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Technote

Alkacon OAMP Syndication Feed Module

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Table of Content

Table of Content.....	2
1 Abstract	3
2 General purpose of the Alkacon OAMP Syndication Feed Module.....	3
3 Installation	3
3.1 Configuration	3
4 Module usage	4
4.1 Resource types	4
4.1.1 Sample configuration of a feed.....	5
4.2 Configure mappings in XSD schemas.....	5
5 Using the module API	6

1 Abstract

This document describes the installation, configuration and usage of the Alkacon OpenCms Add-On Module Package Syndication Feed (RSS / Atom). With the syndication feed module, it is possible to create several versions of syndication feeds (RSS, Atom) from XML contents.

Each syndication feed is created with a single file which contains the complete configuration of the feed.

2 General purpose of the Alkacon OAMP Syndication Feed Module

The module extends a basic OpenCms installation with the capability to create several versions of syndication feeds. It provides the following features:

- Create syndication feeds out of XML contents
- Complete configuration of a feed is done in one file
- Choose one of various types of syndication feeds (e.g. RSS 0.9, RSS 1.0, RSS 2.0, Atom 0.3, Atom 1.0) which will be used for the created feed
- Possibility to specify an image for the feed
- Use of the OpenCms collectors to configure which XML contents should be included in the feed
- Configure the mapping of the XML content elements to the fields of the feed with the possibility to specify a default value and a maximum length

3 Installation

Note: To use the Alkacon OAMP syndication feed module, you need at least OpenCms version 7.0.3. The module is not compatible with older OpenCms versions.

Step by step installation procedure:

1. Go to the OpenCms Administration view
2. Click "Module Management" and select either "Import Module from Server" if the module was placed in the **WEB-INF/packages/modules/** folder of your OpenCms installation, or select "Import Module with HTTP" to upload the module from your local file system
3. Select the Alkacon OAMP syndication feed module zip file **com.alkacon.opencms.v8.feeder_2.0.x.zip** to import
4. Check if the jar files **com.alkacon.opencms.v8.feeder.jar**, **jdom-1.0.jar** and **rome-0.9.jar** have been deployed in the **WEB-INF/lib/** folder after installation
5. Restart your servlet container afterwards

3.1 Configuration

The syndication feed module can be used out of the box; usually there is no additional

configuration necessary.

4 Module usage

After successful installation of the syndication feed module, it is ready to use without further configuration. New feeds can be provided by creating a new resource of the type "Alkacon Syndication Feed (RSS / Atom) (alkacon-v8-feed)".

4.1 Resource types

The only resource type you can use is the

Alkacon Syndication Feed (RSS / Atom) (alkacon-v8-feed)

This is the configuration file of the syndication feed with the following elements:

- **Title:** the title of the feed
- **Type:** the type of the feed. Choose one out of this list:
 - RSS 2.0
 - RSS 1.0
 - RSS 0.94
 - RSS 0.93
 - RSS 0.92
 - RSS 0.91U
 - RSS 0.91N
 - RSS 0.9
 - Atom 1.0
 - Atom 0.3
- **Description:** a more detailed description of the feed
- **Copyright (optional):** put the copyright of the feed here
- **Image (optional):** here you can specify an image which will be provided together with the feed. Configure the title, the URL where the image can be found, the link to be opened when clicking on the image and a description
- **Collector:** choose one of the existing collectors which is responsible for collecting the XML contents which should appear in the feed
- **Parameter:** the parameters used by the collector
- **Mapping:** finally you have to define one or more mappings from the elements (the xml path of the element) in the collected XML contents to the fields in the feed. The feed needs at minimum a mapping for "Title" and "Description" to work. You can specify an optional default value for every mapping if the element of the XML content is empty or not set. The default value for the fields "DatePublished" and "DateUpdated" can be one of the following string values to get the appropriate value of the resource (attributes):

- dateCreated
- dateLastModified
- dateContent
- dateReleased
- dateExpired

If there is no mapping for the date published the creation date of the XML content will be used. Another optional element of the mapping is the maximum length of the text which should be set if you don't want to overload the feed.

4.1.1 Sample configuration of a feed

The following screenshot shows a sample configuration of a syndication feed. Here it was chosen RSS 2.0 as the type of the feed. The used collector will take the first 10 XML content resources of the type "newsarticle" in the folder "/news" for the feed. There are 3 mappings configured. The element "Title" of the XML content "newsarticle" will be mapped to the field "Title" of the feed and the element "Description" will be mapped to the field "Description" of the feed. For the description there is a maximum length of 250 characters specified. If the text is longer than this it will be cut to this length. The third mapping is to fill the field "DatePublished" of the feed which will be set to the creation date of the XML content.

Image 1: Sample configuration of a syndication feed

4.2 Configure mappings in XSD schemas

As an alternative to specify the mappings in the configuration file of the feed, you can configure the mappings in the schema of the XML content which will be added to the feed. To do that you have to specify this handler within the `<appinfo>` node of the XSD:

```
com.alkacon.opencms.v8.feeder.CmsFeedXmlContentHandler
```

Then you can add a node `<feedrules>` to the `<appinfo>` of the XSD. Inside this node you can configure the mappings. The attributes "maxLength" and "default" are optional.

```
<xsd:annotation>
  <xsd:appinfo>
    ...
    <handler class="com.alkacon.opencms.v8.feeder.CmsFeedXmlContentHandler"/>
    ...
  </xsd:appinfo>
</xsd:annotation>
```

This is the same mapping as shown in the sample configuration.

5 Using the module API

All classes used to generate and configure the syndication feed are part of the package `com.alkacon.opencms.v8.feeder`.

It contains the following classes:

- **CmsFeed**: creates a syndication feed from an XML content that uses the feed schema XSD
- **CmsFeedContentMapping**: describes the mapping from an OpenCms XML content to a syndication feed entry
- **CmsFeedGenerator**: creates a syndication feed from a list of XML content resources
- **CmsFeedSelectWidget**: creates a select widget that contains either all available feed types or all configured collectors
- **CmsFeedXmlContentHandler**: adds syndication feed mapping rules to the default XML content handler
- **Messages**: convenience class to access the localized messages of the syndication feed package