

Data Transformation

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Interoperability

XPath

- Expression language
- Hierarchical addressing of nodes in tree-like structures
- Supports XML and JSON (supports arrays and maps via XDM since version 3.1)
- Data processing and transformation e.g. with XQuery and XSLT
- Support in browsers for DOM access and manipulation in addition to functions such as document.getElementById() or document.querySelector()
 - Firefox: document.evaluate()
 - Chrome: \$x("")
- Tool support for XPath features for versions greater 1.0 varies strongly!

Path Expressions

```
/child::a/child::b[@foo = '1']
   axis step
                       predicate
        /a/b[@foo = '1']
  path operator
```

Path Expressions

Path expressions return a set of matching nodes of a tree.

- / connects nodes to form path expressions.
- // expands to match intervening nodes in path expressions.
- * wild card for nodes in path expressions.

Path expressions with '/' or '//' at the start represent absolute path expressions, they select nodes starting from the root of a tree.

A path expression starting with a node is referred to as a relative path expression, it selects nodes relative to the **context node** (which can be any element in the tree).

Path Axes

An axis determines relationships, it locates nodes relative to the context node.

```
ReverseAxis ::= ("parent" "::")
                                            ForwardAxis ::= ("child" "::")
                 | ("ancestor" "::")
                                                             ("descendant" "::")
                 ("preceding-sibling" "::")
                                                             | ("attribute" "::")
                 | ("preceding" "::")
                                                             | ("self" "::")
                 ("ancestor-or-self" "::")
                                                             | ("descendant-or-self" "::")
                                                             | ("following-sibling" "::")
Abbreviated syntax:
                                                             | ("following" "::")
                                                             | ("namespace" "::")
          -> child::node()
 • . -> self::node()
```

• .. -> parent::*

• // -> /descendant-or-self::node()/

@*, @name -> attribute::*, attribute:name

Node Tests

Node tests determine which nodes of an axis to select for the step.

Name Test Examples:

- child::ns:para matches nodes named 'para' in namespace 'ns'
- child::* matches any applicable node on the axis wrt. the context node
- *:para, ns:* matching nodes with wildcards using namespaces
- [name() = 'para'] matches nodes named 'para' in a predicate
- attribute::* matches all attributes of the context node

Kind Test Examples:

- node() matches all nodes
- text() matches text nodes
- element() matches all element nodes
- comment() matches all comment nodes

Predicates

Predicates are composed of expressions and are applied on the axes and steps, e.g. child::para[pred1][pred2]. See non-complete list of options:

```
    Axes and node tests
```

```
    Boolean operators (last highest precedence)
    or, and, {=, !=}, {<=, <, >=, >}
```

Arithmetic operators+ - * div mod

```
Set operator
```

|,union intersect ()

Functions

```
number() count() sum()
last() position()
name()
string() substring() starts-with() concat(),||
boolean() true() false() not()
```

XPath in Action

```
Ex1 /a/b/c
Ex2 /a/*/c
Ex3 //b/././*
Ex4 //*[@bar]
Ex5 //*[@foo]/*
Ex6 //c/../..//*[@bar]
Ex7 //*[@bar='I' or @bar='II']
Ex8 //*[contains(@bar,'I')]
Ex9 //*[name(.)='c']
Ex10 (//c[1]) | //c[2] | //c
```

```
<a>>
  <b foo="1">
  <c bar="I">X</c>
  </b>
  <b foo="2">
   <c bar="II">Z</c>
  </b>
  <b foo="3"/>
</a>
```

Exercises

What are the outcomes of the various axis operators?

- Select the ancestors of the second *b*.
- Select all the siblings after the first b.
- Select all the descendants of the first b.
- Select b with the min value for foo. Variation: find the min value only using boolean and comparison operators (i.e. don't use min() or max(), thus only XPath 1.0 features).

Data Transformation

- Transform data from one representation into another representation
 - Between different data formats (e.g. JSON to XML and vice versa)
 - Between different data arrangements of the same data format (e.g. XML to XML, JSON to JSON)
- XSLT and XQuery W3C recommendations
 - Initially introduced for XML, recent versions also support JSON
 - XSLT (Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformation) uses declarative pattern matching.
 - XQuery a querying language with similarities to SQL that uses expressions to compose queries.

Minimal Examples

XSLT Stylesheet

XQUERY Expression

```
xquery version "3.1";
<foo/>
```

Output

<foo/>

All XSLT documents must be defined in the root element *stylesheet*. Version declaration signals the targeted feature set. Both examples here produce the same XML output.

XQUERY: Fundamental Building Blocks I

Expression Input Output <abc> <my-new-xml> <my-new-xml> { for \$node in /abc/a X X where \$node/@foo = "g" <c>Y</c> <c>Y</c> return \$node </my-new-xml> </my-new-xml> M <c>N</c> </abc>

XQUERY: Fundamental Building Blocks I

Expression Input Output <abc> <my-new-xml> <my-new-xml> { for \$node in /abc/a X where \$node/@foo = "g" X return \$node <c>Y</c> <c>Y</c> </my-new-xml> </my-new-xml> M <c>N</c> </abc>

- /abc/a, \$node/@foo = "g" and \$node represent XPath Expressions!
- \$ is a mandatory prefix to access the value of variables and parameters.
- marks expressions the XQuery processor should evaluate. (Yes, expressions can be mixed with XML!)

XQUERY: Fundamental Building Blocks I

Expression Input Output <abc> <my-new-xml> <my-new-xml> { for \$node in /abc/a where \$node/@foo = "g" X X return \$node <c>Y</c> <c>Y</c> </my-new-xml> </my-new-xml> M <c>N</c> </abc>

for ... in ... construct iterates over XML nodes.

returns XML after evaluating an expression; use {} for expressions if mixed with XML.

XQUERY: Fundamental Building Blocks II

Expression		Input	Output
<my-new-xml></my-new-xml>		<abc></abc>	<my-new-xml></my-new-xml>
{ for \$node in /abc/a			
let \$variable := \$node		X	M
order by \$node/@foo		<c>Y</c>	<c>N</c>
return \$variable	}		
			
		M	X
		<c>N</c>	<c>Y</c>

XQUERY: Fundamental Building Blocks II

Expression		Input	Output
<my-new-xml> { for \$node in /abc/a</my-new-xml>		<abc> </abc>	<my-new-xml> </my-new-xml>
let \$variable := \$node order by \$node/@foo		X	M
return \$variable	}		
			
		<c>N</c> 	<c>Y</c>

let declares a new variable \$\frac{\$}{2}\$ that can be assigned the result of an expression.

order by changes the order in which the nodes returned by for are output.

XQUERY: Fundamental Building Blocks III

Expression Input Output <abc> <my-new-xml> <my-new-xml> { for \$parent in /abc/a <a>> X <g type="b">X</g> return <c>Y</c> <g type="c">Y</g> <a>> { for \$child in \$parent/* return element <a>> { \$parent/@foo } M <f type="b">M</f> <f type="c">N</f> <c>N</c> { attribute {"type"} </abc> </my-new-xml> {\$child/name()}, \$child/text() </my-new-xml>

XQUERY: Fundamental Building Blocks III

Expression Input Output <abc> <my-new-xml> <my-new-xml> { for \$parent in /abc/a <a>> X <g type="b">X</g> return <c>Y</c> <g type="c">Y</g> <a>> { for \$child in \$parent/* return element <a>> { \$parent/@foo } M <f type="b">M</f> <c>N</c> <f type="c">N</f> { attribute {"type"} </abc> </my-new-xml> {\$child/name()}, \$child/text() } } } </my-new-xml>

for expressions can be nested!

Stylesheet

Input

```
<abc>
<a foo="g">
<b>X</b>
<b>Y</c>
</a>
<a foo="f">
<b>M</b>
<c>N</c>
</a>
</a>
</a>
</abc>
```

Stylesheet

Input

```
<abc>
<a foo="g">
<b>X</b>
<b>Y</c>
</a>
<a foo="f">
<b>M</b>
<c>N</c>
</a>
</a>
</abc>
```

Output

/, ./@foo = 'g' and . represent XPath expressions! select and match return a set of nodes.

Stylesheet Input Output <abc> <my-new-xml> <xsl:template match="/"> <my-new-xml> X X <xsl:for-each select="abc/a"> <xsl:if test="./@foo = 'g'"> <c>Y</c> <c>Y</c> <xsl:copy-of select="."/> </my-new-xml> </xsl:if> M </xsl:for-each> <c>N</c> </my-new-xml> </xsl:template> </abc>

for-each iterates over the set of nodes obtained from the select expression. To access a node in focus use if enables to do conditional processing based on the outcome of the test expression.

copy-of returns a copy of the node and its children.

Stylesheet

Input

```
<abc>
<a foo="g">
<b>X</b>
<c>Y</c>
</a>
<a foo="f">
<b>M</b>
<c>N</c>
</a>
</a>
</a>
</abc>
```

Output

refers to the namespace definition which has been excluded here due to the lack of space.

template provides access to a subset of the XML document tree. By convention the default template matches the root of the document tree with template match="/" and serves as an entry point for processing.

Stylesheet Input Output <abc> <my-new-xml> <xsl:template match="/"> <my-new-xml> X M <xsl:for-each select="abc/a"> <c>Y</c> <c>N</c> <xsl:sort select="@foo"/> <xsl:variable name="var" select="."/> <xsl:copy-of select="\$var"/> X M </xsl:for-each> <c>N</c> <c>Y</c> </my-new-xml> </xsl:template> </my-new-xml> </abc>

Stylesheet	Input	Output
<xsl:template match="/"></xsl:template>	<abc></abc>	<my-new-xml></my-new-xml>
<my-new-xml></my-new-xml>		
<xsl:for-each select="abc/a"></xsl:for-each>	X	M
<xsl:sort select="@foo"></xsl:sort>	<c>Y</c>	<c>N</c>
<pre><xsl:variable name="var" select="."></xsl:variable></pre>		
<pre><xsl:copy-of select="\$var"></xsl:copy-of></pre>		
	M	X
	<c>N</c>	<c>Y</c>

variable declares a variable using a XPath expression.

\$ followed by the value under name as suffix grants access to the node referenced by a variable.

sort orders nodes by the attribute foo. Note that the order of declarations matter!

Stylesheet

```
<xsl:template match="/">
 <my-new-xml>
  <xsl:for-each select="./abc/a">
   <xsl:variable name="parent" select="."/>
   <a>>
    <xsl:for-each select="$parent/*">
     <xsl:variable name="child" select="."/>
     <xsl:element name="{$parent/@foo}">
      <xsl:attribute name="type">
       <xsl:value-of select="$child/name()"/>
      </xsl:attribute>
      <xsl:value-of select="$child"/>
     </xsl:element>
    </xsl:for-each>
   </a>
  </xsl:for-each>
 </my-new-xml>
</xsl:template>
```

Input

```
<abc>
<a foo="g">
<b>X</b>
<b>Y</c>
</a>
<a foo="f">
<b>M</b>
<c>N</c>
</a>
</a>
</abc>
```

Stylesheet

```
<xsl:template match="/">
 <my-new-xml>
 <xsl:for-each select="./abc/a">
   <xsl:variable name="parent" select="."/>
   <a>>
    <xsl:for-each select="$parent/*">
     <xsl:variable name="child" select="."/>
     <xsl:element name="{$parent/@foo}">
      <xsl:attribute name="type">
       <xsl:value-of select="$child/name()"/>
      </xsl:attribute>
      <xsl:value-of select="$child"/>
     </xsl:element>
    </xsl:for-each>
   </a>
  </xsl:for-each>
 </my-new-xml>
</xsl:template>
```

Input

</abc>

<abc> X <c>Y</c> M <c>N</c>

Output

value-of extracts the content of a node.

{} evaluates an expression.

element and attribute allow dynamic node creation.

Stylesheet

```
<xsl:template match="/">
<my-new-xml>
 <xsl:for-each select="//a">
   <xsl:call-template name="a"/>
  </xsl:for-each>
</my-new-xml>
</xsl:template>
<xsl:template name="a">
<xsl:if test="./@foo = 'g'">
  <xsl:copy-of select="."/>
</xsl:if>
</xsl:template>
```

Input

```
<abc>
<a foo="g">
<b>X</b>
<c>Y</c>
</a>
<a foo="f">
<b>M</b>
<c>N</c>
</a>
</a>
</a>
</a>
</a>
```

Stylesheet

```
<my-new-xml>
  <xsl:for-each select="//a">
    <xsl:call-template name="a"/>
    </xsl:for-each>
    </my-new-xml>
</xsl:template>

<xsl:template name="a">
    <xsl:if test="./@foo = 'g'">
        <xsl:if>
    </xsl:template>
```

<xsl:template match="/">

Input

```
<abc>
<a foo="g">
<b>X</b>
<b>Y</c>
</a>
<a foo="f">
<b>M</b>
<c>N</c>
</a>
</a>
</a>
</a>
</a>
</abc>
```

Output

Named templates promote modularity. call-template enables to explicitly apply a named template to a context node. The called template could again call a template on a set of selected nodes creating an explicit nested chain of transformations on sub-trees.

Declarative and Recursive Template Matching

Stylesheet

Input

```
<abc>
<a foo="g">
<b>X</b>
<c>Y</c>
</a>
<a foo="f">
<b>M</b>
<c>N</c>
</a>
</a>
</abc>
```

Stylesheet Input Output <abc> <my-new-xml> <xsl:template match="/"> <my-new-xml> X X <xsl:apply-templates/> <c>Y</c> <c>Y</c> </my-new-xml> </xsl:template> </my-new-xml> M <xsl:template match="a"> <c>N</c> <xsl:if test="./@foo = 'g'"> <xsl:copy-of select="."/> </abc> </xsl:if> </xsl:template>

apply-templates attempts to apply matching template to all children of the context node. Q: What happens if a matching node also has descendants that would match a template's pattern? Also, what happens if no matching template is found?

Stylesheet	Input	Output
<pre><xsl:template match="/"></xsl:template></pre>	<abc></abc>	<my-new-xml></my-new-xml>
<my-new-xml></my-new-xml>		
<pre><xsl:apply-templates></xsl:apply-templates></pre>	X	X
	<c>Y</c>	Υ
•		
RULE TEXT</td <td>M</td> <td>М</td>	M	М
<pre><xsl:template match="text()"></xsl:template></pre>	<c>N</c>	N
<pre><xsl:value-of select="."></xsl:value-of></pre>		
>		

A template determines the processing steps for a node it matches. If no template matches, built-in template rules are applied that keep the processing of the tree going. The default mode for on-no-match processing is text-only-copy which recursively matches and returns text nodes found in the sub-tree of a context node. A part of the implementation of this 'back-up' rule can be expressed as the fragment marked as RULE_TEXT. Q: What is the reason for the white space in the output?

Stylesheet

Input

```
<abc>
<a foo="g">
<b>X</b>
<b>Y</c>
</a>
<a foo="f">
<b>M</b>
<c>N</c>
</a>
</a>
</abc>
```

XSLT: Identity Transformation

Stylesheet Input Output <abc> <abc> <xsl:template match="@*|node()"> <xsl:copy> X X <xsl:apply-templates select="@*|node()"/> <c>Y</c> <c>Y</c> </xsl:copy> </xsl:template> M M <c>N</c> <c>N</c> </abc> </abc>

Stylesheet Input Output <abc> <my-new-xml> <xsl:template match="/"> <my-new-xml> X X <xsl:apply-templates select="//a"/> <c>Y</c> <c>Y</c> </my-new-xml> </xsl:template> </my-new-xml> M <xsl:template match="a"> <c>N</c> <xsl:if test="./@foo = 'g'"> <xsl:copy-of select="."/> </abc> </xsl:if> </xsl:template>

The application of apply-templates can also be limited to a specific set of nodes using select.

JSON Transformation with XSLT and XQuery

- Parse JSON into the XDM representation and use maps and arrays to access and extract parts. However, more complex for transformation tasks (see <u>paper</u> for examples).
- Alternative: conversion of JSON into a lossless representation in XML; enables to apply existing transformation strategies and convert final result back to JSON (see next slides).
- Exercise: Create a generic language in XML that represents all required constructs of JSON. The XML representation must allow for conversions between XML and JSON without loss of information. Following relationship must hold true: xml2json(json2xml(json_payload)) == json_payload.

XSLT: JSON to XML Conversion From a Variable

Stylesheet

Input

```
"abc": [
  { "foo" : "g",
    "a": {
      "b": "X",
      "c": "Y" }},
  { "foo" : "f",
    "a": {
      "b": "M",
      "c": "N" }}
```

```
<map
xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2005/xpath
-functions">
 <array key="abc">
  <map>
   <string key="foo">g</string>
   <map key="a">
    <string key="b">X</string>
    <string key="c">Y</string>
   </map>
  </map>
  <map>
   <string key="foo">f</string>
   <map key="a">
    <string key="b">M</string>
    <string key="c">N</string>
   </map>
  </map>
 </array>
</map>
```

XSLT: JSON to XML Conversion From a File

Stylesheet

unparsed-text reads the file passed to the processor at runtime via the parameter 'json-file' and json-to-xml parses JSON into an intermediate lossless XML representation (note the associated namespace in the output).

Input

```
<map
xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2005/xpath
-functions">
 <array key="abc">
  <map>
   <string key="foo">g</string>
   <map key="a">
    <string key="b">X</string>
    <string key="c">Y</string>
   </map>
  </map>
  <map>
   <string key="foo">f</string>
   <map key="a">
    <string key="b">M</string>
    <string key="c">N</string>
   </map>
  </map>
 </array>
</map>
```

XSLT: JSON to JSON - Complete Example

```
<xsl:stylesheet</pre>
 xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform"
 xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
 xpath-default-namespace="http://www.w3.org/2005/xpath-functions"
 xmlns:fn="http://www.w3.org/2005/xpath-functions"
 version="3.0">
 <xsl:param name="json-file"/>
  <xsl:output method="text" indent="yes"/>
  <xsl:template name="xsl:initial-template">
   <xsl:variable name="xml" select="json-to-xml(unparsed-text($json-file))"/>
   <xsl:variable name="transformed-xml">
     <fn:array>
        <xsl:for-each select="$xml//array[@key='abc']/map">
          <xsl:call-template name="foo-map"/>
        </xsl:for-each>
      </fn:array>
   </xsl:variable>
   <!-- Comment out line below when output method is set to xml (debugging)-->
   <xsl:value-of select="xml-to-json($transformed-xml)"/>
   <!-- Comment out line below when output method is set to text -->
   <!-- <xsl:copy-of select="$transformed-xml"/> -->
  </xsl:template>
  <xsl:template name="foo-map">
   <fn:map>
      <fn:array key="{./string/text()}">
        <fn:map>
          <xsl:copy-of select="./map/string"/>
        </fn:map>
      </fn:array>
   </fn:map>
 </xsl:template>
</xsl:stylesheet>
```

Input

```
"abc": [
 { "foo" : "g",
  { "foo" : "f".
      "c": "N" }}
```

XQuery: JSON to JSON - Complete Example

```
xquery version "3.1";
declare namespace output =
"http://www.w3.org/2010/xslt-xquery-serialization";
declare namespace xs = "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema";
declare namespace fn = "http://www.w3.org/2005/xpath-functions";
declare option output:method "text";
declare option output:indent "yes";
declare option output:omit-xml-declaration "yes";
declare variable $json-file as xs:string external;
xml-to-json(
<fn:array>
{for $map in
json-to-xml(unparsed-text($json-file))//fn:array[@key='abc']/fn:map
  return
    <fn:map>
      <fn:array key="{$map/fn:string/text()}">
        <fn:map>
          {$map/fn:map/fn:string}
        </fn:map>
      </fn:array>
   </fn:map>}
</fn:array>
```

Input

```
{
    "abc": [
        { "foo" : "g",
            "a": {
                "b": "X",
                "c": "Y" }},
        { "foo" : "f",
                "a": {
                "b": "M",
                "c": "N" }}
]
```

Exercises

Try to run the provided examples. Download the provided script and run:

```
./iopdst.sh create
./iopdst.sh shell

# in the shell
./iopdst.sh xslt30-xml data.xml xml.xslt out.xml
./iopdst.sh xslt30-json data.json json.xslt out.json
./iopdst.sh xquery31-xml data.xml xml.xq out.xml
./iopdst.sh xquery31-json data.json json.xq out.json
```

- Convert XML into JSON and vice versa.
- For additional commands such as for conditional processing, see the reference for XSLT <u>here</u> and XQuery <u>here</u>.

Additional Topics

- Sometimes data doesn't fit in memory or data is received as a stream; XSLT provides capabilities for processing streams (see <u>documentation</u>).
- JSONiq an alternative querying language for JSON inspired by XQuery (see the <u>specification</u> and <u>paper</u>).
- JSONPath an attempt to define a similar language to XPath for JSON. See the draft.
- Support for JSON trees with XPath 3.1 (see <u>specification</u>).