

DFDL WG Call Minutes

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Meeting about Meetings\OGF

Project	DFDL 1.0
Meeting Date	25-Mar-14 (Tues)
Meeting Time	16:00 - 17:00

Created by Steve Hanson on 09-Mar-11

Last Modified by Steve Hanson on 26-Mar-14

OGF DFDL Working Group Call , 25 March 2014

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. Default and Fixed XSDL attributes

Suggestion from Jonathan via email that a statement could be added that these behave like XSDL specifically they are mutually exclusive on a given element .

3. Questions from IBM translators

The DFDL 1.0 specification (current GFD.207) is shipped in the IBM Infocenter that accompanies IBM DFDL. It is shipped as a whole, and the property descriptions are also available via the F1 help key in the IBM DFDL editor. The latter are translated and a number of questions have come back from translators who are struggling with some of the more complex sentences . Suggest that these are forwarded to the DFDL WG to see if the language can be made clearer.

4. Steve away next 2 calls

Suggest cancelling 1st April call and moving 8th April call to later that week.

5. EBCDIC zoned decimals .

Spec states "*Which characters are used to represent 'overpunched' (included) positive and negative signs, varies by encoding, Cobol compiler and system. It is fixed for EBCDIC systems but not for ASCII.*". It turns out that is not 100% true for EBCDIC. While the hex code does not change, a couple of the characters can vary depending on the code page, as per http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binary-coded_decimal#Zoned_decimal. This has been noticed by an IBM DFDL user in Germany.

6. Restriction that a complex element can not have lengthUnits 'bits'

Is this too restrictive for formats that are inherently but oriented ?

If we relax this are there then restrictions on the allowable content of such a complex element ?

7. AOB

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
Tim Kimber
Mike Beckerle
Jonathan Cranford

Apologies

IPR Statement

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

Minutes

1. Daffodil Open Source Project

Tresys team back working on Daffodil . Focusing on performance of parser .

2. Default and Fixed XSDL attributes

Agreed to add statements that these behave like XSDL , and are mutually exclusive on a given element , to sections 5.2.6 and 5.2.7 . **Errata taken** .

3. Questions from IBM translators

Agreed that any issues from IBM translators that are more than just editorial will be forwarded to the DF DL WG to see if the language can be made clearer . First example is around the words that describe the matching of initiator , terminator and separator string literals (see email) .
Mike to review words . See new **action 253** .

4. Steve away next 2 calls

Agreed to cancel 1st April call and move 8th April call to Friday 11th April .

5. EBCDIC zoned decimals

Agreed that the property description of textZonedSignStyle needs to make clear that is the *code points* for the overpunched signs that are fixed for EBCDIC systems , not the *characters* .
See new **action 254** .

6. Restriction that a complex element can not have lengthUnits 'bits'

Discussed whether to leave this restriction in place as df dl :lengthKind 'implicit' can be used .
Mike is not sure whether this is sufficient for his scenario and will verify . See new **action 255** .

Meeting closed

17:00 UK

Next regular call

Fri 11th April @ 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: 256

Actions raised at this meeting

No	Action
253	IBM translator issue : Wording for initiator , terminator , separator that describes string literal matching (Mike) 25/3: Need to make more understandable the paragraph that talks about matching the list of string literals against the data .
254	Zoned decimal code points , not characters , are constant (Steve) 25/3: Spec needs wording changed.
255	Current rules on when lengthUnits 'bits' can be used (Mike) 25/3: Mike will look at his scenarios and see whether the rules need to change .

Current Actions :

No	Action
224	Add section for implementation defined limits (Jonathan) 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 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

	<p>24/9: With Jonathan to raise.</p> <p>1/10: Public comment 97 raised (http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/97)</p> <p>8/10: With Jonathan to provide words.</p> <p>22/10: Jonathan has defined implementation defined/dependent and started to classify. Steve and Mike had trouble with the definitions, Steve to re-word and send for comment.</p> <p>31/10: Reworded version sent</p> <p>5/11: Rewording approved. Jonathan proceeding with classification, will distribute for review when complete.</p> <p>...</p> <p>28/1: Still with Jonathan</p> <p>5/2: Jonathan is up to section 12.7. Discovered an issue with binary packed calendars, new action 252 raised.</p> <p>...</p> <p>11/2: No more progress</p> <p>18/2: Jonathan has around 20 changes identified so far, and has sent for an initial review. Comments back to Jonathan before next week's call please.</p> <p>11/3: Reviewed the document so far. Decided that imprecise size limits are implementation-dependent not implementation-defined. Jonathan to update and complete document, and propose errata that result.</p> <p>25/3: No further progress</p>
228	<p>Review set of tutorial lessons (All)</p> <p>17/9: Lesson 1 proposes a set of lessons, needs reviewing as over 2 years old.</p> <p>...</p> <p>22/10: No progress</p> <p>31/10: Becoming a focus for Tresys. Steve to send his 'Modeling Data Formats using DFDL' powerpoint.</p> <p>...</p> <p>19/11: No further progress</p> <p>26/11: Possibility of help from MITRE high-school student, and from Marisa at IBM.</p> <p>...</p> <p>11/3: No further progress</p> <p>25/3: MITRE have produced a couple of new tutorials under the guidance of James Gariss. Jonathan to forward for review.</p> <p>Mike observed that an html tutorial could be generated from a tdml file using XSLT.</p>
242	<p>Public comment : dfdl:valueLength and dfdl :contentLength descriptions (Mike)</p> <p>19/11: http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/63. Agreed that the function names were ok as per errata 3.18, and that the spec is clear that they refer to the grammar regions. However the grammar regions mentioned do not fully include literal nil values. Discussed what happens when parsing - remember the length or re-parse? What about lengthUnits 'characters' when the data is binary? Also the 'Notes' that follow the table need to be reworked.</p> <p>26/11: Needs wording to handle all the issues found, assigned to Mike.</p> <p>...</p> <p>11/3: Still with Mike</p> <p>25/3: Mike has sent out revised wording, reviewed by Mark and Steve. Noted that the words need to explain the concept of building a complex element from the bottom up, and these words are equally applicable to several places in section 12.3. Mike to revise accordingly.</p>
248	<p>Discriminators and potential points of uncertainty (Steve)</p> <p>28/1: Steve to write up a proposal to prevent a discriminator from behaving in a non-obvious manner when used with a potential point of uncertainty that turns out not to be an actual point of uncertainty.</p> <p>5/2: Steve sent an email to check whether choice branches, unordered elements and floating elements should always be actual points of uncertainty, as there are times when there is no uncertainty, eg, last choice branch; all floating elements found. It was decided that they are always actual points of uncertainty. To do otherwise will complicate implementations and result in fragile schemas. Steve will proceed with the proposal on that basis.</p> <p>...</p>

	25/3: No further progress
250	Standardise on a single tdml format for DFDL tests (All) 5/2: Steve has requested permission for IBM to view / use the Daffodil tdml files, as a precursor to trying to standardise on a common tdml format. Was formerly part of action 066. ... 18/2: No further progress 11/3: Mike and Steve discussing the best way to share and cooperate on tdml format. 25/3: Discussed the creation of an OGF document that will own and define a standardised tdml format.

Closed actions

No	Action
246	Refactor DFDL spec into a multipart MS Word document (Mike) 28/1: Mike to see whether this solves the fragility and size problems that the spec experiences today. ... 11/2: Not started 18/2: Multipart MS Word document sent to Steve for evaluation. Some tables affected but overall looks promising. Mike to continue. ... 11/3: Still with Mike 25/3: Closed. Mike has considerably simplified the formatting styles used in the specification , prior to refactoring as a multipart document. During all this MS Word was stable. Theory is that it was the copious change tracking that was causing the stability issues . Assuming for now that a single document is ok, and closing the action.
247	Update DFDL errata documents to incorporate public comments (Steve) 28/1: To keep all spec issues documented in one place , the public comments will be added to the errata documents. ... 18/2: Not started 11/3: Updated experience documents mailed to WG. One issue noted - action 252 not fully covered by erratum 2.159. Steve to update and resend. 25/3: Closed. Updated and resent. Further updates will be made as needed.

Deferred actions

No	Action
131	Transformation of DFDL properties to a canonical form (Joe) 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 . 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
200	Establish recommended practices for pushing changes to GitHub (Mike) 29/1: Mike will talk to Tresys who have used Git a lot . 5/2: Mike to talk to Tresys this week, Tim has sent some links .

	12/2: Information sent by Mike, Steve to review. ... 2/12: No further progress 14/1: Deferring until needed
233	Public comment : Formats with bit order reversed (Mike) 1/10: http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/43 . Mike to provide words for potential new property for review. 8/10: Words sent by Mike generated considerable discussion . Mike will update the words to make the subject more consumable, and move the bulk of the discussion to a new main section at the end of the spec (suggest between existing sections 24 & 25). 22/10: Mike wants to have a working implementation before closing on this , so marking the public comment as deferred. 31/10: Deferring for now
241	Public comment : Bi-di properties placement in precedence section (All) 7/11: This looks deliberate but the asymmetry between parsing and unparsing is unclear . Really needs Daffodil or IBM DFDL to implement these properties , which has not happened yet. Deferring this action.
251	Create official error codes (All) 5/2: Create official error codes for all possible errors implied by the DFDL spec . This is a big piece of work , so this action is deferred for now . Was formerly part of action 066.

Work items :

No	Item	Owner	Target	Status
045	Resolve public comments and incorporate into spec GFD.207	All	2014-04-01	Pending