mvdXML

Requirements and Examples

Review of a standardized format to define and exchange   
Model View Definitions with Exchange Requirements and Validation Rules

by  
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(with kind support from:   
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Donghoon Yang, Chuck Eastman, ..)

Preface

This document collects requirements and examples for mvdXML. It is a working document developed in the review process that extends the current draft proposal of mvdXML 1.1. The main goal is to clarify the use of mvdXML, to identify existing gaps and to guide further developments. It is likely that examples developed in this document will be integrated in the final release of the mvdXML documentation.

The document contains five chapters:

1. Requirements, which collects all requirements for mvdXML 1.1 and upcoming versions. It tries to categories rule types and to be as short as possible.
2. Examples, which describes reals use cases taken for instance from experiences with IFC implementation and ongoing MVD developments.
3. Agreements, which summarizes additional decisions for the use of mvdXML.
4. Discussions, which is a collection of questions and answers within the mvdXML group.
5. Tools and Reference Implementations, which gives an overview about available tools.

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# Requirements

mvdXML is developed to support 4 main use cases, namely (1) MVD documentation, (2) specification of subset schemas, (3) data filtering and (4) data validation (see draft proposal for mvdXML 1.1). The current focus of mvdXML 1.x is set to use cases (1) and (2). Use cases (3) and (4) are getting more and more import to support BIM-based work, and since most questions and requirement definitions relate to these use cases, especially data validation, they are in focus of this working document.

## Data validation rule types

The following section is a proposal to categorize rule types for data validation and sets a link to further examples. As basis for more detailed discussion the matrix developed by Donghoon Yang is used (see Appendix).

### Existence of attributes and references

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | Specific attributes or references of an instance should be present or should not be present. |
| **Examples** | 1. IfcSpace.Name shall exist 2. …   See also:   * Use case 1: Psets |
| **Review** | Supported |
| **Recommendation** | No change or extension needed (?) |

### Existence of elements (global and local)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | An instance of a specific entity type shall be available. |
| **Examples** | An IFC model should contain   1. one instance of IfcProject and 2. at least one instance of IfcBuilding (being a part of the spatial structure).   See also:   * .. |
| **Review** | Not supported  mvdXML 1.1 does not support to require instances of a particular entity type. Therefore, it is not possible to deal with the first example. However, this particular requirement (having always one instance of IfcProject) is a major constraint for any IFC model and therefore is already defined in the IFC Express schema.  The second example could be managed in a different way because an IfcProject instance is the root element of an IFC model and enables to access all contained data through references. Therefore, this constraint could be defined by checking references of IfcProject instances. |
| **Recommendation** | 1. make sure that all entities can be reached by references from the root entity (may enable to use “unnamed” inverse references) -> may add implementer agreement (see 3.2) |

### Content of simple data type values

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | An attribute should have a specific value or should be within a given range.  This requirement is related to simple data types, including enumeration values. |
| **Examples** | 1. A string value must be equal to “Test” 2. A integer value must be greater than 0 3. A string value shall contain the substring “-Room” 4. .. |
| **Review** | Supported |
| **Recommendation** | No change or extension needed (?) |

### Size of aggregates

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | An aggregate (LIST, SET, BAG, ARRAY) shall be limited by min and max cardinality settings. |
| **Examples** | <TBD>  Links:  See discussion about Configuration of min and max cardinality |
| **Review** | Supported by   1. EntityRule.Cardinality and AttributeRule.Cardinality on ConceptTemplate level 2. Metric [Size] on ConceptTemplate and Concept level |
| **Recommendation** | Clarify how to configure a AttributeRule through metric [Size] +  enable to set a link from TemplateRule to AttributeRule (otherwise aggregations attached to the root concept cannot be constrained by metric [Size]).  See also: Metric [Size] for AttributRule |

### Content of aggregates

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | Existence (or absence) of specific elements/values shall be defined.  Additionally, for LIST and ARRAY a sequence of elements or values, maybe including a fixed position, shall be defined. |
| **Examples** |  |
| **Review** |  |
| **Recommendation** | Implementer agreement needed. |

### Uniqueness (global)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | A value of an attribute shall be unique for all instances. |
| **Examples** | 1. ID or naming of an element shall exist only once within a data model. |
| **Review** | mvdXML grammar supports the metric [Unique], which does not differentiate between global and local uniqueness. |
| **Recommendation** | Agreement needed how to differentiate between global and local uniqueness. The following is suggested:   * Simple data types or single references -> global uniqueness * Aggregation data types -> local uniqueness (no same value within the aggregation)   Open issue with this proposal:  Global uniqueness for aggregation data types cannot be defined. |

### Uniqueness (local)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | A value within an aggregation of values shall be unique. (only needed for BAG, LIST and ARRAY) |
| **Examples** |  |
| **Review** | See: Uniqueness (global) |
| **Recommendation** | See: Uniqueness (global) |

### Type of referenced data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | The entity type of allowed references shall be restricted. |
| **Examples** | The following restriction are possible   1. a subset of select data types 2. a subset of the subtypes of referenced entity type. 3. the referenced entity type only 4. all subtypes including the referenced entity type, i.e. no restriction. |
| **Review** | All of above requirements are supported. The following remarks are made:   * Type 1: all selectable data types must be added to *AttributeRule.EntityRules* * Type 2: all usable subtypes must be added to  *EntityRule.EntityRules* * Type 3: requires to add a self-reference to *EntityRule.EntityRules* (otherwise all subtypes are valid – see type 4) * Type 4: no additional definitions are necessary (all subtypes are included by default)   NOTE: Using the default setting can reduce definition efforts. But it means that nothing can be specified about the use of subtypes and their specific attributes. Accordingly, it is only useful if referenced entity types are defined somewhere else, e.g. in a ConceptRoot. |
| **Recommendation** | Improve documentation,  Agreement for Type 3 (see 3.1) |

### Conditions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | A constraint shall apply only if a condition is fulfilled. |
| **Examples** |  |
| **Review** | Supported, but may needs simplification (?)  mvdXML 1.0 introduces conditional statements by using inner and outer parameters. An outer parameter describes the condition and the inner parameter defines the validation constraint. Since mvdXML 1.1 it is also possible to use OR logic and grouping of constraints. A conditional statement:   IF Condition1 THEN Constraint1  could be defined like this:   (Condition1 AND Constraint1) OR (NOT Condition1).  NOTE: It is not possible to use parameters from different Concept Templates. In that case, a new Concept Template must be defined that contains all required parameters. |
| **Recommendation** | May add if-then statement to the grammar to simplify definition of conditions. |

### Nesting and recursion

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | Hierarchy depth of elements shall be restricted. |
| **Examples** | Element assemblies shall be restricted to   1. Max depth = 1 2. Max depth = n |
| **Review** | No recursion supported – only possible if “stateless” conditions can be specified to restrict hierarch depth (e.g. example 1: element is either a part or an assembly, but not both) |
| **Recommendation** | Out of scope for mvdXML 1.x  Postponed for later versions (check if existing solutions can be integrated) |

### Checks based on mathematical operations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | Check if a value that must be derived from other values by using mathematical operations fulfils a constraint. |
| **Examples** | The area of a room must be greater than # m², and area needs to be calculated. |
| **Review** | Not supported |
| **Recommendation** | Out of scope for mvdXML 1.x Postponed for later versions (check if existing solutions can be integrated) |

### <TBE>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement** |  |
| **Examples** |  |
| **Review** |  |
| **Recommendation** |  |

## MVD Documentation

Requirement related to documentation use case. <TBD if of interest>

## Specification of subset schemas

Requirement related to generation of subset schemas. <TBD if of interest>

## Data filtering

Requirement related to data filtering use case. <TBD if of interest>

# Examples

## Implementer Agreements for IFC 2x3 (adopted to IFC4)

This chapter contains selected implementer agreements for further discussion. Note that not all parts of an implementer agreement might be of interest or can be represented in mvdXML. Supported parts are explicitly mentioned in the table.

### #CV-2x3-100: correct usage of IfcMaterialLayerSetUsage for IfcSlab

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Root | IfcSlabStandardCase (new in IFC4) |
| Supported | Existence of attributes and references   * *IfcMaterialLayerSetUsage is mandatory*   Content of simple data type values   * *IfcMaterialLayerSetUsage.DirectionSense = Positive* * *IfcMaterialLayerSetUsage.LayerSetDirection = AXIS3* |
| Not supported | Checks based on mathematical operations + Conditions   * *The TotalThickness of the IfcMaterialLayerSet is the sum of all layer thicknesses and in case of …*   Other consistency checks |
| Link | <http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-100> |

Concept Template:

<TBD>

Concept:

<TBD>

### #CV-2x3-104: number of doors and windows within one opening is restricted to max 1.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Root | IfcOpeningElement and IfcOpeningStandardCase |
| Supported | Size of aggregates   * *Each IfcOpeningElement shall only have zero or one filling.* |
| Link | <http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-104> |

Concept Template:

<TBD>

Concept:

<TBD>

### #CV-2x3-106: agreed use of geometric representation context and sub context

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Root | IfcProject |
| Supported | Size of aggregates   * *each IFC model shall have a maximum of 2 (and minimum of 1) instances of IfcGeometricRepresentationContext*   Content of simple data type values   * *an IfcGeometricRepresentationContext with ContextType = 'Model' shall be included …*   Conditions   * *… it shall have a minimum of one sub context, being IfcGeometricRepresentationSubContext.ContextIdentifier = 'Body'* |
| Not supported | <TBD> |
| Link | [http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-106](http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-100) |

Concept Template:

<TBD>

Concept:

<TBD>

### #CV-2x3-112: support for CSG geometry is required on import

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Root | all IfcProduct elements |
| Supported | Conditions + Type of referenced data   * *The items within the Items list of IfcShapeRepresentation (being an 'CSG' representation) shall be of type IfcBooleanResult.* *The Items list shall not include IfcCsgSolid, or IfcPrimitive3D.* * *Within an IfcBooleanResult an IfcHalfSpaceSolid shall only be used as the SecondOperand of anOperator=".DIFFERENCE." (and not for an Operator=".UNION." or ".INTERSECTION.").* |
| Not supported | <TBD> |
| Link | [http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-112](http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-100) |

Concept Template:

<TBD>

Concept:

<TBD>

### #CV-2x3-116: no use of subtypes of IfcStyledItem for assigning presentation information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Root |  |
| Supported | Type of referenced data (Type 3)   * *The link between the presentation and the geometry or material definition shall always been made by IfcStyledItem not by its subtypes:* |
| Not supported | <TBD> |
| Link | NOTE: Not relevant for IFC4 as there are no subtypes anymore.  [http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-116](http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-100) |

Concept Template:

<TBD>

Concept:

<TBD>

### #CV-2x3-120: material information for decomposed elements shall only be given at the element part level

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Root | IfcBuildingElement (and subtypes) |
| Supported | Conditions + Existence of attributes and references   * *If the building element is a container, then the material information (IfcRelAssociatesMaterial --> IfcMaterial| IfcMaterialLayerSet| IfcMaterialLayerSetUsage) shall only be assigned to the parts, not to the container* |
| Not supported | Use of parameters from different concept templates |
| Link | <http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-120> |

Concept Template:

<TBD>

Concept:

<TBD>

### #CV-2x3-121: decomposed elements shall have a maximum of 1 level decomposition depth

Outdatet agreement, but interesting as an example!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Root |  |
| Supported | Nesting and recursion   * *The parts contained within an element container shall not be containers by themselves. I.e. the decomposition hierarchy shall only have 1 level depth.* |
| Not supported |  |
| Link | [http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-121](http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-120) |

Concept Template:

<TBD>

Concept:

<TBD>

### #CV-2x3-142: agreement on having at least one instance of IfcBuilding as part of the spatial structure

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Root | IfcProject, IfcSite |
| Supported | Existence of elements (global and local)   * *An IFC exchange file conforming to the coordination view shall have: minimum of one instance of IfcBuilding within the spatial structure, either directly assigned to IfcProject, if no IfcSite is present, or assigned to IfcSite.* |
| Not supported |  |
| Link | <http://www.buildingsmart-tech.org/implementation/ifc-implementation/ifc-impl-agreements/cv-2x3-142> |

Concept Template:

<TBD>

Concept:

<TBD>

## “Model Checking” use-cases from the Dutch AEC industry

by Léon van Berlo, comments by Matthias Weise

This chapter describes some “Model Checking” Use-cases from the Dutch AEC industry. These use cases are now realized with Solibri, Tekla BIMSight or other custom build software tools. The goals of this chapter is to inspire mvdXML developers (or any other developer) to improve the MVD standard.

### Use case 1: Psets

Are all Psets filled in, and are they correct?

### Use case 2: Masonry supplier

Is the type of masonry bond added to the wall as a property (and does the value come from a predefined enumeration).

### Use case 3: Fire resistant doors

Are all doors between compartments of the building fire resistant? And is the fire rating in minutes?

### Use case 4: Is there a door?

Does every space (IfcSpace), except service shafts, have a minimum of one door (IfcDoor)?

### Use case 5: Is an object on the storey it should be?

Check if (/how) an IFC object is related to an IfcBuildingStorey. Then check if the highest geometrical and lowest coordinate of the object. The difference between these coordinates is the height of the object. This should be lower than the floorheight of the related floor.   
This use case is to check if facades and walls are split up between storeys rather than crossing over multiple storeys.

### Use case 6: Elevation

Check if the absolute elevation of an object is between the lower and upper boundaries of the related buildingstorey.

### Use case 7: Material

Do all objects (IfcProducts) have materials?

### Use case 8: classification consistency

Does the classification code (Uniclass, omniclass, NlSfb, etc.) match the IFC object? For example, is an object with an OmniClass specification ‘Door’ actually an IfcDoor in the model? Or a Dutch example, is an object with classification code ‘21’ actually an IfcWall in the model?

### Use case 9: program requirements

Does the design (/model) comply with the program requirements? For example, do all spaces meet the minimum surface area and volume? Are the toilets not located too far away from the meeting rooms?

### Use case 10: Breps versus extrusions

Are there any Breps or extrusions in the geometry of the model?

## Validation testing for the Precast BIM Standard

# Agreements

This chapter describes agreements how to apply mvdXML where current specification in unclear or ambiguous.

## Exclude subtypes from referenced entities

<TBD>

## Metric [Size] for AttributRule

Short description of the relevant mvdXML specification:

* The attribute *RuleID* of *EntityRule* and *AttributeRule* defines the parameter that can be used in the rule grammar, specified by *Constraint.Expression* or *TemplateRule.Parameters*.
* *TemplateRule.RuleID* sets a link to an *EntityRule* (or an *AttributeRule*) to differentiate between outer and inner parameters (see mvdXML 1.0)
* Outer parameters define a condition
* Inner parameters define a constraint

The following figure shows that if *EntityRules* can be linked from *TemplateRules* only then *AttributeRule* “A1”, which is the first rule attached to *ConceptTemplate*, cannot be constrained by a *TemplateRule.Parameter*. The parameter “A1[Size]<2” would define a constraint as it is an outer parameter when linking to EntityRule E1.

Therefore, it is suggested to allow links from *TemplateRule* to *AttributeRule* also.



## Using unnamed INVERSE relationships

<TBD>

# Discussions

## Configuration of min and max cardinality

[Chi Zhang]:

Is it possible to make the cardinality also definable on the Concept level (overrides the definition in the ConceptTemplate)? If the cardinality can only be defined in the ConceptTemplate, when we want to change the cardinality of some Concept, we have to define a new ConceptTemplate (or maybe a SubTemplate, but the current version of ifcDOC does not support this little change on SubTemplate, we change it by hand), but is that the original thought of ConceptTemplate (should the ConceptTemplate be more general, may I ask)?

[Matthias Weise]:

On concept level you could use the metric [Size] for this. However, I would expect cardinality constraints on the concept template level. For instance you could have a ConceptTemplate for Polygon with min=3..max=n points. A Rectangle would have min=max=4 points. But as mentioned by you, it should be possible to define Rectangle as a sub-ConceptTemplate of Polygon. So, redefinition of cardinality should be possible for sub-ConceptTemplates (if it is more restrictive).

Could you explain your example where you want to redefine cardinality on concept level?

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# Tools and Reference Implementations

<TBD if of interest>

## IFC Documentation Generator

## Constructivity Viewer

## GTDS

## BIMServer

# Appendix

<Table from Donghoon to be added – see email from 26.11.2013>