

# TeamRoom Plus

IBM TeamRoom

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## Meeting about Meetings\OGF

Project	DFDL 1.0
Meeting Date	05-Mar-13 (Tues)
Meeting Time	15:00 - 16:00

Created by Steve Hanson on 09-Mar-11

Last Modified by Steve Hanson on 04-Mar-13

## OGF DFDL Working Group Call , 5 March 2013

### Agenda

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

#### 1. Daffodil Open Source Project

Status.

#### 2. Using `dfdl:textOutputMinLength` implies that `dfdl:lengthUnits` must be set

Property says "The units are specified by the `dfdl:lengthUnits` property" but should it be saying "For `dfdl:lengthKind` 'delimited', 'pattern' and 'endOfParent' the length units are characters.

For other `dfdl:lengthKinds` the length units are specified by the `dfdl:lengthUnits` property."

Otherwise we might parse in characters but serialize in bytes .

#### 3. `xs:string` when `dfdl:lengthUnits` is 'bytes' and non-SBCS encodings

Some property combinations appear problematic:

a) For `xs:string` if `dfdl:lengthKind` is 'implicit' then `xs:maxLength` is used to extract N units from the data. If `dfdl:lengthUnits` is 'bytes' then N **bytes** are extracted. If validation is switched on `xs:maxLength` is also used to validate that no more than N **characters** appear in the infoset.

b) For `xs:string` if `dfdl:lengthKind` implies a variable length on output and `dfdl:textPadKind` is not 'none' then `xs:minLength` is used to ensure that at least N units are output. If `dfdl:lengthUnits` is 'bytes' then N **bytes** are written to the data. If validation is switched on `xs:minLength` is also used to validate that at least N **characters** appear in the infoset.

#### 4. 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

**Apologies**

**Minutes**

**Meeting closed**

**Next call**

Tues 12th March 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

Subject	Document Type	Created	Modified

Next action: 206

### Actions raised at this meeting

No	Action

### Current Actions :

No	Action

**DFDL tutorial (Steve)**

13/10: Draft of first 3 chapters has been written and will be distributed to WG

10/11: Posted to grid forge here (<http://forge.gridforum.org/sf/go/doc16106?nav=1>), work continuing at IBM to define a standard example-based chapter framework and to author additional chapters. Contributors welcome!

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.

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

01/12: Alan has started lesson 4 which covers fixed and variable fields and arrays.

08/12: Alan has almost completed lesson 4. Will send out for review.

15/12: First draft of lesson 4 is available for review. Alan to send to Bob and Joe.

22/12: Alan has distributed drafts for tutorials on Basic Structure and Optional/Repeating elements. Please review

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.

19/01: The tutorials for basic structure, optional/arrays and choices have been updated. 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

...

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.

...

29/11: Tim offered to take a look at the next outstanding tutorials. Steve / Tim to discuss

6/12: No progress

...

10/01: No progress, offer from Mike to help. First step is to make any corrections due to errata.

17/01: No progress

24/01: No update

31/01: Daffodil project team will be working their way through the existing tutorials and reviewing

14/02: Daffodil team to start reviewing tutorials hopefully this Friday.

21/02: Moved to this coming Friday

28/02: No update

	<p>13/03: No progress</p> <p>21/03: No progress from Daffodil team. IBMers are starting to use the tutorial and will feedback any comments.</p> <p>28/03: No change</p> <p>05/04: Steve will send Alan's two draft lessons on binary &amp; text data to Mike to complete.</p> <p>17/04: No progress</p> <p>8/5: No update</p> <p>...</p> <p>4/9: No progress:</p> <p>11/9: IBM DFDL infocenter will start to reference these directly before the end of the year , so they need updating soon.</p> <p>18/9: Noted that several requests have been received asking for chapters 7 to 17 as implied by chapter 1. At minimum chapter 1 needs updating to make it clear what exists today.</p> <p>28/9: Steve has updated and re-issued chapters 1 to 3.</p> <p>...</p> <p>12/2: No further progress</p> <p>19/2: Noted that tutorials need updating to reflect updated spec when it is issued .</p> <p>26/2: MITRE are using DFDL heavily now and suggesting ideas for tutorials .</p> <p>5/3:</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>4/10: More calls held, progressing separator suppression, sparse arrays (see action 136) and emptyValueDelimiterPolicy behaviour</p> <p>18/10: All issues now in a single document, call held earlier today. Next call Thursday.</p> <p>1/11: Extra calls still ongoing</p> <p>8/11: Extra calls still going, when action 140 document complete will send to Steph for review</p> <p>15/11: Mike is verifying the action 140 conclusions by writing an algorithm in SCALA which can be ultimately be used in Daffodil</p> <p>22/11: Call to be held next week</p> <p>29/11: Next call 30/11</p> <p>6/12: Next call 7/12</p> <p>13/12: Had call earlier today, making good progress. Next call first week of Jan.</p> <p>10/01: Next call to be scheduled for Wed or Fri</p> <p>17/01: No call last week, call tomorrow</p> <p>24/01: Two calls held, next call Wed, looking at separator suppression</p> <p>31/01: Separator suppression discussions ongoing, proposal to rename policy and enums. Call later this week.</p> <p>14/02: Now looking at separator suppression and unparsing. Next call on Friday</p> <p>21/02: Separator suppression on parsing/unparsing matrix agreed.</p>

28/02: Two more calls this week  
13/03: Call tomorrow  
21/03: Two more calls held  
28/03: Hopefully all issues now addressed. Steve to start folding in action 140 document comments into the body of the document.  
05/04: Still with Steve. Noted that action 140 will not be in the next spec rev, likely the one after.  
17/04: No further progress  
8/5: Steve has started rewriting the action 140 document  
23/5: Steve continuing the work on the action 140 document. Empty/missing/defaults and Arrays have been rewritten. Separators not started. Please review.  
12/6: Steve will resend the latest action 140 document for review. Note use of 'missing representation' to describe zero length input data with same semantic as missing altogether.  
19/6: Latest action 140 resent. Separate call on Thursday this week.  
26/6: Call held, revisions need to be made before action 140 can be circulated more widely. Next call will be Tues 3rd July.  
3/7: Steve not found time to update action 140 doc, call postponed to 10th July  
10/7: Call held, document still being refined. Spin off **action 179** to sort out use of term 'representation' in spec and grammar.  
17/7: No progress on core action 140.  
25/7: No progress - Steve will aim to finish refinement before Aug 16  
31/7: No progress  
7/8: No progress  
14/8: Steve has started to create v16 of the action 140 document and will mail it to Mike & Tim this week  
4/9: v16 mailed to Mike & Tim - some issues noted in the email - Steve will set up a separate call  
11/9: Separate call held. Re-examining the role of minOccurs for occursCountKind 'parsed', 'expression', 'stopValue'. For these occursCountKinds, where the occurrences are extracted without reference to minOccurs, it seems more natural that a minOccurs violation is not a processing error but instead it is just a validation error. Need to evaluate the knock-on effect of this proposal - it potentially affects points of uncertainty, default values, use of terms required & optional, and separator suppression.  
18/9: Tim and Steve have worked through the proposal, it looks good in principle. Steve to update action 140 document and see if anything problematic surfaces.  
Note that current definitions of 'required' and 'optional' retained - it's just that now a required element missing from the infoset (after defaulting applied) is not necessarily a processing error (that now depends on occursCountKind). Please review for next call.  
28/9: Tim & Mike to review Steve's updated document. Other things to do before it can be incorporated into the spec:  
- SMH1 comment: What do dfdl:xxxlength() functions return when rep is absent? Error or 0?  
- English words for separator suppression tables  
- Decide the fate of Appendix A? Perhaps replaced by tutorials?  
2/10: Key to explaining all this when it is rolled into the spec is defining the different reps plus 'missing' plus concepts of 'well-formed' and 'badly-formed' in the glossary. Clearly sections 13.15, 14 and 16 are affected in a major way, but it is likely that it affects several other sections such as 9.  
Discussed the dfdl:xxxLength() functions and what they should return when there is nothing in the infoset. This led to a more general discussion of whether a failure to find a path should be treated as a schema definition error or a processing error. New **action 188** raised.  
16/10: Steve to take one more pass through the document in the light of the above, and also try to put into words the separator suppression tables. In order to do this need action 187 needs resolving.  
23/10: Action 187 resolved far enough to allow Steve to proceed with document pass.  
30/10: Still with Steve.  
5/11: Still with Steve.

12/11: Steve has updated action 140 to v018 to reflect action 187 terminology, which has made it clearer. Next step is to create readable descriptions of the separator suppression tables.

20/11: No further progress. Consider making separator suppression stuff a separate action?

27/11: No progress

4/12: Steve has started work on the separator suppression policy descriptions. Key to this is a definition of 'potentially trailing' as this is one of the criteria that allows separator suppression to take place. Steve will circulate a draft definition as it is not as obvious as it appears. Also it is important that the WG re-review action 140 v018 as Steve believes there are inconsistencies in there.

A call may be scheduled later in the week if needed.

11/12: Steve sent out a v019 of the action 140 document which corrected some mistakes from earlier updates, added comments for issues that needed resolving, and contained a rewritten section 4 on separator suppression. An extra call was held on 7/12 which addressed the comments and reviewed section 4. Actions arising were:

- Mike to reword some of the section 4 text to make clear the distinction between a potentially trailing element and actually trailing occurrences of an element.
- Steve to correct a mistake in the separator suppression tables where column headings got swapped and resend the spreadsheet
- Tim to create some introductory words to explain the motivation for the separator suppression property

8/1: v020 and v021 of the action 140 document have been circulated. Steve has spotted a possible error in always equating 'empty' representation to 'known to exist', after reading Mike's choice example email, so we need to revisit that.

Tim has created words for separator suppression introduction. Review and comment please.

15/1: Tim's separator suppression intro approved.

Discussed Mike's example of a choice with a complex element branch that evaluated to empty representation.

This is an instance of the behaviour of a required complex element when it has empty representation.

Action 140 currently says that defaults are not applied but does not say whether this is a processing error or you get a child-less element in the info set. Steve had expected the former, but is not happy that this is appropriate for all circumstances.

Steve will think about all the instances of empty representation, taking into account initiator/terminator, lengthKind, emptyValueDelimiterPolicy, etc.

22/1: Reviewed the action 140 behaviour for all use cases of empty representation. Essentially there are three main cases, 1) simple element (non-string), 2) simple element (string) and 3) complex element, each of which has sub-cases for optional occurrence versus required occurrence, and there is also EVDP to take into account. Reached a proposal where all were comfortable. Steve to write up and circulate for review.

29/1: Reviewed Steve's proposal, looks good. Steve will update action 140 document. Hopefully this can be merged into the next draft of the spec (ie, post the draft that includes errata v011).

The action 140 changes should be merged on their own for ease of reviewing.

5/2: Steve has sent out an updated action 140 document for review. Discussed one issue that Steve had noted, specifically whether empty representation for a non-string simple type causes a type conversion processing error, or whether no type conversion takes place and it is the fact that nothing is added to the info set that causes a processing (or validation) error.

12/2: Mike has reviewed and his comments were discussed. Steve will make another revision.

19/2: Steve has sent out v023 for review. Two comments remaining. Steve to address in a new revision. Mike to start folding v023 into the spec once action 197 complete.

26/2: Steve has addressed the final two comments and sent out v024. Mike has started to fold the content into the spec, initially as Word comments. Steve will create errata v12 to contain only the action 140 information, in the form of a link to the action 140

document which will be tidied up and placed on Redmine as an errata addendum. Action 140 content will be folded into spec and reviewed before any of the post-v11 batch of errata.

[5/3: Errata v12 created. Errata Addendum 1 created from Action 140 document. Both need quick review then can be posted on Redmine.](#)

172	<p><b>Clarify how a DFDL string literal is matched against the data stream (Tim)</b></p> <p>23/5: Non-trivial algorithm, worth stating it in the spec.</p> <p>...</p> <p>25/7: No progress.</p> <p>31/7: Tim has been making notes but nothing written up formally. Will include treatment of %WSP*;</p> <p>...</p> <p>5/3: <a href="#">No further progress</a></p>
199	<p><b>Review the unordered sequence rewrite -into-a-repeating-choice section (Tim)</b></p> <p>16/1: This needs to be worded in a way that allows implementations to check for occurs violations in a manner which is consistent with the description of array processing in action 140 document, and is not overly constraining on implementers.</p> <p>22/1: Tim will propose revised words as he proceeds with the IBM implementation</p> <p>...</p> <p>26/2: No progress</p> <p>5/3: <a href="#">Tim has started looking at unordered processing again.</a></p>
200	<p><b>Establish recommended practices for pushing changes to GitHub (Mike)</b></p> <p>29/1: Mike will talk to Tresys who have used Git a lot.</p> <p>5/2: Mike to talk to Tresys this week, Tim has sent some links.</p> <p>12/2: Information sent by Mike, Steve to review.</p> <p>...</p> <p>5/3: <a href="#">No progress</a></p>
203	<p><b>Improve descriptions of certain DFDL functions (Steve)</b></p> <p>5/2: Affects occursCount(), occursCountWithDefault(), contentLength() and valueLength()</p> <p>12/2: No progress</p> <p>19/2: No progress</p> <p>26/2: Trying to assign a clear and useful semantic to occursCount() without default when parsing leads to the conclusion that DFDL should only offer a single function occursCount() that always includes defaults for both parsing and unparsing, and so simply counts the occurrences in the infoset (parsing) and augmented infoset (unparsing). Also occursCount() will allow a non-array element as its argument. This also clarifies the behaviour of occursIndex().</p> <p>5/3: <a href="#">Mike has sent an email asking for the behaviour of occursCount() when there are multiple xs:element declarations in the same name in a xs:sequence giving rise to infoset items. Raises issues about the precise nature of the restriction on XPath sequences with length &gt; 1. Do we actually need occursCount() or can XPath fn:count() be used instead?</a></p>
204	<p><b>Establish strict versus lax behaviour for ICU calendar patterns (Steve)</b></p> <p>5/2: ICU ticket raised, response awaited</p> <p>12/2: Response received. The only leniency involved is when lax is specified, in which values can be outside the usual range and cause the calendar to be normalized, eg, 2013-01-35 would give 2013-02-04.</p> <p>19/2: Re-opened. More info from ICU. There is more leniency than published when lax, and there is also some leniency when strict. ICU will update the ticket with more details within 2 weeks.</p> <p>26/2: No update from ICU yet</p> <p>5/3: <a href="#">ICU working on this now</a></p>
205	<p><b>Establish XML white space rules for DFDL annotations (Suman)</b></p> <p>19/2: Steve will experiment with IBM DFDL and see what XML rules are being applied by default, and the effect of xml:space.</p> <p>26/2: Using IBM DFDL, dfdl:assert has external white space (ie, outside the { }) stripped, and internal white space (ie, inside the { }) normalised to a single space, for both attribute and element renderings. Use of xml:space 'preserve' made no difference. Also looked at DFDL properties such as dfdl:length '10' and dfdl:initiator 'abc def' and they showed the same behaviour. However enum properties like dfdl:lengthKind 'explicit' give a schema definition error. Is this deliberate? Action passed to Suman to confirm the intended behaviour.</p> <p>5/3: <a href="#">No progress</a></p>

## Closed actions

No	Action

## Deferred actions

No	Action
129	<p><b>Press release to publicise DFDL (Steve)</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>17/11: no progress</p> <p>...</p> <p>08/12: Still no response from IBM press office</p> <p>15/12: no progress</p> <p>....</p> <p>09/03: No progress</p> <p>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></p> <p>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 gidforge site.</p> <p>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 exoected this will be treated as a low priority action</p> <p>23/02: Low prioity</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: And 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>



08/09: IBM still progressing  
 15/09: IBM still progressing, expect tests to be available within a few weeks  
 22/09: IBM still progressing, expect tests to be available within a few weeks  
 29/09: Test cases are being prepared.  
 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.  
 13/10: Still progressing  
 10/11: Legal issues cleared, IBM in process of collecting 100 example test cases, ideally ones that fit the 'extended conformance' of NCSA Daffodil  
 17/11: Work is progressing on verifying the test cases. It should be possible to distribute to the WG in 2 weeks.  
 24/11: About half the test cases have been completed and are being reviewed internally.  
 01/12: Test cases should be available shortly  
 08/12: The test cases are in internal IBM review. Probably need a bit of reorganising before publication  
 Stephanie gave a brief overview of the format of the test cases.  
 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.  
 22/12: Test cases were sent to Joe for initial testing which found some problems in the Daffodil parser  
 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.  
 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.  
 26/01: Action kicked off within IBM. There was a brief discussion about naming and organisation of test cases but no preferences were expressed  
 02/02: IBM will not have the resources to develop a full test suite in the near future. Steve 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 info set 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.  
 ...  
 10/07/2012: Discussed schemes to create interchangeable tests. Ideally need a DFDL defined error code per failure, in conjunction with specific inserts.

### Work items:

No	Item	Owner	Target	Status
043	Track errata list for 1.0 of the spec.	Steve	N/A	Draft 011 on grid forge.
044	Incorporate errata list into DFDL spec.	Steve/Mike	N/A	Draft merged document.

