

High Performance XML/XSLT Transformation Server

Spring 2017 Final Project Report

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Abstract

The Oregon State University Capstone course, in collaboration with the Apache Software Foundation, worked to create a high performance web-available XML document transformer. The end result is a simple XML document transformer accessible through a web-interface, backed by an in-memory caching system and multi-threaded job processor.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The *High Performance XML/XSLT Transformation Server* project was proposed by Steven Hathaway in affiliation with the Apache Software Foundation. The original task was described as “Create a high-performance XML/XSLT document transformation server to perform large and repetitive document transformation tasks in a timely manner. The source libraries will be the Apache Xerces-C and Apache Xalan-C products. The server should also include support ICU (International Components for Unicode) in XML parsers and document serialization.” The original deliverables were “[...] a client program that can demonstrate several document transformations using the services of an XML/XSLT transformation server.”

An XML transformer is an application which takes in two or more structured input files, specifically XML files and XSLT (XML Style Sheets), processes the transformations specified in the XSLT file, and outputs the resulting XML file. For the purposes of this project it is not entirely important to understand the underlying transformations taking place, since the objective of the project was to implement a web service using existing [Apache maintained] libraries and tools, not to re-implement an XML transformer.

The application’s importance comes mainly from large enterprise needs for XML document transformation. Many organizations depend on XML data transformations for a variety of tasks, but tend to perform these tasks on local hardware. By creating an Open Source application which can offload this computation, employees can get more work done (A) not installing an XML transformer application locally and (B) not using their local machine carrying out computation heavy XML transformations.

Steven played a fairly distant role in the development of the final application, making himself available for meetings but not actively mentoring the development team, although he did explicitly make himself available for mentorship if members of the development team needed.

1.1 Development team

The development team consisted of Zixun Lu, Shuai Peng, and Elijah C. Voigt. All three students were seniors in the Computer Science program at OSU. Zixun and Shuai were exchange students from China; Elijah was a local Oregonian.

2 GLOSSARY

Apache An application for sending and receiving HTTP requests on a remote host.. 22, 23, 28

API Application Programming Interface. Connects the Apache server to upload or return the files.. 15, 18, 22, 23, 27

BSD Berkeley Software Distribution. A popular UNIX operating system.. 26–28

CentOS A popular Linux operating system based on Red Hat Enterprise Linux.. 26, 28

CGI Common Gateway Interface. A way for a script on a local host to be run remotely via a web-server like Apache.. 22, 23, 28

CLI Command Line Interface. A user interface to a computer’s operating system.. 22, 24, 25, 28

Debian A popular Linux operating system.. 26, 28

DOM A cross-platform and language-independent application programming interface that treats XML document as a tree structure.. 15, 17–21

FPM Effing Package Management. A software package creator which targets multiple Unix-like operating systems package managers.. 27, 28

GUI Graphical Interface. A user interface to a computer application.. 24

Hash-map Hash map based implementation of the Map interface.. 19

HTTP Hypertext Transfer Protocol. XZES40-Transformer interact with remote clients.. 22, 23, 25

Linux A popular UNIX-like operating system.. 26–28

MD5 A complex hashing algorithm used to securely verify data is consistent.. 20

OS Operating System. Software which runs other software.. 26

OS-API Operating System API. It will be the program's interface with the operating system.. 26, 27

Python A program scripting language used for a wide variety of purposes from scientific applications to dynamic websites.. 22, 23, 25, 28

Struct A complex data type declaration.. 19

UI User Interface. Exposes some functionality, usually referring to one on a computer, to the user through some way of interaction either mouse, keyboard, or combination of the two.. 22

Unicode Provides an unique number for every character.. 18

UNIX A family of Operating Systems encompassing Linux, BSD, and MacOS.. 25, 28

URI Universal Resource Indicator. Also called a url, this is the path a client needs to use to identify a web-api endpoint.. 23

Web-API Web API. Connects web application by Apache server to upload or return the files.. 21–24, 28

Web-UI Web UI. A user interface which uses a browser to render its content.. 24

Windows A very popular non-unix operating system.. 26, 27

WIX Windows Installer XML. A Windows software packaging program.. 27

Xalan C++ A library used to XML transformation in C/C++.. 18, 28

Xerces C++ A library used to perform XML transformation in C/C++.. 18, 28

XML Extensible Markup Language. The human-readable data format used and processed by our application.. 3, 15, 17–19, 22–25, 28

XSLT Extensible Stylesheet Language. The human readable format used to transform documents in our application.. 3, 15, 17–19, 22–25, 28

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4 PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Preliminary project requirements

4.1.1 Introduction

4.1.1.1 Purpose

This document is intended to present a detailed description of the high performance XML/XSLT transformation server being developed by the Oregon State University CS Capstone Team "XZES40". The intended audience for this document are the developers and sponsors of the project.

4.1.1.2 Scope

The name of this software, for lack of a better one, will be XZES40-Transformer.

The core product being delivered is a high performance XML/XSLT transformation server. This server will be able to perform repetitive document transformations quickly and efficiently by caching previously processed and compiled documents. Time is saved by pulling from an in-memory cache of documents and their compiled state rather than downloading and compiling documents which have already been processed, as current systems tend to do. XZES40-Transformer will also carry out transformations in parallel. It will transfer documents to and from clients via the HTTP or HTTPS protocol.

The target platform for XZES40-Transformer will be Debian Linux 8 (“Jessie”). The core product will be designed to allow the program to be ported easily from Linux to other operating systems like Windows and BSD.

In addition to the core server there will also be a command-line interface and web-interface developed to interact with the application, these will be called XZES-CLI and XZES-Web respectively.

4.1.1.3 Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations

Below is a list of acronyms and abbreviations used throughout the document:

- Extensible Markup Language XML: The human-readable data format used and processed by our application.
- Extensible Stylesheet Markup Language (XSLT): The human-readable format used to transform documents in our application.
- Xerces-C [**xerces**]: One library used to perform XML transformation in C.
- Xalan-C [**xalan**]: One library used to XML transformation in C.
- ICU [**icu**]: One library used to process UTF-8 character formatted documents.
- Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/HTTPS): The protocol over which XZES40-Transformer will interact with remote clients.
- HTTP Application Programming Interface (HTTP API): A standard way of communicating with a web application.
- Unified Resource Locator / Identifier (URL/URI): Addressable location of a resource over the internet (e.g., a website address).
- Debian 8 (“Jessie”): The target Linux-based operating system XZES40-Transformer will run on.
- Unicode Transmission Format 8 (UTF-8): The international standard for encoding text-based data.
- Apache Web-server: A Free and Open Source web-server.
- Common Gateway Interface Script (CGI Script): Server-side scripts that can run applications on client’s behalf.

4.1.2 Overall description

The following sections of this document outline the factors that affect the creation of XZES40-Transformer at a high-level.

4.1.2.1 Product perspective

System interfaces

The XZES40-Transformer application will interface with the outside world over the internet via the HTTP networking protocol. The application will receive HTTP POST requests to the application URI endpoint containing the documents to be transformed. Once the transformation is completed the transformed document will be sent to the user for download.

In addition to the transformed file the application will respond with an HTTP **OK** status. If an error occurs it will respond with a **SERVER ERROR** status and no file.

User interfaces

XZES40 will have two user interfaces which will access its functionality over the internet.

- A Website to access XZES40-Transformer via a web-browser. This interface will be called “XZES40-Web”.
- A CLI to access XZES40-Transformer via a terminal interface. This interface will be called “XZES40-CLI”.

Both interfaces will not perform local document transformation. They will instead access the transformation service over the internet, making the HTTP API convenient to use.

Hardware interfaces

XZES40-Transformer will not have any direct physical interfaces as it is meant to be interacted with over HTTP or HTTPS. Any computer with an internet connection, monitor, input methods, and web-browser will be able to access XZES40-Transformer via the web interface. Any computer with an internet connection, monitor, input methods, and which has the CLI installed will be able to access XZES40-Transformer via the CLI interface.

The application will be targeted to run on a Debian Linux 8 (“Jessie”) X86_64 CPU architecture server. This machine should have one port open for communicating over HTTP (port 80) and one for HTTPS (port 443) if that is configured.

Software interfaces

Below is a list of software required for the XZES-40 (on the host and on remote systems).

Name: Xerces-C++ XML Parser

Mnemonic: Xerces-C

Specification Number: XML 1.0 specification is implemented.

Version Number: 3.1.4 (Recent)

Source: <http://xerces.apache.org/xerces-c/>

Name: Xalan-C++ XSLT Processor

Mnemonic: Xalan-C

Specification Number: XML 1.0 specification is implemented.

Version Number: 1.10 (Recent)

Source: <http://xalan.apache.org/xalan-c/>

Name: International Components for Unicode

Mnemonic: ICU

Specification Number: Unicode 9.0

Version Number: ICU 58

Source: <http://site.icu-project.org/download/58>

Name: Apache CGI Processing

Mnemonic: Apache CGI

Version Number: Apache 2

Source: <http://apache.org>

Communications interfaces

An internet connection between the host and client is required for use of XZES40-Transformer. The host and client will be communicating over HTTP or HTTPS through the web interface or CLI interface. The application may be deployed behind a firewall.

Administrators may deploy multiple instance of the application, however additional instances will not be designed to communicate together, so they will each act autonomously.

Memory constraints

XZES40-Transformer will depend heavily on an internal caching system, so an appropriate amount of memory should be dedicated to the application. The specific amount of memory will depend on how much an instance of the application is expected to be used, however a minimum of 4GiB should be dedicated to the machine it is running on. That said, the more the merrier.

Operations

XZES40-Transformer will initially target the Debian Jessie operating system. To install the application a system administrator will acquire a Debian installation package (`xzes40-transformer.deb`), run the installation file, and begin the newly installed service.

The steps will roughly be as follows:

```
Download xzes40-transformer.deb
$ wget http://example.com/xzes40-transformer.deb
```

```
Install the package
$ dpkg -i xzes40-transformer.deb
```

```
Enable the xzes40-transformer Systemd service
$ systemctl enable xzes40-transformer
```

```
Start the Systemd service
$ systemctl start xzes40-transformer
```

Installation on an additional Debian system would require the same procedure as listed above.

Installation on a non-Debian operating system will require a system-specific installation file, which we will create.

The non-Debian systems we will include:

- Windows 7+
- MacOS
- FreeBSD
- RedHat Enterprise Linux

Once installed and setup, XZES40-Transformer will require minimal user-interaction by the system administrator. The application will run as a daemon on the host system. If a fatal error occurs the daemon will restart.

While users are not interacting with the application it will idle in the background. During periods of intense use the application will manage its own resources to avoid breaking.

As the application does not store ephemeral data, there will not be a need for data backup nor data restoration.

Site adaptation requirements

XZES40-Transformer will use Apache to manage web-requests. If users want to setup secure communication over HTTPS they will need to do this manually using Apache.

The application will include a configuration file to specify resource limits, and other relevant information. This file should be tailored to a given user's installation and needs.

In addition to the configuration file, the user may configure the daemon through the daemon manager (`systemd` for instance) to set hard-limits on the application's resource usage.

4.1.2.2 Product functions

XZES40-Transformer will perform one function: XML/XSLT document transformation. Given one XML and one XSLT documents it will return a transformed XML document.

This functionality will be remotely accessible via an HTTP web-page and CLI interface.

4.1.2.3 User characteristics

The **user** of our application is expected to have common web-interface knowledge (e.g., they should know how to navigate a website, upload a file, and download a file).

4.1.2.4 Constraints

XZES40-Transformer will be subject to the following limitations:

- The code must be licensed under Apache 2.0.
- It must handle memory limitations gracefully.
- It must restart if a fatal error occurs.
- It must run on Debian 8.
- It must be accessible over a network.
- It must have an accessible interface.

4.1.2.5 Assumptions and dependencies

XZES40-Transformer will be written to interface with an OS agnostic API for any operating-system level operations (e.g., reading and writing from the cache). The application will be portable to new operating systems by writing an OS-specific interface layer and compiling the binary for the given target platform (e.g., Windows or FreeBSD).

XZES40-Transformer will assume that the relevant libraries and languages listed under Software Interfaces are already installed. The installation package we create will resolve these dependencies if they are not already installed with the correct version.

4.1.2.6 Apportioning of requirements

Development of the application, user interfaces, and installation packages will be carried out over a 19 weeks, split into three development cycles: Alpha, Beta, and Release.

The Gantt chart can be seen in the Appendix, Figure 4.

Alpha

During the Alpha phase of development we will collect benchmark data, create our basic transformation functionality, and begin work on Cache and Parallel computation optimizations. By the end of week three the application will be able to accept two input documents and output a transformed document. After the initial transformation functionality is complete work on optimizing this process will take place by adding caching and parallel processing to the transformation cycle.

Beta

During the beta phrase of development the XZES40 team will begin work on the HTTP API, the web interface, the Debian package, and further optimizations on the transformation process. Work on the web interface is not possible without the CGI interface first being added, however most other development can take place in parallel.

Release

During the Release phrase we will work exclusively on stretch goals including the CLI interface as well as the RedHat, BSD, and Windows packages. While these goals would be nice to achieve, we understand that there will probably be overflow from the Alpha and Beta phases of development, so we hope to complete all required deliverables well before the release deadline.

4.1.3 Specific requirements

4.1.3.1 External interfaces

XSLT40-Transformer will have two user interfaces: a **Web Interface** and a **Commandline Interface (CLI)**.

Web Interface

The website interface for XZES40-Transformer will include of a form with the following fields:

XML File A file upload field for the XML document.

XSLT File A file upload field for the XSLT document.

Output Filename (optional) The filename of the output document. If one is not specified a name will be generated of the following format `document-transform-<date>.xml`.

The website will make an HTTP POST request to the server. This POST request will include an XML and XSLT document in it's payload.

The page will redirect the user to a new page where they can download the transformed file.

The Web Interface will require a web-browser (supporting HTTP4.0+).

A prototype of the web interface can be seen in the Appendix, Figure 2.

Commandline Interface (CLI)

The CLI will give users a text-based interface with XZES40-Transformer. The with the following flags:

-xml-file= Specifies the input XML document.

-xslt-file= Specifies the input XSLT document.

-server= Specifies which server to connect to (e.g., `http://servername.ext`)

-output-file= (optional) Specifies a file to write out to. Otherwise writes to a file of the following format `document-transform-`

-port= (optional) Specifies which port to connect through if non-standard (e.g., 8001)

-help= (optional) Prints out a help menu (describing these flags)

The CLI will take the following arguments and make a POST request to the server. The transformed file will be automatically downloaded to the user's desired location, or to the current working directory with the automatic file name.

The CLI requires a UNIX terminal and UNIX shell.

An example of some CLI interactions can be seen in the Appendix, Figure 3.

Both interfaces XZES40-Transformer will require a method of input (keyboard and mouse or touchscreen), an internet connection, and monitor.

As input both interfaces expect one XML 1.0 formatted document and one XSLT 1.0 formatted document. These files can be UTF-8 or ASCII character encoding.

As output both interfaces will send the user an XML 1.0 formatted document of UTF-8 character encoding.

4.1.3.2 Functions

The following functions will be the core functionality of XZES40-Transformer.

- `int transform(string XML_filename, string XSLT_filename, string output_filename):` This function is called to transform the given XML_FILE with the XSLT_FILE. If output_file is defined the file will be written to that location. If output_file is not defined the new file will be written to STDOUT.
Returns a status macro (SUCCESS or FAILURE).
- `type_cache* get_cache(input_filename):` Returns a pointer to the cached file.

- `type_cache check_cache(string input_filename)`: The system will check if the given file is in the cache. Returns TRUE if the file is in the cache and FALSE if the file is not in the cache.
- `type_cache set_cache(string input_filename)`: The new XML file will be saved in the cache. Returns SUCCESS or FAILURe macro if the document was or was not successfully cached.
- `int compile(string input_filename)`:
The system will compile the given XML/XSLT file into machine code to later be transformed.
- `int delete_cache()`: Removes old documents from the cache which are not being used. Triggered when the cache is filled to a certain capacity.

4.1.3.3 Performance requirements

XZES40-Transformer will perform better than existing Open Source XML transformation software. The application will have a higher rate transformations per minute, normalizing for input file-size. Given a standard set XML + XSLT document pairs, the application will complete the transformations on average faster than it's leading competitors.

The transformations will also be verified for correctness. It is expected that the application will perform document transformation with high correctness.

4.1.3.4 Logical database requirements

XZES40-Transformer application does not require database.

4.1.3.5 Design constraints

For the XML compilation and transformation process we are restricted to using the Xerces-C and Xalan-C libraries. For document encoding and decoding we will use the ICU UTF-8 library.

Standards Compliance

Input documents must be correctly formatted XML and XSLT documents. Malformed documents will be rejected by the application.

Correctly formatted XML documents follow the W3C outlined XML 1.0 and XSLT 1.0 formats. [8] [26]

Our application will also communicate with users over HTTP/HTTPS, however we are not implementing these standards, just using them to communicate over the internet.

4.1.3.6 Software System Attributes

Reliability

XZES40-Transformer will be reliable if it's cache is up to date, to avoid transforming documents incorrectly.

Availability

Since XZES40-Transformer will be run as a web-service it should be highly-available during business hours. It will be configured to handle heavy workloads and restart if it crashes. Upon restart it's cache will be cleared.

Security

XZES40-Transformer may be used to handle sensitive data, however it is not this team's job to account for that.

If administrators want the application to be secure they may choose to deploy it behind an organization firewall or configure the web-service to use HTTPS instead of HTTP. The application's HTTP traffic will be handled by Apache via a CGI script, this means that any Apache webserver configuration can be used with XZES40-Transformer's web API.

Maintainability

Our application will be deployed as a daemon which will be configured upon installation. This configuration may be modified after installation, but should work "out of the box".

Portability

As an Open Source project XZES40-Transformer will be designed for portability. It will perform all operating-system specific operations via an OS agnostic API. When the application is compiled on a new platform it will compile against the given OS API (e.g., Windows, Linux, MacOS, etc).

As for installation packages, one must be manually created for each platform, however this is not an urgent requirement and can be carried out platform-by-platform after the initial development is completed.

4.1.3.7 Organizing the specific requirements

System Features

Transformation

The core feature of XZES40-Transformer will be the XML + XSLT document transformation.

Stimulus:

As input the application will accept two files, one XML 1.0 formatted document and one XSLT 1.0 formatted document.

Response

As output the application will return one XML 1.0 formatted document. This will be the output of the program.

If a mal-formatted document is given as input the output of the program will be an appropriate error.

Caching

To increase performance the application will cache certain compiled documents.

Stimulus:

As input the in-memory cache will accept either a compiled file for caching or a hash of a compiled file for retrieval.

Response

If the cache is given a hash and “asked” for a cached document it will either respond with the contents of the compiled file or a FALSE response, signifying the document is not in the cache.

If the cache is given a file for storage it will respond with either a SUCCESS or FAILURE response if the document was successfully cached or not appropriately.

Parallel Computation

To further increase performance the application will carry out independent calculations in parallel.

This feature does not have easily defined “stimulus + response” pairs.

The application will need to be designed to avoid race-conditions during parallel computations.

Web API

The application will have a web-accessible API.

Stimulus

As input the API will accept either GET or POST requests. POST requests will contain a payload with the XML + XSLT document pair as listed above for the transformation feature.

Response

As response to a GET request the API will respond with a SUCCESS, saying that the application could be reached.

As response to a POST request the application will respond with either a transformed XML document or an appropriate error.

User Interface

Component	Owner
Document Transformer	Elijah C. Voigt
Website Interface	Shuai Peng
Web API	Elijah C. Voigt
Document Cache	Shuai Peng
Daemon Process	Elijah C. Voigt
Parallel Document Transformation	Zixun Lu
Benchmarking	Zixun Lu
Debian Software Package	Zixun Lu

Figure 1: Required project components ordered by importance

Component	Owner
CLI Interface	Elijah C. Voigt
CentOS Linux software package	Elijah C. Voigt
Windows software package	Shuai Peng
FreeBSD software package	Elijah C. Voigt

Figure 2: Stretch goal project components ordered by importance

The application will have two user interfaces. These will allow the user to provide the above stimuli to the web API, download the response file, or display the error message from the API.

4.1.3.8 Additional comments

There are no additional comments to be made at this point.

4.1.4 Supporting Information

The following table outlines **required** project components ordered by importance:

4.1.4.1 Appendixes

4.2 Added requirements

4.3 Updated requirements

4.4 Removed requirements

5 PROJECT DESIGN

5.1 Preliminary project design

5.1.1 Introduction

5.1.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the entirety of the design of the XZES40 application for the purposes of referencing during development and for communication with the project sponsor(s).

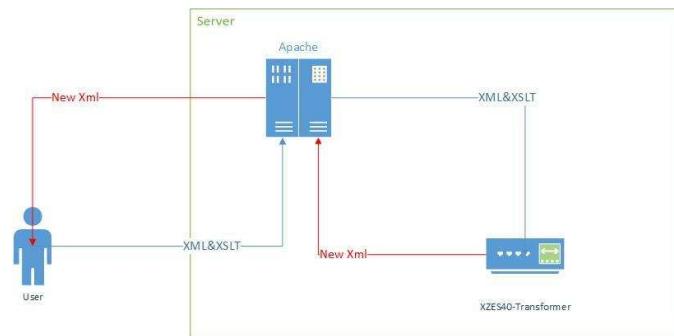


Figure 3: Diagram of dataflow. Documents are sent to the application through the Apache gateway interface. Once processed documents are returned to the user through the gateway interface again.

XZES40-Transformer

XML Document: Upload

XSLT Document: Upload

Output Filename:

Submit

Figure 4: Prototype of the Web Interface. Demonstrates the simplicity of the interface and required form fields.

Normal usage:

```
$ xzes40cli --xml-file='./my-file.xml' --xslt-file='./my-other-file.xslt' --server='http://example.com/xzes40-transformer' --output-file='./newfile.xml' --port='8001'
```

Sending XML and XSLT files to http://example.com:8001/xzes40-transformer

Transformation complete. Downloading response file to newfile.xml

Sending a bad file:

```
$ xzes40cli --xml-file='./badfile.jpg' --xslt-file='./badfile.txt' --server='http://example.com/xzes40-transformer'
```

Sending XML and XSLT files to http://example.com:80/xzes40-transformer

ERROR: Server was unable to transform the requested files.

Using inadequate parameters

```
$ xzes40cli
```

Please provide an xml file (--xml-file), xslt file (--xslt-file) and a host (--server).

Figure 5: Example use-cases of CLI interface.

5.1.1.2 Scope

The scope of this document is to outline in necessarily complex terms how the XZES40-Transformer application will be developed.

5.1.1.3 Development Time-line

The following Gantt chart outlines the projected time-line for development. This starts at the first week of January (winter-term week 1), and goes through project completion in June (end of spring term).

5.1.1.4 Summary

XZES40-Transformer is an application which transforms one XML with one XSLT document for the purposes of data transformation, like that of a spreadsheet program like Excel. The uses for this range widely from business to scientific to personal uses. For most needs, an XML/XSLT document transformer needs to be able to handle a high volume of requests by a wide variety of clients. To address these needs the XZES40 team is building an Open Source XML/XSLT document transformer with key optimizations built in to improve the document transformation process; helping businesses, institutions, and individuals get more done in a day. [8] [26]

5.1.1.5 Issuing organization

This document has been issued by Oregon State University and the Apache Software Foundation through the OSU 2016-2017 CS Capstone class.

5.1.1.6 Change history

5.1.2 Component Overview

The following is a list of **required** project components ordered by importance:

5.1.3 Document Transformer

This subsubsection outlines the views and viewpoints related to the Document Transformer. These components relate to core functionality of the application:

- 1) Taking input XML and XSLT documents
- 2) Parsing them into DOM objects
- 3) Transforming those into a new XML document
- 4) Returning the final product to a user

This subsubsection does not necessarily outline how users interact with the application, for that one should see the User Interface subsubsection (5.1.5).

Transformer

As the name suggests, the Transformer is the core of the XZES40 Document Transformer, which is the core of our application as a whole. At a high level this component takes two documents, an XML and XSLT document, and returns a transformed XML document. The rest of the application is built around this component; all other parts of the application depend on or work toward this feature.

Context

The Transformer provides the core functionality of the application by transforming input documents into output documents.

All users of the application use the Transformer indirectly by way of using it to transform their input documents into output documents. The Transformer component is not be directly exposed, however it is accessible via the Web API (5.1.5).

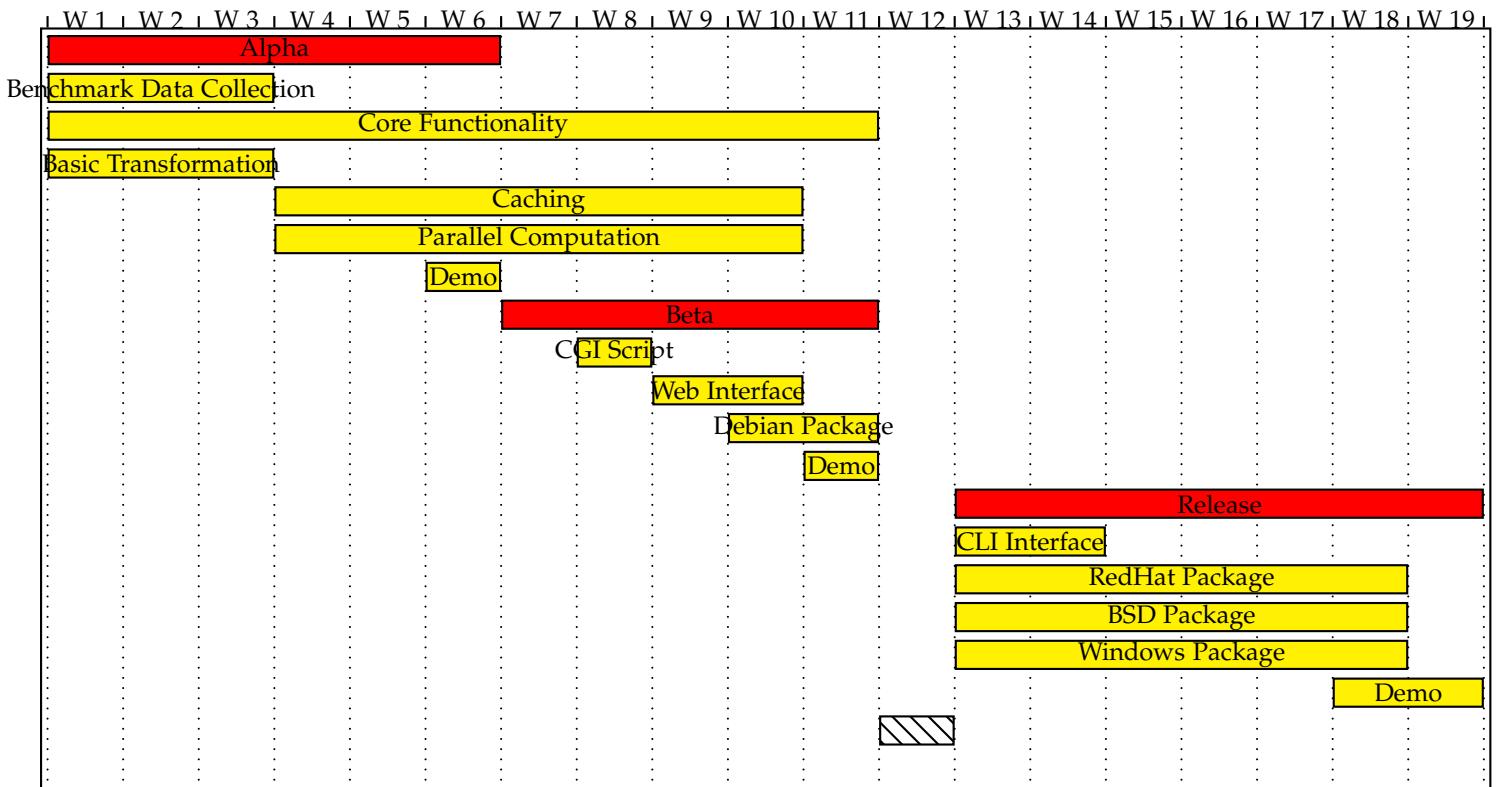


Figure 6: Development Gantt Chart Timeline.

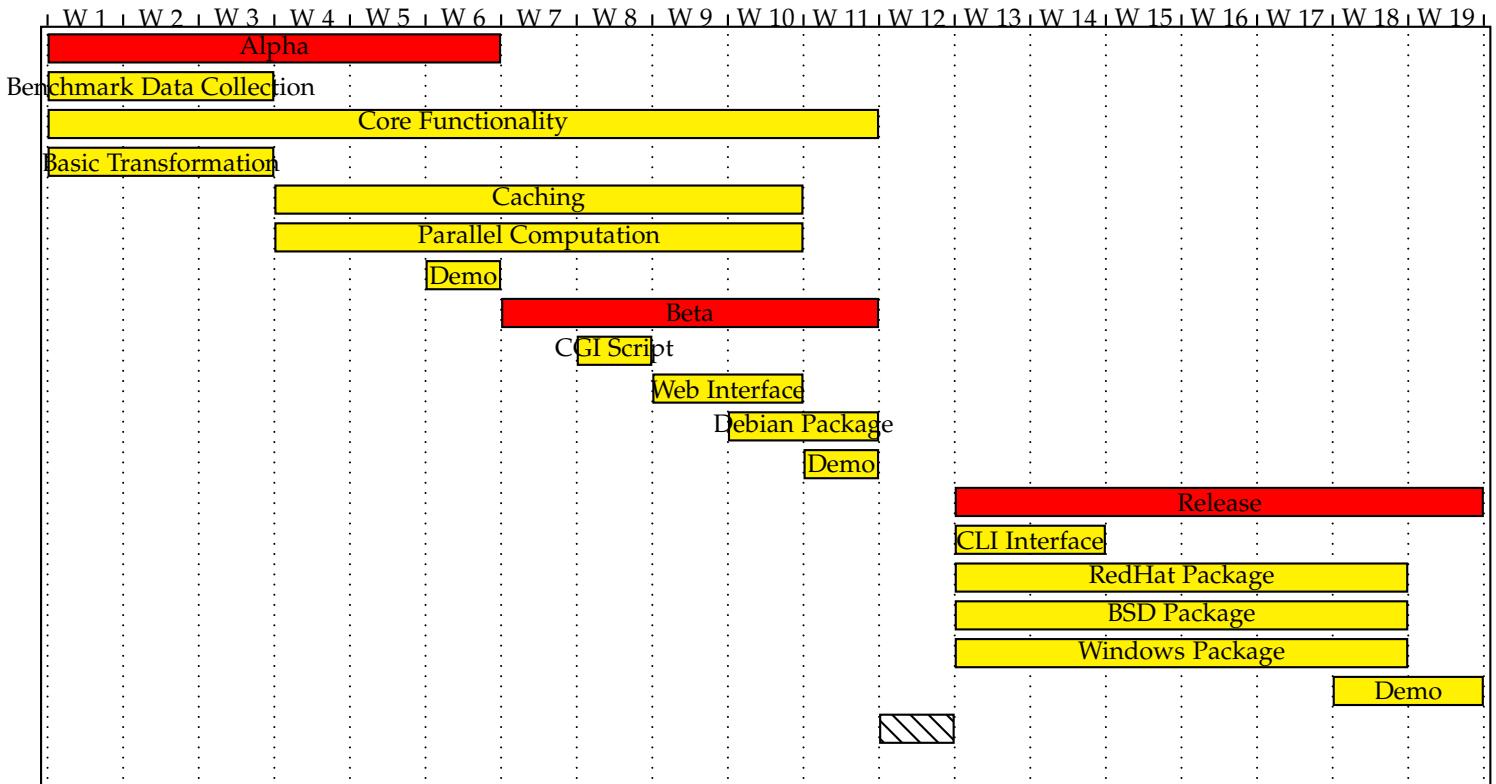


Figure 7: Development Gantt Chart Timeline.

Revision	Date
Working Draft	2016-11-17

Figure 8: Change History Table

Component	Owner
Document Transformer	Elijah C. Voigt
Website Interface	Shuai Peng
Web API	Elijah C. Voigt
Document Cache	Shuai Peng
Daemon Process	Elijah C. Voigt
Parallel Document Transformation	Zixun Lu
Benchmarking	Zixun Lu
Debian Software Package	Zixun Lu

Figure 9: Required project components ordered by importance

Composition

The Transformer's functionality is outlined in the following steps:

- 1) Receive the input XML XSLT files.
- 2) Create a Document object out of the input files. This will either encode the input files as DOM objects (InputSource) or fetch the pre-compiled objects from the cache. (5.1.3 5.1.3)
- 3) Pass the Document's parsed contents to the [1] **transform** method.
- 4) Encode the transformed document back to a text file and return this document.

These steps will each be held in a thread spawned by the long-running daemon process. (5.1.4)

Dependencies

The Transformer directly depends on the following internal application components for the following reasons:

- The Document class (5.1.3) is used to create a transformable DOM object from an input file. [24]

Component	Owner
CLI Interface	Elijah C. Voigt
CentOS Linux software package	Elijah C. Voigt
Windows software package	Shuai Peng
FreeBSD software package	Elijah C. Voigt

Figure 10: Stretch goal project components ordered by importance

- The Document Cache (5.1.3) is used to store and retrieve parsed and transformed documents. While this cache isn't strictly necessary for document transformation, it is used to speed up the process drastically.

State Dynamics

The Transformer deals heavily with state dynamics in ways: transforming documents .

Transforming documents

The Transformer does not directly handle transforming documents, this task is delegated to the Xalan C++ library.

[1] The transformer takes two or more documents as input: an XML DOM file and an XSLT object. The input documents are transformed by the Xalan C++ library and the resulting document is eventually returned by the writer (??) via the API (5.1.5).

Interactions

Few components directly call the Transformer, however the transformer depends heavily on communicating with the cache. This is done by using a "cache" object. Documents are retrieved by using a "get" method and added to the cache with a "set" method. More information can be found in the Cache subsubsection of this document (5.1.3).

Interfaces

The Transformer has one programmer-facing interface, the "transform_documents(filepaths)" function. This can be used for testing, mocking, or implementation purposes.

transform_documents(filepaths)

- This function takes as argument the path to the XML file, the path to XSLT document, the output destination for the output file.
- As output it writes a transformed XML and returns a status code.

Document class

The Document class gets as input an XML or XSLT file prepares it to be transformed. It does this by either compiling it into a DOM objects and adding it to the cache or fetching the already compiled object from the cache.

Context

The Document class is a major component of the application. It receives as input an XML or a XSLT file, it then parses and store or just retrieves the DOM representation of that file. The user will not use this function directly, but it is executed by the Transformer (??).

Dependencies

The Document class also depends on the Cache to store and retrieve parsed objects.

Interactions

- 1) The class obtains a Unicode formatted XML or XSLT file-path.
- 2) The class checks if the file has been parsed and stored in the Cache, and does not re-parse the file if it is in the Cache.
- 3) The class generates a DOM object via the Xerces C++ library.
- 4) The class stores the DOM object to the Cache.

Resources

The Xerces C++ library will be used during the parsing to generate a DOM object from the input file.

Interfaces

The following function declaration is used for the parser method:

class Document(source_file_path)

This constructor receives an XML file or a XSLT file, and then parses it into a DOM object which is stored in the Cache.

In parsing and storing the object, the class has methods which read the file contents, hashes the contents of the file, and uses this as a key when inserting data into the Cache.

Cache

The Cache is a plus one feature of the XZES40 application. The Cache speeds up document transformation by storing and retrieving previously parsed documents.

In practice the Cache will operate much the same as a Hash-map does, storing data at a location given a key which can also be used to retrieve the data. We will use keyList which is provided from XercessC.

Context

The program heavily depends on the Cache. The Cache can store, delete, and retrieve DOM object from the in-memory cache

Storing data

This is the major element of the Cache.

The Cache stores data from the user, primarily parsed DOM data to avoid re-compiling files.

Deleting data

This provides the ability to remove items from the Cache for whatever reason.

Retrieving data

This allows users to fetch information stored in the Cache given the object's key.

Composition

Below are few of the components making up the Cache.

- The Cache stores input data in a Struct along with the last time it was accessed and the key used to access the data.
- The Cache can retrieve the data via searching the associated key.
- The Cache can delete data corresponding with a key.

Logical

XZES40 handles object as a special structure. The Cache saves that object in the following format.

Key

This is a hash value associated with a cached object. This value is for retrieving the data from the Cache.

Content

The content is the parsed or transformed DOM object.

```
struct node {
    dom data;
    string key;
    date last_used;
}
```

Information

If an object is not in the Cache, the Cache stores the object into the in-memory cache. Objects are removed from the cache via the Cache class' delete method.

State Dynamics

The Cache handles the following state changes in the following ways.

- When the Cache starts it allocates a block of memory for storage.
- If an item is being set the cache ignores previously existing data. It is the developer's duty to ensure important data is not being overwritten.
- When data is being read the state of that item in cache is assumed not to change. If the item is not found it returns an empty object.
- When an item is deleted it returns a SUCCESS status if the object existed and is not deleted, and a FAILURE status if the object did not exist in the cache before the call.

Interactions

The parser sends a parsed DOM object to the Cache. The Cache will check if it exists in the memory. If the file exists in the memory, the Cache retrieves the DOM object from the Cache and returns to the Document class. If the file does not exist in the memory, the Document class continues to process the file, and stores the parsed file into the Cache.

Algorithms

The Cache can be divided into five major functions. The first function is **set**, second is **get**, third is **dump**, fourth is **load**, and fifth is **delete**.

Set

Stores an object at a location in the allocated memory block based on the MD5 hash of the "key" parameter given.

Get

This function retrieves the DOM object from the cache by the key of the parsed file.

- 1) If there is key exist in the cache, return the DOM object at that location.
- 2) If the key does not exist in the cache, return an empty storage struct object.

Delete

This function delete the DOM object from the cache by the key of the parsed file.

- 1) The Delete receives a key to delete the data it's located at.
- 2) If there is key exist in the cache, the Delete deletes this DOM object in the cache, and return that there is successfully deleted.
- 3) If the key is not in the cache, return no DOM object inside of cache.

Resources

The Cache needs a large memory allocation to function optimally.

Dependencies

The Cache depends on the Document and the Transformer to populate it. The Document class sends a file to the Cache for checking if file exists in the Cache. The Document class also can send a parsed DOM object for storing into the Cache if file does not exist in the Cache. The Cache may either return a DOM object to the Transformer, or return null if the DOM object is not in the Cache.

Interfaces

Below are the major interfaces for the cache component of XZES40-Transformer.

int document_cache(dom_object file)

This checks the DOM object if it exists in the Cache.

- If it's not in the cache, return fail.
- If it is in the cache, return true.

dom_object set_cache(dom_object file)

This receives object file and store it into the memory.

dom_object delete_cache(dom_object file)

This deletes data from the Cache.

- If the DOM object exists in the cache, return true.
- If the DOM object does not exist in the Cache, return error.

dom_object get_cache(dom_object file)

This retrieves data from the cache.

- If the DOM object exists in the cache, return the DOM object.
- If the DOM object does not exist in the Cache, return error.

Parallel Computation

In addition to the Cache component of XZES40-Transformer (5.1.3), the application will also carry out certain computations in parallel to further leverage the computing resources available to it and compile documents even faster.

Context

The Parallel Computation component of the application carries out the following operations in parallel to speed up documentation transformations.

Document Parsing

This will be carried out in parallel. These operations are logically independent so they can be carried out simultaneously without affecting data integrity.

User Requests

This will also be carried out in Parallel, handled by Apache.

Dependencies

The Parallel Computation component of the application will be carried out at the high level by Apache delegating parsing jobs, see the Web-API subsubsection for more information 5.1.5. the application will also carry out parallel computation internally (C++) using the MPI library.

Interactions

Our MPI-based thread computing will operate mostly autonomously, except when putting data into and fetching data from the application Cache (5.1.3). With the exception of interacting with the Cache each parsing thread will not interact with other internal components of the application.

Algorithms

One major concern with handling a cache by multiple threads and processes in parallel is avoiding data corruption. This is not a problem we have yet solved and further revisions of this document will elaborate on how we will handle this dilemma.

Interfaces

When documents are being parsed each parsed document will spawn its own thread. This functionality is in the Document class component of the application in subsubsection 5.1.3.

5.1.4 Daemon

Context

Because the application needs to be available continuously, and because it needs to store objects in an in-memory Cache, the application is daemonized. This means that it continues to run in a suspended state when it is not actively performing document transformations. When it does receive an incoming request it spawns a thread, does the transformation, and closes the thread. This allows multiple document transformations to happen in parallel conveniently.

Composition

The daemon is composed of two main components:

- A parent thread which will wait for a signal to handle a request. This signal is accompanied with some context for what task needs to be performed, i.e., a document transformation.
- A child thread is spawned for each incoming signal. The child process exits at the end of its transformation after returning the transformed document or an error which is propagated up through the parent process to the signaling process.

Interfaces

The interface to the daemon is the same as that of the daemon. A CLI on the host running the daemon will accept an XML and XSL document as input, pass these to the daemon, and respond with an error or transformed document.

5.1.5 User Interface

The Document Transformer is fine and great, but without a user interface it's not useful. The following two subsubsections, the Web-API (5.1.5), Website interface (5.1.5), and CLI (5.1.5) together outline the ways users will interact with the system described in the previous subsubsection.

Web-API

The Web-API is the standardized interface between the user interfaces and an instance of the application running on a host, communicating over HTTP.

Context

The users for the Web-API are those who use the application from the CLI (5.1.5) and (Website 5.1.5). Both interfaces interact with the XZES40-Transformer host via standard HTTP request methods. But nobody should use the API directly as a UI is much easier than crafting an HTTP POST request.

Composition

The Web-API is composed of the following components:

- 1) An Apache runs on the remote host.[13]
- 2) The server manages a Python CGI script which handles accepting requests and sending responses.
- 3) The Python script calls the XZES40-Transformer application locally, passing input documents from a POST request and sending response files via the CGI interface.

Dependencies

The Web-API internally depends on an XZES40-Transformer binary which accepts an input XML file, and input XSLT file, and writes a transformed file to disk in a predictable location. The binary should also exit with predictable exit codes to communicate any errors or successes.

Interfaces

The Web-API communicates with remote clients via a standard HTTP API. Below are the requests a client can send and the possible responses:

POST /api/

This is a request sent to the API endpoint (/api/) with the intention of getting two input files transformed into a new document. This can respond in the following ways.

200 OK Means the transformation was successful. This response includes a body containing the transformed file and a URI to re-download the response file.

400 USER ERROR Means that the user sent malformed documents. This can include a document which does not follow the XML/XSLT standard to a document which does not have a readable character encoding. This response includes a body containing an appropriately specific error.

500 SERVER ERROR Means that the server experienced an internal error while processing the request. This includes fatal XZES40-Transformer errors. This response includes a body containing an appropriately specific error.

The POST request is a request with a Form containing input documents in fields titled XML and XSLT for an XML 1.0 formatted document and an XSLT 1.0 formatted document respectively.

GET /api/

This is a request sent to the API endpoint (/api/) with the intention of getting a status of the server. This can respond in the following ways:

200 OK Means the Web-API endpoint is active and functioning correctly.

404 NOT FOUND Means that the Web-API endpoint is not configured correctly or the user is accessing a page which is not available.

503 SERVICE UNAVAILABLE Means that the Web-API is setup correctly, but the application on the remote host is not operating correctly.

The GET request is an empty GET request to the servers “/api/” endpoint.

Python Interfaces

The following interfaces are used for implementing the above HTTP interfaces.

process_request(http-request req)

This method is used to receive an HTTP API request. It does this by reading the request header and deciding based on that to carry out one of the above responses. In the case of a POST request it uses an “exec” call to the local XZES40-Transformer application binary and responds with the error / output file of that application.

Resources

The Web-API has the following external dependencies:

- The **Apache** is used to process HTTP requests by running the Python CGI script.
- **Python 2.7+** is the programming language the Web-API is written in.
- **cgi** is a Python library for processing web requests in Python.
- **cgitb** is a Python library for developing with the cgi library.
- **mod_wsgi** is an Apache module for interacting with Python.
- **mod_python** is another Apache module for interacting with Python.

They should be installed via a system package manager or the Python package manager (whichever is appropriate) for the Web-API to operate correctly.

Website

The website interface is the major user interface for the XZES40 application. Website interface is a GUI interface for user.

Context

The Website interface is common interface for application. User can uses website to complete request with few of instructions. User can upload the XML/XSLT files that they want, and the website will give the feed back.

Composition

The web interface to access the application in a browser. Here is components of the Web-UI.

- An upload field for the **XML** file.
- An upload field for the **XSLT** file.
- A button for user send the request to server via **POST** method.
- After user sends a request to server the website will respond with a message to user. This message may be error or successfully upload or generate download link.

State Dynamics

There are few of states for website.

- If user upload bad files the website gives feedback that the files were bad.
- If user upload files and server transforming the documents the website gives the feedback that user upload files successfully.
- If user uploads files and server is down the website gives the warning that transformation service is not working.
- If user uploads good files and the server successfully transforms the documents the user is given a download link to the new file.

Interactions

The initialization status of website is waiting for user upload files. After user select flies that they want upload and click the submit button. Website will send the request to server via the Web-API. There are many possible feedback as following.

- If the files uploaded are bad the website pops up a warning about the malformed files.
- If the user uploads both an XML and XSLT file the user is alerted that the request is good to go and that the website will generate a download link for them.
- If the connection is broken the website will give them a warning that user should check the connection between client and server.

Interfaces

The Web interface is XZES40 main interface for user. The web interface asks user to upload XML files and XSLT files, and gives the feedback of result. Here is the diagram for website interface.

CLI

The CLI is used to interact with the system via a text-based terminal/shell interface.

Context

The users of this interface are individuals who either prefer the CLI over a web interface or for testing purposes as automating tasks with the CLI is very common.

Composition

```
$ xzes40
--server=<server-url[:port]> # API endpoint and port to be used.
--xml=<input-file>.xml      # Input XML file
--xslt=<style-sheet>.xslt    # Input XSLT file
```

Figure 11: CLI Flags. All fields encased in chevrons symbols are required. All fields with square brackets are optional.

```
$ xzes40 --server=http://xzes40.example.com:8080 \
           --xml=input-file.xml \
           --xslt=style.xslt
Sending input-file.xml and style.xslt to the http://xzes40.example.com:8080
Downloading transformed document to ./xzes40-transformer-2016-11-22.xml
```

Figure 12: “Happy path” use-case without specifying return file name.

The CLI, written in Python, and will be composed of the following components.

- The main function parses command-line arguments specified below in the “Interfaces” part of this subsubsection.
- A query is built for the server including the XML and XSLT documents to the specified server.
- The query is sent to the server in a POST request.
- When the response is received either an error message is displayed to the user or a file is saved locally.

Resources

The CLI depends on the following system dependencies:

- Python 2.7+ is the programming language it will be implemented in, so a Python runtime will be necessary for the application to run.
- Requests is the standard Python library for interacting with servers over HTTP.
- A terminal and UNIX compliant shell will also be necessary to access the application via the CLI.

Interfaces

The CLI has the following options available at the command-line:

Example Use-cases

The following are examples of the CLI in use:

“Un-happy path” with bad host.

```
$ xzes40 --server=http://xzes40.example.com:8080 \
           --xml=input-file.xml \
           --xslt=style.xslt \
           --output=transformed-doc.xml
Sending input-file.xml and style.xslt to the http://xzes40.example.com:8080
Downloading transformed document to ./transformed-doc.xml
```

Figure 13: “Happy path” use-case with return file name.

```
$ xzes40 --server=http://xzes40.example.com:8080 \
    --xml=input-file.xml \
    --xslt=style.xslt \
Sending input-file.xml and style.xslt to the http://xzes40.example.com:8080
Server responded with error. One of your documents is malformed.
```

Figure 14: “Un-happy path” with malformed document.

```
$ xzes40 --server=http://fakesite.com:8080 \
    --xml=input-file.xml --xslt=style.xslt \
Sending input-file.xml and style.xslt to the http://xzes40.example.com:8080
Unable to reach server. Is the host/port correct?
```

Figure 15: “Un-happy path” with bad host.

5.1.6 System Requirements

The XZES40-Transformer will be required to work on the Debian Linux system. Once development on Debian is completed the application will be ported to other OS platforms. Our team will release Debian, CentOS, BSD and Windows packages.

Installation Packages

For installation convenience the XZES40 project will provide a Linux, BSD, and Windows installation packages.

Context

The user can directly download installation packages through the internet and install the XZES40-Transformer on their local systems. We will create the Debian package initially. After this, we will create the CentOS, BSD, and Windows packages. We will upload those packages to the internet and the users can directly download the packages in their operation system.

Resources

The following tools will be used to create the installation packages. **OS-API**

The OS-API will be the programs interface with the OS. It will be created to make porting the application easier.

```
$ xzes40 --xml=input-file.xml--xslt=style.xslt
Please specify a host
```

Figure 16: “Un-happy path” with no host.

```
$ xzes40 --server=http://xzes40.example.com:8080
Please specify an input xml and/or xslt document.
```

Figure 17: “Un-happy path” with missing input document.

Packages	Tools	Description
Linux & BSD Packages	• FPM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates packages from one format to another • Allows re-use of other system's packages
Windows Packages	• WIX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a open source project. • It is more stable and security than other tools. • It has sted

Figure 18: Installation Packages Resources

Logical

Any operating system specific operation will be wrapped by the API.

Interactions

The application will interact with the host system via an OS-API. This means that all operating system specific operations (e.g., read, write, seek, etc) will be done via an API. When the application is compiled on a new target platform (e.g., Linux, BSD, Windows) a new platform API must be created for compatibility.

Interfaces

The OS-API interface is for the developer. This interface performs operations by asking the OS-API to carry out the task and that request is translated to the system-specific system-call.

Performance Benchmark

Context

We will run test against similar application to determine how fast XZES40 should be. Throughout development we will put our application through the same paces and compare which is faster.

Resources

We will be bench-marking these applications specifically for the following reasons.

5.1.7 Design Rationale

This subsubsection explains why certain design decisions were made and “connects the pieces” of the application.

Cache Decisions

The reason the Cache uses an in-memory system rather than a database or a file-based cache is purely for performance reasons. Using an in-memory cache over a file-based one should yield faster performance. As a compromise the cache is dumped to a file periodically to save the state of the cache in case the application daemon (which holds the cache) is restarted.

Technology	Description
Xalan C++ CLI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xalan C++ uses Xerces C++ to parse XML documents and XSLT. • The project provides an open source CLI program to test the project libraries. • Free and Open Source
Altova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet industry demands for an ultra-fast processor. • It offers powerful, flexible options for developers including cml, python. • Superior error reporting capabilities include reporting of multiple errors, detailed error descriptions.

Figure 19: Bench-marking Resources

This may cause problems as the service may run out of memory. In an attempt to mitigate this a Garbage Collector may be built which is triggered when a certain percentage of the application's allocated memory is used, or on certain time intervals.

Web-API Decisions

The Web-API connects the application to the outside world in an ideally simple to implement and quick to operate fashion. The application uses Apache to handle incoming requests, these are passed to a CGI script which could be written in anything, we chose Python because it is easy to write, maintain, and is well supported.

Python is called by Apache which then in turn, based on the request, either returns an application status or calls the XZES40 application locally. In this way Python with Apache is a simple, well supported set of tools which expose the application to the outside world.

These tools were not necessarily chosen for their speed, and so a redesign may be necessary if they create a bottleneck in the request pipeline.

Packaging Decisions

This document outlines the use of FPM to create its Linux and UNIX packages. This decision was made for convenience and to allow for quick iteration on the package. In doing research there *are* other tools which can be used to create packages on CentOS, Debian, and BSD but they are very system specific and so would make iterating on the package very difficult, and updates to the software a pain to package. Using FPM we can even automate the build of packages on our UNIX-like systems.

Bench-marking decisions

To demonstrate the competitiveness of the XZES40-Transformer application we chose to compare the performance of this application against the Xalan C++ and the Altova application.

This feels like a fair and balanced comparison as we hope to be competitive with the Altova application but need to

ensure we are at least better than the Xalan C++.

5.2 Changes

6 TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

6.1 Preliminary technology review

6.1.1 BSD Package (*Elijah C. Voigt*)

6.1.1.1 Options

XZES40 Transformer will be created with an installation package so that it can easily be installed on a host system. One platform we will create a package is FreeBSD. This package will be a stretch goal. This can be created manually, with FreeBSD system tools, or with a more general system-package creation tool.

6.1.1.2 Goals for use in design

In an ideal world this tool would be easy to use, and would automatically take our source code, compile it, and package it for distribution. Unfortunately that isn't a feasible solution for such a small project, but in our design we will be considering anything that gets us close to that reality.

6.1.1.3 Criteria being evaluated

The technology chosen should be easy to use, and allow for modifications to the host package in an expedient way. Creating system packages can be a pain, but creating one *incorrectly* is even worse. The tool chosen should be free, relatively painless to use, and require minimal human interaction to prevent the introduction of human errors.

6.1.1.4 Comparison breakdown

Technology	Description
Poudriere [4]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates builds for multiple platforms including other versions of FreeBSD and other CPU architectures. Builds packages in parallel. Free.
FPM [10]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translates packages from one format to another. Allows re-use of other system's packages. Free.
pkg-create [17]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple to use. Installed on most FreeBSD systems. Free.

6.1.1.5 Discussion

Each of these three technologies offers similar end results, but some offer a better development experience or a more feature rich pipeline.

Poudriere is appealing because it is by far the most feature rich option available. It essentially offers a system for us to test and build our software all in one tool using the BSD Jails system. The consequence is that this package would need to be created manually each time we want to release an update to our software, or just to make changes to the package.

FPM is appealing mostly because this FreeBSD package will be a stretch goal. FPM will be able to take a Debian or CentOS package *as well as* produce a FreeBSD package. This will require minimal intervention, and as long as we can test that the package produced is correct we can use this for future iterations of the package. The downside is that this is not guaranteed to work correctly as it does not provide any testing infrastructure for the package produced, so some amount of manual testing will be required.

The last option is not appealing, but viable all the same. `pkg-create` can be used to create a package on FreeBSD. The tool is convenient to acquire, and allows us to create the package, but does not offer nearly as many benefits as the others.

6.1.1.6 Selection

For convenience we will use FPM. Once we have a Debian package creating a FreeBSD package should be smooth sailing. The solution is free, requires minimal human interaction, and allows us to create reproducible results (i.e., whether the package works or not is not determined by the package creator's coffee intake).

6.1.2 Command Line Interface (*Elijah C. Voigt*)

6.1.2.1 Options

For the CLI we can develop a native C client, a simple Bash client, or split the difference with a Python client.

6.1.2.2 Goals for use in design

Each of these CLI tools must be able to construct an HTTP POST request with two documents, send that request to a server, and parse a response payload.

6.1.2.3 Criteria being evaluated

The criteria for this, as it is not part of the core functionality, is simplicity to write, maintain, and use for end-users.

6.1.2.4 Comparison breakdown

Technology	Description
C/C++ []	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeps the code base exclusively C/C++. Can be distributed with system package managers. Difficult to write and maintain.
Python []	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple to write and maintain. Requires few external dependencies. Can be distributed with the <code>pip</code> package manager.
Bash []	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very simple to write. Quick to write using existing system tools like <code>curl</code> or <code>wget</code>.

6.1.2.5 Discussion

The C/C++ option is not necessary at all. This is an option which ought to be considered, but ultimately isn't worth pursuing as it will be very complicated to write and maintain, especially when simpler script-based options exist.

Python is a great middle ground. The language comes with many web-request libraries and provides tools for users to upload their application to the pip package manager. This means we can write a tool which performs well, is easy to maintain, requires few external dependencies, and can be downloaded by a package manager. It will also be available on all platforms which run python, which includes Unix and Windows systems.

Bash is a viable candidate, especially when other tools like curl and wget will make quick work of the task. The downside to this is that we cannot host our CLI on any standard package manager for verifiable distribution. This forces users to download the CLI from our website directly. Ultimately this will probably be used as a proof of concept, but it is not a final product.

6.1.2.6 Selection

We will start by creating a CLI in Bash for testing purposes, and if time allows we will create a more polished CLI in Python. Python language offers the best of both worlds in terms of simplicity, maintainability, and ease of use for end users, but for the sake of "getting something out the door" we will first create a tool that works in Bash.

6.1.3 Conclusion

To summarize our findings:

Section	Author	Technology Choice
Research and Benchmarking	Zixun Lu	?
XML/XSLT Document Transformation	Shuai Peng	?
XML/XSLT Document Parsing	Elijah C. Voigt	Xalan C++
XML/XSLT Document Caching	Shuai Peng	?
XML/XSLT Document Parallel computation	Zixun Lu	?
Web API	Elijah C. Voigt	Apache + Python CGI script
Web Interface	Shuai Peng	?
Linux Package	Zixun Lu	?
Command Line Interface	Elijah C. Voigt	Bash proof of concept, Python final product
Windows Packae	Shuai Peng	?
BSD Package	Elijah C. Voigt	FPM package creation toolkit

6.1.4 XML/XSLT Document Caching

6.1.4.1 Option

There are three technology options for cache. The first option is storing cache into memory. The second option is storing our cache in binary file on disk. The third option is to create database to handle all of data.

6.1.4.2 Goals for use in design

Caching is the "plus one" function of XZES40-Transformer application. Other similar application compile files each time and this wastes a lot of time and resource. We will create cache to solve this problem.

6.1.4.3 Criteria being evaluated

We want save the time and resources in our XML transformer, so efficiency is the most element that we consider. This is not only the speed of reading and writing from the cache, we must also weigh the persistence of the cache to avoid recompiling when the system (application or host) is restarted.

6.1.4.4 Comparison breakdown

The first option is storing the cache in-memory, this is the faster and easy way to store cache.

The second option is to create a binary file with the cache. When we run our application, we read the cache data in from the cache file into memory. When the cache is updated it is written back to the original file.

The third option technology is that we create database to handle memory. This spends time to design and create database.

The fourth option is to use the in-memory key-value store Redis [20] which is a popular for this kind of task.

Technology	Description
Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application check data from memory, and put cache into memory. Retrieving data from memory is the faster way.
Temporary binary file	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application loads binary file when it starts. After we close it, application save binary file in external storage driver. Loading temporary binary file spend time, so it is slower than memory.
Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application access data from database. It takes time to create and manage a database.
Redis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objects to be serialized before being cached. Adding an additional dependency to the project. Less development time spent daemonizing and designing in-memory caching system.

6.1.4.5 Discussion

Storing cache into memory is the most easy way, we just need to allocate memory. However, the main drawback of this technology is when we close application, all of cache data will be wiped out. We have to compile file next time when we start running the application. When we are developing the XZES40-Transformer, we find a tools that KeyList is built in XercesC. This tools is helpful for managing memory, and it has good data structure.

Creating a binary file can avoid losing cache data, but it spends time to load file into memory when application starts.

Creating database is bad option for XZES40-Transformer application because access database spend resource, and it waste time to search cache data.

Redis is an appealing idea, but because it is an additional dependency, and serializing our parsed documents is not something our client wants our application to do, we are not able to pursue it. If our application had slightly different requirements this may be a viable option.

6.1.4.6 Selection

The best option technology is that storing cache into memory. Although it will lost data after close application, it save the time, and it the faster way. We may add a 'backup cache' solution to make this the best of both worlds, restoring from the backup when the system restarts but working mostly in-memory. And we will using KeyList, because it is built in XercesC. We can just add API, and easy to control the cache storing.

6.1.5 XML/XSLT Document Parsing (*Elijah C. Voigt*)

XML document compilation is the process by which an XML formatted document is taken and parsed into an in-memory object. The library we will be using, as requested by our client, will be the Xerces-C/C++ XML parser library; this review will evaluate that library. The other point of wiggle-room we have is in what way we parse and store the document in memory.

6.1.5.1 Options

For this requirement we will review the C/C++ library that we were requested to use by our client, and two XML parsing techniques we may use. The two techniques for parsing an XML document include SAX and DOM, the library we need to use is able to perform both methods. These are both designed with specific use-cases in mind, however the method we ought to use is not so simply chosen.

6.1.5.2 Goals for use in design

With the goal of optimizing performance in mind we will choose the parsing option which is fastest for our application. This is not as simple as choosing the one which is known for being fastest, because we will also be caching documents and performing parallel computations which may pull the needle toward one method of compilation over another.

6.1.5.3 Criteria being evaluated

We will be evaluating the parsing method which is likely to perform best in our application given that we will be caching documents and compiling them in parallel.

6.1.5.4 Comparison breakdown

Technology	Description
Xerces-C/C++ [xerces]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested to be used by our client. Implements DOM parsing. Implements SAX parsing. Feature Rich.
DOM parsing [7]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memory intensive. Ideal for carrying out many operations on a document.
SAX parsing [7]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memory light. Event-based processing. Ideal for minimal transformations.

6.1.5.5 Discussion

DOM parsing is known for being memory intensive and slower in simple cases. It is also known for being ideal in applications like updating a web-page where many operations happen to a document. It is not necessarily ideal for simple document transformation, but does produce a complete parsed object which we can cache easily.

SAX parsing is known for being better than DOM parsing in that it parses a document in an event based method, giving it a smaller memory footprint and shorter time-to-transform. Simple transformations are common use-cases for SAX parsing. SAX does not produce an object model and instead uses callbacks to perform document transformations.

6.1.5.6 Selection

We will be using the Xerces-C/C++ library to accomplish the task of XML document parsing. It is feature rich enough to give us leeway in our development where we need it. The library is also lean enough that it should not affect performance negatively.

As for choosing between SAX parsing vs DOM parsing, we will most likely choose DOM parsing since it fits our application's caching requirement well. DOM parsing produces an easily cached tree object which we can store and retrieve for later operations. SAX parsing is faster than DOM parsing, but the time saved by using a cached object instead of re-parsing an XML/XSLT document dependency will likely outweigh the benefits of SAX parsing. It may be worth-while to investigate using SAX parsing early on in development if we find a notable performance boost, so some amount of SAX proof of concept work should be done for the sake of being thorough, but DOM parsing will be the targeted document parsing method.

6.1.6 XML/XSLT Document Transformation

6.1.6.1 Option

There are three options for the XML/XSLT Document Transformation. The first option is Xalan-C++, and the second option is Saxon C, the third option is Sablotron.

6.1.6.2 Goals for use in design

The major function of XZES40-Transformer is XML/XSLT document transforming. Apache foundation provide many ways to achieve this function.

6.1.6.3 Criteria being evaluated

The XML/XSLT document transformation is our major function for XZES40-Transformer application. We want this transformation compatible with good parse tools, and version of XSLT and XPath.

6.1.6.4 Comparison breakdown

The first option is Xalan-C++, this technology is required by our client, and this technology is supported by Apache. Xalan-C++ is an XSLT processor for transforming XML documents into HTML, text, or other XML document types. Xalan-C++ contain the XercesC tools, so we don't need consider the parse tools.

The second option is Saxon C, which is Saxon company project. It performs the same operations as Xalan-C++, but it supports different version of XSLT and Xpath.

The third option technology is Sablotron. It used same version of XSLT and Xpath with Xalan-C++, but it designed to be as small program.

Technology	Description
Xalan-C++ [xalan]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xalan-C++ is open source project developed by Apache. It is implemented by XSLT version 1.0 and XPath version 1.0. Xalan-C++ uses Xerces-C++ to parse XML documents and XSL style sheets.
Saxon C [22]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saxon C is open source project. It is implemented by XSLT 2.0/3.0 version and XPath version 2.0/3.0. Saxon C use different parse tools to handle the date.
Sablotron [21]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sablotron is open source project by gingerall. It is implemented by XSLT 1.0 and Xpath 1.0. Sablotron need extra parse tools to complete transformation.

6.1.6.5 Discussion

The Xalan-C++ is the most powerful and popular XML/XSLT document transformation library and is used in many proprietary as well as open source tools. It a robust implementation of the W3C recommendations for XSL Transformations (XSLT) and the XML Path Language (XPath). The Xalan-C++ is continuing update, and it is good tools for transforming documents. However, Xalan-C++ has poor structure API reference, and it makes developer hard to read and understand. Thus, developer need spend time on doing research with API.

The Saxon C is a good alternative to Xalan-C++. Saxon C can handle higher version of XSLT and Xpath, however implements different parse tools, so we need find out other technology.

The Sablotron does the same work as the Xalan-C++, but Sablotron is designed to be as compact and portable as

possible. The size of Sablotron is much small than Xalan-C. However, Sablotron is old and has not been updated it since 2006.

6.1.6.6 The Best option

We will choose Xalan-C++ as our solution technology. The first reason is that Xalan-C is required by our client. We want to using Xerces-C as our parse tools, so Xalan-C is the best choice. Xalan-C++ is easy to use with clear example.

The second reason is that Sablotron is not stable. Even they are open source project, but the community has forgotten it. Saxon C is a good second option if client require different tools to complete XML/XSLT document transformation.

6.1.7 *Introduction*

The following tables illustrates who is responsible for each component of the application.

Required functionality:

Section	Author
Research and Benchmarking	Zixun Lu
XML/XSLT Document Transformation	Shuai Peng
XML/XSLT Document Parsing	Elijah C. Voigt
XML/XSLT Document Caching	Shuai Peng
XML/XSLT Document Parallel computation	Zixun Lu
Web API	Elijah C. Voigt
Web Interface	Shuai Peng

Stretch goal functionality:

Linux Package	Zixun Lu
Command Line Interface	Elijah C. Voigt
Windows Packae	Shuai Peng
BSD Package	Elijah C. Voigt

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6.1.8 Debian & Centos Package

6.1.8.1 Options

6.1.8.2 Goals for use in design

Our team will release Debian and Centos packages. Users can directly download these from the website and use these packages to install XZES40-Transformer on their Debian and Centos operation system.

6.1.8.3 Criteria being evaluated

We may use Centos and Debian tools to build our package. We can use Centos operation system to build Centos packages and use Debian operation system to build Debian packages. Those tools are free to use.

6.1.8.4 Comparison breakdown

Technology	Description
Centos packaging tools [23]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use in Centos operate system • It is esay to use • Free.
FPM [10]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates packages from one format to another. • Allows re-use of other system's packages. • Free.
Debian packaging tools [12]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use in Debian operate system • It is easy to use • Free.

6.1.8.5 Discussion

The above tools are all valuable. If we were going to just develop a Debian package we may only use the Debian tools, and the same goes for CentOS. These tools are good at creating packages for those specific platforms, but since we intend to develop tools for mutiple platforms (Linux and BSD) using FPM to create cross-OS packages would be very convenient.

6.1.8.6 Selection

In the end we will use FPM to develop our packages becuase it makes life very convenient.

6.1.9 Parallel Document Transformation

6.1.9.1 Options

6.1.9.2 Goals for use in design

XZES40-Transformer will be increased performance by using parrallel computation. The parallel processing of the containment queries against an XML document utilizes parallel variants of the serial algorithm. There are two ways to do the prallel computation.

6.1.9.3 Criteria being evaluated

XZES40-Transformer use the parallel computation method do the same processing and operating in parallel. The criteria for a good tool in this area is mostly how easy to write code it is with the tool and how maintainable the code is, and of course how fast the eventual program is.

6.1.9.4 Comparison breakdown

Technology	Description
POSIX Threads [18]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines a set of C types, functions and constants Spawn concurrent units of processing Achieve big speedups, as all cores of CPU are used at the same time.
OpenMP [16]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An API that implements a multi-thread, shared memory form of parallelism. Uses a set of compiler directives Take care of many of low-level details
MPI [15]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core syntax and semantics of library Complexity, scope and control Manage allocation, communication, and synchronization of a set of processes

6.1.9.5 Discussion

Pthreads is a standard for programming with threads, it can achieve big speedups, as all cores of your CPU are used at the same time. OpenMP uses a set of compiler directives that are incorporated at compile-time to generate a multi-threaded version of your code. MPI allows us to manage allocation, communication, and synchronization of a set of processes.

6.1.9.6 Selection

We will use MPI because it is a high-level standard, and so it will be easy to develop with.

6.1.10 Research and Benchmarking

6.1.10.1 Options

6.1.10.2 Goals for use in design

Our team will do the research and benchmarking to guarantee that our application is fast enough.

6.1.10.3 Criteria being evaluated

We will test some number of requests against a comparable to find which transformers use the time less. Throughout development we will put our application through the same paces and compare which is faster.

6.1.10.4 Comparison breakdown

Technology	Description
Xalan CLI [2]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xalan-C++ uses Xerces-C++ to parse XML documents and XSL stylesheets. • The project provides an open source CLI program to test the project libraries. • Free and Open Source • It works on the Debian operation system.
Altova [19]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet industry demands for an ultra-fast processor. • It offers powerful, flexible options for developers including cml, python. • Superior error reporting capabilities include reporting of multiple errors, detailed error descriptions. • It only works in the Windows operation system.

6.1.10.5 Discussion

Xerces is a simple CLI application developed by the Xerces project to test the library. This is very similar to our program as it is open source, uses the same libraries, but lacks the caching we will implement.

RaptorXML is built from the ground up to be optimized for the latest standard and parallel computing environments. It is proprietary tool which we may try to out-perform as a stretch goal, but to start with our application will not try to out-perform.

6.1.10.6 Selection

We will compare our application to the Xalan-C CLI as it is the closest competitor to our application.

6.1.11 Web API (*Elijah C. Voigt*)

6.1.11.1 Options

Our web API may be implemented via a C++ web application, a Python or Ruby web application, or an Apache webserver CGI script. Each of these has pros and cons, and each get the job done at some cost and with some benefits.

6.1.11.2 Goals for use in design

XZES40-Transformer will be accessible via a web API. This can be implemented a few different ways, but all of them must accomplish the same goal of allowing people to use the service over a network. The three options being evaluated here vary in how they achieve this goal, and so they represent more their technology and less the specific implementation which will be used.

6.1.11.3 Criteria being evaluated

The core of this application is related to document transformation. The more time that is spent on non-document transformation tasks should be kept to a minimum. Any technology we use to implement our web API should be simple, easy to develop, and easy to maintain. In short, *keep it simple stupid*.

6.1.11.4 Comparison breakdown

Our first option is to use an Apache CGI script, which would be a simple Python, Perl, or Ruby file which calls our C program and returns the results (transformed document or error) to the user, all via an Apache server gateway. The second option is to write a native web application using a web-app framework like Kore to handle HTTP requests. The third option is to use a python framework like Flask to handle HTTP requests. Each of these would be something that calls our document transformation app and exposes it to the outside world. How we handle that is important to consider.

Technology	Description
Apache CGI Script [cgi-tutorial]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTTP requests are handled by the Apache web-server. • XZES functionality is called by “shelling out” to the program and returning the results. • Apache CGI Script requires a running Apache Server on the host.
Kore web-app framework [14] [kore-feature]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTTP Requests are handled by the Kore framework. • XZES functionality is called natively with C code. • Kore web-app framework acts as an independent daemon.
Flask web-app framework [flask-site]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTTP Requests are handled by the Flask framework. • XZES functionality is called either natively or by using <code>exec</code> to “shell out”. • Flask web-app framework can act as an independent daemon or be managed by Apache.

6.1.11.5 Discussion

The above three technologies are all entirely valid choices for our application; each approach the problem from different angles.

The Apache CGI choice is the Occam’s Razor solution relative to the others. Using the Apache web server we can register a script (written in Python, Perl, Ruby, etc) to accept requests and return a response. This is simple, maintainable, and easy to create; this is especially appealing if we are only concerned with implementing the API and not fancy features like accessing a database or storing user sessions. This option also allows us to leverage existing Apache Web-server power like load balancing and simple authentication without needing to write those features ourselves, they’re just an Apache configuration file away from being a reality.

Kore is a web-app framework which would allow us to develop our application in C/C++, which has its pros and cons. C/C++ is notoriously difficult to write, and harder to write *well*, so it may be a time-sink. That said, it is nice to have a project which is written entirely in one language as contributors (ourselves and others) do not need to learn multiple languages to contribute to the transformer project.

Flask is another web-app framework, but one which is substantially easier to read and write. This has the benefit of being easier to maintain than a Kore framework, and we can write exactly the level of complexity we want from our API. On the other hand we would need to maintain a knowledge base of python, python frameworks, and python dependencies, so this is versatile but ultimately not necessarily easier to maintain than a kore framework.

6.1.11.6 Selection

Since we are working with Apache on this project, we want to develop a simple solution to our API problem, and the Apache Web server is a powerful tool we will choose to use this in our design. We will write a simple CGI script (which calls our C binary) and hook this into an Apache Web server. We will need to depend on the Apache Web server for our project's package, but this should not be as hard as writing a web app ourselves. We can also use the server to easily host our Web UI, which is a nice bonus.

6.1.12 Website UI

The Web Interface will be a simple webpage which calls our web API. For this reason this section focuses mostly on design technologies and less on HTTP request-handling technologies.

6.1.12.1 Option

This document reviews three possible technologies we can use to implement our website . First is plain-text HTML, CSS and Javascript, second is the Bootstrap front-end framework, and third is the Foundation framework.

6.1.12.2 Goals for use in design

XZES40-Transformer will have a web-based user interface, which will also be our main user interface. In considering which technology to use we will focus on making it conform with modern website design practices. This will allow us to write an application which is hopefully user friendly and intuitive to use. The website should also be look good.

6.1.12.3 Criteria being evaluated

The most important aspect to consider for this user interface is the appearance. We want to create web pages that work well on most screen sizes. So the cost, efficiency, visual appeal, and dynamic screen adjustment are what we consider most important in our technology of choice.

6.1.12.4 Comparison breakdown

- Cost: All of our options are open source and totally free and offer free documentation / tutorials.
- Efficiency: Using plain CSS/Javascript/HTML will perform well on most end-user's web-browsers, however it will be difficult to optimize the website to be responsive and adjust for smaller screen sizes. Bootstrap and Foundation were created with responsive design in mind. Both of them can change the size automatically in different size of screen. Both of them provide templates for creating web pages, but plain CSS do not provide.
- Learning speed: CSS is the basis of HTML style sheet. It is easy to understand and learn, however it hard to make it look good. Bootstrap and foundation spends time to learn, but after we learn the basically knowledge, bootstrap and foundation will be faster than CSS.

Technology	Description
CSS [5]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSS is open source, and it the basis style sheet for HTML. • CSS is not able to easily create a web page that fit in different size of screen. • CSS is easy to learn, but it hard to use to make a good website.
Bootstrap [3]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bootstrap is open source project with good forum support. • Bootstrap is efficient because it has responsive design. It provide many templates. • Bootstrap is easy to learn and use.
Foundation [11]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation is open source project. • Foundation is efficiency, and it has responsive design. It provide many templates. • Foundation is easy to learn and provides free tutorials.

6.1.12.5 Discussion

The table show us that all of them did similar work however, they have different advantages and drawbacks. CSS is basis of HTML style sheet, and it works great, but it hard to create web pages beautiful using *just* CSS and HTML. This makes it hard to move web page into different size of screen, so we don't want to take CSS as our solution technology.

Bootstrap and foundation do similar work, and both are open source and free to use. However bootstrap is much more stable and provides more templates, and there are free instructions in the W3C school for using it.

6.1.12.6 Selection

The best option is the Bootstrap for our project because Bootstrap is open source project and has good tutorials in W3C schools. Bootstrap is the most popular front-end framework for web design, and it is still updated by thousands of people. During we are developing our code, I think that we should have second choice. The Second choice is plain-HTML interface. Although plain-HTML does not look beautiful, it is the most straightforward way to present information to users. Keeping simple is the best way.

6.1.13 Windows Package

6.1.13.1 Option

There are three options for windows install packages. The first one is WiX Toolset, the second is EMCO MSI Package Builder, and the third is Advance Installer.

6.1.13.2 Goals for use in design

XZES40-Transformer may be packaged to run on multiple platforms. We want to create install packages, so users do not need to install our package manually from source.

6.1.13.3 Criteria being evaluated

Although windows install package is our option work for our project, we want it move from other platform smoothly. We want it easy to learn how to use this technology, and we also want it free. The flow of install should be simple for user, so user can just install and run application quickly.

6.1.13.4 Comparison breakdown

- Cost: WiX Toolset is open source and free software however the advanced installer is a proprietary tool which must be paid for. EMCO MSI Package Builder provide free version for individual developer, but free version of package builder limit the functionality for create MSI package.
- Security: WiX Toolset is open source project since 2004. Even the Microsoft also uses WiX to create MSI package, so WiX tools should be the most safe tools than other tools. The security of Advanced installer is acceptable. The company is created since 2002, and other big company used this tools, such as Sony, Dell, etc. EMCO MSI Package Builder is same as the advance installer.
- Stable: WiX Toolset is open source project, and there is thousand of developer contribute on this project, so WiX Toolset is more stable than other open source alternatives.
- Learning Speed: WiX Toolset has a steep learning curve. It is better to understand the fact of Microsoft install package before using this tools. Advanced installer and EMCO MSI Package Builder provides GUI for user, it is easy to using and learning.

Technology	Description
WiX Toolset [25]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiX Toolset is open source project • WiX Toolset is more stable and security than other tools • WiX Toolset have steeed learning curve, but it is worth to learn • WiX Toolset is free for every one.
EMCO MSI Package Builder [6]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMCO MSI Package Builder is not open source. • EMCO MSI Package Builder is stable, and security is acceptable. • EMCO MSI Package Builder is easy to learn, because it have GUI. • EMCO MSI Package Builder has free version for individual developer.
Advance Installer [9]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Installer is close source tools. • Advance Installer is stable and security. • Advance Installer is easy to learn. It has GUI, and forum support. • Advance Installer is expensive. No free version.

6.1.13.5 Discussion

The WiX toolset is a collection of tools which build Windows installation packages from XML source code. Traditional setup tools used a programmatic, script-based approach to be installed on the target machine but WiX uses a different method. It uses an XML configuration file to describe the steps of the installation process. Microsoft also uses WiX with all its major software packages, like Microsoft Office. [25]

EMCO MSI Package Builder is an installation tools designed for help developer create, maintain and distribute Windows Installer packages. [6] It helps developer create MSI package automatically by using changes tracking technology, which is used to generate installation project data, or manually by using the visual editor.

Advanced Installer is GUI tool that can simply create Microsoft Install packages. Advanced Installer create and maintain installation package, such as EXE, MSI, ETC. It based on the Windows Installer technology. [9]

6.1.13.6 Selection

After comparing all of above methods we have chosen to use WiX as the solution to our Windows packaging problem. The first reason why WiX is my solution technology is that it is open source software. It a powerful set of tools available to create our Windows installation package.

The second reason is that it represents by source code rather than GUI. GUI may be easy for developer, but it also hid every thing behind the GUI. If we get some weirded problem, we can't solve it via GUI software.

Third reason is that it can be completely integrated into our application build processes. When install progress start, other setup modification are made in parallel, so no vital information will be lost.

The fourth reason is that it use XML as the main language. We don't need spend time on learning how to use WIX.

The setup program will complete together with the application itself. This is not required by client, but if client want to different way to create windows install package, we can choose advanced installer as our alternate technology.

6.1.13.7 Changes to technologies used

7 DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL

7.1 Zixun Lu

7.1.1 Fall Term

- 7.1.1.1 2016-10-14
- 7.1.1.2 2016-10-21
- 7.1.1.3 2016-10-28
- 7.1.1.4 2016-11-04
- 7.1.1.5 2016-11-11
- 7.1.1.6 2016-11-18
- 7.1.1.7 2016-11-25
- 7.1.1.8 2016-12-02

7.1.2 Spring Term

- 7.1.2.1 2016-01-13
- 7.1.2.2 2016-01-20
- 7.1.2.3 2016-01-27
- 7.1.2.4 2016-02-03
- 7.1.2.5 2016-02-10
- 7.1.2.6 2016-02-17
- 7.1.2.7 2016-02-24
- 7.1.2.8 2016-03-03
- 7.1.2.9 2016-03-10
- 7.1.2.10 2016-03-17

7.1.3 Spring Term

- 7.1.3.1 2016-04-07
- 7.1.3.2 2016-04-14
- 7.1.3.3 2016-04-21
- 7.1.3.4 2016-04-28
- 7.1.3.5 2016-05-05
- 7.1.3.6 2016-05-12
- 7.1.3.7 2016-05-19
- 7.1.3.8 2016-05-26

7.2 Shuai Peng

7.2.1 Fall Term

- 7.2.1.1 2016-10-14
- 7.2.1.2 2016-10-21
- 7.2.1.3 2016-10-28
- 7.2.1.4 2016-11-04
- 7.2.1.5 2016-11-11
- 7.2.1.6 2016-11-18
- 7.2.1.7 2016-11-25
- 7.2.1.8 2016-12-02

7.2.2 Spring Term

would function, and what it would do differently than existing systems. The just of it being that a few layer of caching would be added to the transformation sever to speed up re-compilation of old documents (a common procedure).

Since last week we have finalized our Problem Statement document, confirmed it with our sponsor, and signed.

We have encountered no problems so far.

This coming week we will meet with our sponsor again to get setup with development environments. We decided on initially targeting Debian Linux as our platform, so we will be given VMs that are more or less the environment our application will be running on in production.

7.3.1.2 2016-10-21

This last week we continued editing our problem statement and met with our client to obtain a virtual machine for future development. The virtual machine was created by the client and included a slew of development tools for the package we will be developing and LaTeX development if we need.

There were no show-stopping problems encountered this week. One difficulty may be with the size of the virtual machine, which is almost 25GB, but once we have a stable development environment configured it shouldn't be an issue.

This coming week we will complete the Client Requirements document. We will also get a revised copy of our Client Requirements doc and Problem Statement doc signed and turned in on time.

7.3.1.3 2016-10-28

Since last week we have begun work on our Client Requirements document. We turned in a rough draft, but will have to make a lot of edits before turning in a final document next week.

There was a lot of confusion about our what our application is, how it will be implemented, what it will do, and its core purpose. To fix this our group had a meeting. We decided to have daily meetings to improve our document writing workflow. Future documents will be written with all three of us so we're on the same page. We will have daily hour-long writing meetings.

We will spend next week refactoring the Client Requirements document. Once we complete a draft we like we will get it signed and submit this document.

7.3.1.4 2016-11-04

This week we completed the client requirements document and had it approved by our client. He seemed impressed with the scope of the project.

Our client was too busy to have a meeting with us, but not too busy to sign the document, so it worked out.

This coming week we will begin work on the technology review. Now that we have a solid workflow for writing documents as a team I think this will be straight-forward.

7.3.1.5 2016-11-11

Since last week we have started working on our Technology Assessment document, and to an extent (at least internally) our design document. This document is not yet complete, but good work has definitely been put into it. Since bridging the knowledge gap I think that we've made good progress on unifying the design, and technologies being used in the project.

Our client has also supplied us with ample development scripts for our project. Since we have not started development these are not yet useful, but will be come winter term.

I don't recall any problems yet. I was unfortunately unable to participate in daily meetings because of travel on the holiday weekend, but I don't think this will cause tremendous problems.

This next week (starting Sunday) we will complete the technology assessment document and begin work on the design document I hope to have a first draft of the design document by this coming Friday, but that may be wishful thinking.

7.3.1.6 2016-11-18

Since last week we finished our tech review and started the design document.

We were sort of down to the wire when we submitted the tech review, but got it in before the midnight on Monday deadline.

We started working on the design document but are a little confused about the exact format of the document.

This coming week, before thanksgiving, we will try to get a rough draft of the design document done.

7.3.1.7 2016-11-25

Since last week we have begun working on our Design document and we created a repository to store code by our Clients request.

We are confused about the exact format of the design document, we will ask the TA about this to get it cleared up.

This coming week we will finish the design document and make an initial draft of the term summary due during finals week.

7.3.1.8 2016-12-02

Since last week we completely re-wrote our Design Document and turned it in, unfortunately unsigned due to time constraints with our client A large amount of time was spent restructuring the document to more closely fit the IEEE standard we were adhering to.

We also began work on the Progress report document in hopes of getting it done before the start of Finals Week.

The largest problem we encountered this week was having to re-structure our document We misunderstood the IEEE structure for this assignment so we spent a lot of time re-writing the document after talking with the TA.

This coming week we will finish the Progress Report and Progress Report Presentation.

Over break we will also make headway on the actual assignment portion of the project, hopefully setting us ahead of schedule if all goes well.

7.3.2 Winter Term

7.3.2.1 2016-01-13

Over break I completed a large chunk of the project's structure This included:

- Outlining the source code file-structure
- Added skeleton code for key classes, functions, and headers in the code.
- Added initial project documentation as well as code-documentation.
- Added a Makefile which currently compiles the project.
- Added a Vagrant virtual machine for lighter-weight development This includes a setup script which can be used to provision a Continuous Integration system when we start using one.

Unfortunately I was the only member who was able to (or chose) to work on the project so there are a lot of decisions left to be made (changes to the design of the project including whether to use Redis or a library provided by Steven Hathaway for caching, whether to use Boost for cross-os compilation)

This week I will complete the structure of the project so work can begin on transformation and caching.

The team-members who did not engage with the project over the break will catch up by reading what has been written and documented, getting familiar with important libraries, and setting up their development environments.

7.3.2.2 2016-01-20

Since last week we went started going over what we need to do for the project in finer detail, learning our parts of the project, and learning the required tools we need to complete the project. We also started to plan in greater detail what and when we need to get tasks done? Tracking our progress better.

Shuai and Lu did not work on the project over the break so they are still catching up. Hopefully we won't be eventually behind and will eventually get back on schedule.

This coming week we will hopefully complete the basic transformation capabilities of our project, start bench marking competing products, and add continuous integration to pull requests.

7.3.2.3 2016-01-27

Since last week we have added Travis CI support and made progress in completing our basic functionality.

Shuai was unable to complete the basic transformation functionality. I spent the majority of Sunday January 28 (I know this is due Friday but I was late and might as well include this info) making major refactors to Shuai's contributions.

Lu has still not gotten any work done on this project.

This coming week I hope to get the basic transformation complete so that we can complete our alpha release on time.

Once we complete the basic transformation then there is a very short list of features to implement for the beta and final release. These are namely:

- Caching parsed documents.
- Daemonizing the application.
- Exposing the application to the web over an HTTP with a CGI script.
- Creating a Website for users to use the application.

Once those features are complete we will have finished the most important parts of our application. To finish any of those though we need to complete the core feature of document transformation.

7.3.2.4 2016-02-03

We have made very little progress since last week. As mentioned previously, I worked for most of a sunday debugging the code that shuai worked on. Since then we have not figured out a solution to the bug.

Lu has not been communicating nearly enough with the group, and we have not solved this bug. Once we fix a show-stopping bug we should be able to start making progress individually on the application.

I have asked Lu to work on the bug. If he is not able to fix it I will do my best with Shuai to fix the bug before the end of next week so we have a working alpha release.

7.3.2.5 2016-02-10

This week our group (Shuai and myself) finally tackled and completed the core of our project.

The biggest problem was completed, but we still have a long way to go. Our biggest problem now is finishing all of the work we have ahead in the time we have available.

Strictly speaking though we didn't encounter any new problems, just fixed existing problems.

That said Zixun Lu has still not completed the benchmarking for the project. This is a problem as we will not be able to assess the success of our project without that information.

This coming week I will try to start and finish the daemon-ization of the program, but with the progress report assignment most actual development is practically suspended.

7.3.2.6 2016-02-17

Since last week we have made minimal progress on the application I have begun work on demonizing our application.

Process daemonizaion was not a problem we thought out well enough so a lot of planning has to happen pretty late in the game for that part of our application to work correctly I think I know a way to execute the idea using best practices, but so far it's not been easy.

Tomorrow (Sunday) we will meet and develop for a full day to hopefully power through some problems we've been having I am not optimistic that we will complete anything meaningful. I hope to be proven wrong.

7.3.2.7 2016-02-24

Since last week I made progress on and eventually merged the daemon code I also helped Shuai Peng with the Caching code.

The daemon works fairly well It has not been battle tested, nor has it been designed to handle errors or problems well. These have not cause any headaches yet.

This sunday Shuai and I will complete and merge the Caching code I will begin work on the Web API. We will also demo what we have this Thursday.

7.3.2.8 2016-03-03

Since last week we have not made substantial technical progress After merging the Caching code Shuai and I have focused on other coursework. I personally have been researching how to write the CGI script for our application, but not as much time has been spent as I would like.

We also met with our Client This was productive and expectations were tempered as we have been missing deadlines. I still believe we will be able to get a working prototype completed by our deadline, however it will not be nearly as polished as I hoped and expected given the complexity of the project.

Zixun Lu has not been able to complete his portion of the project and we are as of yet far past our deadlines for the Benchmarking sprint He has been reassigned to other parts of the project which do not require C++ coding (benchmarking, website frontend, and the system package) as this seems to be intimidating for him.

This coming week I will finish a prototype, and hopefully merge, the CGI script portion of our project as well as any setup scripts to start an apache server.

This will include:

- The actual Python CGI script(s).
- Setup scripts for installing and enabling an Apache server CGI service.
- Possibly some systemd services.

Actually, may I go on a quick tangent about how useful a systemd service can be for this project? Using systemd we can limit the CPU and RAM usage of an application, thus giving us a 'first line of defense' against runaway cache Not that I think that is a likelihood, however it is a nice 'stopgap' just in case. We can set the application, in the init system layer, to restart and wipe the cache whenever it reaches some threshold. A more ideal solution would be to garbage collect the cache every so often so we don't need emergency safeguards, but if it works it works!

7.3.2.9 2016-03-10

Is it already week 9? That term flew by...

Since last week we haven't made a terribly large amount of progress I've gotten the CGI script working so we can (hopefully soon) start communicating with the outside world and running jobs over the 'net.

Originally I tried implementing the CGI script using 'fastcgi' which was touted as being the way to do this, but it didn't workOur client helped out and told us to just use the regular old boring 'cgi'.

I am very close to getting this working, so I'll get that done before we need to demo.

7.3.2.10 2016-03-17

Good news! We finished the demo!

As the clock struck 10:30 I finally got the demo workingYou could upload two files and get the transformed output in your browser. It took a long time, but it was totally worth it.

7.3.3 Spring Term

7.3.3.1 2016-04-07

We encountered many problems on the way, and have many more problems to come, but the big ones related to this were:

- 1) CGI scripts are non-trivial to setup.
- 2) Error handling and debugging cgi script was non-trivial.
- 3) Slightly tweaking (or in some cases entirely re-writing) parts of the code was time consuming.

This coming week I am going to finish finals and take a brief vacation, but starting next term I will spend a substantial amount of time fixing up our pull codebase for Expo and making sure it is ready for the client to take overThis includes documenting the codebase, 'sanding the edges', and any tools Steven needs to own he project when we leave the project.

7.3.3.2 2016-04-14

Since last week we have completed benchmarking of our application (or at least a first draft) and implemented a prototype of parameter passing (<https://github.com/XZES40/XZES40-Transformer/pull/38>).

The biggest problem we encountered was that we had to hack together an environment to actually do the benchmarkingA complete application would allow us to upload header files for our benchmarked XML documents and pass parameters, but we have yet to complete these features.

This coming week I would like to complete the parameter passing and integrate it into our website interfaceI will add the web interface and form processing / sending this week.

Next week we will try to add dependency file processingThis will be similar to the parameter passing feature, but adding files to the build job instead of key=value parameters.

7.3.3.3 2016-04-21

Since last week I have begun working on passing parameters to the application through the web UI.

The hardest part of this is that I have to format the data in such a way that the input form data is sent as JSON to the end CGI scriptThis can be done with JQuery, but I'm not a frontend person so it's taking longer than the rest of my components did.

This coming week I want to merge parameters and a big docs pushWe should be code-complete by friday the 28th (my birthday!) so I'll make sure we have something presentable by then.

7.3.3.4 2016-04-28

Since last week we have made leaps and bounds.

- We (Shuai and I) fixed a lot of last minute bugs and added some much needed revised documentation.
- I made our website dynamically submit transformation jobs and load the response content.
- I learned JQuery (for the website).

We ran into a few bugs, especially around form processing and displaying results to the user on the frontend. Thankfully we fixed most of those bugs and by Sunday we should have all of that ironed out for Code Completion.

This coming week we are going to merge the last pull requests we have for Code Completion and begin working on our demo and written documents for the course.

As I mentioned last week, today is my birthday, so I'm going to take a day off. We got a lot done and really brought it all together at the last minute. Now we just need to put a bow on it.

7.3.3.5 2016-05-05

Since last week we completed our code and poster and submitted both of those. We did not work on the code for our project, favoring instead to work on other homework to get ahead for the end of the term.

We had a few hiccups with our code, trying to merge a lot of changes together at the last minute. Thankfully it passed the smoke tests so we were feature complete.

This coming week I would like to add more tests to the application, however as a team we will probably not do this.

7.3.3.6 2016-05-12

Since last week we finished a progress report (ahead of schedule!) and started prepping for Expo.

No problems have been encountered this week.

Up next: Expo!

7.3.3.7 2016-05-19

Since last week we just made sure everything was ready for expo.

We didn't encounter any problems at expo. Thank god.

This coming week I will get the three short writings out of the way if possible.

7.3.3.8 2016-05-26

My biggest regret in the course of this project was over-engineering solutions which did not need to be made. The biggest example of this was when I spent all of winter break outlining the code we needed for our project, creating skeleton code for the majority of our C++ work, and in the end a large swath of that was removed to get the project done.

This was a blessing and a curse. I learned a good lesson, and had a good understanding of our project going into winter term, but it was a blow to the ego when a bunch of my freetime was wasted.

The biggest skill I've learned over the course of this project was time management, and allocating work fairly. I tend to feel an urge to over-work myself when others are underperforming. This is unfair to myself and the people under-performing. So my new skill is probably something like "tend to your own garden".

The biggest skills I can use in the future on the technical side are some nifty javascript skills and some nice apache system admin skills.

On the non-technical side I've gotten very good at managing a small team and I've learned a lot of lessons the hard way. As mentioned above, I have a new understanding of how to allocate jobs and stick to that allocation. Don't overwork yourself just to get the job done, hold those who agreed to a job accountable. Otherwise you'll pull your hair out trying to get somebody to do a job you're already doing for them.

I am glad to have contributed to the Apache Software Foundation. I am also glad that this project is over.

I learned from my teammates many lessons about management, and how as a manager you should meter your expectations a lot. Don't expect anything from your teammates, make everything explicit, and make sure you stick to your job.

I believe the client is satisfiedAlthough we did not know this going in, this was more or less a prototype project and to that end we definitely finished the prototype.

I will volunteer myself as a contributor for this project going forwardI want to support the Apache Software Foundation and this is a pretty simple way to do that.

At Expo we were surrounded by really exciting project so we didn't get much attention at ExpoThat said I did meet someone from Nvidia who was very excited about our project and told me to send her an email when I was looking for a job, so that was a success!

8 PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

The following section includes the project's documentation.

The document has not been reformatted to best preserve the original content.

If you would like to view the documentation in it's 'pretty print' formatting, visit <https://github.com/XZES40/XZES40-Transformer>

The headings of each section here reflect the original file's location in the directory structure of the source code. The documentation co-mingles with the source code.

Each soruce file also includes documentation blocks, which are not included here.

8.1 README.md

```
# XZES40-Transformer
```

```
*This repository contains the Code, Code Documentation, Tests, Examples, and Build/Dev infrastructure  
for the Oregon State University + Apache Software Foundation Computer Science 2017 Capstone project  
.*
```

```
For more information about this project, see the project's [LaTeX document repository] [capstone-repo]
```

```
## Build status
```

```
- Linux: [![Build Status] (https://travis-ci.org/XZES40/XZES40-Transformer.svg?branch=master)] (https://travis-ci.org/XZES40/XZES40-Transformer)
```

```
## About the project
```

This project's purpose is to create an XML/XSLT transformation server which is

- *Fast*
- *Cross-platform*
- *Packaged for your OS*
- *Open Source*

It achieves these by:

Feature	Status
Processing documents in parallel.	**IMPLEMENTED**
Using an in-memory cache to store processed documents.	**IMPLEMENTED**
Using [FPM] [fpm] to package the application.	**NOT IMPLEMENTED**

Using the [Apache Webserver] [apache] to handle requests.	**IMPLEMENTED**	
And of course developing in the Open!	**IMPLEMENTED**	

For a complete guide on the *design* and *purpose* of this project refer to our [LaTeX Documents Repository] [capstone-repo].

A what transformation server?

XML is a standard format for storing data, like JSON or YAML.

XSLT, or XML Style Sheets, are used for performing transformations on data in XML sheets.

For example:

Problem

- You have an XML spreadsheet with information about all cars sold at a used car lot.
- You want to know how many *red* cars were sold between 2000 and 2015.

Solution

Create an XML stylesheet (XSLT document) which specifies "if the <color> is red, and the <date sold> is between 2000 and 2015, include it in the output" (in psuedo XSLT).

The XZES40-Transformer application is used to perform these transformations over the internet so one can process data without installing heavy XML transformation applications locally.

How do I use this?

The easiest way to use the application is to run a small Virtual Machine (VM).

The application is designed to be run on Apache, but it is not encouraged that you install, run, or develop the application on your personal machine.

The tool the development team uses to run the application in a VM is Vagrant.

Vagrant is a Command Line Interafce (CLI) interface for pulling, provisioning, and running VM with arbitrary back-ends.

This means you can use the same commands to run a VirtualBox, VMWare, or Docker machine.

Vagrant runs on Linux, BSD, Windows, and MacOS, so it is highly accessible for development.

Once you have Vagrant installed and setup on your system you should be able to run 'vagrant up'.

Once the machine is setup it will give you a URL to visit in your local web browser.

Visit that page and you'll be using the application!

For information on running the application with Vagrant, see the ['vagrant' directory's README file][vagrant-code].

Where is everything?

There are three components to the XZES40-Transformer project.

Component	Description	
-----	-----	

```
| 'transformer' | Core of the project. Actually performs XML transformations. |
| 'cgi-glue'   | Bridge between the transformer and web UI.                   |
| 'frontend'   | Web interface for the application. Accepts XML transformation requests, displays
  results to user. |
```

Each of these components can be found under the 'xzes' directory.

Each component has an explanatory README which explains what it in greater detail is and how it works.

How can I test?

In the directory 'xzes/transformer/test/simple_test_file' we have provided a simple test script that you can run on your local system which connects to the server running via Vagrant..

Just run './simple_test.sh' and then you should see HTTP 200 OK responses and transformed XML documents

..

Contributing

If you have interest in contributing to this project, **great**!

Please create an [issue][issues-url] and see if the developers respond.

If you have a fix for your issue, make a pull request by forking the project, doing your work on your fork, and clicking the 'Create a Pull Request' button once you push your changes to that fork.

We have a [Vagrant Box][vagrant-code] which is probably your best way to test code-changes.

See the 'vagrant' directory for details about that work-flow.

A note about names

There might be a bit of confusion about what is named what and why:

- The project is called XZES40-Transformer because the Capstone group name is XZES40 (a combination of our names, our group number, and the letter X).
- The application is just called 'xzes' because programs shouldn't have numbers in their name.
- The transformer daemon is called 'xzesd', and it's systemd service is called 'xzesd.service.'
- The CGI script used by apache is called 'xzes.py'.
- The component that runs between Apache and the daemon is 'cgi-glue' because it's just enough code to get 'xzesd' exposed to the internet.
- The frontend is called 'frontend' because that is an intuitive name.

Most things, unless they are the group or project, are just 'xzes'.

The project as a whole is 'XZES40-transformer'.

There are no components called simply 'XZES40', although during development some components *were*.

License

This software is licensed under 'Apache 2.0'. Read the 'LICENSE' file for more information.

```
[capstone-repo]: /XZES40/cs-capstone-project
[issues-url]: /XZES40/XZES40-Transformer/issues
```

```
[fpm]: /jordansissel/fpm
[apache]: https://httpd.apache.org/
[vagrant-code]: vagrant/
```

8.2 scripts/README.md

```
# Scripts
```

This directory includes scripts used for development that didn't really fit with a specific part of a project ****or**** had multiple purposes.

The scripts are exclusively written in Bash and focus on operatics.

The 'ci' directory includes scripts intended for Continuous Integration.

If you are interested in how a component is used, see if it has a script associated with that.

The CI system we intended to use heavily was TravisCI.

Most of the 'ci' scripts do not get used except for the one that builds the software ('transformer.sh'). That said most of the scripts are [mostly] accurate, just not robust enough for an automation build system.

8.3 xzes/README.md

```
# XZES Projects
```

These components include:

- 'transformer'
- 'cgi-glue'
- 'frontend'

Each project includes it's own README which self-describes the component, what it does, and how it works

```
## xzes.conf
```

This file is the Apache config for the XZES40-Transformer application.

Feel free to edit this to change the port the application runs on, add security certificates, pretty much anything you would do in an Apache HTTPD config.

```
## xzesd.service
```

This is the systemd service file for xzesd.

It automatically restarts the application, manages forking the process into the background, and aggregates xzesd stdout to the Linux logging service.

8.4 xzes/cgi-glue/README.md

```
# cgi-glue
```

This component of the project is a python CGI script which accepts HTTP requests via Apache, processes them into a format that the xzesd daemon can read, saves uploaded files, waits for the transformation to complete, and responds with the output.mdt from the daemon.

'xzes.py' is the meat of it. Read the comments or more information.

'simple_test.sh' is used to test to see if the application is running correctly. Pass it an xml and xsl file (in that order) and see if it responds correctly.

'benchmarks.sh' was used to benchmark the speed of the application for grading purposes.

This is essentially treated by the frontend as a **very** simple.mdt-based web API.

A form with two files ('xml', 'xsl') and parameters ('{key: val, key2, val2}') are accepted, processed, serialized, and sent to the daemon over a local network connection ('localhost:40404').

8.5 xzes/transformer/README.md

Transformer

This is the C++ application which transforms and XML and XML style-sheet documents into an output XML document.

This transformation is requested over a local network connection on 'localhost:40404' via an Apache CGI script found in 'cgi-script' (located in the parent directory).

Usage

Building

Once you're in a VM with the correct packages installed (check the 'vagrant' directory for a reference as to what those packages are), you can build the project.

```

```
(transformer)$ make
[... lots of verbose output ...]
```

```

CLI Usage

Now that you've built the project you can **use** it.

How fancy.

```

```
user@host:transformer$./build/xzesd & # This runs the daemon in a background process
[2] 14876
user@host:transformer$./build/main.py `pwd`/examples/simple.xml `pwd`/examples/simple.xsl /tmp/example
.xml
user@host:transformer$ cat /tmp/example.xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?><out>Hello</out>
```

```

Development

To develop the application you will need

- A Debian Linux host (probably a virtual machine).
- The C++ dependencies listed in the 'vagrant' directory in the 'setup.sh' script.
- The ability to host a website locally.

Using Vagrant

Vagrant us a convenient tool for using a portable Virtual Machine.
 Our development environment depends heavily on Vagrant.
 It automatically runs a setup script which installs the dependencies, builds the binary, installs apache , sets up the daemon service, and starts the webserver to be accessed on your local virtual machine.

```

```
(XZES40-Transformer/)$ cd vagrant
(XZES40-Transformer/vagrant)$ vagrant up
Bringing machine 'default' up with 'virtualbox' provider...
==> default: Checking if box 'debian/jessie64' is up to date..
[...]
==> default: Vanilla Debian box. See https://atlas.hashicorp.com/debian/ for help and bug reports
(transformer/vagrant)$ vagrant ssh
[...]
vagrant@jessie:~$ cd xzes/xzes/transformer
```

```

See the file 'vagant/README.md' for more information about the Vagrant development environment.

Even if you are not using Vagrant, the README and setup script should help you start contributing if you want to do that.

Structure

This project is organized according to a ['better than nothing' standardized structure][cpp-project].
 This looks as follows:

```
```
project/
|-- build
| '-- generated binaries (*.o, main)
|-- doc
| '-- documentation (*.txt, *.md, *.rst)
|-- examples
| '-- code examples not necessary for building but helpful
|-- include
| '-- headers (*.h, *.hpp)
|-- lib
| '-- external dependencies (*.h, *.hpp, *.c, *.cpp)
|-- Makefile
|-- src
| '-- code (*.c, *.cpp)
`-- test
 '-- unit tests (*.c, *.cpp)
```

```  
In addition to this structure, each source code file has

- A '.hpp' file in the 'include' directory which outlines the classes, methods, and functions for that component.
- A '.cpp' file in the 'src' directory which implements the classes, methods, and functions in that component.
- A '.md' file in the 'doc' directory which covers the design, co.mdt, and oddities of that component.

All components in the project are compiled into '.o' files in the 'build/' directory.
The entrypoint binary is compiled to 'build/main'.

Documentation

Documentation about the code is written in the 'doc' directory but the source files are also self-documented.

For reference the 'doc' directory tends to talk about the high-level concepts (what a component is supposed to achieve and how it fits in) while the code documentation is targeted at helping developers find bugs and implement features.

[cpp-project]: <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/10782554/how-to-organize-a-c-project#10782577>

8.6 xzes/transformer/test/simple_test_file/README.md.md

How to use this test?

In the command-line

To auto-run the tests run the following command in this directory:

```  
./simple\_test.sh  
```

This can be run in the virtual machine, or on your local system.
It depends on the application being available on '192.168.33.22:8000'.

In the browser

Once the application is up and running using the Vagrant setup script, go to the address '192.168.33.22:8000'.

For each pair of files in this directory ('sample1.xml'+'sample1.xsl', etc), upload the pair, click 'Transform Files' and when the button becomes available click 'View Raw XML'.

For each sample you can also add parameters.

The accepted parameter keys are 'param1', 'param2', etc. up to 'param5'.

The key must be one of those but the value may be anything you want.

'sample1' does not use parameters, but all of them can accept parameters.

Click the 'View Raw XML' button to refresh the document preview.

Click 'Download Output' to download a copy of the transformed file.

How do I know it works?

In the CLI you should see 200 OK response output from 'curl', and transformed XML documents.

For the web-browser testing you should see the output of the transformation in the preview.

If you upload a *non* XML/Style Sheet you should see an error message.

8.7 xzes/transformer/doc/lib.md

Lib

The library ('lib') is used for miscellaneous functions used across the project. This is kept as small as possible since any large objects and groups of similar methods will be broken out into their own components (like the Document class).

8.8 xzes/transformer/doc/README.md

Documentation

These documents are designed for developers to get an understanding of what the application is, what each file/component is doing, and in some cases why it was designed that way.

Read at your own peril.

8.9 xzes/transformer/doc/daemon.md

```
# Application Daemon
```

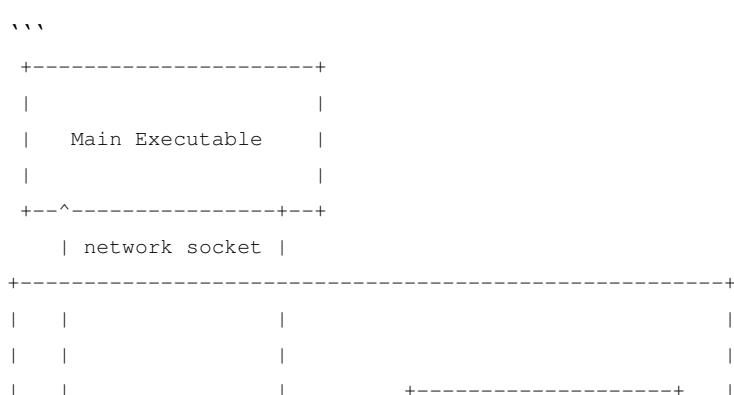
****NOTE**** In production the daemon is called 'xzesd' and is stored on disk at '/usr/local/bin/xzesd'.

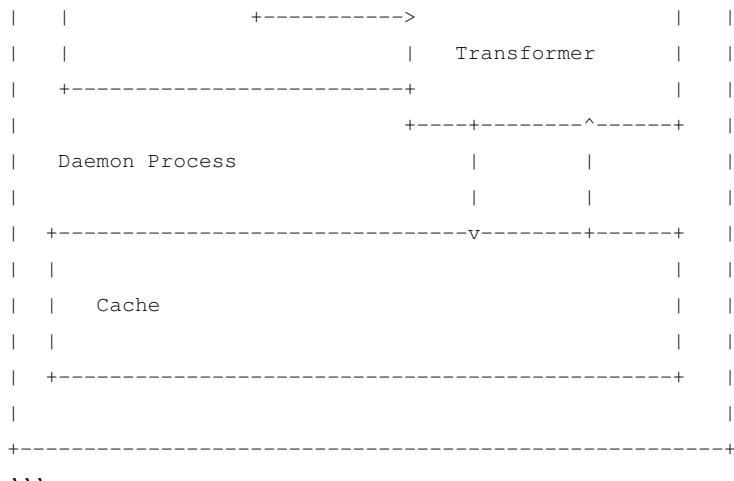
In order to preserve state in the in-memory cache, XZES has a long-running daemon.

This could have been implemented a number of ways: Redis, a database, carrier pigeons,

We chose an in memory cache as the volatility is not hyper detrimental to the goals of the application (convenience > speed).

Here is roughly how that daemon works and how it receives jobs





```
## Usage
```

The daemon is included as a systemd service in the application's codebase ('xzesd.service'). This service is setup and enabled in the 'vagrant' setup script.

The daemon can be started manually with the following commands:

```
...
$ make          # Build the daemon
[... successful build ...]
$ ./build/xzesd & # spawns a daemon process in the background
[1] 14877
...
```

... and tested like so:

```
...
$ ./build/main.py 'pwd'/examples/simple.xml 'pwd'/examples/simple.xsl # check that the dameon is running
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?><out>Hello</out>
...
```

This assumes that the application is not running with the web-app component. To test that see the 'cgi-bin' directory's README.

```
## The Daemon process startup
```

1. When the 'daemon' binary is executed it sets up a long running process and goes into a state of cybernation.
2. This process starts by:
 - Opening and listening on a 'localhost:8000'
 - Allocating a block of memory for the cache.
 - Spawning a set of threads on which transformations may occur.

```
## Spawning a Transformation
```

1. When the 'main.py' script receives a request it is passed two files, input xml and xslt file-paths, as well as some parameters.
This is either done via the web API (tested with 'simple-test.sh' or a CLI directly talking to the daemon... probably the first of those two.
2. The 'main.py' script opens a local socket connection with the daemon process.
3. The request is passed in a tuple with the following format: '"request-id#,input-filename.xml,input-filename.xsl,output-filename.xml,{param1:value2},{param2:value2}..."'.
4. The daemon process the arguments checking for errors.
5. The daemon process spawns a thread and calls the 'transform_documents' method in that thread.
6. Once the thread completes the transformation it returns a status code which is propagated up to the 'main.py' script and returns to the calling process.

8.10 xzes/transformer/doc/main.md

Main

NOTE This file has been deprecated in favor of 'daemon.cpp'.
Please read the daemon document instead of this one.

Main is the entrypoint for the entire application.

It essentially just parses command-line arguments and either passes those to the Transformer or yells at the user for using the application wrong.

8.11 xzes/transformer/doc/cache.md

Cache

The caching component of XZES40-Transformer is designed to create an easily usable Caching API for the Transformer and Document components.

Cache uses the XercesC keyList to manage the stored state.

The data structure of the keyList is link list.

Although link list is slower than hash map, it was used because it was provided by the XercesC Library.

API

The current interface looks like this:

```
'''cpp
#include <lib.hpp>
#include <keylist.hpp>
#include <cstdlib>

class Cache {
private:
    KeyListEntry *theList;

public:
    Cache();
    bool search(id_t);
    doc_t* get( id_t );
    int set( id_t,doc_t*,uri_t );
```

```

    int print_name();
    int print_id();

};

```

```

To clarify:

- `Cache()` which is the default constructor.
- `bool search(id\_t)` will search the content inside of cache, return true if there is file exist.
- `doc\_t\* (id\_t)` return the content from the cache.
- `int set(id\_t, doc\_t\*, uri\_t)` Set the content to cache. id\_t is id, uri\_t is name, doc\_t is content.
- `int print\_name()` is a debug tools for printing all content from the cache.
- `int print\_id()` is a debug tools for printing all id from the cache.

```
Usage
```

The only component of the Cache which is used is for storing Documents.

When a document is created it is parsed and cached automatically, given an input file.

The data flow is as follows:

1. The 'Document' constructor sets the URI and hash for the given document.
2. The 'Document' constructor checks if the document is already in the cache for the hash key.
  - if true, run cache.get and document.set\_content for 'Document' class.
  - if false, run document.compile(), and cache\_set() for 'Cache' storing.
5. Done

## **8.12 xzes/transformer/doc/main.py.md**

```
main.py
```

Main.py is a test python script for ensuring the application daemon communicates correctly over the local network.

This assumes that the daemon is running on 'localhost:40404'.

## **8.13 xzes/transformer/doc/keylist.md**

```
KeyList
```

The keylist file contains functionality used by the cache to store state, specifically parsed documents, in-memory.

## **8.14 xzes/transformer/doc/transform.md**

```
Transform
```

The 'transform\_documents' method wraps the use of the Transformer class.

```
Transformer class
```

The Transformer's job is to perform the actual application's purpose: transforming an XML document with an XSLT document and writing that to disk or printing it to the screen.

### ### Members

The three main members of the Transformer are:

- 'Document xml'
- 'Document xsl'
- 'Document out'

These are created with the Document class initializer outlined in the Document ... err... doc.

### ### Methods

When the Documents are created they contain three components themselves 'id', 'uri', and 'contents'. The 'contents' is the part we care about.

Using the Xerces and Xalan libraries we perform a DOM transformation with 'xml.contents' as the XML component of the transformation, 'xsl.contents' as the XSLT component and 'out.contents' as the output.

### ### Caching output documents

Once the 'xml' and 'xsl' documents are initialized the cache gets requested for a document with the id 'xml.contents + xsl.contents'.

This is a unique identifier at which all output documents are stored.

If the output document already exists then we bypass the entire transformation process and return this cached output document.

Once saved the output document is saved to the cache by it's own 'id' \*\*and\*\* by the 'id' 'xml.contents + xsl.contents'.

Only output documents have a double-length id so there should be no collisions.

## 8.15 xzes/transformer/doc/parse.md

### # Parse

The file 'parse.cpp' contains functionality for parsing input received from the user via the python CGI script into a struct which is easy to operate on.

That input is in the following format:

```
'"job_id,xml_file_path,xsl_file_path,output_file_path,key1,val1,key2,val2,key3,..."'
```

This means that the daemon receives what essentially amounts to a stream which is then parsed.

The 'key1,val1,key2,val2' are tuples of key=val pairs passed to the transformer for custom transformations.

## 8.16 xzes/transformer/doc/parallel.md

```
Parallel Computation
```

Parallel computation is how XZES40-Transformer hold the faster transformer performance.

Parallel computation will hold multiply threats for XZES40-Transformer application.

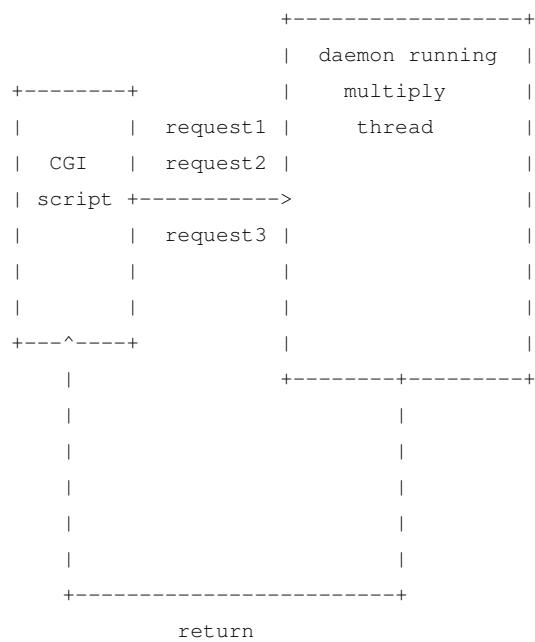
We will using Unix-socket lock function to handle the time conflict when we have mutiply file at the same time.

Here is how Parallel computation run.

1. First we have CGI script receive request from the front side.
2. CGI script may receive mutiply request at the same time, but they only can write at one time.
3. Daemon receive request and have mutiply thread to transfer the document, but only can return a transferred file at one time for one request.

---

## Here is a map how parallel looks like:



---

## Here is the time slot represent how parallel looks like:

### Daemon:

Request 1 received ->> create thread ->> do transformer ->> lock socket ->> return file ->> unlock

```

socket

Request 2 received ->> create thread ->> do transformer ->> __wait,locked socket__ ->> lock socket
->> return file ->> unlock socket

CGI script:

Request 1 send ->> lock socket ->> write to the daemon ->> unlock socket ->>receive return file

Request 2 send ->> __wait,locked socket__ ->> lock socket after detect unlock ->> write to daemon ->>
unlock socket ->> receive return file

```

## 8.17 xzes/transformer/doc/document.md

# Document

Document is a C++ class with three main components, as well as methods which operate on those components

Documents are stored and retrieved from the Cache and are operated on by the Transformer.

While we could use the Xerces and Xalan object natively, this wrapper allows for a seperation of concerns.

The Cache can worry about storing an arbitrary 'class', the Transformer worries about transforming the 'Document.contents', and the each component can be developed (mostly) seperate.

## Members

Here is the rough outline of the variables in a Document:

- 'uri': The file path or remote address that the contents of a Document are stored.
- 'id': Is a \*\*unique\*\* ID, probably created by hashing some safe metadata about the source file.
- 'contents': Are the \*\*parsed\*\* XML or XSLT Document.

The raw contents of a file are not stored, only the parsed version.

This may change going forward.

## Methods

The Document class has a few methods:

- 'Document()' is the initializer.
- 'set/get\_uri()' set and get the URI respectively.
- 'set/get\_id()' set and get the ID respectively.
- 'set/get\_contents()' set and get the contents respectively.
- 'to\_str()' processes the 'contents' member and outputs an XML/XSLT document (useful for 'output' documents).
- 'to\_file()' processes the 'contents' member and outputs the XML/XSLT document to a file (useful for 'output' documents).

## Dataflow

The Document class is the component of the project which interfaces with the Cache the most.  
Here is why:

1. For a Document to be created, it must be passed a URI (file path or HTTP address).
2. The URI is parsed and based on that an ID is created by either hashing the file contents or hashing metadata about the remote URI.
3. The constructor then checks to see if the Document ID is a key in the Cache.
  - If the Document is *not* in the Cache it is parsed and stored in the Cache.
  - If the Document *is* in the Cache the value of 'contents' is filled with the Cached value.
4. Once the Document is initialized it is returned (probably to the Transformer).

The Document component was broken out into its own file as it pertained to both Caching and Transformation and seemed complicated enough not to need its own source file.

## **8.18 xzes/frontend/README.md**

```
xzes frontend
```

This is the frontend web interface for xzes40.

It is served via an Apache httpd server.

The Apache conf can be found in this component's parent directory.

```
Dependencies
```

The frontend depends on [FileSaver.js] [filesaver.js] (git commit 4db4a78) and [Blob.js] [blob.js] (git commit 079824b), both licensed under the MIT license, for downloading transformed files.

To upgrade these dependencies:

1. Visit their GitHub pages
2. download 'FileSaver.js' and 'Blob.js' respectively.
3. replace the current copies of those files in this directory with the updated versions.

The frontend also depends on JQuery, which is resolved by a Content Delivery Network (CDN).  
If you need to use a local copy of JQuery, please consult the JQuery documentation for this task.  
It roughly looks like:

1. Download JQuery 3 (latest, full, minified).
2. Place it in this directory.
3. Replace the JQuery 'script' tag with a reference to the downloaded copy.

```
[blob.js]: https://github.com/eligrey/Blob.js
[filesaver.js]: https://github.com/eligrey/FileSaver.js/
```

## **8.19 vagrant/README.md**

```
Vagrant development environment
```

This development environment requires the installation of [Vagrant] [vagrant] (and probably [VirtualBox] [vbox]).

```
About the dev environment
```

The Vagrant box includes the following:

- Creates a Debian Jessie virtual machine.
- Mounts the repo to the '/xzes' directory (which is symlinked to '/home/vagrant/xzes').
- Installs the 'xerces' and 'xalan' libraries.
- Sets up the Apache 'xzes.py' script and VirtualHost.
- Enables and starts the 'xzesd' systemd service.

This is designed to a minimal virtualbox only consisting of what is \*necessary\* for the XZES application to run.

Nothing more, nothing less.

```
Usage
```

1. Install Vagrant and a virtual machine runner (VirtualBox for instance).
2. In a shell navigate to this directory.
3. Run 'vagrant up' to start the virtual machine.  
If everything works correctly this command will output debug information and exit successfully.  
**\*\*READ THE OUTPUT OF THIS COMMAND\*\***
4. Run 'vagrant ssh' to login to the virtual machine.
5. On your host OS, run 'vagrant suspend' to put the machine in hibernation.
6. On your host OS, run 'vagrant destroy' to destroy the machine.

This will not delete any data on your host machine, only data stored exclusively on the machine.

**\*\*NOTE:\*\*** You may need to install the vagrant plugin 'vagrant-vbguest' if you get an error about mounting directories:

```
```
$ vagrant plugin install vagrant-vbguest
```
```

Once the vagrant machine is up, i.e., just running 'vagrant up' successfully, you should be able to go to 'http://192.168.33.22:8000' in your web-browser and use an instance of the application for development.

```
Debugging
```

If you are using this to develop the application, you should use 'vagrant ssh' to login to the machine and run the following commands to figure out what is/is not working:

```
```
Is xzesd running?
$ sudo systemctl status xzesd
Is apache running?
$ sudo systemctl status apache2
What is the output of xzesd? (logs)
$ sudo journalctl -xe
Print all apache logs as they are generated.
Go to your browser and try using the website.
```

```
Only works if Apache is running (above)
$ sudo tail -f /var/log/apache2/*.log
```
```

```
About the setup script
```

The setup script in this directory is used to directly provision a stock Debian box.  
If you intend to deploy this application, start with that script and work from there.  
If you are on a Debian system and have checked out this code repository, you should be able to use the `setup.sh` script with limited changes to install the application from source.

```
Variables
```

The following scripts should be edited in the `setup.sh` script to correspond with the appropriate change in behavior.

```
'''bash
Ideally used in automation...
${TRAVIS_BUILD_DIR:="/xzes"}
Specifies the directory where the repository is checked out
${XZES_SRC_DIR:=$TRAVIS_BUILD_DIR}
Specifies where to install the application to
XZES_BIN="/usr/local/bin/"
Specifies where to push cgi scripts
XZES_WWW_BIN="/var/www/cgi-bin"
Where to put html/css/js files
XZES_WWW="/var/www/xzes"
If set to true, copies files instead of sym-linking them
XZES_INSTALL=false
set this to false if you do not want a symlink to the code in your homedirectory
otherwise set it to your user name
DEV_USER="vagrant"
'''
```

The most important would be `XZES\_INSTALL` which is a boolean to either install or not install the application, and `XZES\_SRC\_DIR` which specifies where the checkout of XZES40-Transformer is.

```
[vbox]: https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads
[vagrant]: https://www.vagrantup.com/docs/getting-started/
```

## **9 LEARNING: TECHNICAL**

## **10 LEARNING: PERSONAL**

## **11 ZIXUN LU**

## **12 SHUAI PENG**

## **13 ELIJAH C. VOIGT**

## **14 EXPO POSTER**

A color copy of the poster presented at expo can be found on the following page.

## Why we made XZES40 Transformer.

### Useful, Challenging, and Open Source

This project was chosen because it provided students the opportunity to create a real-world impact, solve an interesting problem, and contribute to their Free, Libre, and Open Source Community (FLOSS).

The software may be used by individual organization, and enterprise users to XML perform document transformations. This is a necessary and time consuming task which can now be done faster and in the cloud. It proved technically challenging in that it required an understanding of C programming, in-memory caching, parallel computation, application networking, and extensive library usage. The final product was shared with the FLOSS community, giving both our client, the Apache Software Foundation, and any the rest of the world a tool which is useful, usable, and free (*in more than one way*).

### Applications and uses

XML is a machine readable data markup language used to store any well-formed topic. XML Stylesheets are used to express transformations of a given XML document. These are used together to store large amounts of data, and “ask” the data a question like “How many employees in this XML file took less than three days of vacation, and make more than \$50,000 per year?”

XML document transformation is used for largely utilitarian purposes in a wide variety of fields. Police departments, corporate offices, academic institutions, and countless other organizations need and use XML documents and transformations.

The XZES40 application provides an easy to use and access platform for transforming such documents over the web.

## CS CAPSTONE PROJECT: XZES40 TRANSFORMER

### High Performance XML/XSLT Transformation Server



### Optimized for Speed and Convenience

The XZES40 Transformer takes two files as input, an XML document and XSLT stylesheet, and a variable number of custom build parameters or dependency files, and generates a new XML document. While this type of application is not new the concept has been improved with key optimizations and made accessible over the internet via a Web interface.

The strengths of this system are that it does not need to be installed locally on a user's system, but is still able to perform its tasks in a timely manner.

The application uses the Apache Xalan and Apache Xerces C++ libraries to perform XML document transformations and a Python CGI script running through an Apache HTTPD server to respond to incoming requests. The transformer daemon is optimized to perform fast transformations by caching previously encountered XML documents and performing document transformations in parallel when possible. The Python CGI script communicates with the Daemon over a local network socket; multiple requests are sent to the daemon and each one is serviced in a POSIX thread. Once the transformation is complete it is sent back to the user.

The web service runs on a remote server atop existing technologies so it can be run, managed, and modified by anybody with Linux and Apache HTTPD experience.

### Conclusions/Outcomes

The developed application can generate a new XML file given an XML input, Stylesheet input, and custom build parameters via a Web interface, all without error.

The minimum requirements were completed, like transforming XML documents, as well as many of the optimizations and benefits we set out to complete. The most direct benefit of these being a web interface to access the transformer over the internet. In addition to this we successfully completed a simple in-memory caching system and parallel transformation of the documents. In the end we gave users an application fast enough to be competitive with enterprise software, while still being convenient to use via the browser.

## The team behind XZES40 Transformer.

### XZES40 Transformer

Choose an XML file, XML stylesheet, and [optional] custom parameters.  
Click "Transform File" to download your transformed document.  
Upload your XML file: Choose file... No file chosen  
Upload your XSLT file: Choose file... No file chosen  
Add XML Parameters: Transform File

Made in association with the Oregon State University Capstone program and the Apache Software Foundation.



THE APACHE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION  
Apache®

For more information please visit [github.com/xzes40/xzes40transformer](https://github.com/xzes40/xzes40transformer)

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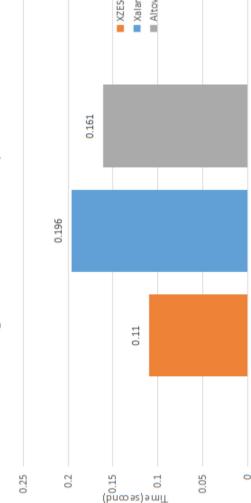
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### About the Team

Elijah, Shuai, and Zixun are fourth year Computer Science students at Oregon State University. Elijah is an Applied CS student focusing on mathematics and computer security, hoping for a career in systems engineering and games development. Shuai is a Systems CS student and is passionate about understanding and designing complex systems, looking for a career in software engineering. Zixun is a double major in CS and Business, intending to be an entrepreneur.

The team also thanks and appreciates

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