



Requirements Interchange Format (ReqIF)

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Preface

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OMG

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- UML Profile

Modernization Specifications

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- **CORBAServices**
- **CORBAFacilities**

OMG Domain Specifications

CORBA Embedded Intelligence Specifications

CORBA Security Specifications

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1 Scope

1.1 Who should read this document?

This document is created to inform:

- Persons interested in exchanging requirements data between organizations that do not have a possibility to share the same repository (See Clause 4 for a definition of “repository”).
- Requirements authoring tool vendors who want to support the Requirements Interchange Format (ReqIF) with export and import interfaces for their requirements authoring tools. See Clause 4 for a definition of “requirements authoring tool.”
- Tool vendors other than requirements authoring tool vendors who wish to interchange requirements for documentation or other purposes.
- Anyone interested in defining, interchanging, storing, etc., requirements in a standard interchange format.

1.2 Objectives of the Requirements Interchange Format

Requirements management has been an integral part of the development process in various industries (especially in the military, aeronautical, or the medical device industry) for years. Other industries have been adopting requirements management recently.

The automotive industry for example introduced requirements management around 1999. As requirements management spread in the automotive industry over the years, more and more car manufacturers and suppliers have been applying requirements management and making use of dedicated requirements authoring tools. Large improvements have been made in these organizations and requirements management has been established as a key discipline in this collaborative engineering environment. Now with this established discipline in place, manufacturers and suppliers strive for collaborative requirements management where requirements management does not stop at company borders.

For technical and organizational reasons, two companies in the manufacturing industry are rarely able to work on the same requirements repository and sometimes do not work with the same requirements authoring tools. A generic, non-proprietary format for requirements information is required to cross the chasm and to satisfy the urgent industry need for exchanging requirement information between different companies without losing the advantage of requirements management at the organizations' borders.

With the help of a dedicated interchange format for requirements specifications, it is possible to bridge the gap:

- The collaboration between partner companies is improved by the benefits of applying requirements management methods across company borders.
- The partner companies do not have to use the same requirements authoring tool and suppliers do not need to have multiple requirements authoring tools to fulfill the need of their customers with regards to compatibility.
- Within a company, requirement information can be exchanged even if various tools are used to author requirements.

The Requirements Interchange Format (ReqIF) described in this specification defines such an open, non-proprietary exchange format. Requirement information is exchanged by transferring XML documents that comply to the ReqIF format.

See the following figure for an example scenario between two partners who are exchanging a Customer Requirements Specification and the corresponding System Requirements Specification.

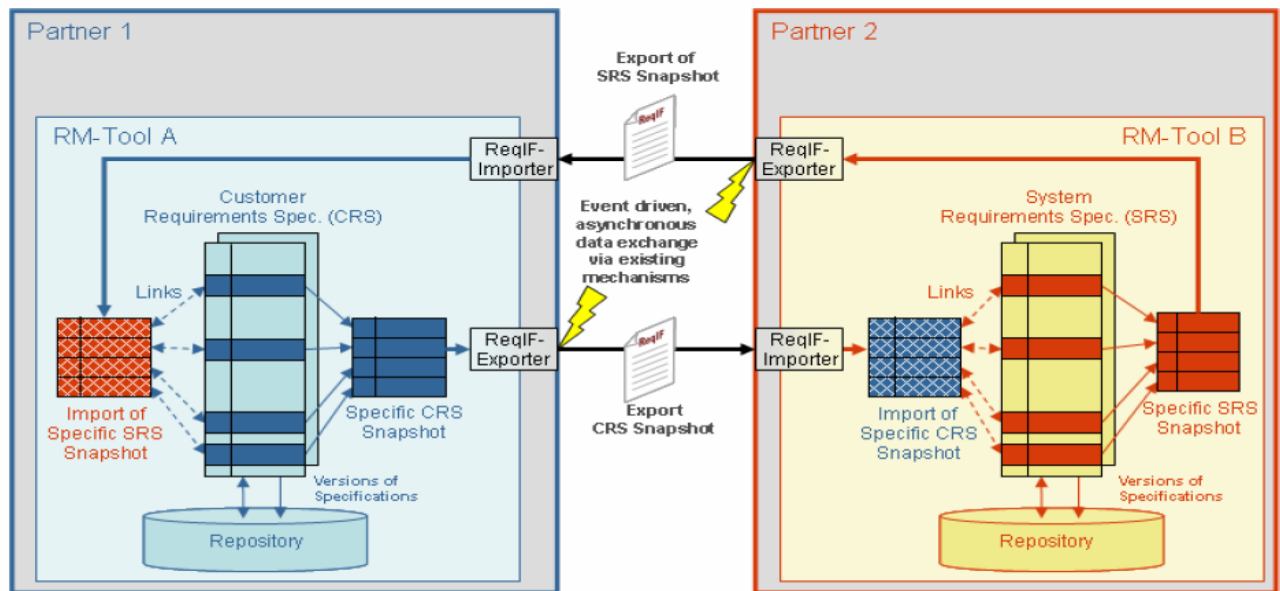


Figure 1.1 - Example ReqIF exchange scenario

Figure 1.1 represents a common scenario how requirements specifications are exchanged between partners. Both partners in the scenario use different requirements management (RM) tools to create, manage, and evolve their requirements specifications. The process is usually initiated by Partner 1. Customer requirements that are relevant for Partner 2 are consolidated in a snapshot document. The Partner 2 specific CRS snapshot is exported out of the RM-Tool A by means of the ReqIF-Exporter and transferred asynchronously to Partner 2 via existing data transfer mechanisms. The result of the export is a ReqIF compliant XML document representing the specific CRS snapshot. The data transfer mechanism is out of scope of ReqIF. Having received the exported CRS snapshot Partners 2 imports the information into RM-Tool B in order to analyze the customer requirements imposed by Partner 1. For traceability reasons Partner 2 links the received customer requirements with the corresponding system requirements. As an answer to the customer requirements Partner 2 creates a consolidated SRS snapshot that contains the system requirements realizing the imposed customer requirements of Partner 1. The SRS snapshot is fed back to Partner 1 as an exported ReqIF compliant XML document. Having imported the SRS snapshot Partner 1 can analyze within RM-Tool A how the customer requirements are fulfilled by the system requirements specified by Partner 2. As specifications evolve over time the exchange via ReqIF is an event driven, asynchronous data exchange.

2 Conformance

A technology targeting the seamless information exchange between a wide variety of tool implementations may tolerate only a very limited variability in the definition of the information exchange format.

Therefore, a compliant implementation of the Requirements Interchange Format (ReqIF) must implement all elements described in Clauses 9, 10, and 11. Further, a compliant implementation must also recognize and support the high-level exchange protocol and associated exchange document states defined in Clause 8.

As a compliance variation point, compliant implementations may use an alternative element identification mechanism in parallel to the primary identification mechanism. Further, implementations may be unable to interpret or handle certain forms of formatted attributes. In this case, implementations are allowed to substitute the offending representation with a simplified form, as long as the attribute is marked as simplified, a reference to an original form of the attribute is preserved, and the simplified attribute is excluded from any further alterations.

3 Normative References

3.1 Normative References

The following normative documents contain provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this specification:

URI

- Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax, T. Berners-Lee, R. Fielding, L. Masinter, IETF RFC 2396, August 1998
<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt>

XHTML 1.1 Modularization

- XHTML™ Modularization 1.1, Daniel Austin et al., eds., W3C, 8 October 2008
<http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml-modularization/>

XML 1.0 (Second Edition)

- Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0, Second Edition, Tim Bray et al., eds., W3C, 6 October 2000
<http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-xml>

XML-Namespaces

- Namespaces in XML, Tim Bray et al., eds., W3C, 14 January 1999
<http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-xml-names>

XML-Schema

The authoritative description of the Requirements Interchange Format exchange document structure is provided as an XML Schema. XML Schemas express shared vocabularies and allow machines to carry out rules made by people. They provide a means for defining the structure, content and semantics of XML documents.

- XML Schema Part 1: Structures, Henry S. Thompson, David Beech, Murray Maloney, Noah Mendelsohn, W3C, 2 May 2001
<http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-1/>
- XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes, Paul V. Biron and Ashok Malhotra, eds., W3C, 2 May 2001
<http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/>

3.2 Non-normative references

MIME Media Types

<http://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types/>

4 Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this specification, the following terms and definitions apply.

Name	Description
Editable	The characteristic of an object that it is possible to define, alter, adapt, or refine the object.
Exchange XML Document	An XML document with specification content that is exchanged between two partners.
Exporting ReqIF tool	A ReqIF Tool that is used to export requirements information from a requirements authoring tool into an exchange XML document.
<Name of ReqIF Information Type> instance	An instance of the ReqIF information type, or an instance of a direct or indirect subclass of the ReqIF information type.
Importing ReqIF tool	A ReqIF Tool that is used to import an exchange XML document into a requirements authoring tool.
Information Element	An information element is an atomic unit of information, e.g., a requirements text, an attribute value in a requirements authoring tool, a relation that links two requirements.
Information Type	An information type is a category of information elements with the same properties in terms of e.g., element attributes or relationships to other information elements.
Links	References between requirements or between requirement and solution.
MIME type	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions type. MIME-Types are a common mechanism to specify kinds of textual or binary objects.
Repository	Container for RE&M data that is managed by a requirements authoring tool.
Requirement	A requirement specifies a capability or condition that must (or should) be satisfied. A requirement may specify a function that a system must perform or a performance condition a system must achieve.
ReqIF	Requirements Interchange Format: The format specified in this standard.
ReqIF model	The ReqIF-model is located on the same abstraction level as <i>information types</i> . It specifies and describes the different kind of <i>information types</i> as well as their relationships to each other.
ReqIF tool	A tool that exports ReqIF compliant XML documents from a source requirements authoring tool and/or imports them in a target requirements authoring tool.

Requirements authoring tool	A tool used that is capable of creating and modifying requirements. In the context of this specification, this need not be a tool marketed as “Requirements Management Tool.”
Source requirements authoring tool	A requirements authoring tool from which contents are exported to a ReqIF file.
Target requirements authoring tool	A requirements authoring tool that is the target of an import of an exchange XML document.
Supplier	A company that produces components for use in another company’s products.
Tags	Tags specify special properties of an information type with regard to the automatic XML-Schema generation process.
ZIP file (format)	The ZIP file format is a data compression and archive format. A ZIP file contains one or more files that have been compressed to reduce file size, or stored as-is.

5 Symbols

For the purposes of this specification, the following acronyms and abbreviations apply.

Name	Description
CDATA	Character Data
CSS	Cascading Style Sheets
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
HIS	Hersteller Initiative Software (http://www.automotive-his.de/). The Hersteller Initiative Software is a consortium of the vehicle manufacturers Audi, BMW, Daimler, Porsche, and Volkswagen. The objective of this consortium is to bundle their activities for standard software modules, process maturity levels, software test, software tools, and programming of control units. The common goal is to achieve and use joint standards.
IT	Information Type
MIME type	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions type.
OMG	Object Management Group:
RE	Requirements Engineering
RE&M	Requirements Engineering & Management
ReqIF	Requirements Interchange Format.
RM	Requirements Management
UC	Use Case
UML	Unified Modeling Language

URI	Uniform Resource Identifier
UTF-16	Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) Transformation Format for 16 Planes of Group 00.
UTF-8	8-bit Unicode Transformation Format
W3C	The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international consortium where Member organizations, a full-time staff, and the public work together to develop Web standards.
XHTML	Extensible Hypertext Markup Language
XML	Extensible Markup Language
XSLT	Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformation

6 Additional Information

6.1 How to read this specification

Clauses 1 to 6 contain background and basics for reading this specification. Clause 1 describes the objectives of this specification and the intended readership. Clause 2 defines conformance. Clause 3 lists other specifications and documents containing provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this specification. Clause 4 and 5 contain definitions of terms and abbreviations used in this document. Clause 6 provides additional information to this specification.

Clauses 7 to 11 include the technical part of this specification. Clause 7 gives an introduction to the Requirements Interchange Format and describes relevant exchange scenarios. Clause 8 describes the abstract architecture of the ReqIF information model. Clause 9 defines the general structure of exchange XML documents. Clause 10 defines the details of the exchange XML documents. Clause 11 contains the production rules for the ReqIF XML Schema.

6.2 Acknowledgements

The following companies submitted and/or supported parts of this specification:

6.2.1 Submitting Organizations

The following companies are formal submitting members of OMG:

- Atego
- ProSTEP iViP Association

6.2.2 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations support this specification, but are not formal submitters.

Name of company	URL
88solutions Corporation	http://88solutions.com/
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Continental AG	http://www.conti-online.com
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HOOD GmbH	http://www.hood-group.com
International Business Machines	http://www.ibm.com/de
MKS GmbH	http://www.mks.com
ModelAlchemy Consulting	http://www.modelalchemy.com
PROSTEP AG	http://www.prostep.com
Robert Bosch GmbH	http://www.bosch.de
Volkswagen AG	http://www.volkswagen.de

The initial work on ReqIF was done by the members of the HIS group and additional partners that were associated for this project. The HIS group is the panel of the vehicle manufacturers Audi AG, BMW Group, Daimler AG, Porsche AG, and Volkswagen AG to bundle their activities for standard software modules, process maturity levels, software test, software tools, and programming of control units. The common goal is to achieve and facilitate joint standards. The group that is working on the initial release of ReqIF consists of the ProSTEP iViP Association, Atego Systems GmbH, Audi AG, BMW AG, Continental AG, Daimler AG, HOOD GmbH, International Business Machines, MKS GmbH, PROSTEP AG, Robert Bosch GmbH, and Volkswagen AG.

Before the submission of the Requirements Interchange Format (ReqIF) to the OMG, the Requirements Interchange Format has been a specification proposed by the HIS and in its latest version, a recommendation of ProSTEP iViP. For these versions, the abbreviation “*RIF*” has been applied. The HIS released the Requirements Interchange Format as RIF 1.0, RIF1.0a, RIF 1.1; RIF1.1a and the ProSTEP iViP released the recommendation RIF 1.2.

As the acronym RIF has an ambiguous meaning within the OMG, the acronym ReqIF has been introduced to separate it from the W3C’s Rule Interchange Format. ReqIF 1.0 is the direct successor of the ProSTEP iViP recommendation RIF 1.2.

7 Concept Overview and Use Cases

7.1 Preface: How requirements authoring tools handle information

Most modern requirement authoring tools emulate word processors, but offer additional features. This allows authors of requirement specifications who have been using word processors to continue working in a similar manner, but enjoy the benefits of a tool specialized for authoring requirements.

Figure 7.1 shows an example for the transition from creating a textual document using a word processor to authoring a specification in a modern requirements authoring tool.

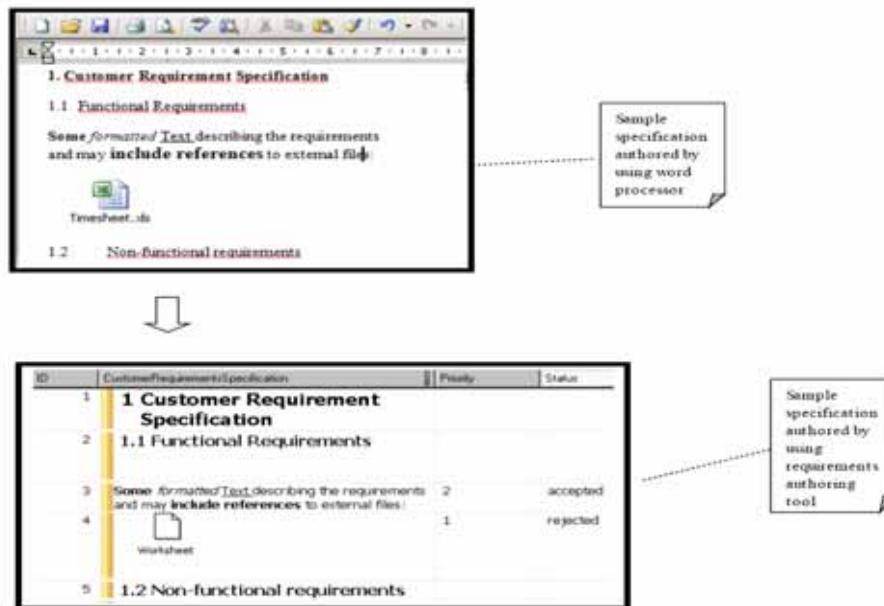


Figure 7.1 - Transition from word processors to requirement authoring tools

The word processing features of requirement authoring tools include the following.

Feature	How word processors handle it	How requirement authoring tools handle it
1. Structure specifications hierarchically	A user of a word processor structures documents by creating a hierarchy of clauses and sub clauses. The word-processor supports this task by automating the numbering of headlines and the creation of an outline.	Requirement authoring tools support the creation of hierarchically structured specifications. Users can create tree structures of requirements.
2. Use formatted text in the specifications	Word processors support, among other things, the bold, underlined, italic, and strikethrough text, bullet points and numbering in the documents.	Requirement authoring tools support the use of bold, underlined, italic, and strikethrough text, bullet points, and numbering in attribute values of requirements.
3. Reference binary files	Word processors support referencing binary files, for example spreadsheets, presentation slides, etc. from within a document.	Requirement authoring tools support the referencing of binary files from within attribute values of requirements.

The features that are specific to requirement authoring tools include the following.

Feature	How requirement authoring tools handle it	Example
4. Uniquely identify requirements	Requirement authoring tools allow to distinguish individual requirements and to automatically create a unique identifier for each requirement.	
5. Associate attributes with the requirements	<p>A user of a requirement authoring tool can define arbitrary attributes and attach them to requirements.</p> <p>Typically, a set of requirements shares the same attributes. However, these attributes may have different values for each requirement, and the values may have different underlying data types.</p>	<p>A user of a requirement authoring tool defines the attributes “id,” “description,” “priority,” “status,” and “department” as mandatory for a specification.</p> <p>The “priority” attribute has an integer data type, the “status” and “department” attributes have an enumeration data type, and the “description” attribute has a string data type. Each requirement may have a different value for each of these attributes.</p>
6. Establish relations between requirements	A user of a requirement authoring tool can define relations between requirements.	<p>Example purposes of relations:</p> <p>a) to establish traceability</p> <p>b) to connect non-functional to functional requirements.</p>

7. Group relations	Some requirement authoring tools allow the user to define new types of relations and to group relations by their type.	A requirement authoring tool may allow its users to define the new type “contradicts” for relations between two requirements that contradict each other, and then allow the users to create a group of “contradicts” relations. Such a group of relations – together with the requirements that are related by it – may support the users when reviewing and consolidating specifications.
8. Restrict user access to certain information	Requirement authoring tools offer the feature to restrict access to certain information.	During an exchange of specifications, the partner company that receives a Customer Requirement Specification is not allowed to edit the “priority” attribute of the requirements.

7.2 How the Requirements Interchange Format handles information from requirement authoring tools

The Requirements Interchange Format has been set up with the goal to exchange specifications between modern requirement authoring tools. Therefore, the requirements interchange format must be able to represent the information described in the previous clause. The following table shows how the features described in the previous clause are represented in the format. In the third column of the table, references to the abstract syntax of the format and the descriptions of the elements can be found.

Feature	How the Requirements Interchange Format handles it	References to abstract syntax of the format and the description of the elements
1. Structure specifications hierarchically	ReqIF provides the concept of a specification that contains a hierarchical structure of requirements.	See sub clause 10.3 for the basics of requirement specifications. See sub clause 10.4 for the abstract syntax of hierarchies. See sub clause 10.8.38 for the class description of a specification (class). See sub clause 10.8.40 for the class description of a requirement. See sub clause 10.8.37 for the class description of a hierarchical structure.
2. Use formatted text in the specifications	As representing formatted text is a potentially complex topic, ReqIF re-uses a subset of W3C’s XHTML modules to ease implementation of the format. XHTML content MAY be used in specific attribute values.	See sub clause 10.6.3 on the datatype for formatted content. See sub clause 10.8.11, 10.8.29, and 10.8.20 for the class descriptions.
3. Reference binary files	To allow referencing binary files from within an attribute value that contains formatted text, XHTML is used as a mechanism as well.	See sub clause 10.8.20 for the class description.
4. Uniquely identify requirements	ReqIF provides an identification mechanism for requirements.	See sub clause 10.2 for the abstract syntax. See sub clause 10.8.32 for the class descriptions.

5. Associate attributes with the requirements	ReqIF allows to attach attributes to requirements. The definition of the attributes (the attribute name, the attribute data type etc.) is separated from the attribute value.	See sub clause 10.3 on how to attach attributes to requirements. See sub clause 10.5 to learn about data types of attributes.
6. Establish relations between requirements	ReqIF represents relations with a freely definable semantic.	See sub clause 10.4 for the abstract syntax of relations between requirements. See sub clause 10.8.42 for the class description of a relation between requirements.
7. Group relations	ReqIF allows grouping of relationships.	See sub clause 10.8.42 and 10.8.33 for the class descriptions.
8. Restrict user access to certain information	ReqIF allows to specify that certain information elements are not editable.	See sub clause 10.7.

7.3 How the Requirements Interchange Format copes with different tool capabilities

Modern requirement authoring tools vary concerning the features they support. There is no “unified language” for requirements that all requirement authoring tools support, and therefore, there is also no meta-model shared between requirement authoring tools.

The Requirements Interchange Format deals with the tools that are on the market nowadays. Some typical situations and resulting consequences are outlined in the following table.

Situation	Example	Consequences
Requirement authoring tools use different terminology for the same concept.	What is called an “object” in one authoring tool may be called a “requirement” in another authoring tool	ReqIF includes only a limited collection of concepts, but provides an (informal) mapping to various requirement authoring tools on the market. See Annex A for a reference to an implementation guide that provides such a mapping.

When users of two different brands of requirement authoring tools exchange specifications, information may get lost due to the different capabilities of the tools.	Company A exports a specification from their requirement authoring tool, sends it to Company B where the specification is imported into a different requirement authoring tool. During the import, information is lost.	<p>Partners exchanging specifications should agree on the requirement authoring tools and the tool capabilities they use prior to the exchange.</p> <p>ReqIF focuses on concepts that are widely implemented in requirement authoring tools. There are differences in how formatted contents can be represented in the requirement authoring tools and how special characters are treated. For that, ReqIF offers the mechanism of an “isSimplified” flag for formatted attribute values. See Clause 8 and sub clause 10.8.20.</p> <p>For concepts that are individual features of a certain requirement authoring tool, ReqIF offers the concept of tool extensions. See sub clause 9.2.4 for details.</p>
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7.4 Exchange Scenarios

The Requirements Interchange Format (ReqIF) described in this specification defines a non-proprietary, open exchange format. Instead of exchanging textual requirement specification documents, requirement specifications are exchanged by transferring XML documents that comply to the ReqIF format, making them processable by tools.

One of the basic ideas of ReqIF is to offer the opportunity to exchange information between different installations of the same requirements authoring tool with a standardized format and that the same format can be used to exchange information between different requirements authoring tools.

This clause explains two exchange scenarios:

- In the first exchange scenario (“one-way”), requirement specifications of one exchange partner are provided to a second exchange partner, for example to inform the second partner about the requested requirements.
- In the second exchange scenario (“roundtrip”), requirement specifications of one exchange partner are provided to a second exchange partner as well. After that, however, the second exchange partner makes modifications to the requirements, for example to comment them concerning the feasibility. The second exchange partner transmits the modified requirement specifications back to the first exchange partner.

The two exchange partners mentioned above may for example be two different companies or two departments within one company. In any case, there needs to be at least one installation of a requirements authoring tool per exchange partner, which is used to author the requirements. There also needs to be a user for each requirements authoring tool who exports, imports, or updates the requirement specifications in the requirements authoring tools.

Clause 7.4.1 describes the relevant roles in the scenarios. The sub clauses 7.4.2 and 7.4.3 outline the two exchange scenarios. The steps of the exchange scenarios that need further detailing are described in sub clause 7.5. Note that ReqIF tools MAY support additional scenarios. For example, exchanges with more than two partners MAY be supported, or there MAY be other purposes for using ReqIF than exchange, for example document generation.

7.4.1 Role descriptions

Role Name	Role description	Role type
RequirementsAuthoringToolUser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Party that is responsible for starting the export of requirements specifications from a requirements authoring tool to ReqIF exchange XML documents, or Party that is responsible for starting the import of ReqIF exchange XML documents to a requirements authoring tool. (An update of the specification in the requirements authoring tool may become necessary.) 	Person
RequirementsAuthoringTool	See clause “Terms and Definitions” for a definition.	System

7.4.2 First exchange scenario (“One-Way”)

Figure 7.2 shows a one-way exchange of requirement specifications between two requirements authoring tools.

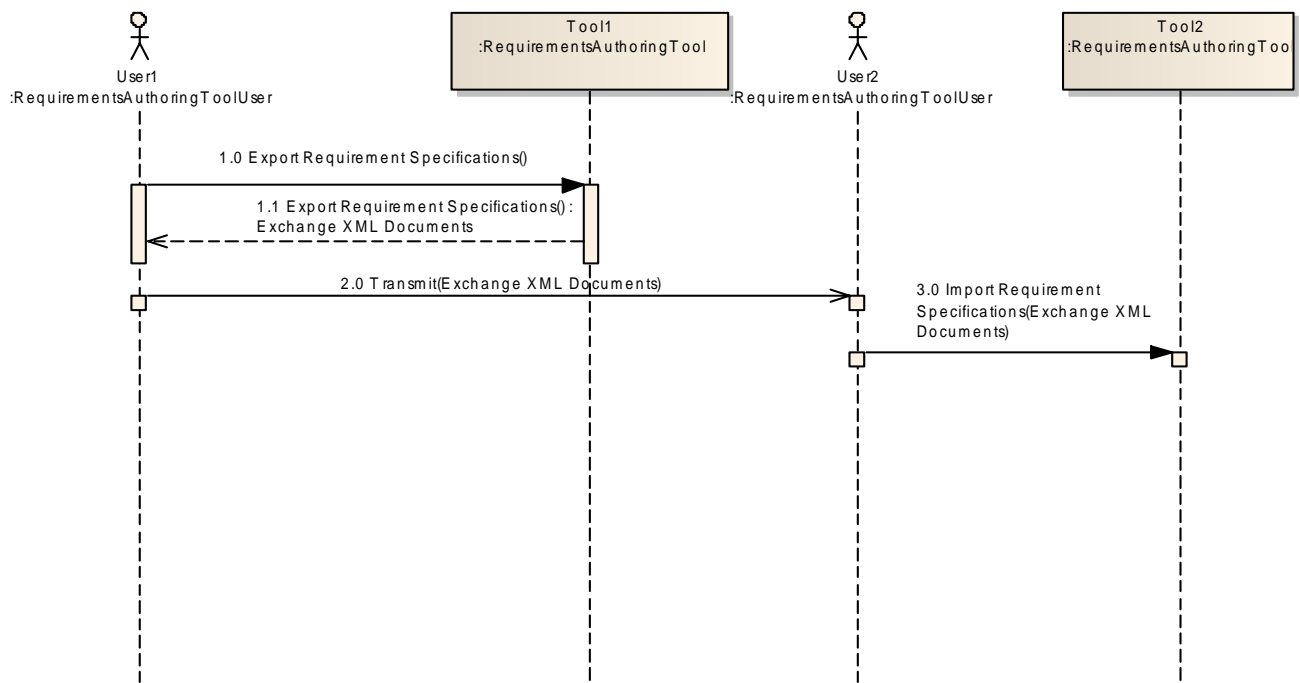


Figure 7.2 - One-Way exchange of requirements between two requirements authoring tools using ReqIF

Scenario steps

Step ID	Step description
1.0: Export Requirement Specifications()	A user of a requirements authoring tool (User1) starts the export of requirement specifications from a requirements authoring tool (Tool1). See Use Case “UC1: Export Requirement Specifications ” for details on this step.
1.1: Export Requirement Specifications() : Exchange XML Documents	The requirement specifications chosen by User1 are exported into one or more ReqIF compliant XML documents. See Use Case “UC1: Export Requirement Specifications ” for details on this step.
2.0: Transmit(Exchange XML Documents)	NOTE: This step is not in the scope of ReqIF. The exchange XML documents are transmitted by the sender (User1) to the receiver (User2) using traditional file transfer tools (e.g., email or ftp).
3.0: Import Requirement Specifications(Exchange XML Documents)	User2 imports the exchange XML documents into his requirements authoring tool (Tool2). For the case that, during this step, requirement specifications are newly created in Tool2, see “UC2: Import New Requirement Specifications” for details. For the case that, during this step, existing requirement specifications are updated in Tool2, see “UC3: Update Requirement Specifications” for details.

7.4.3 Second exchange scenario (“Roundtrip”)

Figure 7.3 shows a roundtrip exchange of requirement specifications between two requirements authoring tools.

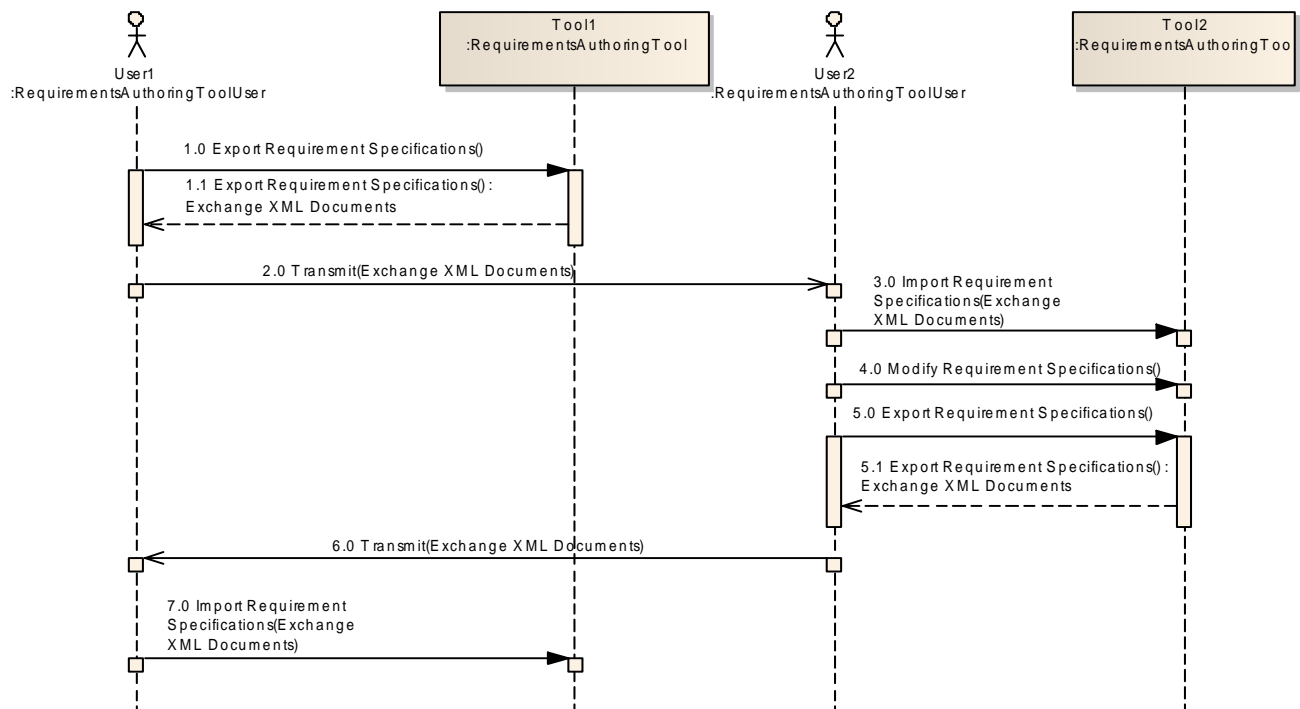


Figure 7.3 - Roundtrip exchange of requirements between two requirements authoring tools using ReqIF

Scenario steps

Step ID	Step description
1.0: Export Requirement Specifications()	A user of a requirements authoring tool (User1) starts the export of requirement specifications from a requirements authoring tool (Tool1). See Use Case "UC1: Export Requirement Specifications" for details on this step.
1.1: Export Requirement Specifications() : Exchange XML Documents	The requirement specifications chosen by User1 are exported into one or more ReqIF compliant XML documents. See Use Case "UC1: Export Requirement Specifications" for details on this step.
2.0: Transmit(Exchange XML Documents)	NOTE: This step is not in the scope of ReqIF. The exchange XML documents are transmitted by the sender (User1) to the receiver (User2) using traditional file transfer tools (e.g., email or ftp).
3.0: Import Requirement Specifications (Exchange XML Documents)	User2 imports the exchange XML documents into his requirements authoring tool (Tool2). For the case that, during this step, requirement specifications are newly created in Tool2, see "UC2: Import New Requirement Specifications" for details. For the case that, during this step, existing requirement specifications are updated in Tool2, see "UC3: Update Requirement Specifications" for details.
4.0: Modify Requirement Specifications	User2 modifies the requirement specifications in Tool2. He MAY add or delete individual requirements or requirement specifications and change the contents of requirements or the structure of requirement specifications.
5.0: Export Requirement Specifications	User2 starts the export of the requirement specifications.
5.1: Export Requirement Specifications() : Exchange XML Documents	The requirement specifications chosen by User2 are exported into one or more ReqIF compliant XML documents.
6.0: Transmit(Exchange XML Documents)	NOTE: This step is not in the scope of ReqIF. The exchange XML documents are transmitted by the sender (User2) to the receiver (User1) using traditional file transfer tools (e.g., email or ftp).
7.0: Import Requirement Specifications (Exchange XML Documents)	User1 imports the exchange XML documents into Tool1. For the case that, during this step, requirement specifications are newly created in Tool1, see "UC2: Import New Requirement Specifications" for details. For the case that, during this step, existing requirement specifications are updated in Tool1, see "UC3: Update Requirement Specifications" for details.

7.5 Detailed Use Cases

7.5.1 Use Case Overview

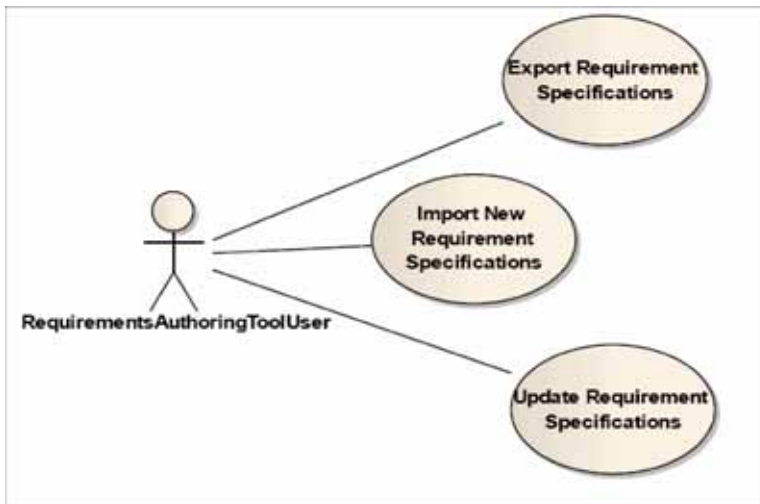


Figure 7.4 - Use Cases for the Requirements Interchange Format

7.5.2 Use Case Specifications

The template used for specifying the succeeding uses cases document is loosely based on a Use Case template by Alistair Cockburn.

UC1: Export Requirement Specifications

ID	UC-1
Title	Export Requirement Specifications
CHARACTERISTIC INFORMATION	
<i>Goal in Context</i>	A user of a requirements authoring tool wants to export requirement specifications and relations between them from the requirements authoring tool to an exchange XML document.
<i>Preconditions</i>	The user has a requirements authoring tool installed. The user has a ReqIF tool installed that is capable of exporting requirement specifications from this requirements authoring tool. The requirement specifications the user wants to export are available in the requirements authoring tool and their contents are accessible by the user.
<i>Success End Condition</i>	The requirement specifications the user wanted to be exported have successfully been exported from the requirements authoring tool to an exchange XML document.
<i>Failed End Condition</i>	The requirement specifications the user wanted to be exported have not successfully been exported from the requirements authoring tool to an exchange XML document.
<i>Primary Actor</i>	The user of a requirements authoring tool.
MAIN SUCCESS SCENARIO	
Step 1	The user uses the ReqIF tool to specify the requirements specifications he wants to export and to request the export of the requirements specifications.
Step 2	The ReqIF tool exports each specification to one or several exchange XML documents. The exported exchange XML documents include information about requirements, types, attributes, and (optionally) access policies relations between requirements; the relations may be grouped. The structure of the specifications.
ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS	
Alternative B: Export Parts of a Specification (Step 1 + Step 2)	Instead of exporting complete requirement specifications, a ReqIF tool MAY additionally have the feature to export only parts of a specification.

UC2: Import New Requirement Specifications

ID	UC-2
Title	Import New Requirement Specifications
CHARACTERISTIC INFORMATION	
<i>Goal in Context</i>	A user of a requirements authoring tool wants to import requirement specifications and relations between them contained in exchange XML documents into a requirements authoring tool.
<i>Preconditions</i>	The user has a requirements authoring tool installed. The user has a ReqIF tool installed that is capable of importing requirement specifications from an exchange XML document into this requirements authoring tool. The exchange XML documents to be imported are available to the user. The user has the appropriate access rights in the requirements authoring tool to create new specifications, their contents and relations between requirements. The exchange XML documents have not been imported to the above requirements authoring tool so far.
<i>Success End Condition</i>	The requirement specifications the user wanted to be imported have successfully been imported from the exchange XML documents to the requirements authoring tool.

<i>Failed End Condition</i>	The requirement specifications the user wanted to be imported have not successfully been imported from the exchange XML documents to the requirements authoring tool.
<i>Primary Actor</i>	The user of a requirements authoring tool
MAIN SUCCESS SCENARIO	
Step 1	The user specifies the following information using the ReqIF tool : the exchange XML documents he wants to import the target location of elements to be created in the requirements authoring tool After that, the user requests the import of the exchange XML documents using the ReqIF tool.
Step 2	The ReqIF tool imports the exchange XML document into the requirements authoring tool.
ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS	
-	

UC3: Update Requirement Specifications

ID	UC-3
Title	Update Requirement Specifications
CHARACTERISTIC INFORMATION	
<i>Goal in Context</i>	A user of a requirements authoring tool wants to import requirement specifications and relations between them contained in exchange XML documents into a requirements authoring tool.
<i>Preconditions</i>	The user has a requirements authoring tool installed. The user has a ReqIF tool installed that is capable of importing requirement specifications from an exchange XML document into this requirements authoring tool. The exchange XML documents are available to the user. The user has the appropriate access rights in the requirements authoring tool to update specifications, their contents and relations between requirements. The exchange XML documents have previously been imported to the above requirements authoring tool.
<i>Success End Condition</i>	The requirement specifications in the requirements authoring tool that correspond to the specifications contained in the exchange XML document have successfully been updated.
<i>Failed End Condition</i>	The requirement specifications in the requirements authoring tool that correspond to the specifications contained in the exchange XML document have successfully been updated.
<i>Primary Actor</i>	The user of a requirements authoring tool
MAIN SUCCESS SCENARIO	
Step 1	The user specifies the following information using the ReqIF tool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exchange XML documents he wants to use as a source for the update. • The specifications in the requirements authoring tool he wants to update. After that, the user requests the update.
Step 2	The ReqIF tool merges the existing requirement specifications in the requirements authoring tool with the information from the exchange XML documents.
ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS	
-	

8 Abstract Architecture

Figure 8.1 shows the requirements exchange process, with a particular emphasis on attribute handling.

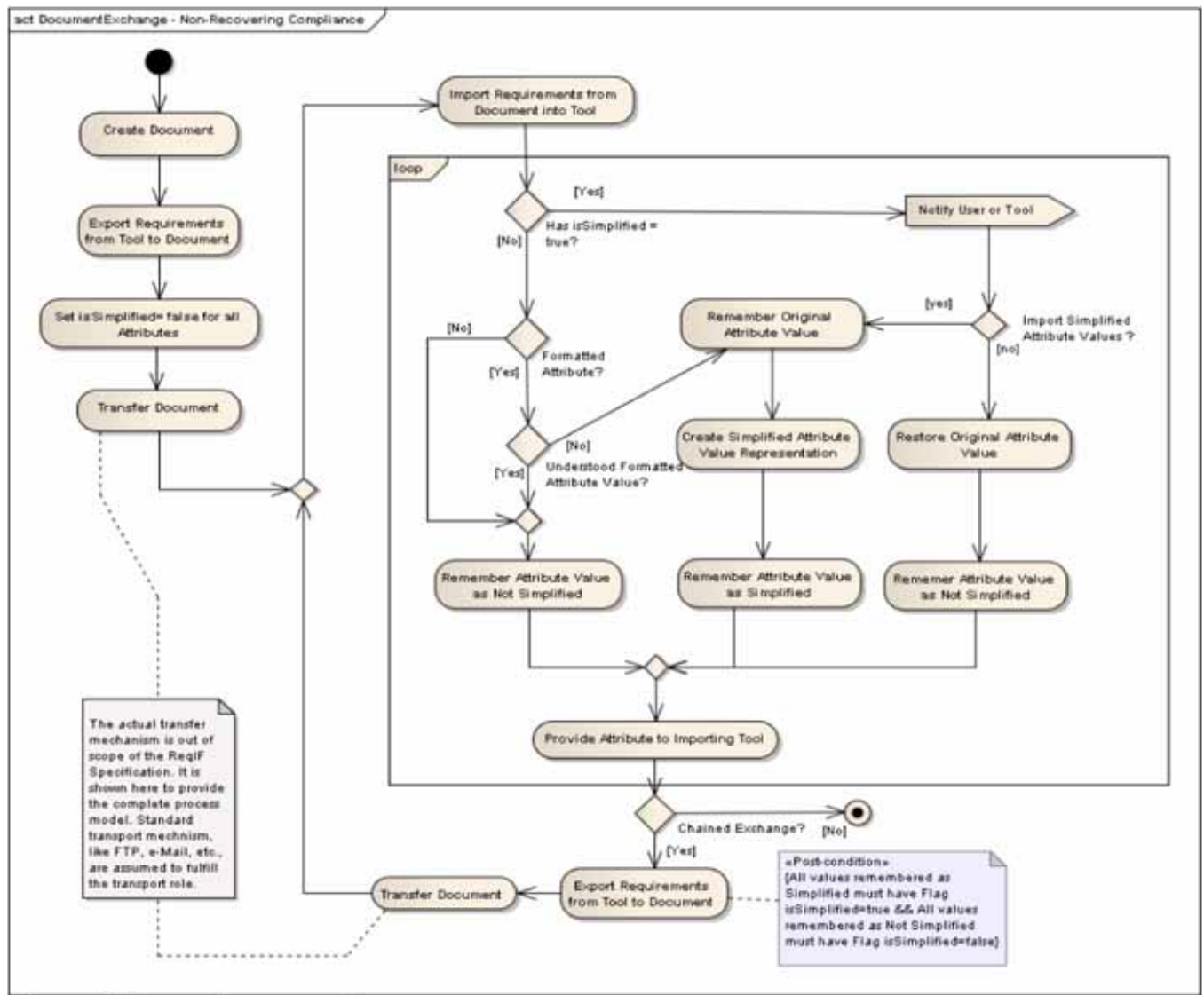


Figure 8.1 - The requirements exchange process

The four activities in the upper left corner, following the start symbol, representing the creation and initial population of the exchange document through export from a requirements authoring tool capable enough to hold the complete requirements specification and all its attributes in original form.

Element Name	Activity Description
Create Document	The exchange XML document is created.
Export Requirements from Tool to Document	The complete requirements specification is exported from the requirements authoring tool. This includes the requirements specification structure, all attributes, and all requirement relationships.
Set isSimplified = false for all Attributes	This flag signals that a tool was not able to interpret a formatted attribute value as is (see below). This flag must be cleared for all attribute values during the initial export.
Transfer Document	The exchange XML document is transferred to the next partner in the exchange chain. NOTE: The actual transfer mechanism is out-of-scope of the ReqIF specification.

After the initial population of the exchange document, the exchange process becomes a chain of requirements exchanges. This could be a linear chain of partner organizations, or a “roundtrip” exchange terminating at the originating organization, the process is always the same.

Element Name	Activity Description
Import Requirements from Document into Tool	The exchange XML document is parsed and the complete requirements specification is imported into the target tool. All attribute values are inspected during this process; this is detailed in the following Loop Fragment.

The following table describes the activities inside the attribute import loop. One loop iteration is performed for each attribute value encountered in the import stream.

Element Name	Activity Description
Has isSimplified = true	If isSimplified is true for a formatted attribute value, it signals that the previous tool in the exchange chain was unable to handle the attribute value in its original (formatted) form and created a simplified representation instead.
Formatted Attribute?	Interpretation deficiencies are only expected and tolerated for formatted attribute values (AttributeValueXHTML elements), therefore formatted attributes are singled out. Other attributes bypass all the following steps.
Understood Formatted Attribute Value	An attempt is made to interpret the current formatted attribute value. If the tool is unable to handle the formatted attribute value in its original form for any reason, special processing, as described in the following three rows, is required. If the formatted attribute value is understood, the following three rows are skipped.
Remember Original Attribute Value	The formatted attribute value contained in the exchange document needs to be preserved, as information may get lost during the import of the attribute value. This is done by copying theValue to the OriginalValue.
Create Simplified Attribute Representation	Dependent on the formatted attribute value and on the experienced capability mismatch, the importing tool must create a suitable simplified attribute representation that can be presented to the tool user.

Remember Attribute Value as Simplified	<p>If simplified representations of attribute values are imported or newly created, they need to be marked so that they get exported with isSimplified set to true.</p> <p>This signals to the following importer in the exchange chain that the tool was unable to interpret the formatted attribute value in its original form.</p>
Notify User or Tool [send event]	If the previous tool in the exchange chain was unable to handle the attribute value in its original (formatted) form, this event alerts the user or tool about the potential information loss that previously occurred.
Import Simplified Attribute Value ?	<p>A decision is made whether attribute values are imported in their simplified form.</p> <p>INFORMATIVE NOTE: This decision may for example be based on a configuration setting. Importing the simplified attribute representations is especially interesting for point-to-point exchanges between two human users of requirement authoring tools, where the sender needs to know what has actually been received. For automatic exchanges between tools, keeping the original attribute value may be the better option.</p>
Restore Original Attribute Value	This restores the original attribute value from step Remember Original Attribute Value. This is done by copying theOriginalValue to theValue.
Remember Attribute Value as Not Simplified	This is the alternate path for all attributes other than formatted attributes, and for formatted attributes understood in their original form.
Provide Attribute to Importing Tool	This is the final step in the attribute interpretation loop.

After the importing requirements authoring tool finished its processing on the imported requirements specification, the exchange chain may end by simple termination without further action on the exchange document, or the requirements specification in its processed form may be re-exported. The following table describes this export process.

Element Name	Action Description
Export Requirements from Tool to Document	The complete requirements specification, including all attributes, structure, and relationships is serialized into the exchange XML document. All formatted attribute values remembered as simplified during import must be exported with isSimplified set to true, all other attribute values must be exported with isSimplified set to false.
Transfer Document	This transfers the exchange document to the follow-on importer, closing the process loop.

9 Exchange Document Structure

9.1 General

This clause defines the top-level structure of a ReqIF Exchange Document, consisting of a header, the core content, and optionally of one or more tool-specific content extensions. These document elements are enclosed by the ReqIF root element. See Clause 1 for detailed definition of the content elements.

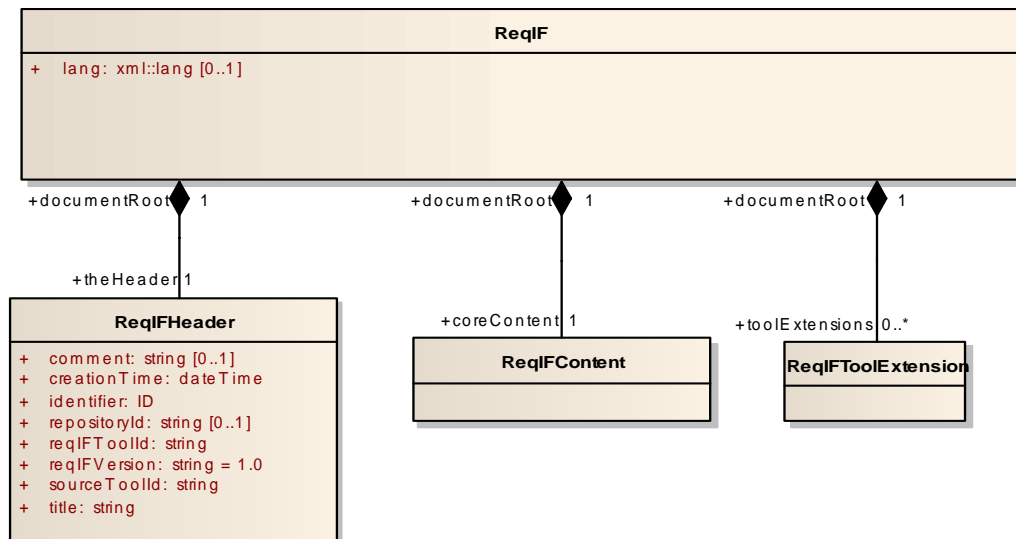


Figure 9.1 - ReqIF Document Structure

9.2 Class Descriptions

9.2.1 ReqIF

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: none

Description

This class constitutes the root element of the Exchange Document.

Attributes

- `lang : xml::lang [0..1]`
Default language encoding of the Exchange XML Document content. The format is defined by the standard for specifying languages in XML documents proposed by the W3C. See <http://www.w3.org/TR/xml11/#sec-lang-tag>

Associations

- **coreContent** : ReqIFContent [1] {composite}
This composition links the mandatory Exchange Document content.
- **theHeader** : ReqIFHeader [1] {composite}
This composition links the mandatory Exchange Document header, which contains metadata relevant for this exchange.
- **toolExtensions** : ReqIFToolExtension [0..*] {composite}
This composition links optional Exchange Document content based on tool extensions, if such extensions and content are present.

Operations

No operations.

Constraints

- [1] Element ReqIF must be the Exchange Document root element.
- [2] Any ReqIF Exchange Document must at most contain one ReqIF root element.

Tags

org.omg.reqif.global_element	True
org.omg.reqif.ordered	True

Semantics

Element ReqIF is the document root element, which encapsulates the whole Exchange Document.

Additional Information

No additional information.

9.2.2 ReqIFContent

Description

This class represents the mandatory content of the Exchange Document. Please refer to sub clause 10.8.35 for the complete class description.

9.2.3 ReqIFHeader

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: none

Description

This class holds metadata relevant to the Exchange Document content.

Attributes

- **comment**: string [0..1]
Optional comment associated with the Exchange Document as a whole.
- **creationTime** : xsd::dateTime
Time of creation of the exchange XML document in the format of the XML Schema data type “dateTime” which specifies the time format as *CCYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss* with optional time zone indicator as a suffix *±hh:mm*.
Example: 2005-03-04T10:24:18+01:00 (MET time zone).
- **identifier** : xsd::ID
Unique identifier for whole exchange XML document. The value of the identifier is of the XML Schema data type “xsd::ID”
- **repositoryId** : string [0..1]
Optional unique identifier of the repository containing the requirements that have been exported.
Examples for repositoryID: databaseId, URL.
- **reqIFToolId** : string
Identifier of the exporting ReqIF tool.
- **reqIFVersion** : string
ReqIF interchange format and protocol version.
- **sourceToolId** : string
Identifier of the exporting requirements management tool.
- **title** : string
Title of the Exchange Document.

Associations

- **documentRoot** : ReqIF [1]
Linking back to the Exchange Document root element.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

[1] The value of attribute reqIFVersion must be “1.0.”

Tags

org.omg.reqif.order	1
org.omg.reqif.xsd_element	“comment,” “creationTime,” “repositoryId,” “reqIFToolId,” “reqIFVersion,” “sourceToolId,” “title”
org.omg.reqif.fixed	“reqIFVersion”

Semantics

Metainformation held in the ReqIFHeader element is applicable to the Exchange Document as a whole.

Additional Information

No additional information.

9.2.4 ReqIFToolExtension

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: none

Description

This class allows the optional inclusion of tool-specific information into the Exchange Document.

Attributes

No attributes.

Associations

- documentRoot : ReqIF [1]
Linking back to the Exchange Document root element.

Operations

No operations.

Constraints

No constraints.

Tags

org.omg.reqif.order	3
org.omg.reqif.processContents	lax

Semantics

ReqIFToolExtension elements may be used to exchange requirements authoring tool specific concepts for which no ReqIF information types are applicable.

As an example, a **ReqIFToolExtension** element can be used to represent instances of the View type found in requirements authoring tools, as there is no ReqIF information type defined for the concept of a View.

Additional Information

As format, type, and content of information transferred in ReqIFToolExtension is not specified, preservation and/or correct interpretation of this information cannot be guaranteed if:

- different ReqIF tools are used for export and import, or
- different requirements authoring tools are used as source and target for the exchange.

10 Exchange Document Content

10.1 Overview

Figure 10.1 provides an overview of the information types aggregated by a ReqIFContent element.

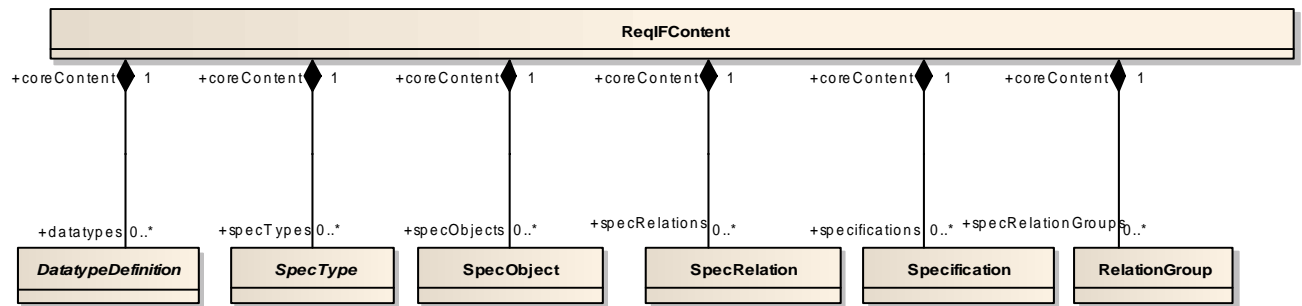


Figure 10.1 - Exchange Document core content

10.2 Identification of Elements

Information elements in an Exchange Document are distinguished through global unique identifiers (**Identifiable** elements), which are assigned during the creation of the information element. After assignment, these identifiers must not be altered during the lifetime of the information element, nor reused for any different information element. These identifiers allow the unique identification of information elements, even across several exchange documents.

Using these identifiers, elements of the specification that have been modified in a requirements authoring tool of an exchange partner can be updated in the requirements authoring tool where they had originally been created. In cases where a tool is unable to handle the original element identifiers, the original identifier may be complemented with a tool-specific alternative identifier (**AlternativeID** element).

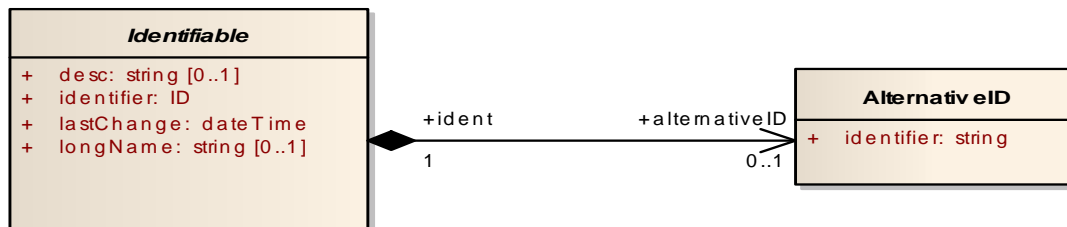


Figure 10.2 – Primary and alternative identifier

10.3 Specifications, Requirements, and Attributes

A key concept of ReqIF is the specification (Specification element), which acts as a container for the individual requirements (SpecObject elements). SpecObject elements constitute individually identifiable requirements. Apart from the information inherited from Identifiable, an instance of SpecObject is “empty” by itself and therefore contains no data.

Requirements can have attributes to represent requirement related information kept in the requirement authoring tool. Typically, a set of requirements shares the same attributes. For example: all requirements in a certain set have a “priority”-attribute and a “status”-attribute. What is actually shared among the requirements is the requirement attribute definitions (the number of attributes, the names of the attributes, the default values for the attributes, and the datatypes of the attributes.) In contrast to that, the value of a certain attribute may vary among the requirements in the set.

Therefore, ReqIF differs between the attribute definitions (AttributeDefinition elements) and the attribute values (AttributeValue elements) of a requirement. Several attribute definitions can be attached to a requirement by using a type (SpecType element).

In ReqIF, the concept of having attributes also expands to relations between requirements (SpecRelation elements), to requirement specifications (Specification elements), and to groups of relations (RelationGroup elements).

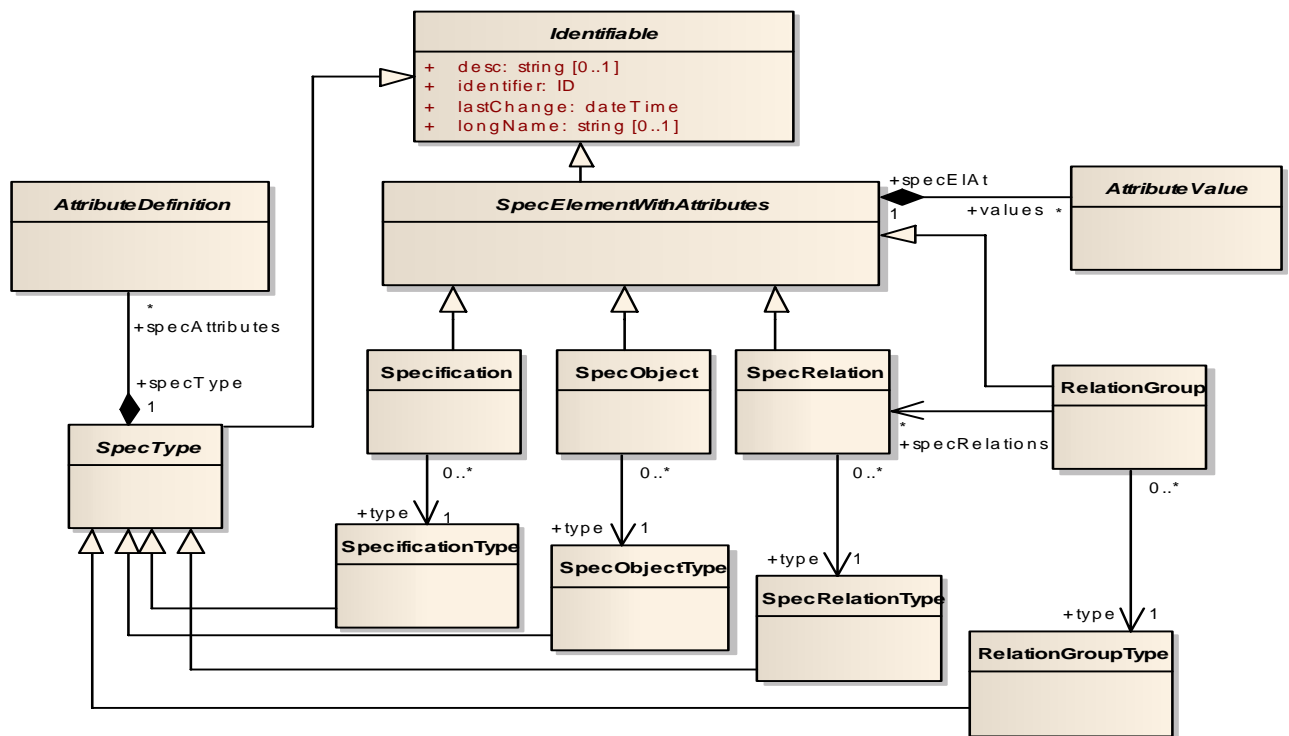


Figure 10.3 - Specification (Specificification), requirement (SpecObject), requirement relation (SpecRelation), relation group (RelationGroup) and associated attributes (AttributeDefinition, AttributeValue)

The information type AttributeDefinition is an abstract super-class for attribute definitions.

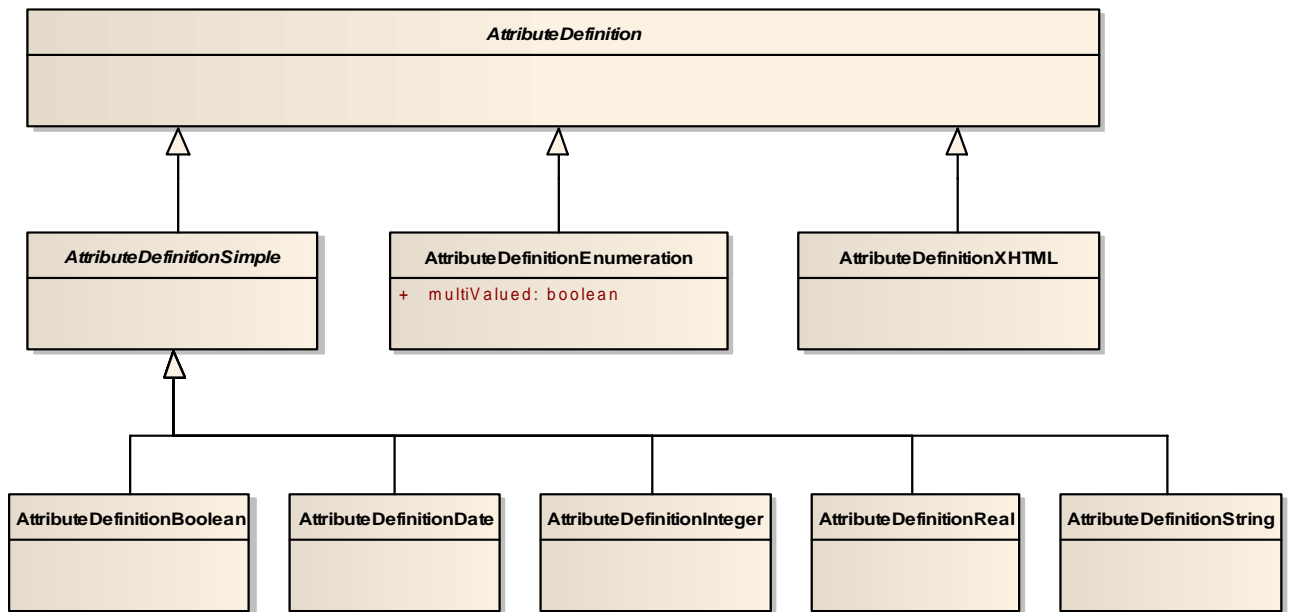


Figure 10.4 - AttributeDefinition class hierarchy

The information type **AttributeValue** is an abstract superclass for attribute values. There is one concrete **AttributeValue** information type for each concrete (direct or indirect) subclass of **AttributeDefinition**.

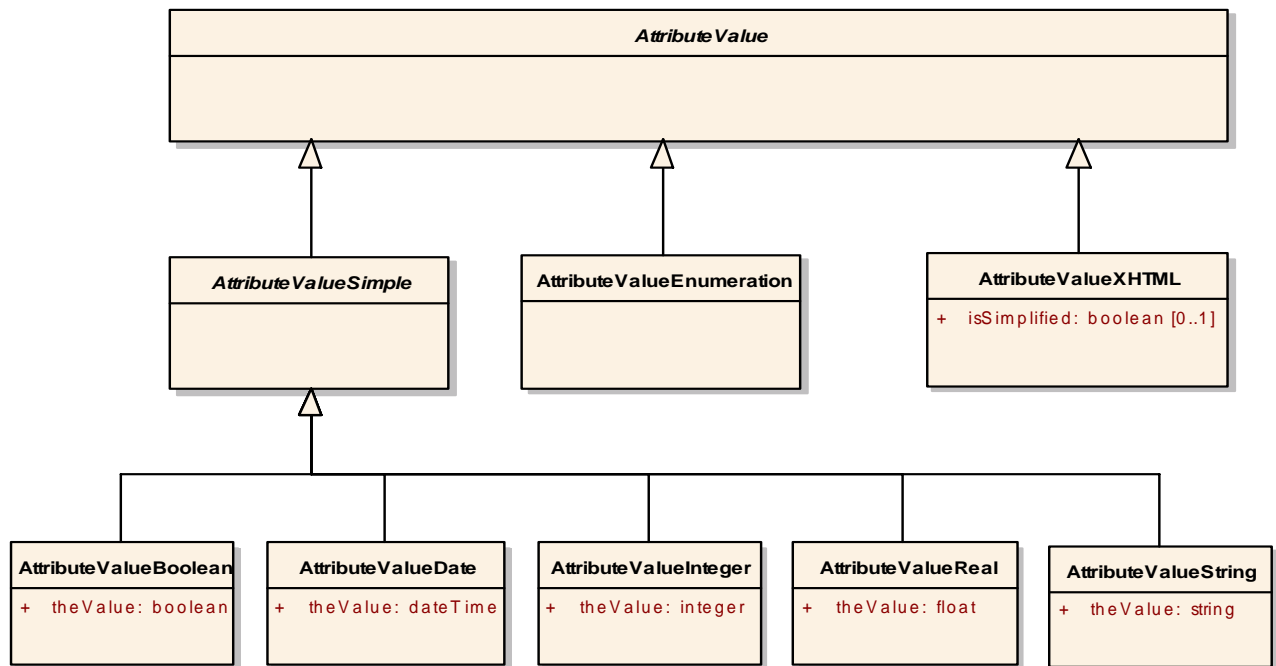


Figure 10.5 - AttributeValue class hierarchy

10.4 Hierarchical Structuring of Requirements in a Specification and Requirement Relations

Two requirements may have a relation to each other, for example to establish traceability between a Customer Requirements Specification and a System Requirements Specification. Having a relation is represented by an association of one SpecRelation element to two SpecObject elements, one being the source, one the target of the relation.

The two specifications that are related to each other (in the above example: a Customer Requirements Specification and a System Requirements Specification) are referred to by the sourceSpecification and targetSpecification association of a RelationGroup instance.

The hierarchical structure of a requirement specification is represented by SpecHierarchy elements.

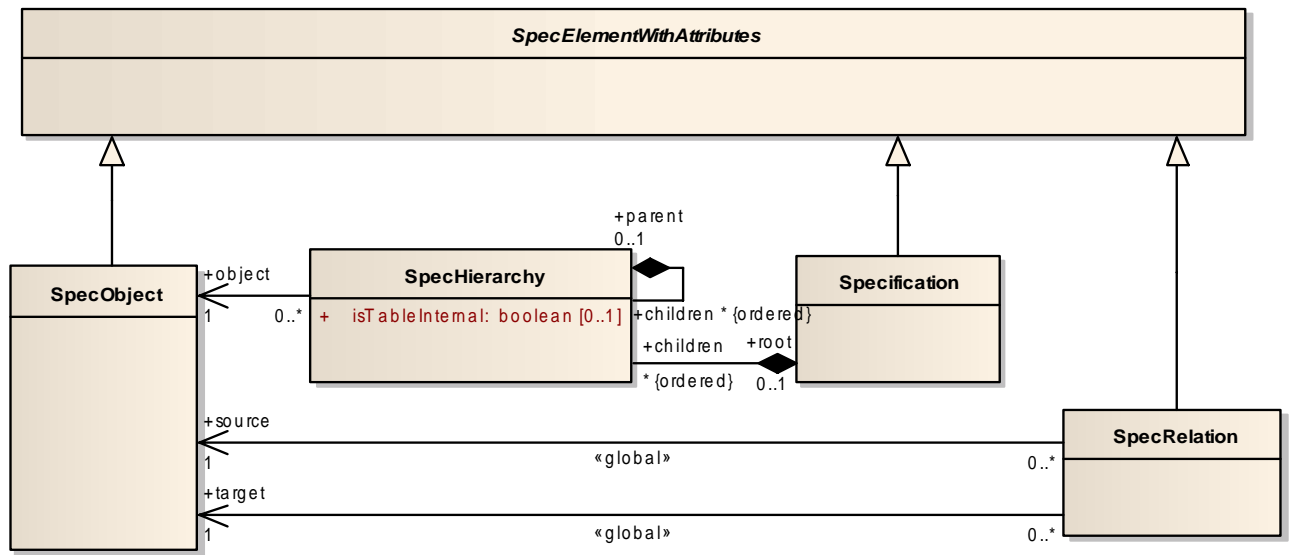


Figure 10.6 - Requirements, requirement relations and how requirements are structured hierarchically in a specification

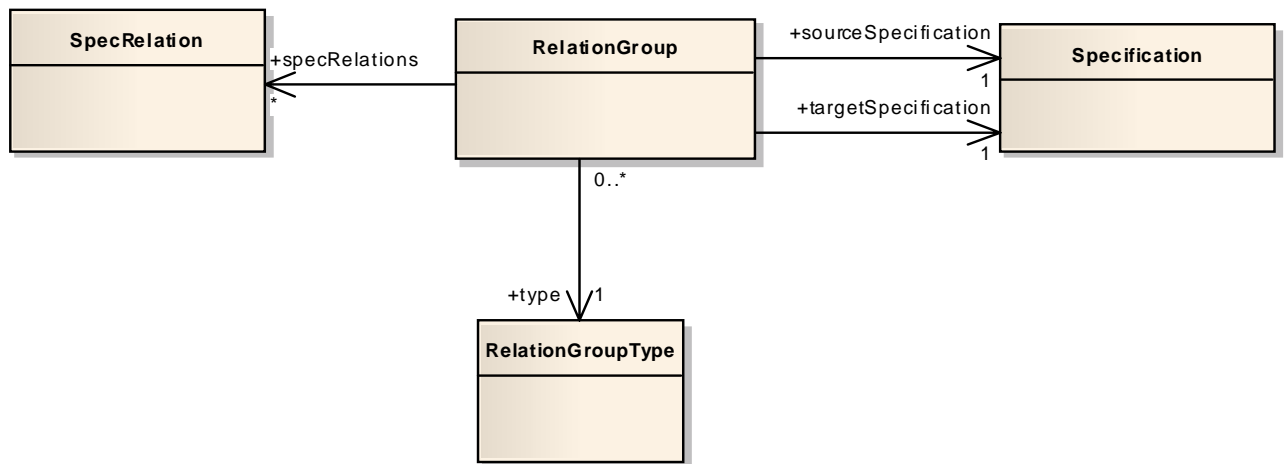


Figure 10.7 - Grouping relations by the source and target specification they relate

10.5 Representing Attribute Data Types

10.5.1 Representing Data Types

In ReqIF, there are three kinds of data types:

1. Simple data types (i.e., Integer, Date, Real, Boolean, String)
2. A data type for enumeration values.
3. A data type for formatted content. This data type can also be used to reference external objects (for example, pictures from within formatted content).

The abstract super-class for the three kinds of data types is *DatatypeDefinition*. The classes of data types are displayed in Figure 10.8. Concrete information types for simple data type definitions inherit from the information type *DatatypeDefinitionSimple*.

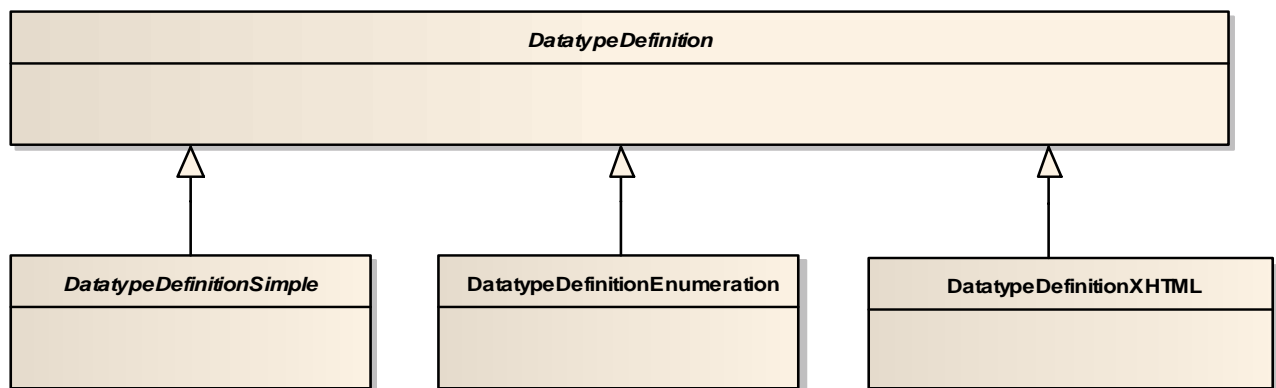


Figure 10.8 - *DatatypeDefinition* class hierarchy

10.5.2 Relating Attributes to Data Types

Each concrete attribute value that is created in a requirements authoring tool needs to be valid against its related data type. For example: the value of a “priority”-attribute may need to be an integer number, while the value for a “status”-attribute may need to be picked from a list of choices.

In ReqIF, each attribute value (*AttributeValue* element) is related to its data type (*DatatypeDefinition* element) via an attribute definition (*AttributeDefinition* element).

A concrete *AttributeDefinition* element MAY contain a default value that represents the value that is used if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool. For example, a user of a requirements authoring tool may specify that the value “TBD” is used for the “status”-attribute of all requirements that have not been assigned a “status” so far.



Figure 10.9 - The ReqIF data types and their relations

10.6 Concrete Data Types

10.6.1 Simple Data Types

The following diagram shows the primitive data types that are supported by ReqIF.

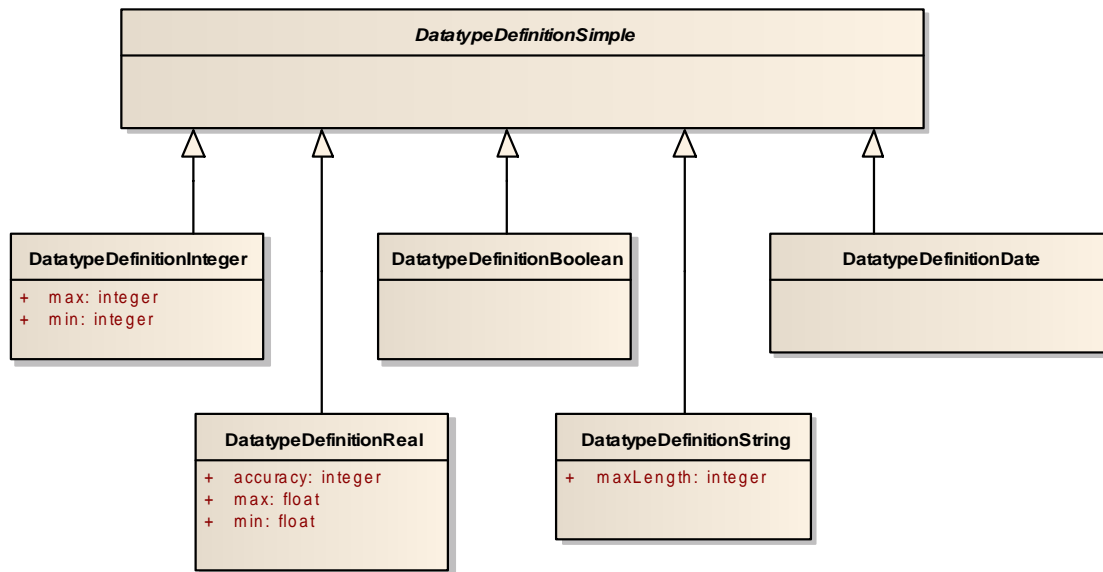


Figure 10.10 - Simple data types

10.6.2 Enumeration Data Type

The following diagram shows the enumeration data type that is supported by ReqIF.

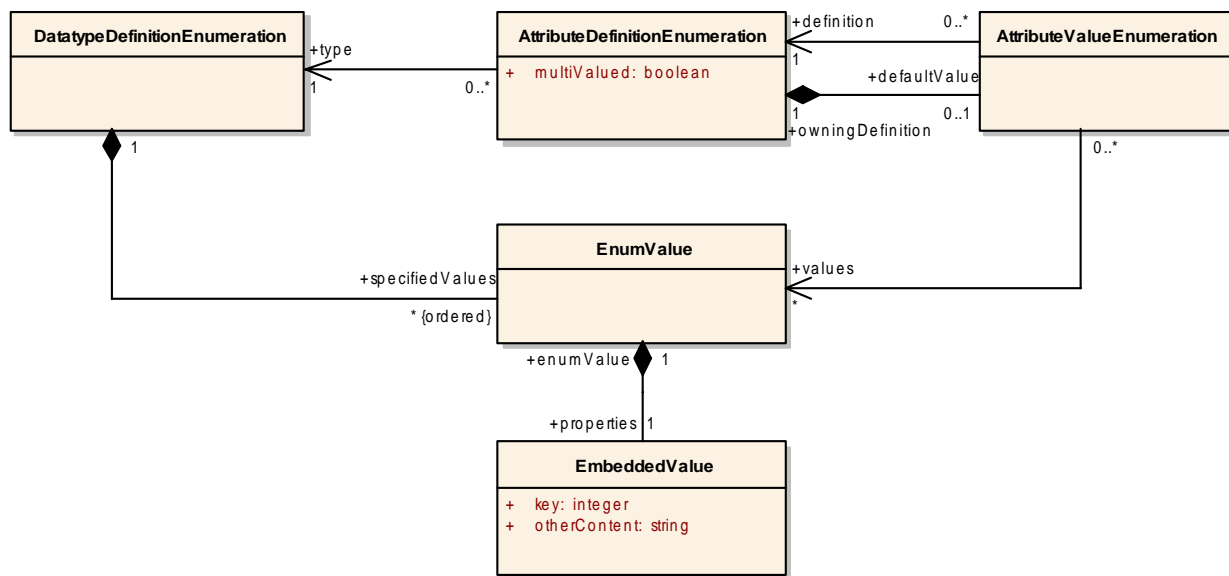


Figure 10.11 - Enumeration data types

10.6.3 Data Type for XHTML Content

There are two main functionalities of ReqIF that are realized through XHTML:

1. Storing of formatted text.
Requirement authoring tools support (among other things) the use of bold, italic, underlined, and strikethrough text, bullet points, and numbering in attribute values of requirements. Reusing XHTML is a pragmatic approach to represent this formatted text in exchange documents.
2. Inclusion of objects that are external to the exchange XML document in the requirements authoring tool. The objects may have binary content.

Furthermore, as requirements authoring tools and ReqIF tools have different capabilities, information may be lost during the exchange process (3.)

Please note that instances of **AttributeValueXHTML** are in principle wrappers for an XHTML document that is embedded into the exchange XML document.

The embedded XHTML document is modeled as a ReqIF information element **XhtmlContent**, as shown in Figure 10.12. **XhtmlContent** switches the XML namespace to the standard XHTML namespace <http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml>

Separating the XML namespaces allows validating against different XML-Schemas (i.e., against the ReqIF-Schema and against an XHTML-Schema) resulting in more independency between the different XML-Schemas.

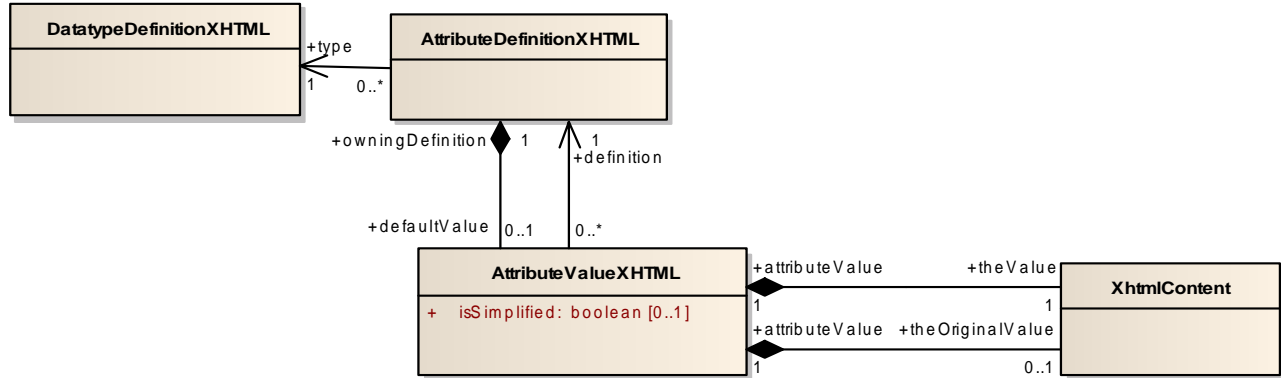


Figure 10.12 - Data types for XHTML content

10.7 Access Restrictions

For certain information elements, ReqIF allows to specify whether they are editable or read-only by the user of the requirements authoring tool. Having such access restrictions in place supports exchange processes where partners have different rights to modify information.

There are three cases for which access may be restricted:

1. Making subtrees of a specification hierarchy editable or read-only.
A subtree of a specification hierarchy that is editable allows the user to add or remove requirements from/to the subtree. Subtrees of the subtree may override the access settings.

2. Making requirement attributes editable or read-only in subtrees of a specification hierarchy.

A set of attributes is editable in a subtree means: the values of the attributes in the set can be edited in that subtree. As a consequence, all attributes that are not in the set are not editable in that subtree. Subtrees of the subtree may override the access settings.

3. Making the attribute definition of an attribute editable or read-only

For example: it shall be possible to make the “status”-attribute definition read-only, meaning that no additional enumeration literal can be added to the “status” attribute’s set of enumeration literals (like “accepted,” “rejected,” etc.)

For the classes affected by the access restriction concept, see the class descriptions for details.

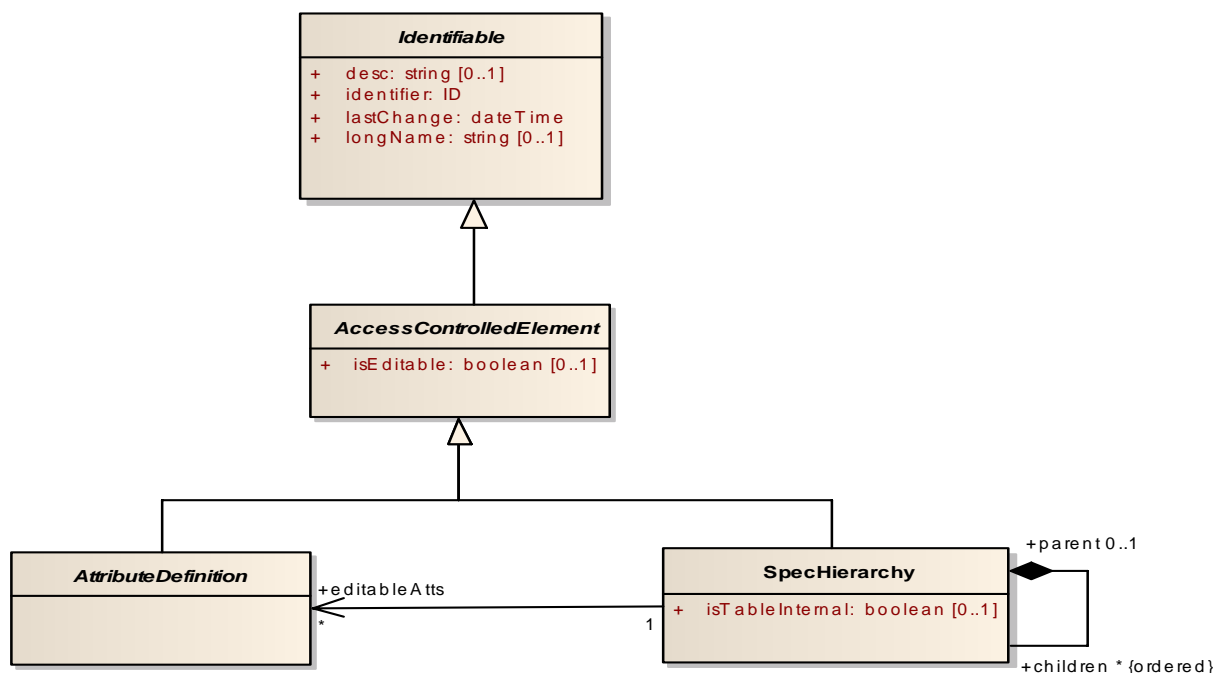


Figure 10.13 - Access Restrictions

10.8 Class Descriptions

10.8.1 AccessControlledElement

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: Yes

Generalization: Identifiable

Description

Base class for classes that may restrict user access to their information.

Attributes

- **isEditable:** Boolean[0..1]
True means that the element's contents may be modified by the user of a tool containing the element.
False or leaving isEditable out means that the element is read-only to the user of a tool containing the element.

Associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

For certain information elements, ReqIF allows to specify whether they are editable or read-only by the user of the tool containing them. Having such access restrictions in place supports exchange processes where partners have different rights to modify information.

Sub classes of AccessControlledElement may detail the semantics of “being editable” in their context.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.2 AlternativeID

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: none

Description

Used to provide an alternative, tool-specific identification.

Attributes

- **identifier:** string[1]
An optional alternative identifier, which may be a requirements management tool identifier or ReqIF tool identifier.

Associations

- **ident :** Identifiable
Back linkage to the owning Identifiable.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

[1] The value of AlternativeID::identifier shall be globally unique.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

In cases where Identifiable::identifier cannot be handled by a requirements authoring tool or ReqIF tool for any reason, an **AlternativeID** may be associated to provide a tool-consumable alternative identification.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.3 AttributeDefinition

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: Yes

Generalization: AccessControlledElement

Description

Base class for attribute definitions.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- specType : SpecType [1]
Back linkage to the owning SpecType.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

[1] The attribute longName inherited from Identifiable is mandatory for all sub classes of AttributeDefinition.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Base class for Exchange Document content attributes, must be specialized for concrete attributes.

Additional Information

No additional information.

10.8.4 AttributeDefinitionBoolean

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeDefinitionSimple

Description

Definition of a boolean attribute.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- **defaultValue** : AttributeValueBoolean [0..1] {composite}
Linkage of the owned default value that is used if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.
- **type** : DatatypeDefinitionBoolean[1]
Reference to the data type

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

- [1] If the inherited **isEditable** attribute is set to **false** or left out, no modification of the default value by tool users is allowed.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Each concrete attribute value that is created in a requirements authoring tool needs to be valid against its related data type. In ReqIF, each attribute value (**AttributeValue** element) is related to its data type (**DatatypeDefinition** element) via an attribute definition (**AttributeDefinition** element).

An **AttributeDefinitionBoolean** element therefore relates an **AttributeValueBoolean** element to a **DatatypeDefinitionBoolean** element via its **type** attribute.

An **AttributeDefinitionBoolean** element MAY contain a default value that represents the value that is used as an attribute value if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.

10.8.5 AttributeDefinitionDate

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeDefinitionSimple

Description

Definition of a date and time attribute.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- **defaultValue** : AttributeValueDate [0..1] {composite}
Linkage of the owned default value that is used if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.
- **type** : DatatypeDefinitionDate[1]
Reference to the data type.

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

- [1] If the inherited **isEditable** attribute is set to `false` or left out, no modification of the default value by tool users is allowed.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Each concrete attribute value that is created in a requirements authoring tool needs to be valid against its related data type. In ReqIF, each attribute value (**AttributeValue** element) is related to its data type (**DatatypeDefinition** element) via an attribute definition (**AttributeDefinition** element).

An **AttributeDefinitionDate** element therefore relates an **AttributeValueDate** element to a **DatatypeDefinitionDate** element via its **type** attribute.

An **AttributeDefinitionDate** element MAY contain a default value that represents the value that is used as an attribute value if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.

10.8.6 AttributeDefinitionEnumeration

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeDefinition

Description

Definition of an enumeration attribute.

Attributes

multiValued : Boolean

- If set to true, this means that the user of a requirements authoring tool can pick one or more than one of the values in the set of specified values as an enumeration attribute value.
- If set to false, this means that the user of a requirements authoring tool can pick exactly one of the values in the set of specified values as an enumeration attribute value.

Associations

- defaultValue : AttributeValueEnumeration [0..1] {composite}
Linkage of the owned default value that is used if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.
- type : DatatypeDefinitionEnumeration [1]
Reference to the data type for enumerations.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

[1] If the inherited isEditable attribute is set to false or left out, all of the following constraints apply:

- No modification of the default value by tool users is allowed.
- No adding, deleting, or modification of enumeration literals by tool users is allowed.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Each concrete attribute value that is created in a requirements authoring tool needs to be valid against its related data type. In ReqIF, each attribute value (**AttributeValue** element) is related to its data type (**DatatypeDefinition** element) via an attribute definition (**AttributeDefinition** element).

An **AttributeDefinitionEnumeration** element therefore relates an **AttributeValueEnumeration** element to a **DatatypeDefinitionEnumeration** element via its type attribute.

An **AttributeDefinitionEnumeration** element MAY contain a default value that represents the value that is used as an attribute value if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.

There are basically two kinds of enumerations: “single-choice” and “multiple-choice” enumerations. “Single-choice” enumerations allow the user of a requirements authoring tool to pick exactly one value out of a set of specified values. “Multiple-choice” enumerations allow the user of a requirements authoring tool to pick several values out of a set of specified values. For “multiple-choice” enumerations, the `multiValued` attribute needs to be set to true, for “single-choice” enumerations it needs to be set to false.

The set of specified values is defined by the **DatatypeDefinitionEnumeration** element that is linked via the type association.

Additional Information

No additional information.

10.8.7 AttributeDefinitionInteger

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeDefinitionSimple

Description

Definition of an integer attribute.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- `defaultValue : AttributeValueInteger [0..1] {composite}`
Linkage of the owned default value that is used if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.
- `type : DatatypeDefinitionInteger[1]`
Reference to the data type

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

- [1] If the inherited `isEditable` attribute is set to `false` or left out, no modification of the default value by tool users is allowed.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Each concrete attribute value that is created in a requirements authoring tool needs to be valid against its related data type. In ReqIF, each attribute value (**AttributeValue** element) is related to its data type (**DatatypeDefinition** element) via an attribute definition (**AttributeDefinition** element).

An **AttributeDefinitionInteger** element therefore relates an **AttributeValueInteger** element to a **DatatypeDefinitionInteger** element via its type attribute.

An **AttributeDefinitionInteger** element MAY contain a default value that represents the value that is used as an attribute value if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.

10.8.8 AttributeDefinitionReal

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeDefinitionSimple

Description

Definition of an attribute with Real data type.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- **defaultValue** : AttributeValueReal [0..1] {composite}
Linkage of the owned default value that is used if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.
- **type** : DatatypeDefinitionReal[1]
Reference to the data type.

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

- [1] If the inherited `isEditable` attribute is set to `false` or left out, no modification of the default value by tool users is allowed.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Each concrete attribute value that is created in a requirements authoring tool needs to be valid against its related data type. In ReqIF, each attribute value (**AttributeValue** element) is related to its data type (**DatatypeDefinition** element) via an attribute definition (**AttributeDefinition** element).

An **AttributeDefinitionReal** element therefore relates an **AttributeValueReal** element to a **DatatypeDefinitionReal** element via its type attribute.

An **AttributeDefinitionReal** element MAY contain a default value that represents the value that is used as an attribute value if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.

10.8.9 AttributeDefinitionSimple

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: Yes

Generalization: AttributeDefinition

Description

Abstract base class of simple type attributes.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

No associations

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Abstract base class of simple type attributes.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.10 AttributeDefinitionString

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeDefinitionSimple

Description

Definition of an attribute with string data type.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- `defaultValue` : `AttributeValueString` [0..1] {composite}
Linkage of the owned default value that is used if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.
- `type` : `DatatypeDefinitionString`[1]
Reference to the data type.

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

- [1] If the inherited `isEditable` attribute is set to `false` or left out, no modification of the default value by tool users is allowed.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Each concrete attribute value that is created in a requirements authoring tool needs to be valid against its related data type. In ReqIF, each attribute value (**AttributeValue** element) is related to its data type (`DatatypeDefinition` element) via an attribute definition (**AttributeDefinition** element).

An **AttributeDefinitionString** element therefore relates an **AttributeValueString** element to a **DatatypeDefinitionString** element via its **type** attribute.

An **AttributeDefinitionString** element MAY contain a default value that represents the value that is used as an attribute value if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.

10.8.11 AttributeDefinitionXHTML

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: `AttributeDefinition`

Description

Definition of an XHTML attribute.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- `defaultValue` : `AttributeValueXHTML` [0..1] {composite}
Linkage of the owned default value that is used if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.
- `type` : `DatatypeDefinitionXHTML` [1]
Reference to the data type.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

[1] If the inherited `isEditable` attribute is set to `false` or left out, no modification of the default value by tool users is allowed.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Each concrete attribute value that is created in a requirements authoring tool needs to be valid against its related data type. In ReqIF, each attribute value (**AttributeValue** element) is related to its data type (`DatatypeDefinition` element) via an attribute definition (**AttributeDefinition** element).

An **AttributeDefinitionXHTML** element therefore relates an **AttributeValueXHTML** element to a **DatatypeDefinitionXHTML** element via its `type` attribute.

An **AttributeDefinitionXHTML** element MAY contain a default value that represents the value that is used as an attribute value if no attribute value is supplied by the user of the requirements authoring tool.

Additional Information

No additional information.

10.8.12 AttributeValue

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: Yes

Generalization: None

Description

Base class for concrete attribute values.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- specElAt : SpecElementWithAttributes [1]
The linkage between AttributeValue and the owning class SpecElementWithAttributes

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

This is the base class for all concrete classes that represent attribute values of requirements authoring tools.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.13 AttributeValueBoolean

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeValueSimple

Description

A boolean attribute value.

Attributes

- theValue : Boolean
The attribute value.

Associations

- definition : AttributeDefinitionBoolean [1]
Reference to the value definition.
- owningDefinition : AttributeDefinitionBoolean [1]
Back linkage of the owning attribute definition.

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Contains a boolean attribute value.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.14 AttributeValueDate

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeValueSimple

Description

A date/time attribute value.

Attributes

- `theValue` : `xsd::dateTime`
The attribute value.

Associations

- `definition` : `AttributeDefinitionDate` [1]
Reference to the value definition.
- `owningDefinition` : `AttributeDefinitionDate` [1]
Back linkage of the owning attribute definition.

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Contains a date/time attribute value.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.15 AttributeValueEnumeration

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeValue

Description

Definition of an enumeration attribute value.

Attributes

Associations

- **definition** : AttributeDefinitionEnumeration [1]
Reference to the attribute definition that relates the value to its data type.
- **owningDefinition** : AttributeDefinitionEnumeration [1]
Back linkage of the owning attribute definition.
- **values** : EnumValue [*]
Reference to the enumeration values that are chosen from a set of specified values.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

- [1] If the multiValued attribute of the AttributeValueEnumeration element referenced by the definition association is set to false, the values set must contain at most one value.
- [2] Each value referenced by the values association must be contained in the specifiedValues set of the related DatatypeDefinitionEnumeration element.

NOTE: The definition association references an AttributeDefinitionEnumeration element that in turn references the DatatypeDefinitionEnumeration element mentioned above.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Provides a link to the concrete literals of an enumeration.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.16 AttributeValueInteger

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeValueSimple

Description

An integer attribute value.

Attributes

- **theValue** : integer
The attribute value.

Associations

- **definition** : AttributeDefinitionInteger [1]
Reference to the value definition.
- **owningDefinition** : AttributeDefinitionInteger [1]
Back linkage of the owning attribute definition.

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Contains an integer attribute value.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.17 AttributeValueReal

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeValueSimple

Description

A Real attribute value.

Attributes

- theValue : float
The attribute value.

Associations

- definition : AttributeDefinitionReal [1]
Reference to the value definition.
- owningDefinition : AttributeDefinitionReal [1]
Back linkage of the owning attribute definition.

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Contains a Real attribute value.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.18 AttributeValueSimple

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: Yes

Generalization: AttributeValue

Description

Abstract base class for simple attribute values.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

No associations

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Abstract base class for simple attribute values.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.19 AttributeValueString

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeValueSimple

Description

A string attribute value.

Attributes

- theValue : string
The attribute value.

Associations

- definition : AttributeDefinitionString [1]
Reference to the value definition.
- owningDefinition : AttributeDefinitionString [1]
Back linkage of the owning attribute definition.

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Contains an string attribute value.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.20 AttributeValueXHTML

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AttributeValue

Description

An attribute value with XHTML contents.

Attributes

- **isSimplified** : Boolean[0..1]
Set to true if the attribute value is a simplified representation of the original value.

Associations

- **definition** : AttributeDefinitionXHTML [1]
Reference to the value definition.
- **owningDefinition** : AttributeDefinitionXHTML [1]
Back linkage of the owning attribute definition.
- **theValue** : XhtmlContent [1] {composite}
Linkage to the owned XhtmlContent.
- **theOriginalValue** : XhtmlContent [0..1] {composite}
Linkage to the original attribute value that has been saved if isSimplified is true.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

[1] The value of isSimplified is considered false if it is left out.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

There are two main functionalities of ReqIF that are realized through XHTML:

1. Storing of formatted text.
Requirement authoring tools support – among other things – the use of bold, italic, underlined, and strikethrough text, bullet points, and numbering in attribute values of requirements. Reusing XHTML is a pragmatic approach to represent this formatted text in exchange documents.
2. Inclusion of objects that are external to the exchange XML document in the requirements authoring tool. The objects may have binary content. Furthermore, as requirements authoring tools and ReqIF tools have different capabilities, information may be lost during the exchange process (3.)

1. Storing of formatted text

ReqIF reuses XML elements for formatting that are defined by XHTML 1.0. These XML elements, which are in the XHTML namespace are embedded into the exchange XML document by using an XHTML schema driver, as defined by the XHTML Modularization 1.1.

NOTE: Formatted content from a requirements authoring tool's attribute values **MUST** always be stored as XHTML attribute values in the exchange XML documents. It is, for example, not allowed to store formatted content as RTF (Rich Text Format) or another format for formatted text, as this would decrease the interoperability between different ReqIF tools.

The XML elements of the following XHTML modules **SHOULD** be expected as contents of *AttributeValueXHTML* instances during an import of a exchange XML document:

1. *Text* Module
2. *List* Module
3. *Hypertext* Module
4. *Edit* Module
5. *Presentation* Module
6. *Basic Tables* Module
7. *Object* Module
8. *Style Attribute* Module

The contents of these modules are defined in the XHTML Modularization

(<http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml-modularization/>).

Concerning the XML attributes of the above XHTML elements, there are the following constraints:

- The *class* attribute of the XHTML Core Attribute Collection **MUST NOT** be used.
- Only the following values for the *style* attribute from the *Style Attribute* Module need to be considered during import:

style="text-decoration:underline",
style="text-decoration:line-through",
style="color:<color>"

XHTML object MUST be treated according to line "3. Handling information loss"

Apart from these constraints, all XML attributes of the XHTML XML elements SHOULD be processed during import. If any of XHTML's XML elements or XML attributes can't be processed, information may be lost. See line "3. Handling information loss" on how to handle information loss.

2. Inclusion of objects that are external to the exchange XML document in the requirements authoring tool

External objects are referenced binary objects that are usually not edited with the requirements authoring tool itself, but by accessing an external application (e.g., a Visio drawing or an Excel sheet). External objects can be referenced from within a formatted text (as described in line "1. Storing of formatted text").

External objects are referenced using the XHTML object element from the XHTML *Object* Module. The specification for the XHTML object element defines several XML attributes. For ReqIF, only a subset of these attributes is relevant and used. These attributes are shown together with their purposes in the following table.

XHTML XML-Element	XML Attributes	Attribute types
Object	data type width height	URI MIME-Type Length Length

To maximize interoperability between ReqIF tools, the following rules MUST be obeyed:

- If there is a specific MIME-type for the application that handles the external object, it MUST be stored in the *type* attribute and no attribute in addition to the four attributes for the object element (*data*, *type*, *width*, *height*) MUST be used in that case.
- For XHTML object elements that refer to an external object that is not an image with the MIME-Type `image/png`, an alternative image AND an alternative text MUST be provided analogous to the following example.

```
<object data="http://www.example.com/bar.mp3" type="audio/mpeg">
```

```
<!-- Else, try the image -->
```

```
<object data="baz.png" type="image/png">
```

```
<!-- Else process the alternate text -->
```

```
The <strong>Earth</strong> as seen from space.
```

```
</object>
```

```
</object>
```

An exporting ReqIF tool MUST only export alternative images with MIME-Type `image/png`.

- The location of an external object MUST be specified via the *data* attribute. The *data* attribute MUST either contain:
 - a) a URL relative to the location of the exchange XML document, or

b) an absolute URL.

Case a) MUST be supported, case b) SHOULD be supported.

3. Handling information loss

The purpose of the `isSimplified` attribute is to mark an `AttributeValueXHTML` element if an importing tool has been unable to interpret the formatted attribute value and thus create the possibility to inform users about it.

If **AttributeValueXHTML** elements are marked that way, importing ReqIF tools SHOULD still display a simplified version of the attribute value using an external HTML processor, allowing the user to at least read the information. Tool vendors are strongly encouraged to implement this feature.

The following rules MUST be obeyed during the import of each **AttributeValueXHTML** element:

If either

- the requirements authoring tool is not capable of displaying its XHTML contents adequately, or
- its contents can't be translated to the requirements authoring tool adequately, the `isSimplified` flag must be set to `true`.

NOTE: The guideline for what is adequate is the default style sheet proposed by the W3C which maps HTML elements to CSS (<http://www.w3.org/TR/CSS2/sample.html>) and the CSS2.1 specification.

For the details on setting the `isSimplified` flag during the exchange process, see Clause 8.

Additional Information

10.8.21 DatatypeDefinition

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: Yes

Generalization: Identifiable

Description

Abstract base class for all data types.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- `coreContent` : ReqIFContent [1]
The back linkage to the owning ReqIFContent element.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

This is the abstract base class for all data types available to the Exchange Document.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.22 DatatypeDefinitionBoolean

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: DatatypeDefinitionSimple

Description

This class defines the primitive Boolean data type.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

No associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

This element defines a data type for the representation of Boolean data values in the Exchange Document. The representation of data values shall comply with the definitions in <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/#boolean>.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.23 DatatypeDefinitionDate

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: DatatypeDefinitionSimple

Description

This class defines the Date and Time data type.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

No associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

This element defines a data type for the representation of Date and Time data values in the Exchange Document. The representation of data values shall comply with the definitions in <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/#isoformats>.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.24 DatatypeDefinitionEnumeration

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: DatatypeDefinition

Description

Data type definition for enumeration types.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- `specifiedValues : EnumValue [*] {composite, ordered}`
The linkage to the owned enumeration literals.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Data type definition for enumeration types. The set of enumeration values referenced by `specifiedValues` constrains the possible choices for enumeration attribute values, as described in sub clause 10.8.15.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.25 DatatypeDefinitionInteger

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: DatatypeDefinitionSimple

Description

This class defines the primitive Integer data type.

Attributes

- `max : integer`
Denotes the largest positive data value representable by this data type.
- `min : integer`
Denotes the largest negative data value representable by this data type.

Associations

No associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

- [1] The value of the integer value held in any data element defined by `DatatypeDefinitionInteger` must be less than or equal to the value of `DatatypeDefinitionInteger::max`, and greater than or equal to the value of `DatatypeDefinitionInteger::min`.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

This element defines a data type for the representation of Integer data values in the Exchange Document. The representation of data values shall comply with the definitions in <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/#integer>.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.26 DatatypeDefinitionReal

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: `DatatypeDefinitionSimple`

Description

This class defines the primitive Real data type.

Attributes

- **accuracy** : integer
Denotes the supported maximum precision of real numbers represented by this data type.
- **max** : float
Denotes the largest positive data value representable by this data type.
- **min** : float
Denotes the largest negative data value representable by this data type.

Associations

No associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

- [1] The value of the real value held in any data element defined by `DatatypeDefinitionReal` must be less than or equal to the value of `DatatypeDefinitionReal::max`, and greater than or equal to the value of `DatatypeDefinitionReal::min`.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

This element defines a data type for the representation of Real data values in the Exchange Document. The representation of data values shall comply with the definitions in <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/#double>. The precision of represented values is limited to the precision denoted by **DatatypeDefinitionReal::accuracy**.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.27 DatatypeDefinitionSimple

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: Yes

Generalization: DatatypeDefinition

Description

Abstract base class for all primitive data types.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

No associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

DatatypeDefinitionSimple is the abstract base class from which all primitive data types, except enumeration, are derived.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.28 DatatypeDefinitionString

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: DatatypeDefinitionSimple

Description

This class defines the primitive String data type.

Attributes

- `maxLength` : integer
The maximum permissible string length.

Associations

No associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

- [1] The length of the string value held in any data element defined by `DatatypeDefinitionString` must not exceed the value of `DatatypeDefinitionString::maxLength`.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

This element defines a data type for the representation of String data values in the Exchange Document. The representation of data values shall comply with the definitions in <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/#string>.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.29 DatatypeDefinitionXHTML

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: DatatypeDefinition

Description

Data type definition for XHTML formatted data.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

No associations

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

No new constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Data type definition for XHTML formatted data.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.30 EmbeddedValue

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization:

Description

Class representing additional information related to enumeration literals.

Attributes

- **key** : integer
The numerical value corresponding to the enumeration literal.
- **otherContent** : string
Arbitrary additional information related to the enumeration literal (for example, a color.)

Associations

- **enumValue** : EnumValue [1]
Back linkage to the owning EnumValue class.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

This class represents additional information related to enumeration literals.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.31 EnumValue

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: Identifiable

Description

Class representing enumeration literals.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- dataTpeDefEnum : DataTypeDefinitionEnumeration [1]
Back linkage to the owning DatatypeDefinitionEnumeration class.
- Properties : EmbeddedValue [1] {composite}
Link to owned EmbeddedValue.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

[1] The attribute longName inherited from Identifiable is mandatory for EnumValue.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

This class represents the enumeration literals.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.32 Identifiable

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: Yes

Generalization: none

Description

Abstract base class providing an identification concept for ReqIF elements.

Attributes

- desc : string [0..1]
Optional additional description for the information element.
- identifier: string
The lifetime immutable identifier for an instance of a ReqIF information type. The value of the identifier must be a well-formed xsd:ID.
- lastChange: xsd::dateTime
The date and time of the last change of the information element. This includes the creation of the information element. lastChange is of the XML Schema data type “dateTime” that specifies the time format as *CCYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss* with optional time zone indicator as a suffix *±hh:mm*.
Example: 2005-03-04T10:24:18+01:00 (MET time zone).
- longName : string [0..1]
The human-readable name for the information element.

Associations

- alternativeID : Class [0..1] {composite}
The linkage to the optional alternative identification element.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

[1] The value of Identifiable::identifier must be globally unique.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

The Identifiable element provides globally unique and lifetime immutable identity to ReqIF elements. In addition, Identifiable provides change tracking for the derived ReqIF element, and provides for an optional human-readable name and an optional textual description for the derived ReqIF element.

Additional Information

While the longName attribute is optional from the viewpoint of Identifiable, some ReqIF elements make this long name mandatory. This fact will be stated in the class description of the affected elements.

10.8.33 RelationGroup

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: SpecElementWithAttributes

Description

Represents a group of relations.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- coreContent : ReqIFContent [1]
The back linkage to the owning ReqIFContent element.
- specRelations : SpecRelation [*]
Points to the grouped SpecRelations.
- type : RelationGroup Type [1]
Linkage to the concrete SpecType instance.
- sourceSpecification: Specification [1]
Reference to the specification that contains SpecObject instances that are source objects of the relations (referred to by the specRelations association).
- targetSpecification:
Specification [1]
Reference to the specification that contains SpecObject instances that are target objects of the relations (referred to by the specRelations association).

Operations

No new operations

Constraints

- [1] The attribute longName inherited from Identifiable is mandatory for RelationGroup.
- [2] For each SpecObject instance that is referred to by any SpecRelation instance in the set of specRelations (via the relation's source or target association) : the SpecObject instance must either be contained in the sourceSpecification or in the targetSpecification.

Tags

org.omg.reqif.order 6

Semantics

Represents a group of relations between a source specification and a target specification. For example, a RelationGroup instance may represent a set of relations between a customer requirements specification and a system requirements specification.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.34 RelationGroupType

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: SpecType

Description

Contains a set of attribute definitions for a RelationGroup element.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

No associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Inherits a set of attribute definitions from SpecType. By using RelationGroupType elements, RelationGroup elements can be associated with attribute names, default values, data types, etc.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.35 ReqIFContent

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: none

Description

Core content root

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- **datatypes** : DataTypeDefinition [0..*] {composite}
Linkage to the DataTypeDefinition content elements.
- **documentRoot** : ReqIF [1]
Linking back to the Exchange Document root element.
- **specifications** : Specification [0..*] {composite}
Linkage to the Specification content elements.
- **specObjects** : SpecObject [0..*] {composite}
Linkage to the SpecObject content elements.
- **specRelationGroups** : RelationGroup [0..*] {composite}
Linkage to the RelationGroup content elements.
- **specRelations** : SpecRelation [0..*] {composite}
Linkage to the SpecRelation content elements.
- **specTypes** : SpecType [0..*] {composite}
Linkage to the SpecType content elements.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

org.omg.reqif.order 2
org.omg.reqif.ordered true

Semantics

This element represents the root of the Exchange Document core content.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.36 SpecElementWithAttributes

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: Yes

Generalization: Identifiable

Description

An abstract super class for elements that can own attributes.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- values : AttributeValue [0..*] {composite}
The values of the attributes owned by the element.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

None

Semantics

Any element that can own attributes, like a requirement, a specification, or a relation between requirements needs to be an instance of a concrete subclass of this abstract class.

While this class aggregates the values of the attributes, the association to the attributes' types that define the acceptable values for the attributes is realized by concrete sub classes of this class.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.37 SpecHierarchy

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: AccessControlledElement

Description

Represents a node in a hierarchically structured requirements specification.

Attributes

- `isTableInternal` : Boolean[0..1]
Some requirements authoring tools enable the user to use tables as part of a requirement's content, where parts of the table represent requirements as well. If that is the case, this attribute needs to be set to true for the root node of the table hierarchy and all descendant SpecHierarchy nodes.

NOTE: The root node of the table hierarchy is related to the SpecObject element that is the root of the table by the object association.

Associations

- `children` : SpecHierarchy [*] {composite, ordered}
Down links to next level of owned SpecHierarchy.
- `editableAtts` : AttributeDefinition [*]
The attributes whose values are editable for the SpecHierarchy by a tool user.
- `parent` : SpecHierarchy [0..1]
Up link to previous level of SpecHierarchy (which owns this level).
- `root` : Specification [0..1]
Up link to specification hierarchy root (which may own this level).
- `object` : SpecObject [1]
Pointer to the associated SpecObject.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

- [1] The value of `isTableInternal` is considered false if it is left out.
- [2] If the inherited `isEditable` attribute is left out, the following constraint applies:
 - If there is a parent SpecHierarchy element, the value of `isEditable` is copied from the parent SpecHierarchy element.
 - If there is no parent SpecHierarchy element, the value of `isEditable` is false.
- [3] If `isEditable` is false, the user of the requirements authoring must not replace the associated object with another object.
- [4] If `isEditable` is false, the user of the requirements authoring must not add or delete any direct children to/from the SpecHierarchy element.
- [5] If the set of `editableAtts` is empty for a SpecHierarchy element, the following constraint applies:
 - If there is a parent SpecHierarchy element, the set of editable attributes is copied from the parent SpecHierarchy element.
 - If there is no parent SpecHierarchy element, all attribute values for the SpecHierarchy are considered read-only.

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Represents a node in a hierarchically structured requirements specification.

Additional Information

In most cases, the `isTableInternal` attribute may be set to false or left out. However, if at least one `isTableInternal` flag is set to true in an exchange document, a representation of each whole table must be exported as `AttributeValueXHTML` element to allow tools that can't process table internal structures to represent them as formatted content.

10.8.38 Specification

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: `SpecElementWithAttributes`

Description

Represents a hierarchically structured requirements specification.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- `children` : `SpecHierarchy` [*] {composite, ordered}
Links to next level of owned `SpecHierarchy`.
- `coreContent` : `ReqIFContent` [1]
The back linkage to the owning `ReqIFContent` element.
- `type` : `Specification Type` [1]
Linkage to the concrete `SpecType` instance.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

`org.omg.reqif.order` 5

Semantics

Represents a hierarchically structured requirements specification.

It is the root node of the tree that hierarchically structures **SpecObject** instances.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.39 SpecificationType

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: SpecType

Description

Contains a set of attribute definitions for a Specification element.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

No associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Inherits a set of attribute definitions from SpecType. By using SpecificationType elements, multiple specifications can be associated with the same set of attribute definitions (attribute names, default values, data types, etc.).

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.40 SpecObject

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: SpecElementWithAttributes

Description

Constitutes an identifiable requirements object.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- coreContent : ReqIFContent [1]
The back linkage to the owning ReqIFContent element.
- type : SpecObjectType [1]
Linkage to the concrete SpecType instance.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

org.omg.reqif.order 3

Semantics

Constitutes an identifiable requirements object that can be associated with various attributes. This is the smallest granularity by which requirements are referenced.

The **SpecObject** instance itself does not carry the requirements text or any other user defined content. This data is stored in **AttributeValue** instances that are associated to the **SpecObject** instance.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.41 SpecObjectType

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: SpecType

Description

Contains a set of attribute definitions for a SpecObject element.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

No associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Inherits a set of attribute definitions from **SpecType**. By using **SpecObjectType** elements, multiple requirements can be associated with the same set of attribute definitions (attribute names, default values, data types, etc.).

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.42 SpecRelation

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: SpecElementWithAttributes

Description

Defines relations (links) between two **SpecObject** instances.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- **coreContent** : ReqIFContent [1]
The back linkage to the owning ReqIFContent element.
- **source** : SpecObject [1]
Source object of the relationship.
- **target** : SpecObject [1]
Target object of the relationship.
- **type** : SpecRelation Type [1]
Linkage to the concrete SpecType instance.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

org.omg.reqif.order	4
org.omg.reqif.reference.global	“source,” “target”

Semantics

Defines relations (links) between two **SpecObject** instances.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.43 SpecRelationType

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization: SpecType

Description

Contains a set of attribute definitions for a SpecRelation element.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

No associations

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

No tags

Semantics

Inherits a set of attribute definitions from SpecType. By using SpecRelationType elements, multiple relations can be associated with the same set of attribute definitions (attribute names, default values, data types, etc.).

As an example, a requirement authoring tool may allow its users to define the new type “contradicts” for relations between two requirements that contradict each other, and associate a comment attribute with each relation that explains the contradiction.

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.44 SpecType

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: Yes

Generalization: Identifiable

Description

Contains a set of attribute definitions.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- coreContent : ReqIFContent [1]
The back linkage to the owning ReqIFContent element.
- specAttributes: AttributeDefinition [0..*] {composite}
The set of attribute definitions.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

org.omg.reqif.order 2

Semantics

Contains a set of attribute definitions. By using an instance of a subclass of SpecType, multiple elements can be associated with the same set of attribute definitions (attribute names, default values, data types, etc.).

Additional Information

No additional information

10.8.45 XhtmlContent

Package: ReqIF

isAbstract: No

Generalization:

Description

Class representing XHTML content.

Attributes

No attributes

Associations

- attributeValue : AttributeValueXHTML [1]
Back linkage to the owning AttributeValueXHTML class.

Operations

No operations

Constraints

No constraints

Tags

org.omg.reqif.datatype	true
org.omg.reqif.max	1
org.omg.reqif.min	1
org.omg.reqif.nsURI	http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml
org.omg.reqif.processContents	strict

Semantics

This class represents XHTML formatted content.

Additional Information

No additional information

11 Production Rules of ReqIF XML Schema

11.1 Purpose

This clause describes the rules for creating a schema from the reqif metamodel.

11.2 Notation for EBNF

The rule sets are stated in EBNF notation. Each rule is numbered for reference. Rules are written as rule number, rule name, for example 1a. SchemaStart. Text within quotation marks are literal values, for example “<xsd:element>.”

Text enclosed in double slashes represents a placeholder to be filled in with the appropriate external value, for example /Name of Attribute//. Literals should be enclosed in single or double quotation marks when used as the values for XML attributes in XML documents. The suffix “*” is used to indicate repetition of an item 0 or more times. The suffix “?” is used to indicate repetition of an item 0 or 1 times. The suffix “+” is used to indicate repetition of an item 1 or more times.

The vertical bar “|” indicates a choice between two items. Parentheses “()” are used for grouping items together. EBNF ignores white space; hence these rules do not specify white space treatment. However, since white space in XML is significant, the actual schema generation process must insert white space at the appropriate points.

11.3 Tags

Some defined tags control the production rules.

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.global_element
Values:	true false
Meaning:	Marks the class as root element.
Restrictions:	There should be exactly one class with value true.

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.xsd_element
Values:	Collection of attribute names.
Meaning:	Defines how the attribute from the metamodel is represented in the schema.
Restrictions:	-

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.xsd_attribute_reference
Values:	Collection of attribute names.
Meaning:	Defines that the attributes in the collection are represented as xsd:attribute with ref attribute.
Restrictions:	-

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.ordered
Values:	true false
Meaning:	The composite properties of the class have a defined order.
Restrictions:	-

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.order
Values:	one Integer
Meaning:	The position the class in its parent class.
Restrictions:	-

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.reference.global
Values:	Collection of target property names.
Meaning:	Indicates if a reference can point to an element in an external document.
Restrictions:	only if property is composite

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.fixed
Values:	Collection of attribute names.
Meaning:	Add a fixed attribute to the XML attribute element.
Restrictions:	-

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.datatype
Values:	true false
Meaning:	Marks the class as datatype if value is set to true.
Restrictions:	-

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.nsURI
Values:	one String

Meaning:	Specifies a namespace.
Restrictions:	[1] Value must be a URI. [2] Ignored if org.omg.reqif.datatype not equals true.

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.processContents
Values:	"skip" "lax" "strict"
Meaning:	Add an processContents attribute to the XML element.
Restrictions:	Ignored if org.omg.reqif.datatype not equals true.

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.min
Values:	one Integer
Meaning:	Specifies a minimal value.
Restrictions:	Ignored if org.omg.reqif.datatype not equals true.

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.max
Values:	one Integer
Meaning:	Specifies a maximal value.
Restrictions:	Ignored if org.omg.reqif.datatype not equals true.

Tag id:	org.omg.reqif.xhtml_type
Values:	true false
Meaning:	Marks the class as xhtml type.
Restrictions:	Ignored if org.omg.reqif.datatype not equals true.

11.4 EBNF

The EBNF for ReqIF schemas is listed below with rule description between sections.

```

1. Schema      ::=      1a:SchemaStart
                        1d:XHTMLImports
                        2:PackageSchema
                        1e:SchemaEnd

```

```

1a. SchemaStart ::= "<xsd:schema
                                xmlns:xsd='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
                                xmlns:xml='http://www.w3.org/XML/1998/namespace'
                                xmlns:xhtml='http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml'
                                xmlns:" ( 1b:Namespace ) "=" ( 1c:NamespaceURI ) "'
                                targetNamespace=" ( 1c:NamespaceURI ) "'
                                elementFormDefault='qualified'
                                attributeFormDefault='unqualified'>
                                <xsd:import
                                    namespace='http://www.w3.org/XML/1998/namespace'
                                    schemaLocation='http://www.w3.org/2001/xml.xsd' />"
1b. Namespace ::=      "REQIF"
1c. NamespaceURI ::=   "http://www.omg.org/201003/reqif"
1d. XHTMLImports ::=  "<xsd:import namespace='http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml'
                                schemaLocation='driver.xsd' />"
1e. SchemaEnd ::=      "</xsd:schema>"

```

1. A schema consists of a schema XML element that contains import statements and declarations for the contents of the packages in the metamodel.
 - 1a. The schema XML element consists of the schema namespace attribute, namespace attributes for the other namespaces used in the schema.
 - 1b. The name of the Reqif namespace.
 - 1c. The URI of the Reqif namespace.
 - 1d. Fixed driver import declaration for xhtml module schemas.
 - 1e. The end of the schema XML element.
-

```

2. PackageSchema ::= 3:GlobalElement
                    4:FixedRefTypes
                    ( 5:ClassTypeDef ) *
                    ( 6:EnumSchema ) *
                    ( 8:TypeSchema ) *

```

2. The schema contribution from a package consists of the declarations as global element, fixed reference types, classes, enumerations, and type definitions.
-

```

3. GlobalElement ::= "<xsd:element
                                name=" ( 3a:GlobalElementName ) "'
                                type=" ( 1b:Namespace ) " : " ( 3b:GlobalElementType ) "' >
                                </xsd:element>"

```



```

        <xsd:choice
minOccurs='" // Minimum of Target Property // "'
        maxOccurs='" // Maximum of Target Property //'>"
        ( "<xsd:element
name='" // Name of Target Class // "-REF'
        type='" 1b:Namespace ":" ( "GOBAL" | "LOCAL" ) "-REF'
/>")+
        "</xsd:choice>
        </xsd:complexType>
        </xsd:element>"
5c. ClassCompositions::="<xsd:element name='" // Name of Target Property // "'
minOccurs="( "'0'" | "'1'" )"
maxOccurs='1'>
        <xsd:complexType>
        <xsd:choice
minOccurs='" // Minimum of Target Property // "'
maxOccurs='" // Maximum of Target Property //'>"
        ( "<xsd:element
name='" // Name of Target (Sub) Class // "'
        type='" 1b:Namespace ":" // Name of Target Class // "'
/> )+
        "</xsd:choice>
        </xsd:complexType>
        </xsd:element>"
5d. ClassAttribute::="<xsd:attribute
name='" // Name of Attribute // "'
type='" // Type of Attribute // "'
5f:UseAttribute
"/>"
5e. ClassAttributeRef::="<xsd:attribute
ref='" // Name of Attribute Type // "'
5f:UseAttribute
"/>"
5f. UseAttribute::="use=" ( "'prohibited'" | "'optional'" | "'required'" )
5g. FixedAttribute::="( "fixed='" // fixed value // "' )?

```

5. These rules describe the declaration of a class in the metamodel as an XML complex type with XML attributes and content elements. If the tag `org.omg.reqif.ordered` is true, the contents of the class are put in a sequence, otherwise they are put in an XML all element. Content classes that put in the sequence should be tagged by `org.omg.reqif.order` tag, which defines the position by an integer value. Classes in the metamodel with a tag `org.omg.reqif.xsd_*` use the rules 5a, 5d, or 5e.
- 5a. XML elements for the attributes of the class if the name is contained in the values of the tag `org.omg.reqif.xsd_element` or the target class is the data type `XhtmlContent`. Inherited attributes are also included.

- 5b. The XML element for each reference of the class that is no composite reference. The name is the name of target property. The attribute minOccurs is set to 0 if the multiplicity lower equal 0 else to 1, maxOccurs is always set to 1. The element is defined by a complex type. The included choice element represents the multiplicities of the reference. The minOccurs attribute shows the lower value of the reference target property, maxOccurs the upper value. The choice element contains one or more elements. The name of the element is the name of the association target class or if this class is abstract, the name of the non-abstract sub class, decorated with -REF. The type of the element is one of the reference types defined in 4. If the association target role name is contained in the value of the tag `org.omg.reqif.reference.global`, GLOBAL-REF will be appended, else LOCAL-REF. Global means that the reference can point to an Element outside this document. Inherited references are also included.
- 5c. This rule applies to references that are composite. It differs from rule 5b only in the definition of the element type of the association target class.
- 5d. Attributes of the class in the metamodel which names are not values of the tag `org.omg.reqif.xsd_element` are declared as XML attributes with name, type, and use attributes.
- 5e. Attributes of the class in the metamodel which names are values of the tag `org.omg.reqif.xsd_attribute_reference` are declared as XML attributes with a ref attribute which refers to the referenced element and a use attribute.
- 5f. The attribute use controls the use of the containing element. The value is derived from the multiplicity of the attribute from the metamodel. If the upper value is 0, then prohibited is used, else if the lower value is 0, then use is set to optional, else if the lower value is greater than 0, required is used.
- 5g. If the name of the attribute is contained in the values of the tag `org.omg.reqif.fixed`, this rule is applied.

```

6. EnumSchema ::=      "<xsd:simpleType name='" // Name of Enumeration Class // "'>
                        <xsd:restriction base='xsd:string'>"
                        ( 6a:EnumLiteral ) *
                        "</xsd:restriction>"
                        "</xsd:simpleType>"
6a. EnumLiteral ::= "<xsd:enumeration
                    value='" // Name of Literal from Enumeration Class // "'
/>"

```

- 6. The enumeration schema contribution consists of a simple type derived from string whose legal values are the enumeration literals.
- 6a. Each enumeration literal is put in the value XML attribute of an enumeration XML element.

```

7. TypeSchema ::=      ( 7a:DatatypeSchema | 7b:XhtmlType )
7a. DatatypeSchema ::= "<xsd:complexType
                        name='" // Name of Datatype // "' >
                        <xsd:sequence>

```

```

        <xsd:any
            namespace="" // Namespace URI of Datatype // ""
            processContents=" ( ''skip''|''lax''|''strict'') "
            minOccurs="" // Minimum // ""
            maxOccurs="" // Maximum // "" />
        </xsd:any>
    </xsd:sequence>
</xsd:complexType>"
7b. XhtmlType ::=    "<xsd:complexType
                        name="" // Name of Datatype // "" >
                        <xsd:group ref='xhtml.BlkStruct.class' />
                        </xsd:complexType>"

```

7. These rules describe the declaration of types for classes of the metamodel where the value of the tag `org.omg.reqif.datatype` equals `true`. The type schema contains a general datatype schema and the declaration of a `xhtml` type.
- 7a. The datatype schema contains the name of the type and a sequence with an `any` element. This element contains the attributes `namespace`, `processContents`, `minOccurs` and `maxOccurs`. The value of the attribute `namespace` is the value of the tag `org.omg.reqif.nsURI`. The value of the attribute `processContents` is the value of the tag `org.omg.reqif.processContents` and the values from `minOccurs` and `maxOccurs` are the values of the tags `org.omg.reqif.min` and `org.omg.reqif.max`.
- 7b. This rule declares a complex type which has an `xhtml` content. The content is defined by the reference `'xhtml.BlkStruct.class.'` The rule is used if the value of the tag `org.omg.reqif.xhtml_type` is `true`.

NOTE: The names of the XML elements are constructed by converting the information type's name into uppercase letters with additional hyphens ("‑") indicating word separations that have originally been indicated by uppercase letters of by a numeric character inside the name. Thus, by definition, a "word" is one of the following:

- First letter is upper-case followed by lower-case letters.
- All letters are upper-case.
- Contiguous numeric characters.

For example, the name `TestECUClass12ADC` is converted into an XML element with name `TEST-ECU-CLASS-12-ADC`.

The corresponding `driver.xsd`:

```

<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
<xsd:schema xmlns:xsd='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
    xmlns='http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml'
    targetNamespace='http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml' >
    <xsd:import namespace='xhtml-datatypes-1.xsd' />
    <xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-framework-1.xsd' />
    <xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-base-1.xsd' />
    <xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-basic10-model-1.xsd' />

```

```
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-hypertext-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-image-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-object-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-text-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-list-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-table-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-edit-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-pres-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-form-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-meta-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-link-1.xsd' />
<xsd:include schemaLocation='xhtml-struct-1.xsd' />
</xsd:schema>
```


Annex A: Implementation Guide

(informative)

Additional informative technical descriptions that help to implement a ReqIF capable tool can be found in the ReqIF implementation guide at the following location:

<http://www.prostep.org/de/downloads/guidelines-use-cases.html>

