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# XSD - The <schema> Element

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The <schema> element is the root element of every XML Schema.

## The <schema> Element

The <schema> element is the root element of every XML Schema:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>

<xs:schema>
...
...
</xs:schema>
```

The <schema> element may contain some attributes. A schema declaration often looks something like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>

<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
targetNamespace="https://www.w3schools.com"
xmlns="https://www.w3schools.com"
elementFormDefault="qualified">
...
</xs:schema>
```

The following fragment:

```
xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
```

indicates that the elements and data types used in the schema come from the "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" namespace. It also specifies that the elements and data types that come from the "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" namespace should be prefixed with **xs:**

This fragment:

```
targetNamespace="https://www.w3schools.com"
```

indicates that the elements defined by this schema (note, to, from, heading, body.) come from the "https://www.w3schools.com" namespace.

This fragment:

```
xmlns="https://www.w3schools.com"
```

indicates that the default namespace is "https://www.w3schools.com".

This fragment:

```
elementFormDefault="qualified"
```

indicates that any elements used by the XML instance document which were declared in this schema must be namespace qualified.

# Referencing a Schema in an XML Document

This XML document has a reference to an XML Schema:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>

<note xmlns="https://www.w3schools.com"
xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xsi:schemaLocation="https://www.w3schools.com note.xsd">

  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
  <heading>Reminder</heading>
  <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

The following fragment:

```
xmlns="https://www.w3schools.com"
```

specifies the default namespace declaration. This declaration tells the schema-validator that all the elements used in this XML document are declared in the "https://www.w3schools.com" namespace.

Once you have the XML Schema Instance namespace available:

you can use the schemaLocation attribute. This attribute has two values, separated by a space. The first value is the namespace to use. The second value is the location of the XML schema to use for that namespace:

```
xsi:schemaLocation="https://www.w3schools.com note.xsd"
```

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