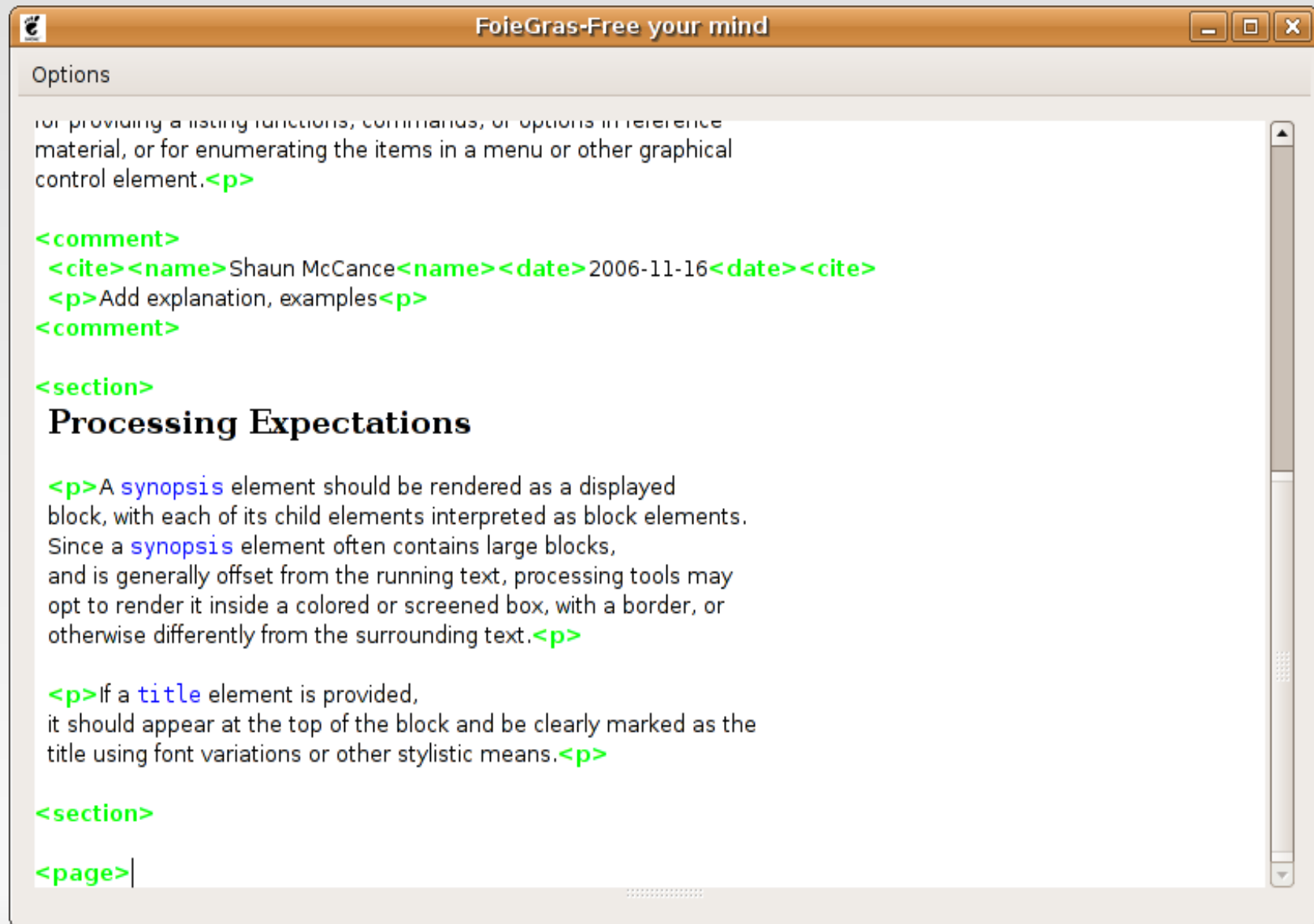
- Making documentation easy to edit
- WYSIWYG editor for Mallard markup
- SoC 2007 projects (Buddhika and Szilveszter)
- Work in progress

Mallard Markup

- “2^{infty} times easier than docbook”
- Allows dynamic linking
- Much less linear, more user-centric focus
- Work in progress (apparently)

What it all looks like

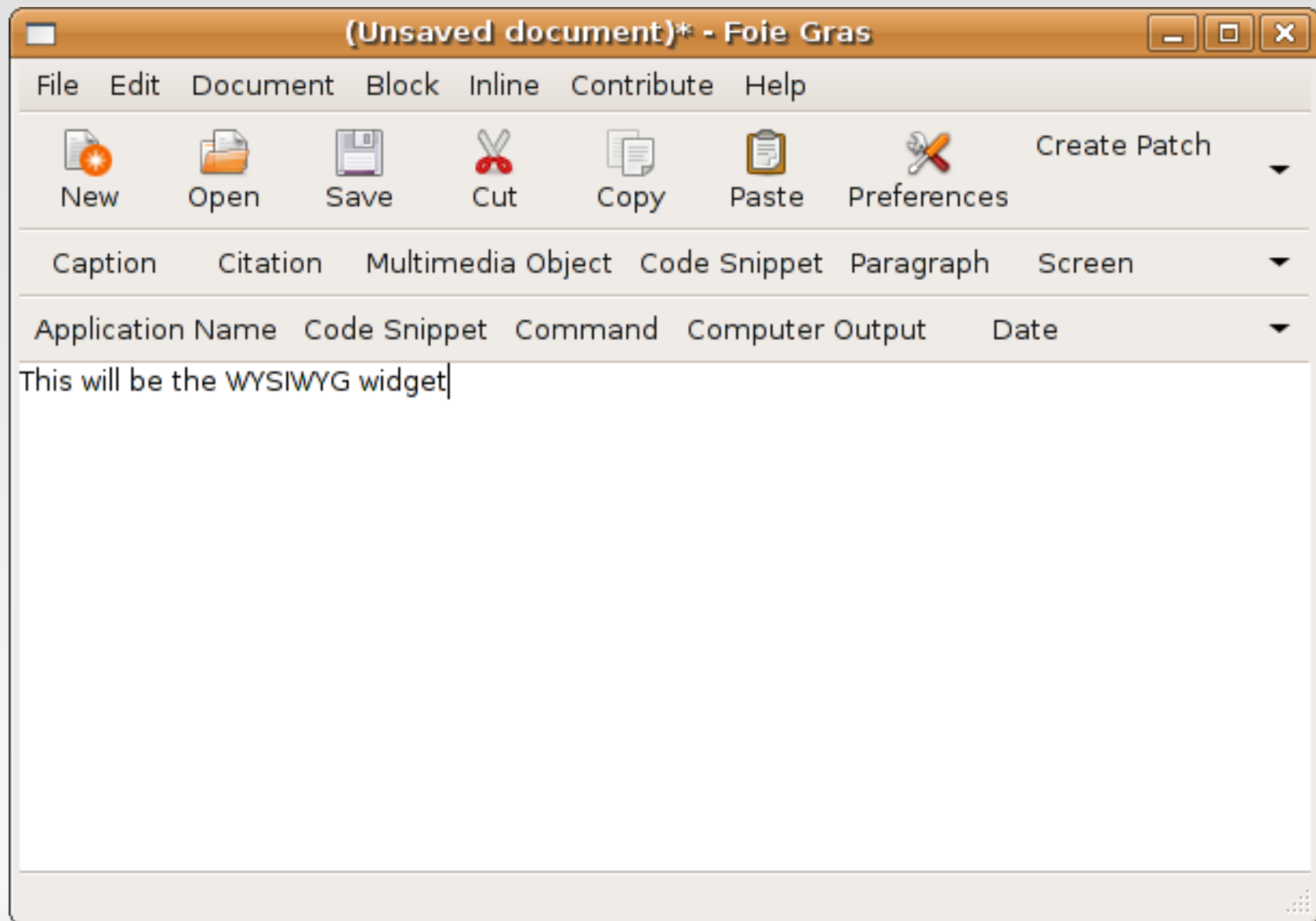
Foie Gras (1)



```
Options
for providing a listing functions, commands, or options in reference
material, or for enumerating the items in a menu or other graphical
control element.<p>
<comment>
  <cite><name>Shaun McCance<name><date>2006-11-16<date><cite>
  <p>Add explanation, examples<p>
<comment>
<section>
Processing Expectations
<p>A synopsis element should be rendered as a displayed
block, with each of its child elements interpreted as block elements.
Since a synopsis element often contains large blocks,
and is generally offset from the running text, processing tools may
opt to render it inside a colored or screened box, with a border, or
otherwise differently from the surrounding text.<p>
<p>If a title element is provided,
it should appear at the top of the block and be clearly marked as the
title using font variations or other stylistic means.<p>
<section>
<page>
```

What it all looks like

Foie Gras (2)



Rarian File

```
# Rarian meta-data
```

```
[Document]
```

```
Name=Rarian Reference Manual
```

```
Comment=Rarian is a documentation meta-data library.
```

```
This describes how to write documentation accessible  
to it and how to use the library.
```

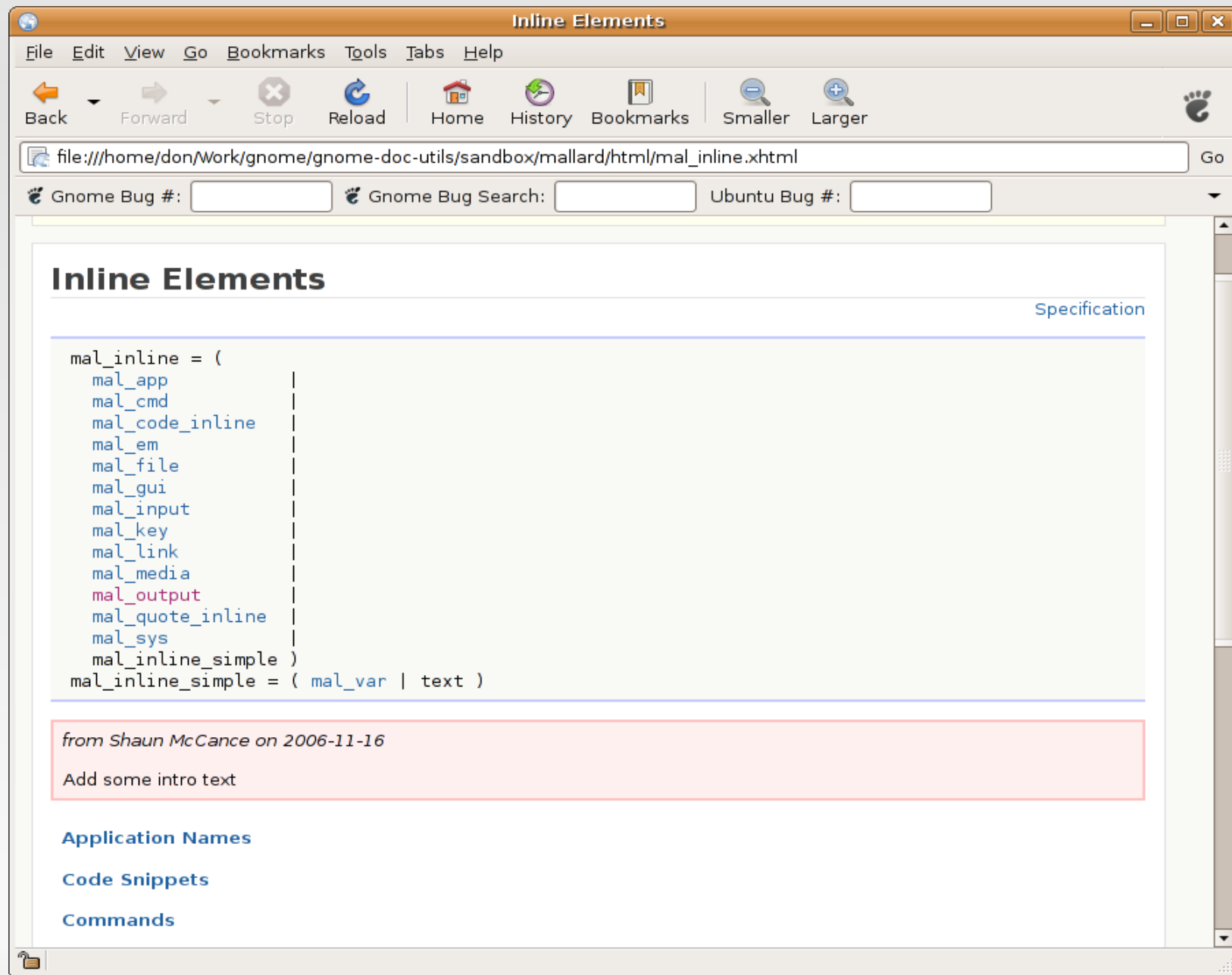
```
DocIdentifier=org.other.rarian
```

```
Categories=Development|Libraries
```

```
DocPath=/tmp/rarian1/share/librarian/manual/...  
index.xhtml
```

```
DocType=application/xhtml+xml
```

Mallard Markup



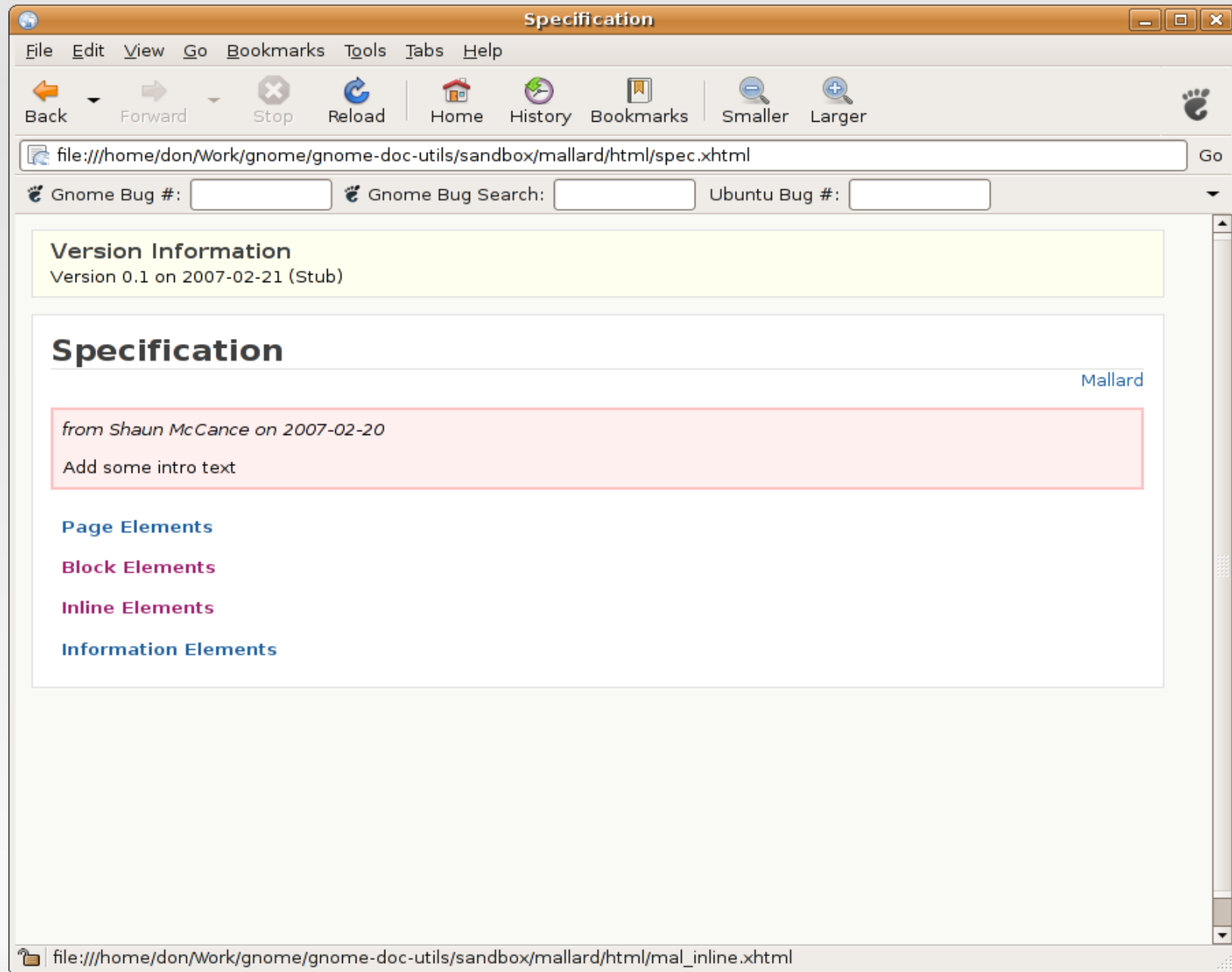
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Inline Elements". The address bar contains the file path: `file:///home/don/Work/gnome/gnome-doc-utils/sandbox/mallard/html/mal_inline.xhtml`. The browser interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Go, Bookmarks, Tools, Tabs, Help) and a toolbar with navigation buttons (Back, Forward, Stop, Reload, Home, History, Bookmarks, Smaller, Larger) and a search icon. Below the address bar are input fields for "Gnome Bug #:", "Gnome Bug Search:", and "Ubuntu Bug #:". The main content area displays the title "Inline Elements" and a "Specification" link. A code block is shown with the following content:

```
mal_inline = (  
  mal_app  
  mal_cmd  
  mal_code_inline  
  mal_em  
  mal_file  
  mal_gui  
  mal_input  
  mal_key  
  mal_link  
  mal_media  
  mal_output  
  mal_quote_inline  
  mal_sys  
  mal_inline_simple )  
mal_inline_simple = ( mal_var | text )
```

Below the code block, there is a red-bordered box containing the text: *from Shaun McCance on 2006-11-16*
Add some intro text

At the bottom of the page, there are three blue links: "Application Names", "Code Snippets", and "Commands".

Mallard Markup (2)



What we need

PEOPLE MORE

- Writers
- Hackers
- Artists
- Stylish people

TIME

- 9x6

Where to get it all

- Mallard (SVN)
 - `gnome-doc-utils/sandbox/mallard`
- FoieGras (SVN)
 - `foiegras`
- Rarian
 - <http://code.google.com/p/rarian/>
- Everything else:
 - <http://live.gnome.org/ProjectMallard>

Questions

- Why is it called Mallard?
 - shaunm likes ducks. He's strange.
- Why is it called Rarian?
 - It provides a library (librarian)
- When will it be done?
 - When it's done
- You're great. Can I buy you beer?
 - Yes. Buying beer will also speed up work (maybe).