

# DFDL WG Call Minutes

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## Meeting about Meetings\OGF

Project	DFDL 1.0
Meeting Date	17-Sep-13 (Tues)
Meeting Time	16:00 - 17:00

Created by Steve Hanson on 09-Mar-11

Last Modified by Steve Hanson on 18-Sep-13

## OGF DFDL Working Group Call , 17 September 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 update.

#### 2. Length of Public Comment period for revised specification

It has been agreed with the OGF that the revised DFDL 1.0 spec will be GFD.207, it will obsolete GFD.174, it will remain as a Proposed Recommendation (GFD-P-R) as further changes are expected, and the two errata documents will become OGF experimental documents. GFD.207 has been fast tracked through the GFSG review and is now in Public Comment, along with the two experimental documents. The time for a GFD-P-R to be in Public Comment is 60 days.

The DFDL WG would prefer it that was reduced slightly.

#### 3. Erratum 2.100

This erratum clarifies that `dfdl:lengthKind 'explicit'` where `dfdl:length` is an expression is treated as variable length when unparsing, and therefore behaves like `dfdl:lengthKind 'prefixed'` in terms of computing the content length when unparsing. This is clearly stated in section 12.3.1 but could be made clearer in section 12.3.7, and has not been reflected in the property description for `dfdl:textPadKind`.

#### 4. Erratum 2.121

This erratum clarifies the time zone symbols that are supported by `dfdl:calendarPattern`, since they changed in ICU 51. We agreed not to support the new optional seconds support, as specified by new symbols `xxxx`, `xxxxx`, `XXXX`, `XXXXX`, `ZZZZZ`. However we had not spotted that the old symbols `Z`, `ZZ`, `ZZZ` also now imply optional seconds (they are the same as `xxxx`).

#### 5. 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

Mike Beckerle  
Alan Sill  
Jonathan Cranford  
David Martin  
Tim Kimber  
Steve Hanson

## Apologies

Suman Kalia

## IPR Statement

"I acknowledge that participation in this meeting is subject to the OGF Intellectual Property Policy ."

## Minutes

### 1. Daffodil Open Source Project

Not discussed.

### 2. Length of Public Comment period for revised specification

Alan Sill and David Martin joined the call to discuss the Public Comment period . Alan pointed out that the three documents should be considered as a set, and that it made sense for a common period to apply to all, being 30 days. This was accepted by the DFDL WG. Steve mentioned that almost no comments were received in the original Public Comment for GFD .174, so it was agreed that efforts would be made to publicise the new Public Comment period more widely .

### 3. Erratum 2.100

Steve will propose new words for 12.3.7 and dfdl:textPadKind to make things clear.

**New action 227** raised.

### 4. Erratum 2.121

It turns out that XML Schema 1.0 does not allow seconds in time zones, so without changing the DFDL info set it is not possible to handle seconds . Agreed that erratum 2.121 will be updated to state that for Z, ZZ, ZZZ no seconds are allowed and it is a processing error if seconds found when parsing any time zone. **Public comment** raised (<http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/24>).

### 5. Errata process during Public Comment .

The following was agreed:

- The revised spec and the two experience documents are maintained as a set.
- Issues noted with any document are to be raised as public comments on the OGF site .
- If issues require discussion that will be done in DFDL WG calls and minuted in the usual way .
- Pre-existing issues will have public comments raised .
- At end of Public Comment, the revised spec and experience document(s) will be updated as a set.
- They will then be closed and submitted to OGF for final review and publication .
- Subsequent errata will be handled using a new errata document.

## Meeting closed

17:00 UK

## Next regular call

Tues 24th Sept 16:00 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

## Create

## Modifie

Next action: **227**

## Actions raised at this meeting

No	Action
227	Clarify words for erratum 2.100 in sections 12.3.7 and dfdl:textPadKind (Steve) 17/9: Steve to propose updated words. <b>Public comment</b> raised ( <a href="http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/25">http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/25</a> ).
228	<b>Review set of tutorial lessons (All)</b> 17/9: Lesson 1 proposes a set of lessons, needs reviewing as over 2 years old.

## Current Actions :

No	Action
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>

31/03: work is progressing  
 14/04: And XML test case format has been defined and is being tested.  
 21/04: Schema for TDML defined. Need to define how this and the test cases will be made public  
 05/05: Work still progressing  
 12/05: Work still progressing  
 02/06: Work still progressing on technical and legal considerations  
 ...  
 25/08: Will chase to allow Daffodil access to test cases. The WG should define how implementation confirm that they 'conform to DFDL v1'  
 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.  
 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 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.  
 ...  
 10/07/2012: Discussed schemes to create interchangeable tests. Ideally need a DFDL defined

	<p>error code per failure, in conjunction with specific inserts.</p> <p>...</p> <p>26/3/2013: Resurrecting deferred action.</p> <p>We have got to the point where it makes sense to converge the IBM DFDL and Daffodil variations of .tdml file.</p> <p>Steve to seek permission from IBM to make the list of IBM DFDL error messages available to DFDL WG.</p> <p>...</p> <p>24/5: No further progress.</p> <p>28/5: Mike summarised the status of Daffodil's tdml runner. Since IBM shared the tdml format, Daffodil has added a) bit file support with in-line comments; b) embedded schema; c) failure checking by multiple string matching. IBM has added a) some flags that map to parser API 'features' such as optional checks; b) code to handle illegal XML characters. 1200 parser test cases written for Daffodil, about 60 of the original IBM shared tests now pass in Daffodil. Steve will email OGF and ask if there is an approved process for demonstrating that multiple implementations generate the same set of test results. To progress with a shared tdml format, IBM will need to get legal approval to view the Daffodil source test cases, Steve to kick this off. Mark noted that IBM's tdml format has evolved in order to make the infoSet comparison easier, Mark will see whether the shared tests use the latest version.</p> <p>4/6: Steve has emailed OGF for guidance, reply received. Experience documents needed to verify conformance, but there is not a requirement to have executable tests. However, a set of executable tests is what we need ideally.</p> <p>Discussed error messages and identifiers for different errors and what the granularity should be. Steve has asked for permission to send the IBM DFDL error messages to the DFDL WG, they should be used as a starting point. Need to agree what constitutes the minimum content of an error message.</p> <p>...</p> <p>17/9: No further progress</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>17/9: No further progress</p>
220	<p><b>Review reworked information on bit fields (Steve)</b></p> <p>20/8: Major changes to presentation rather than content, but a full review is needed even so.</p> <p>28/8: Mike and Steve collaborating on getting this into the spec and reviewed. Spotted an issue in passing with the grammar, the RightPadOrFill region could actually contain pad characters and fill bytes, for the text &amp; lengthUnits 'bytes' combination. <b>Erratum taken.</b></p> <p>3/9: Draft r14.5 contains updates. Went through the remaining open comments. Most can be closed now, a few remain and will be handled in public comment, specifically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- adding lengthUnits 'bits' for packed calendars;</li> <li>- documenting the endOfParent case where RightFill can be encountered.</li> </ul> <p>10/9: No progress</p> <p>17/9: <a href="http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/26">Public comment raised for packed calendars issue (http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/26)</a></p> <p><a href="http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/27">Public comment raised for endOfParent issue (http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/27)</a></p>
221	<p><b>Ensure 'nil' is handled by DFDL expressions (All)</b></p> <p>20/8: Possible problem with 'nil' and expressions. Needs investigation.</p> <p>28/8: No further progress. Unlikely to make the published draft.</p> <p>3/9: No progress - deferred until public comment</p> <p>10/9: No progress</p> <p>17/9: <a href="http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/28">Public comment raised (http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/28)</a></p>
222	<p><b>Improve some of the wording used in separator suppression description (All)</b></p> <p>28/8: Mike has some concerns with the accuracy of the wording, see email thread.</p> <p>3/9: No progress - deferred until public comment</p>

	10/9: No progress <a href="#">17/9: Public comment to be raised</a>
223	<b>How best to document ICU time zone symbol fallbacks (Steve)</b> 3/9: Steve to contact ICU. Resolve during public comment. 10/9: Steve raised an ICU ticket. DFDL spec needs to make a statement about time zones that refers to Unicode LDML spec, in a similar way we refer externally to encodings or calendar languages. <a href="#">17/9: Public comment to be raised</a>
224	<b>Add section for implementation defined limits (Jonathan)</b> 3/9: Several places in the spec cite this, should be grouped. Currently partially listed in section 2.6. Also note distinction between 'implementation defined' and 'implementation dependent'. Check spec for correct usage. Resolve during public comment. 10/9: No progress <a href="#">17/9: Jonathan sent a reference to the W3C XProc standard where the distinction is made clear. Jonathan will go through the spec and gather everything that is implementation defined/dependent. Public comment to be raised</a>
225	<b>Consistent terminology for describing text data (All)</b> 3/9: Ensure spec uses 'textual' and other agreed terms in a consistent way. Resolve during public comment. 10/9: No progress <a href="#">17/9: Public comment to be raised</a>
226	<b>Clarify that %ES; is intended to be used on its own (All)</b> 10/9: Remaining issue from action 172. How best to reflect this is the syntax table for DFDL string literal. Resolve during public comment. <a href="#">17/9: Public comment to be raised</a>

### Closed actions

No	Action
123	<b>DFDL tutorial (Steve)</b> 13/10: Draft of first 3 chapters has been written and will be distributed to WG 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! 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 be updated. Please review. The tutorial for text elements should be available soon. 26/01: No comments received about 3 tuorials 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

13/03: No progress

21/03: No progress from Daffodil team. IBMers are starting to use the tutorial and will feedback any comments.

28/03: No change

05/04: Steve will send Alan's two draft lessons on binary & text data to Mike to complete.

17/04: No progress

8/5: No update

...

4/9: No progress:

11/9: IBM DFDL infocenter will start to reference these directly before the end of the year, so they need updating soon.

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.

28/9: Steve has updated and re-issued chapters 1 to 3.

...

12/2: No further progress

19/2: Noted that tutorials need updating to reflect updated spec when it is issued.

26/2: MITRE are using DFDL heavily now and suggesting ideas for tutorials.

...

9/7: No further progress

16/7: Noted that at some point the lack of material will start to inhibit take up of DFDL.

Steve has been asked to do some video sessions for IBM developerWorks.

Possibility of MITRE obtaining an intern to create some more of the tutorials.

...

	<p>23/7: No updates</p> <p>13/8: Will need to be updated to match forthcoming spec draft. At same time decide on what lessons are next in priority.</p> <p>...</p> <p>28/8: No further progress</p> <p>3/9: Steve has updated lessons 1 through 5 to match the latest spec draft. Direct dispatch choice added to lesson 5. Lesson 1 lists the future lessons by number, we may want to revisit the proposed set at some point.</p> <p>10/9: Steve to update lesson 6.</p> <p>17/9: <b>Closed</b>. Updated lessons 1 to 6 now on Redmine to match revised spec. New actions to be raised to progress further lessons, starting with <b>new action 228</b>.</p>
215	<p><b>Create errata v 14 and incorporate into DFDL spec (Steve, Mike)</b></p> <p>23/7: Steve has created a draft including all errata up until 9th July, rest to be added.</p> <p>13/8: Steve has completed errata v014. Mike has a draft r14 of the spec that includes the errata. Steve has reviewed and commented, some of the comments required discussion, and this is documented in the email thread. A separate call will be held to complete the review, and after that Mike will update draft r14 of the spec. Noted that there are still other OPEN comments in the spec which need resolving.</p> <p>20/8: Separate call held to complete review. A couple of issues outstanding which will be handled as separate agenda items.</p> <p>Mike has mailed out draft r14.2 of the spec and updated the errata document to v014.2. Mike has listed the remaining items to complete. Keep this action open until all work complete and ready for distribution.</p> <p>28/8: Mike has mailed out errata v014.3, spec draft r14.3 and a list of open items. Steve has reviewed and sent comments.</p> <p>3/9: Latest is errata v014.5 and spec draft r14.5. Mike to create draft r14.6 containing last few content changes and send to WG for proof reading. There will be a draft r14.7 for proof reading comments and other editorial changes. Prior to public comment, all format changes will be accepted and all comments deleted. Change bars will remain. A fully commented copy will be retained on Redmine.</p> <p>10/9: Mike &amp; Steve have been iterating on changes and reviews. Jonathan also has comments, Suman is part way through review. After one more iteration, Mike will create gwdrp-dfdl-v1.0.4.doc and errata v014 will be published. Next step is to contact OGF and get advice on the best way to publish the updated spec. Steve will invite Alan Sill to next week's WG call.</p> <p>17/9: <b>Closed</b>. Revised spec allocated GFD.207 and now in Public Comment. Errata documents now GFD-E experimental documents and in Public Comment. Original spec GFD.174 will be obsoleted. All these on Redmine.</p>

## 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.</p>



When tested it should be made available on the WG gidforge site.
15/12: Alan tested against test dfdl schema which worked correctly (after fixing some errors in the schema)
22/12: no update
12/01: Joe has some defects to fix before making available on gridforge .
19/01: There is a difficult problem to solve before Joe make the style sheet public
26/01: Working on problems
02/02: no progress
09/02: As it wasn't a simple as exoected this will be treated as a low priority action
23/02: Low prioity
09/03: Low priority
30/03: Deferring for now

#### Work items:

No	Item	Owner	Target	Status
043	Track errata list for 1.0 of the spec.	Steve	N/A	Done
044	Incorporate errata list into DFDL spec.	Steve/Mike	N/A	Done