

Filling vs Padding/Trimming

- DFDL Terminology:
 - "*Padding*" and "*Trimming*" are about text *characters*
 - e.g., spaces at end of a string, leading zeros on a number.
 - "*Fill*" is about binary *bytes* being initialized or added
- Lots of data formats use these terms in their own way however.
 - Some will say "pad bytes" at the end of binary data records
 - DFDL calls this unused data *fill*.
 - Some will say "pad bytes" to align to a word boundary
 - DFDL calls this *alignment fill*.

Filling vs Padding/Trimming

- **dfdl:fillByte**
 - Used to fill in unused space when unparsing
 - Not used when parsing
 - Commonly **dfdl:fillByte="%#r00;"** (zero byte)
 - **%#rHH;** notation is a *DFDL Byte Entity* (aka a *raw byte*).
 - Useful for debugging **dfdl:fillByte="%#rFF;"** (all 1's)
 - Filled data will show up in data more visibly in hex dumps
 - Another suggestion: using fill byte of 'X' character 0x53.
 - Will show as 'XXXXXX...' in text dumps