

# XSD The <anyAttribute> Element

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# The <anyAttribute> Element

The <anyAttribute> element enables us to extend the XML document with attributes not specified by the schema.

The following example is a fragment from an XML schema called "family.xsd". It shows a declaration for the "person" element. By using the <anyAttribute> element we can add any number of attributes to the "person" element:

Now we want to extend the "person" element with a "eyecolor" attribute. In this case we can do so, even if the author of the schema above never declared any "eyecolor" attribute.

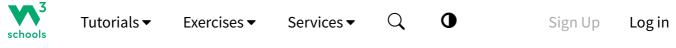
```
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   <xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"</pre>
   targetNamespace="https://www.w3schools.com"
   xmlns="https://www.w3schools.com"
   elementFormDefault="qualified">
   <xs:attribute name="eyecolor">
    <xs:simpleType>
      <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
        <xs:pattern value="blue|brown|green|grey"/>
      </xs:restriction>
     </xs:simpleType>
   </xs:attribute>
   </xs:schema>
```

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The XML file below (called "Myfamily.xml"), uses components from two different schemas; "family.xsd" and "attribute.xsd":

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

cpersons xmlns="http://www.microsoft.com"
xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xsi:SchemaLocation="http://www.microsoft.com family.xsd")
```



```
<person
<person eyecolor="blue">
    <firstname>Stale</firstname>
    <lastname>Refsnes</lastname>
</person>
</persons>
```

The XML file above is valid because the schema "family.xsd" allows us to add an attribute to the "person" element.

The <any> and <anyAttribute> elements are used to make EXTENSIBLE documents! They allow documents to contain additional elements that are not declared in the main XML schema.

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