

DFDL WG Call Minutes

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Meeting about Meetings\OGF

Project	DFDL 1.0
Meeting Date	11-Apr-14 (Fri)
Meeting Time	15:00 - 16:00

Created by Steve Hanson on 09-Mar-11

Last Modified by Steve Hanson on 11-Apr-14

OGF DFDL Working Group Call , 11 April 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. Clarify interaction between alignment and leadingSkip / trailingSkip

Following an email from Mike asking what effect alignment had on leadingSkip (the answer is there is no effect), Steve noted that the paragraph in section 11.1 that describes the AlignmentFill region calculation is insufficient . Revised words sent to mailing list.

3. Expression path limitations for elements in a choice or unordered sequence

See email from Mark Frost. There is a rule in section 15 disallowing one branch of a choice from referring to another. Is this too restrictive, as one branch of a repeating choice could refer to another branch in another occurrence? What if the path could refer to a choice branch or to an earlier peer, ie, is ambiguous - is that an error? Are similar rules needed for elements in unordered sequences and floating elements?

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

Steve Hanson
Tim Kimber
Mark Frost
Andy Edwards
Mike Beckerle

Apologies

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. Clarify interaction between alignment and leadingSkip / trailingSkip

Agreed that the spec was clear on the application of alignment, but that the paragraph in section 11.1 that describes the AlignmentFill region calculation is insufficient, and that Steve's revised words would be adopted. **Erratum taken**.

3. Expression path limitations for elements in a choice or unordered sequence

The rule in section 15 is restating a rule from section 23.1, which is part of a set of bullets saying when an expression differs from the general principle of being able to reference any element that appears before it in the schema. Discussed whether the bullets on choice, unordered elements and floating elements are unnecessary and can be removed.

New **action 256** raised.

Meeting closed

16:20 UK

Next regular call

Tues 15th April @ 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	Created	Modified

Next action: **256**

Actions raised at this meeting

No	Action
256	Expression rules that restrict what elements can be referenced (All) 11/4: Can these be removed on the grounds that this is not a standard XPath rule? What if an element does not exist at all in the schema, should that be a schema definition error?

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 24/9: With Jonathan to raise. 1/10: Public comment 97 raised (http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/97) 8/10: With Jonathan to provide words. 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. 31/10: Reworded version sent 5/11: Rewording approved. Jonathan proceeding with classification, will distribute for review

	<p>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> <p>11/4: Not discussed</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> <p>11/4: Not discussed</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> <p>11/4: More revised wording sent by Mike. Started to review but realised it needed some off-line preparation and thought. Review for next call.</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> <p>25/3: No further progress</p> <p>11/4: Proposal sent to mailing list by Steve. Concern that having a potential PoU that in practice can never be an actual PoU is counter intuitive and we are better off saying that for certain</p>

	occursCountKinds there is no potential PoU. The behaviour is therefore the same as for scalar elements. Means that occursCountKind 'fixed' and occursCountKind 'implicit' with minOccurs=maxOccurs behave differently wrt to discriminators. Steve will reword the proposal accordingly.
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. 11/4: Proposal is for the OGF document to define a tdml format without Tresys or IBM copyright statement.
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. 11/4: With Mike. In its fullest sense this is a complex subject as there are circumstances where the specified delimiter might not be present, or there might be one from a higher scope instead. Some of these rules appear in 12.3.2. Need to keep the descriptions within the properties as simple as possible.

Closed actions

No	Action
254	Zoned decimal code points , not characters , are constant (Steve) 25/3: Spec needs wording changed. 11/4: Closed. Updated words sent to mailing list by Steve. Erratum taken.
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. 11/4: Closed. More thoughts from Mike via email. Concluded that for complex element use lengthKind 'implicit' and for simple blob model as an unsigned integer of specified length. No errata.

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 priority 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.

	<p>12/2: Information sent by Mike, Steve to review.</p> <p>...</p> <p>2/12: No further progress</p> <p>14/1: Deferring until needed</p>
233	<p>Public comment : Formats with bit order reversed (Mike)</p> <p>1/10: http://redmine.ogf.org/boards/15/topics/43. Mike to provide words for potential new property for review.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>22/10: Mike wants to have a working implementation before closing on this , so marking the public comment as deferred.</p> <p>31/10: Deferring for now</p>
241	<p>Public comment : Bi-di properties placement in precedence section (All)</p> <p>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.</p>
251	<p>Create official error codes (All)</p> <p>5/2: Create official error codes for all possible errors implied by the DFDL spec .</p> <p>This is a big piece of work , so this action is deferred for now . Was formerly part of action 066.</p>

Work items :

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