

# TeamRoom Plus

IBM TeamRo

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## Meeting about Meetings\OGF

Project	DFDL 1.0
Meeting Date	04-Oct-11 (Tues)
Meeting Time	15:00 - 16:00

Created by Steve Hanson on 09-Mar-11

Last Modified by Steve Hanson on 04-Oct-11

## OGF DFDL Working Group Call , 4 October 2011

### Agenda

**Prepare** for your meeting by describing the objectives (both immediate and long-term, if appropriate) of the meeting; and describe key details.

### 1. AOB

### Minutes

#### Meeting Minutes

**Reflect** on your meeting as you record all topics and issues discussed , and any tabled conversations . What went well, or what would you do differently next time ? Document those so others can take advantage of your learning .

#### Attendees

Steve Hanson (IBM)

Mike Beckerle (Deloitte)

#### Apologies

#### Minutes

Closed on actions 136 and 140.

No other business.

Meeting closed early to allow Mike to carry on with action 140.

#### Meeting closed

15:20 UK

#### Next call

Tues 11th Oct 15:00 UK

### Create Action Items

Record the to-do's and individuals assigned by entering the appropriate information in the form below . Press the "Create Action Items" button to create specific to do's that can be tracked in the assignee's Work for Me views. " All Action Items will be tracked in the Action Items and Other Meeting Documents tab .

## Action Items and Other Meeting Documents

View: ResultDocs

Next action: 153

### **Actions raised at this meeting**

No	Action

### **Current Actions :**

No	Action
123	<p><b>DFDL tutorial (Steve)</b></p> <p>13/10: Draft of first 3 chapters has been written and will be distributed to WG</p> <p>10/11: Posted to grid forge here (<a href="http://forge.gridforum.org/sf/go/doc16106?nav=1">http://forge.gridforum.org/sf/go/doc16106?nav=1</a>), work continuing at IBM to define a standard example-based chapter framework and to author additional chapters. Contributors welcome!</p> <p>17/11: Steve, Stephanie and Alan had a meeting to discuss the best structure for the tutorial and decide which examples to use throughout. The meeting raised more questions. Further discussions will be held.</p> <p>24/11: The list of topics to be covered in the remaining lessons has been produced and a lesson template. Alan will write lesson 4</p> <p>01/12: Alan has started lesson 4 which covers fixed and variable fields and arrays.</p> <p>08/12: Alan has almost completed lesson 4. Will send out for review.</p> <p>15/12: First draft of lesson 4 is available for review. Alan to send to Bob and Joe.</p> <p>22/12: Alan has distributed drafts for tutorials on Basic Structure and Optional/Repeating elements. Please review</p> <p>12/01: Alan distributed a tutorial for choices and updated the others. Alan and Steve reviewed them and updated versions will be sent soon. Should start on the 'representation' tutorials soon.</p> <p>19/01: The tutorials for basic structure, optional/arrays and choices have been updated.</p>

Please review. The tutorial for text elements should be available soon.

26/01: No comments received about 3 tutorials distributed last week. Alan is still working on Text representation.

02/02: Steve has sent comments on three tutorials. Alan to send updated versions by the end of the week. Alan has also distributed the first part of the tutorial on text representation and would like feedback.

09/02: Steve had reviewed tutorials 3,4,5 and updated versions have been distributed. Joe reviewed lesson on text elements.

Main points. Using 'represented as text' is confusing. Examples are too cluttered. Suggest simple targeted examples but still build up to final complete schema

23/02: New versions distributed and Steve has commented.

02/03: Alan has published the final versions of tutorials 4,5,6 and is working on text representations. There was some discussion about the detail that needs to be covered. Should limit it to 'common usage' and refer to the spec for details of edge cases.

09/03: Alan distributed an update to the text tutorial. Please review.

30/03: Steve has spent half a day tidying up lessons 1 to 6 and has uploaded them as pdfs to gridforge. They are now more coherent, and many inconsistencies and errors fixed. Ownership of draft lessons (text properties, binary properties, advanced features) has been passed to Steve. Also need to make a schema available for the examples.

13/04: Steve is working on the text properties tutorial.

04/05: No progress

18/05: No progress

01/06: No progress

08/06: No progress

15/06: This is on hold until Steve clears up spec issues and other workload. Steph has looked at the later lessons, and noted that they are more direct compared to the more wordy earlier lessons.

28/06: On hold.

...

**4/10: On hold**

132	<p><b>Publishing DFDL xsd (Suman)</b></p> <p>08/12: Agreed that it should be made available. Suman has started the approval process in IBM</p> <p>15/12: no progress</p> <p>22/12: no update</p> <p>12/01: Suman is getting approval from IBM to publish.</p> <p>19/01: Waiting to get IBM approval to publish</p> <p>26/01: no update</p> <p>02/02: No update</p> <p>09/02: no update</p> <p>23/02: no update</p> <p>02/03: Suman is working through the IBM process to permit publication. There was discussion about what licence the XSD would be published under and how that would effect use in products. Suman to investigate</p> <p>09/03: No update</p> <p>30/03: Suman has sent information to IBM legal. Reminded him about the license issue.</p> <p>13/04: No update.</p> <p>04/05: IBM has permission to release the DFDL model xsds to WG members only, Suman has a couple more changes to make and will send to Steve for review. License clarification needed.</p> <p>18/05: Awaiting response from IBM legal. Suman will send Steve the model xsd for review.</p> <p>01/06:</p> <p>08/06: Awaiting response from IBM legal. Suman will send Steve the model xsd for review.</p> <p>15/06: Steve has received the xsds (there are three of them) and will review.</p> <p>28/06: Not reviewed yet</p> <p>05/07: Need to fully understand what WG members are able to do with it. The real usefulness is in other implementers being able to use the xsds to validate DFDL xsds so the license needs to reflect this.</p> <p>12/07: No further progress</p> <p>19/07: Suman will talk to IBM legal and make it clear that the license must allow users to actively use the xsds.</p>
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	<p>26/07: No update</p> <p>16/08: Steve has reviewed and sent comments to Suman. Suman has asked legal to clarify re-distribution rules, taking into account OGF licensing terms and patent filing.</p> <p>23/08: No update</p> <p>30/08: Steve has reviewed words from IBM legal. It looks like that once the xsds are published by OGF then they are free to be used under the normal OGF licensing terms. Steve needs to clear all this with IBM legal in Hursley , as the DFDL mission is owned by Hursley in UK.</p> <p><a href="#">20/09: Steve has mailed IBM Hursley legal</a></p> <p>27/09: Steve to meet with IBM Hursley legal</p> <p><a href="#">4/10: No further progress</a></p>
133	<p><b>Make a set of default formats available (Suman)</b></p> <p>19/01: Suman expects some default formats to be ready by Feb 9th. Will need approval to publish</p> <p>26/01: Stephanie sent the defaults used by test cases to Suman</p> <p>02/02: no update</p> <p>09/02: no update</p> <p>23/02: no update</p> <p>02/03: Same as 132</p> <p>09/03: No update. Same license issue apply though.</p> <p>13/04: No update.</p> <p>04/05: IBM will make one default format available. Suman is working through the IBM process to permit publication.</p> <p>18/05: Awaiting response from IBM legal.</p> <p>01/06:</p> <p>08/06: Awaiting response from IBM legal. IBM also want to prove that the default format has the properties sensibly defined to plans to include in internal testing .</p> <p>15/06: No change.</p> <p>...</p> <p>19/07: 19/07: Suman will talk to IBM legal and make it clear that the license must allow users to actively use the format xsd(s).</p> <p>26/07: No update</p> <p>16/08: Same issue as action 132</p> <p>23/08: No update</p> <p>30/08: As action 132</p> <p>20/09: Steve has mailed IBM Hursley legal</p> <p>27/09: Steve to meet with IBM Hursley legal</p> <p><a href="#">4/10: No further progress</a></p>
140	<p><b>Spec issue: Parsing: 'missing' v 'empty', role of initiators , default values (All)</b></p> <p>01/06: See minutes.</p> <p>08/06: Still under discussion. Tim has sent Mike a selection of data formats to guide the discussion.</p> <p>15/06: Not discussed - an extra call has been scheduled to go through this.</p> <p>28/06: A series of extra calls are being held between Mike, Steve, Tim and Steph.</p> <p>05/07: Next extra call is Wed 6th July - Steve to send invite</p> <p>12/07: Two more calls held. Next call is Wed 13th July.</p> <p>19/07: More calls held, next call is Fri 22nd July.</p> <p>26/07: More calls held, good progress</p> <p>16/08: Steve will set up next call for when Tim has returned from holiday</p> <p>23/08: Two more calls scheduled for this week, remaining issues: separator suppression, empty strings, sparse arrays (see action 136)</p> <p>30/08: Call held earlier today. Still remaining - separator suppression (matrix); sparse arrays; empty strings; empty value delimiter policy . Steve to summarise where we have got so far before remaining items are tackled.</p> <p>20/09: Steve has summarised where we are with action 140, which Tim and Mike have reviewed. 2 hours call planned for Thursday.</p> <p>27/09: Calls held, progressing the separator suppression behaviour</p> <p><a href="#">4/10: More calls held, progressing separator suppression, sparse arrays (see action 136) and emptyValueDelimiterPolicy behaviour</a></p>
145	<p><b>Provide a 'dispatch' way of discriminating a choice for better performance of the</b></p>

**envelope/payload use case (Steve, Mike, Suman)**  
 12/7: See minutes. Need to choose a proposal and flesh out.  
 19/07: Waiting for proposals  
 26/07: Waiting for proposals  
 16/08: Waiting for proposals. Suman added to action.  
 ...  
[4/10: Steve to send a proposal](#)

146	<b>Model NRL's bit-oriented format where complex repeating element carries a 'last' indicator (Steve, Mike)</b> 19/07: NRL to send xsd and example of format. 26/07: Steve/Tim put forward a proposal that used a discriminator that looked at the previous item's repeatBit in the array and failed if it was 0. This looks like it will work. Mike to add the correct DFDL annotations to take into account both repeatBit and presentBit in a single discriminator, and auto-set them using outputValueCalc. A more usable solution to the 'last indicator' problem is desirable though. Noted that this has a 'repeat..until' semantic. 16/08: Adam/Ryan to evaluate Steve/Tim proposal as it is potentially fragile relying as it does on backtracking. 23/08: Adam/Ryan had meeting with Boyd Fletcher and others, still evaluating to see whether change to spec is needed to handle this better. 30/08: No update 20/09: Looking like a spec change would be beneficial. Adam will provide details within the next month. 27/09: Waiting to hear from NRL. Mike to find out how they are progressing. <a href="#">4/10: Mike will contact NRL to see how things are progressing.</a>
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## Closed actions

No	Action
136	<b>Arrays with missing elements (Steve)</b> There is a problem when there are empty/missing array elements with an index greater than minOccurs. For example: <pre>xs:element name="array" minOccurs=0, maxOccurs=10 lengthKind='delimited'</pre> Datastream: ,,,value3,value4 Infoset will contain: <pre>array[1] = value3 array[2] = value4</pre> This is because elements with an index greater than minOccurs are optional and so do not get defaulted. Unparsing this infoset will produce: <pre>value3,value4</pre> You could make the empty space (%ES;) the nil value which will work for simple elements but not for complex. Infoset will contain: <pre>array[1] = nil array[2] = nil array[3] = value3 array[4] = value4</pre> 23/02: Discussed options 1. Changed definition of required for arrays to be 'required up to the last instance in the data stream of the array'

	<p>2. add index to the element info item  Steve to investigate if XDM uses an index.  02/03: No progress  09/03: No update  30/03: Stephanie recognised the issue from IBM's WTX. Here, the solution was to provide an option so that the user explicitly chose whether the position in the array was significant, as it is not always and on output some users do not want defaults or blanks to appear. Not yet resolved.  13/04: Steve has verified that XDM does not carry index information, but will check with IBM's W3C rep to see if that has ever been expressed as a requirement. Steve also said that the area of defaulting missing required elements on parsing (especially complex elements) is one that the IBM implementation team has raised some concerns about, so Steve and the team are looking at this area again. It is possible that the spec will change to clarify behaviour, and so this action should be used to cover this work.  04/05: In progress.  18/05: In progress, at minimum some clarification to the spec is needed  01/06: Discussed to bring Mike up to speed. Solution will depend on other spec discussions.  08/06: Still under discussion  15/06: Will come back to this after action 140 resolved  ...  <b>4/10. Closed.</b> Favoured approach is to extend the concept of defaulting on parsing to include empty members of a sparse array. This enables position of array items to be maintained. It means that a sparse array of non-string items is no longer sparse when it is output. That's the same way as we treat empty required elements so no difference. Errata will be taken for this, to be written up as part of action 140. If an implementation needs to know whether the original array items were empty instead of sparse then it is at liberty to retain that information in its infoset implementation.</p>
147	<p><b>Clarify the rules when padding /trimming and nil handling interact (Steve, Mike)</b>  19/07: It would seem that for literalCharacter you would want to apply nil processing first, else the nil character can get trimmed away. But for literalValue, trimming first is desirable to allow a single nil value to apply to multiple different fixed length elements. There is an inconsistency here, but is that ok?  26/07: No further thought on this  16/08: No further thought on this. Needs sub-team to evaluate.  23/08: No progress, will be discussed when current agenda items are completed  30/08: No progress, will be discussed when current agenda items are completed  ...  <b>4/10: Closed.</b> Not an issue. Just need to make it clear in the descriptions of literalValue and literalCharacter that they are applied at slightly different times during processing .</p>

## Deferred actions

No	Action
129	<p><b>Press release to publicise DFDL (Steve)</b>  Steve is pulling together a press release at IBM. Want to include as many contributors and interested parties as possible. NCSA are keen to be included. Also likely that US National Archive will want to be included. Mike has indicated OCO are too.  17/11: no progress  ...  08/12: Still no response from IBM press office  15/12: no progress  ...  09/03: No progress  30/03: Making this action deferred until IBM is in a position to say something more concrete about any implementation.</p>
131	<p><b>Transformation of DFDL properties to a canonical form (Joe)</b>  08/12: Joe has produced a XSLT to transform a DFDL schema to a canonical element form. When tested it should be made available on the WG gidge site.  15/12: Alan tested against test dfdl schema which worked correctly (after fixing some errors in the schema)</p>

	<p>22/12: no update</p> <p>12/01: Joe has some defects to fix before making available on gridforge.</p> <p>19/01: There is a difficult problem to solve before Joe make the style sheet public</p> <p>26/01: Working on problems</p> <p>02/02: no progress</p> <p>09/02: As it wasn't a simple as expected this will be treated as a low priority action</p> <p>23/02: Low priority</p> <p>09/03: Low priority</p> <p>30/03: Deferring for now</p>
066	<p><b>Investigate format for defining test cases (All)</b></p> <p>25/11: IBM to see if it is possible to publish its test case format.</p> <p>04/12: no update</p> <p>...</p> <p>17/02: IBM is willing in principle to publish the test case format and some of the test cases. May need some time to build a 'compliance suite'</p> <p>24/03: No progress</p> <p>03/03: Discussions have been taking place on the subset of tests that will be provided.</p> <p>10/03: work is progressing</p> <p>17/03: work is progressing</p> <p>31/03: work is progressing</p> <p>14/04: An XML test case format has been defined and is being tested.</p> <p>21/04: Schema for TDML defined. Need to define how this and the test cases will be made public</p> <p>05/05: Work still progressing</p> <p>12/05: Work still progressing</p> <p>02/06: Work still progressing on technical and legal considerations</p> <p>...</p> <p>25/08: Will chase to allow Daffodil access to test cases. The WG should define how implementation confirm that they 'conform to DFDL v1'</p> <p>01/09: IBM still progressing the legal aspect. Intends to publish 100 or so tests as soon as it can, ahead of a full compliance suite.</p> <p>08/09: IBM still progressing</p> <p>15/09: IBM still progressing, expect tests to be available within a few weeks</p> <p>22/09: IBM still progressing, expect tests to be available within a few weeks</p> <p>29/09: Test cases are being prepared.</p> <p>06/10: Some test cases should be available next week. Steve would like to be able to show the test case information at OGF 30.</p> <p>13/10: Still progressing</p> <p>10/11: Legal issues cleared, IBM in process of collecting 100 example test cases, ideally ones that fit the 'extended conformance' of NCSA Daffodil</p> <p>17/11: Work is progressing on verifying the test cases. It should be possible to distribute to the WG in 2 weeks.</p> <p>24/11: About half the test cases have been completed and are being reviewed internally.</p> <p>01/12: Test cases should be available shortly</p> <p>08/12: The test cases are in internal IBM review. Probably need a bit of reorganising before publication</p> <p>Stephanie gave a brief overview of the format of the test cases.</p> <p>15/12: Ruth joined the call to provide the latest status. The test cases have been updated and a draft read.me produced. Although not ready for public distribution Ruth will send them to Joe for feedback.</p> <p>22/12: Test cases were sent to Joe for initial testing which found some problems in the Daffodil parser</p> <p>12/01: All current tests use a default format which Daffodil doesn't currently support. Joe suggested that there should be test that defined the same function using different definition forms. Also suggested that default formats should be provided by the WG. This had always been the intention. Action 133 raised to track.</p> <p>19/01: There is currently no resource available in IBM to make more tests available. IBM to discuss how/if it can make a 'minimal compliance test suite' available.</p> <p>26/01: Action kicked off within IBM. There was a brief discussion about naming and organisation of test cases but no preferences were expressed</p> <p>02/02: IBM will not have the resources to develop a full test suite in the near future. Steve</p>

suggested that we produce a list of required test cases so that anyone could supply them.  
 09/02: Steve had previously sent a list of areas to be tested. Please review.  
 23/02: Please review Steve's list of areas to be tested  
 02/03: Alan had reviewed Steve's list and we went through his comments. Agreed there is no need for separate tests for the infoset or for dfdl: property lists, unions etc but comment will be added that these should be exercised during property testing.  
 09/03: Alan updated the test document. Need more introduction and perhaps adopting the OGF template.  
 30/03: Ownership of test document passed to Steve. This action is merged with 112 and will cover all aspects of compliance suite.  
 13/04: IBM will not have time to create a compliance suite in the near future. Probably best to make this action deferred for now.

### Work items:

No	Item	Owner	Target	Status
<b>043</b>	Track errata list for 1.0 of the spec. <a href="http://forge.gridforum.org/sf/go/doc16280?nav=1">http://forge.gridforum.org/sf/go/doc16280?nav=1</a>	Steve	N/A	Draft 0004 on grid forge.
<b>044</b>	Incorporate errata list into DFDL spec.	Steve	TBD	