

PRELIMINARY

SIMPLY RICH

$\mathbf{Z}\mathbf{K}^{\mathsf{TM}}$

The Developer's Reference

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1. Introduction

Welcome to ZK, the simplest way to make Web applications rich.

The Developer's Reference fully describes properties and methods of components. For concepts, features, refer to the Developer's Guide. For installation, refer to the Quick Start Guide.

2. The ZK User Interface Markup Language

Implicit Objects

For scripts (aka., zsccript) and EL expressions embedded in a ZUML page, there are a set of implicit objects that enable developers to access components more efficiently.

applicationScope - java.util.Map

A map of custom attributes associated with the Web application. It is the same as the getAttributes method in the com.potix.zk.ui.WebApp interface.

A Web application is a WAR, and each Web application has an independent set of custom attributes. These attributes are used mainly to communicate among different desktops and sessions.

If the client is based on HTTP, such as a Web browser, this is the same map of attributes stored in <code>javax.servlet.ServletContext</code>. In other words, you could use it communicate with other servlets, such as JSF.

arg - java.util.Map

The the argument passed to the createComponents method in com.potix.zk.ui.Executions class. It might be null, depending how createComponents is called.

It is the same as self.desktop.execution.arg.

```
params.put("name", "John");
Executions.createComponents("/my.zul", null, params);
```

Then, in my.zul,

```
<window title="${arg.name}">
...
```

componentScope - java.util.Map

A map of custom attributes associated with the component. It is the same as the getAttributes method in the com.potix.zk.ui.Component interface.

desktop - com.potix.zk.ui.Desktop

The current desktop. It is the same as self.desktop.

```
desktop.getPage("main");
```

desktopScope - java.util.Map

A map of custom attributes associated with the desktop. It is the same as the getAttributes method in the com.potix.zk.ui.Desktop interface.

It is mainly used to communicate among pages in the same desktop.

each - java.lang.Object

The current item of the collection being iterated, when ZK evaluates an iterative element. An iterative element is an element with the forEach attribute.

```
<listbox width="100px">
    listitem label="${each}" forEach="${contacts}"/>
    </listbox>
```

event - com.potix.zk.ui.event.Event or derived

The current event. Available for the event listener only.

```
<textbox onChanging="react(event.value)"/>
<combobox onChanging="autoComplete()"/>
<zscript>
void react(String value) {
...
}
void autoComplete() {
  String value = event.getValue();
...
}
</zscript>
```

forEachStatus - com.potix.zk.ui.util.ForEachStatus

The status of an iteration. ZK exposes the information relative to the iteration taking place when evaluating the iterative element.

page - com.potix.zk.ui.Page

The current page. It is the same as self.page.

pageScope - java.util.Map

A map of custom attributes associated with the current page. It is the same as the getAttributes method in the com.potix.zk.ui.Page interface.

self - com.potix.zk.ui.Component

The component itself. In other words, it is the closest component, depicted as follows.

```
<listbox>
  <zscript>self.getItems();</zscript><!-- self is listbox -->
  tistitem value="ab" label="${self.value}"/><!-- self is listitem -->
  <zscript>self.getSelectedIndex();</zscript><!-- self is listbox -->
  </listbox>
```

session - com.potix.zk.ui.Session

The session. It is similar to javax.servlet.http.HttpSession¹.

sessionScope - java.util.Map

A map of custom attributes associated with the session. It is the same as the <code>getAttributes</code> method in the <code>com.potix.zk.ui.Session</code> interface.

If the client is based on HTTP, such as a Web browser, this is the same map of attributes stored in <code>javax.servlet.http.HttpSession</code>. In other words, you could use it communicate with other servlets, such as JSF.

spaceOwner - com.potix.zk.ui.ext.IdSpace

The space owner of this component. It is the same as self.spaceOwner.

```
spaceScope - java.util.Map
```

A map of custom attributes associated with the ID space containing this component.

Processing Instructions

The XML processing instructions describe how to process the ZUML page. They will be processed first before processing XML elements.

The component Directive

```
<?component name="myName" macro-uri="/mypath/my.zul"</pre>
```

¹ ZK session actually encapsulates the HTTP session to make ZK applications independent of HTTP.

```
[prop1="value1"] [prop2="value2"]... ?>

<?component name="myName" [class="myPackage.myClass"]
  [extend="true"] [mold-name="myMoldName"] [mold-uri="/myMoldUri"]
  [prop1="value1"] [prop2="value2"]... ?>
```

Defines a new component. There are two formats: by-macro and by-class.

The by-macro Format

```
<?component name="myName" macro-uri="/mypath/my.zul"
[prop1="value1"] [prop2="value2"]... ?>
```

You could define a new component based on a ZUML page. It is also called the *macro component*. In other words, once an instance of the new component is created, it creates child components based on the specified ZUML page (the macro-uri attribute).

In additions, you could specify the initial properties (such as prop1 in the above example), such that they are always passed to the macro component (thru the arg variable).

The by-class Format

```
<?component name="myName" [class="myPackage.myClass"]
  [extend="true"] [mold-name="myMoldName"] [mold-uri="/myMoldUri"]
  [prop1="value1"] [prop2="value2"]...?>
```

In addition to defining a component by a ZUML page (aka., a macro component), You could define a new component by implementing a class that implements the com.potix.zk.ui.Component interface. Then, use the by-class format to declare such kind of components for a page.

To define a new component, you have to specify at least the class attribute, which is used by ZK to instantiate a new instance of the component.

In addition to defining a new component, you can override properties of existent components by specifying <code>extend="true"</code>. In other words, if <code>extend="true"</code> is specified, the previous definition of the component (with the same name) is loaded as the default value and then override only properties that are specified in this directive.

For example, assume you want to use MyWindow instead of the default window, com.potix.zul.html.Window, for all windows defined in this ZUML page. Then, you can declare it as follows.

```
<?component name="window" extend="true" class="MyWindow"?>
...
<window>
...
</window>
```

It is equivalent to the following codes.

```
<window use="MyWindow">
...
</window>
```

In addition, you could specify the properties to initialize. For example, you want to use the style class called blue for all buttons used in this page, then you could:

```
<?component name="button" extend="true" sclass="blue"?>
```

Similarly, you could use the following definition to use OK as the default label for all buttons specified in this page.

```
<?component name="button" extend="true" label="OK"?>
```

Notice that the properties won't be applied if a component is created manually (by zscript or by Java codes). If you still want them to be applied with the initialial properties, you could invoke the applyProperties method as follows.

```
<zscript>
  Button btn = new Button();
  btn.applyProperties(); //apply the initial properties
</zscript>
```

class

[Optional]

Used with the by-class format to specify the class to instantiate an instance of such kind of components.

extend

[Optional]

If specified with "true", the existent definition will be loaded to initialize the new component definition. In other words, it *extends* the existent definition instead of defining a brand-new one.

macro-uri

[Required if the by-macro format is used]

Used with the by-macro format to specify the URI of the ZUML page, which is used as the template to create components.

mold-name

[Optional][Default: default]

Used with the by-class format to specify the mold name. If mold-name is specified, mold-uri must be specified, too.

mold-uri

[Optional]

Used with the by-class format to specify the mold URI. If mold-uri is specified but mold-name is not specified, the mold name is assumed as default.

name

[Required]

The component name. If an existent component is defined with the same name, the existent component is completely invisible in this page. If the by-class format is used, the attributes of the existent components are used to initialize the new components and then override with what are defined in this processing instruction.

The init Directive

```
<?init class="..." [arg0="..."] [arg1="..."] [arg2="..."] [arg3="..."]?>
<?init zscript="..." [arg0="..."] [arg1="..."] [arg2="..."] [arg3="..."]?>
```

There are two formats. The first format is to specify a class that is used to do the application-specific initialization. The second format is to specify a <code>zscript</code> file to do the application-specific initialization.

The initialization takes place before the page is evaluated and attached to a desktop. Thus, the getDesktop, getId and getTitle method will return null, when initializing. To retrieve the current desktop, you could use the com.potix.zk.ui.Execution interface.

You could specify any number of the init directive. The specified class must implement the com.potix.zk.ui.ext.Initator interface.

```
<?init class="MyInit1"?>
<?init class="MyInit2"?>
```

class

[Optional]

A class name that must implement the com.potix.zk.ui.ext.Initator interface.

An instance of the specified class is constructed and its doInit method is called in the Page Initial phase (i.e., before the page is evaluated). The doFinally method is called after the page has been evaluated. The doCatch method is called if an exception occurs during the evaluation.

Thus, you could also use it for cleanup and error handling.

zscript

[Optional]

A script file that will be evaluated in the Page Initial phase.

arg0, arg1...

[Optional]

You could specify any number of arguments. It will be passed to the doInit method if the first format is used, or as the args variable if the second format is used. Note: the first argument is arg0, the second is arg1 and follows.

The page Directive

```
<?page [id="..."] [title="..."] [style="..."] [language="xul/html"]?>
```

It describes attributes of a page.

id

[Optional][Default: generated automatically]

Specifies the identifier of the page, such that we can retrieve it back. If an alphabetical identifier is assigned, it will be available to scripts (aka., zscript) and EL expressions embedded in ZUML pages.

```
<?page id="${param.id}"?>
```

title

[Optional][Default: none]

Specifies the page title that will be shown as the title of the browser.

It can be changed dynamically by calling the setTitle method in the com.potix.zk.ui.Page interface.

```
<?page title="${param.title}"?>
```

style

[Optional][Default: width:100%]

Specifies the CSS style used to render the page. If not specified, it depends on the mold. The default mold uses width:100% as the default value.

```
<?page style="width:100%;height:100%"?>
```

language

[Optional][Default: depending on the extension][xul/html | xhtml]

Specifies the language of this page.

Currently, it supports xul/html and xhtml.

The taglib Directive

```
<?tablib uri="/myURI" prefix="my"?>
```

This directive is used to load a taglib file, which defines a set of EL functions. The format of a taglib file is the same as that of JSP taglib files.

In the following example, we loads functions defined in core.dsp.tld and then use the function called 1.

```
<?taglib uri="/WEB-INF/tld/web/core.dsp.tld" prefix="c"?>
<window title="${c:l('my.title')}">
...
</window>
```

uri

[Required]

A URL of the taglib file. Unlike other URL and URI, it doesn't interpret \sim or * specially. And, the page and the taglib files it references must be in the same Web application.

prefix

[Required]

A prefix used to identify functions defined in this taglib file. The prefix could be any non-empty string.

The xml-stylesheet Directive

```
<?xml-stylesheet href="/myURI" [type="text/css"]?>
```

This directive is used to specify the style sheet to be loaded with this page. You could specify any number of style sheets by use of this directive.

href

[Required]

A URL of the style sheet. Like other URL and URI, it has several characteristics as follows.

1. It is relative to the servlet context path (aka., the getContextPath method from

- the javax.servlet.http.HttpServletRequest interface). In other words, ZK will prefix it with the servlet context automatically.
- 2. It resolves "~" to other Web application (aka., different ServletContext). Notice that Web server administrator might disable Web applications from peeking other's content².
- 3. It accepts "*" for loading browser and Locale dependent style sheet.

The algorithm to resolve "*" is as follows.

- 1. If there is one "*" is specified in an URL or URI such as /my*.css, then "*" will be replaced with a proper Locale depending on the preferences of user's browser. For example, user's preferences is de_DE, then ZK searches /my_de_DE.css, /my_de.css, and /my.css one-by-one from your Web site, until any of them is found. If none of them is found, /my.css is still used.
- 1. If two or more "*" are specified in an URL or URI such as "/my*/lang*.css", then the first "*" will be replaced with "ie" for Internet Explorer and "moz" for other browsers³.
 - If the last "*" will be replaced with a proper Locale as described above.
- 2. All other "*" are ignored.

type

[Optional][Default: text/css]

Specifies the type of the style sheet. Currently, it supports only text/css.

ZK Elements

ZK elements are special XML elements that are used to control ZUML pages other than creating components.

The XML Namespace

If there is name conflicts, you could specify the XML name space:

```
http://www.potix.com/2005/zk
```

```
<zk:attribute xmlns:zk="http://www.potix.com/2005/zk">
...
```

² Refer to the getContext meth from the javax.servlet.ServletContext interface.

³ In the future editions, we will use different codes for browsers other than IE and FF.

The attribute Element

```
<attribute name="myName">myValue</attribute>
```

It defines a XML attribute of the enclosing element. The content of the element is the attribute value, while the name attribute specifies the attribute name. It is useful if the value of an attribute is sophisticated, or the attribute is conditional.

```
<button label="Hi">
  <attribute name="onClick">alert("Hi") </attribute>
  </button>
```

It is equivalent to

```
<button label="Hi" onClick="alert(&quot;Hi&quot;)"/>
```

Another example:

```
<button>
<attribute name="label" if="${param.happy}">Hello World!</attribute>
</button>
```

name

[Required]

Specifies the attribute name.

if

[Optional][Default: true]

Specifies the condition to evaluate this element. This element is ignored if the value specified to this attribute is evaluated to false.

unless

[Optional][Default: false]

Specifies the condition *not* to evaluate this element. This element is ignored if the value specified to this attribute is evaluated to true.

The custom-attributes Element

```
<custom-attributes
  [scope="component|space|page|desktop|session|application]
  attr1="value1" [attr2="value2"...]/>
```

It defines a set of custom attributes of the specified scope. You could specify as many as attributes you want. These attributes can be retrieve by the getAttribute method of the Component interface with the specified scope.

```
<custom-attributes cd="${param.cd}" a.b="ab"/>
```

scope

[optional][Default: component]

Specifies the scope to which the custom attributes are associated. If not specified, the component enclosing this element is the default scope to use.

if

[Optional][Default: true]

Specifies the condition to evaluate this element. This element is ignored if the value specified to this attribute is evaluated to false.

unless

[Optional][Default: false]

Specifies the condition *not* to evaluate this element. This element is ignored if the value specified to this attribute is evaluated to true.

The zk Element

```
<zk>...</zk>
```

It is a special element used to aggregate other components. Unlike a real component (say, hbox or div), it is not part of the component tree being created. In other words, it doesn't represent any component. For example,

is equivalent to

```
<window>
     <textbox/>
     <textbox/>
</window>
```

The main use is to represent multiple root elements in XML format.

```
<window title="Second" if="${param.secondRequired}">
...
</window>
</zk>
```

The other use is to iterate over versatile components.

if

[Optional][Default: true]

Specifies the condition to evaluate this element. This element is ignored if the value specified to this attribute is evaluated to false.

unless

[Optional][Default: false]

Specifies the condition *not* to evaluate this element. This element is ignored if the value specified to this attribute is evaluated to true.

forEach

[Optional][Default: *ignored*]

It specifies a collection of objects, such that the zk element will be evaluated repeatedly against each object in the collection. If not specified or empty, this attribute is ignored. If non-collection object is specified, it is evaluated only once as if a single-element collection is specified.

The zscript Element

```
<zscript>Java codes</zscript>
<zscript src="uri"/>
```

It defines a piece of Java codes that will be interpreted when the page is evaluated. It has two formats as shown above. The first format is used to embed Java codes directly in the page. The second format is used to reference an external file that contains Java codes.

```
<zscript>
alert("Hi");
</zscript>
<zscript src="/codes/my.bs"/>
```

Like other ZK elements, it is not a component but a special XML element.

src

[Optional][Default: none]

Specifies the URI of the file containing Java codes. If specified, the Java codes will be loaded as if they are embedded directly.

Note: the file shall contain the Java source codes that can be interpreted by BeanShell. Don't specify a class file (aka. byte codes).

Like other URI, it accepts "*" and prefixes servlet context path automatically. Refer to the href attribute in the xml-stylesheet **Directive** section for details.

if

```
[Optional][Default: true]
```

Specifies the condition to evaluate this element. This element is ignored if the value specified to this attribute is evaluated to false.

unless

```
[Optional][Default: false]
```

Specifies the condition *not* to evaluate this element. This element is ignored if the value specified to this attribute is evaluated to true.

ZK Attributes

ZK attributes are used to control the associated element, other than initializing the data member.

The forEach Attribute

It specifies a collection of objects, such that the associated element will be evaluated repeatedly against each object in the collection. If not specified or empty, this attribute is ignored, and the element is evaluated only once. If non-collection object is specified, it is evaluated only once as if a single-element collection is specified.

For each iteration, two variables, each and forEachStatus, are assigned automatically to let developers control how to evaluate the associated element.

```
<hbox>
  <zscript>
classes = new String[] {"College", "Graduate"};
grades = new Object[] {
  new String[] {"Best", "Better"}, new String[] {"A++", "A+", "A"}
```

```
College: Best
College: Better: A++
Better: A+
Better: A
```

The if Attribute

It specified the condition to evaluate the associated element. In other words, the associated element and all its child elements are ignored, if the condition is evaluated to false.

The unless Attribute

It specified the condition *not* to evaluate the associated element. In other words, the associated element and all its child elements are ignored, if the condition is evaluated to true.

The class Attribute

It specifies a class to create a component instead of the default one. In the following example, MyWindow is used instead of the default class, com.potix.zul.html.Window.

```
<window class="MyWindow"/>
```

If there is name conflict (a property also called class), you could use the XML name space to resolve it as follows.

```
<window xmlns:zk="http://www.potix.com/2005/zk" zk:class="MyWindow"/>
```

3. EL Expressions

This chapter describes the details about applying EL expressions to ZUML pages.

Overview

EL expressions use the syntax \${expr}. For example,

```
<element attr1="${bean.property}".../>
${map[entry]}
<another-element>${3+counter} is ${empty map}</another-element>
```

When an EL expression is used as an attribute value, it could return any kind of objects as long as the component accepts it. For example, the following expression will be evaluated to a Boolean object.

```
<window if="${some > 10}">
```

Using EL Expressions

EL expressions can be used

- In static text
- In any attribute's value including XML elements and XML processing instructions.

Variables

Implicit Objects

Literals

Operators

Functions

Using Functions

Defining Functions

Standard Implicit Objects that ZK supports

Like using EL expressions in JSP pages, you could use most of standard implicit objects in ZUML pages.

applicationScope - java.util.Map

A map of application-scoped attributes (String, Object).

cookie - java.util.Map

A map of cookies of the request. (String, Cookie).

header - java.util.Map

A map of headers of the request. (String, String).

headerValues - java.util.Map

A map of headers of the request. (String, String[]).

pageContext - javax.servlet.jsp.PageContext

The page context.

pageScope - java.util.Map

A map of page-scoped attributes.

Notice: the page concept is a bit different from JSP because a ZK page exists across requests.

param - java.util.Map

A map of parameters of the request. (String, String).

```
paramValues - java.util.Map
```

A map of parameters of the request. (String, String[]).

```
requestScope - java.util.Map
```

A map of request-scoped attributes (String, String).

```
sessionScope - java.util.Map
```

A map of session-scoped attributes (String, String).

ZK Implicit Objects

All variables defined in ZK scripts (aka., zscript) are available for the EL expressions. Thus, all implicit objects described in the previous chapter are also the implicit objects for the EL expressions. You are free to use self, event, componentScope and others. Refer to the **Implict Objects** section in the **ZK User Interface Markup Language** chapter.

4. The XUL Components

Overview

- All XUL components are packed in the com.potix.zul.html package.
- The XML name space is http://www.mozilla.org/keymaster/gatekeeper/there.is.only.xul
- The extensions include xul and zul.
- The component names are case-sensitive. They are all in lower-cases.

XulElement

Column

All XHTML components are derived from the com.potix.zul.html.impl.XulElement class.

Audio Box Button Caption Checkbox

Columns		
Combobox		
Comboitem		
Datebox		
Decimalbox		
Div		
Grid		
Groupbox		
Hbox		
Html		
Iframe		
Image		

Include		
Intbox		
Label		
Listbox		
Listcell		
Listfoot		
Listfooter		
Listhead		
Listheader		
Listitem		
Menu		
Menubar		

Menuitem			
Menupopup			
Menuseparator			
Popup			
Popupset			
Radio			
Radiogroup			
Row			
Rows			
Separator			
Slider			
Space			

Tab		
Tabbox		
Tabpanel		
Tabpanels		
Tabs		
Textbox		
Timer		
Toolbar		
Toobarbutton		
Tree		
Treecell		
Treechildren		

	Treecol
	Treecols
	Treeitem
	Treerow
	Vbox
	Window
Sup	plemental Classes
	AbstractListModel
	Constraint
	Constrainted
	Fileupload
	ListModel

ListitemRenderer		
Messagebox		
RendererCtrl		
SimpleContraint		
SimpleListModel		

5. The XHTML Components

Overview

- All XHTML components are packed in the com.potix.zhtml package.
- The XML name space is http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml
- The extensions include htm, html, xhtml and zhtml.
- The component names are case-insensitive. Developers could use any combination of lower or upper cases.

URL and encodeURL

A XHTML component generates attributes directly to native HTML tags. It means, unlike XUL, it doesn't prefix the servlet context path to attributes for specifying URL. For example, the following codes don't work (unless the servlet context is "").

```
<img href="/my/good.png"/>
```

Rather, you shall use the <code>encodeURL</code> function in EL expressions as follows.

```
<?taglib uri="/WEB-INF/tld/web/core.dsp.tld" prefix="p"?>
...
<img href="${p:encodeURL('/my/good.png')}"/>
```

In Java, you shall use the encodeURL method from com.potix.zk.ui.Execution.

Notice that XUL components and all ZK features that accept an URL will invoke the <code>encodeURL</code> method automatically⁴.

AbstractTag

All XHTML components are derived from the com.potix.zhtml.impl.AbstractTag class.

A XHTML component is a thin wrapper that encapsulates a native HTML tag. It is different from a XUL component or other none-native component in several ways.

• By implementing the com.potix.zk.ui.ext.RawId interface, the universal identifier (getUuid) is the same as the identifier (getId).

⁴ The reason not to handle XHTML compoents is that we don't know which attribute requires URL.

• By implementing the com.potix.zk.ui.ext.DynamicAttributes interface, all XHTML components support arbitrary attributes. In other words, any attribute name is legal (as long as the targeted browser supports).

Raw

A special component, <code>com.potix.zhtml.Raw</code>, used to represent any component that is not declared in the following section (i.e., not in lang.xml). In other words, if any unrecognized component name is found, an instance of <code>Raw</code> is created, such that a proper HTML tag will be generated correspondingly. In other words, any component name is legal (as long as the targeted browser supports).

<marquee align="top">...

It is equivalent to

new Raw().setDynamicAttribute("align", "top");

Components

A

Abbr

Acronym

Address

Area

В

Base		
Big		
Blockquote		
Body		
Br		
Button		
Caption		
Cite		
Code		
Collection		
Colgroup		
Dd		

Del			
Dfn			
Dir			
Div			
DI			
Dt			
Em			
Embed			
Fieldset			
Font			
Form			
H1			

H2		
Н3		
H4		
Head		
Hr		
Html		
I		
Iframe		
Img		
Input		
Ins		
Isindex		

Kbd			
Label			
Legend			
Li			
Link			
Мар			
Menu			
Meta			
Nobr			
Object			
OI			
Optgro	ир		

Option			
P			
Pre			
Q			
S			
Sam			
Script			
Select			
Small			
Span			
Strong			
Style			

Sub			
Sup			
Table			
Tbody			
Td			
Text			
Textarea			
Tfoot			
Th			
Thead			
Title			
Tr			

Tt			
UI			
Var			

Supplement Classes

Fileupload

Messagebox