NPRG036

XML Technologies



Lecture 7

Schematron, RELAX NG

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Lecture Outline

- ☐ XML schema languages
 - Best practices
- ☐ RELAX NG
- □ Schematron

Best Practices

Best Practices

- How to define XML schemas for various use cases
 - Are we going to use the schema <u>locally or share</u> it with others?
 - Will the schema <u>evolve</u>?
 - Are we going to preserve <u>multiple versions</u> of schemas?
- □ There are many recommendations
 - Fact: The W3C specification does not recommend anything

- ☐ Use the XML features fully:
- ☐ Use your <u>own</u> elements and attributes



- ☐ Use the XML features fully:
 - Maximize readability of XML documents using reasonable element and attribute names
 - Even though the names are longer
 - ☐ We can use (XML-specific) compression

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<o n="ORD001">
    <e><nm>Martin Necasky</nm></e>
    <il>
        <i><i><m>>5</m><c>>5</c></i></i>
        </o>
```



- ☐ Use the XML features fully:
 - Do not use <u>dot notation instead</u> of XML tree hierarchy

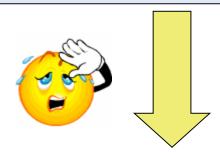
- ☐ Use the XML features fully:
 - Do not use <u>references instead of tree hierarchy</u>
 - □ They usually have less efficient processing
 - ☐ (Of course, in some cases it might make sense)
 - XML data model != relational data model



```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<selling>
    <order number="ORD001"><employee ref="Z002"/>...</order>
    <order number="ORD002"><employee ref="Z001"/>...</order>
    <employee id="Z001">...</employee>
    <employee id="Z001">...</employee>
    </selling>
```

- □ When to use elements and when attributes?
- ☐ There is no general rule, but:
 - An attribute can be specified <u>only once</u> for each element
 - An attribute can not have a <u>complex structure</u>
- ☐ If we assume new versions of schema, where complex structure or repetition is expected, element is a better choice
 - If we use attributes, we must:
 - ☐ Transform all existing documents
 - ☐ Change all XPath paths
 - □ ...
 - Repetition can be solved using a multivalue attribute, but its further parsing is more difficult

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<order number="ORD001">
  <employee name="Martin Necasky" email="martinnec@gmail.com" />
  </order>
```



```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<order number="ORD001">
  <employee>
    <name><first>Martin</first><surname>Necasky</surname></name>
    <email>martinnec@gmail.com</email>
    <email>necasky@ksi.mff.cuni.cz</email>
    </employee>
</order>
```

- □ If we want to prefer value A to value B, we use for A element and for B attribute
 - B says something about A, it contains metadata



- □ The decision may also depend on the API we use for data access
- □ SAX: all attribute values are provided in a single event startElement
 - May be useful, when we do not want to wait for reading of subelements
 - The resulting code will be simpler and more lucid

- Anything that can be an attribute, can be also an element
- In general: Use attributes so that the work with the data is suitable for the particular application

Namespaces

- Use them!
 - When you do not use them, you limit others in usage of your schemas
- A namespace is identified with a URI
 - It is good when you can put there something related
 - Documentation of the schema, examples, references to related schemas, ...
 - The schema itself also, but it is not compulsory
 - Note: URI does not mean that it is an address of the schema! It is an identifier!

Namespaces

- Usually in a single system you will design multiple related schemas and re-use existing
- In this context there are three key approaches for work with namespaces
 - Heterogeneous
 - Homogeneous
 - Chameleon
- Example:
 - order.xsd uses
 - customer.xsd
 - product.xsd

Heterogeneous Design of XSDs

☐ Each schema has its <u>own target namespace</u> (attribute targetNamespace of element schema)

```
<xsd:schema
targetNamespace=
  "http://www.customer.org">
    ...
</xsd:schema>
```

```
<xsd:schema
targetNamespace=
  "http://www.product.org">
    ...
</xsd:schema>
```





Homogeneous Design of XSDs

One namespace for all schemas

```
<xsd:schema
targetNamespace=
  "http://www.order.org">
    ...
</xsd:schema>
```

```
<xsd:schema
targetNamespace=
  "http://www.order.org">
    ...
</xsd:schema>
```





```
<xsd:schema
  targetNamespace="http://www.order.org">
  <xsd:include schemaLocation="customer.xsd"/>
  <xsd:include schemaLocation="product.xsd"/>
  ...
  </xsd:schema>
```

Chameleon Design of XSDs

- ☐ Chameleons do not have target namespace
 - No attribute targetNamespace
- Chameleons become a part of namespace into which they are included

```
<xsd:schema>
...
</xsd:schema>
```







```
<xsd:schema
targetNamespace="http://www.order.org">
  <xsd:include schemaLocation="customer.xsd"/>
  <xsd:include schemaLocation="product.xsd"/>
  ...
  </xsd:schema>
```

Namespaces – Recommendations

- Homogeneous approach:
 - For XML schemas which are conceptually linked
 - i.e. describe the same problem domain and have a common administrator
 - There are no conflicts among element / attribute names
 - Collision: Two globally defined elements / attributes with the same name but different type
 - There are no conflicts among types
 - Collision: Two globally defined data types with the same name but different content model

Namespaces – Recommendations

- ☐ Heterogeneous approach:
 - If the XML schemas describe domains of different problems
 - If the XML schemas have distinct administrators
 - If there may occur a collision of elements / attributes / types

Namespaces – Recommendations



- If the XML schema defines general types which do not have a special semantics or which can be used regardless the problem domain
 - e.g. data types for an address, name, e-mail, ...
 - e.g. general data types like array / list of items, string of a particular length, ...

- ☐ Your XML schemas will evolve over time
 - Users have new requirements
 - The world is changing
 - **...**
- If we use XML data format, we usually have to manage multiple versions of each schema
- □ The users must be provided with the version they are interested in and want to use
 - And, of course, the XML documents valid against the selected version

- ☐ 1st option: XML Schema attribute version of element schema
 - Problem: XML documents do not know this information
 - This version cannot be directly checked

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<order ... >
</order>
This is NOT the version
```

- 2nd option: own versioning attribute declared for the root element
 - XML documents must have correct version of XML schema in the root element
 - ☐ If not, validation reveals it
 - Problem: XML documents must change also in case when it is not necessary (the version must change)

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<order version="AEIO.U" >
</order>
```

- ☐ 3rd option: including the number of version into the value of attribute targetNamespace
 - XML documents can use the namespace (with particular version) suitable for particular situation

```
<xsd:schema
  targetNamespace=
  ".../orders/1.0">
  ...
</xsd:schema>
```

- ☐ Use versions for your XML schemas
- ☐ Force the XML documents to contain version number of the schema
 - Somehow
- Provide the users with all versions of XML schemas
- Specify versioning notation so that the users know which changes influence validity of XML documents
 - **E.g.** *X.Y*, where:
 - □ New Y means that XML documents valid against X.Y-1 ARE valid against X.Y
 - New X means that XML documents valid against X-1.Y DO NOT HAVE TO BE valid against X.0

- ☐ Another problem:
 - The provider of XML data has several versions of XML schemas (1, ..., n)
 - The consumer wants XML data valid against version i
 - The provider does not want to store the XML data in all possible versions
 - ☐ Inefficient (space requirements, management, ...)
- ☐ Solution:
 - Internal representation such that:
 - ☐ The data are stored only once
 - We can export the data into the version required by user
 - Using XSLT | XQuery | SQL/XML

Customer 1:

- number
- name
- email

Customer 2:

- code
- name
 - first
 - surname
- email+ | phone
- discount

Customer 3:

- code
- name
 - first
 - surname
- email*
- phone







Customer:

- number
- first
- surname
- email*
- phone?
- discount?

- ☐ A basic strategy is derivation of new data types from existing ones using extension
- ☐ But, what if:
 - Authors want <u>more freedom</u> in extension of data types?
 - But they cannot modify the schema
 - We have <u>insufficient information</u> for definition of the type?
 - The <u>variability</u> of the content is so extensive that we cannot cover it in the schema?
 - The structure of data <u>changes so fast</u> that we cannot change it on time?
 - □ e.g. the domain of mobile phones

☐ If extension is insufficient, use any!

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<publication
   xmlns="http://www.publication.org"
   xmlns:rc="http://www.review.org">
   <name>
   King's speech
   </name>
   <price>LOW</price>
   <rc:review>
   ...
   </rc:review>
   <publisher>The best one</publisher>
   </publication>
```

But...

- ☐ Type Publication is nondeterministic!
 - When the parser validates publisher, it does not know where it is defined

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<publication
   xmlns="http://www.publication.org"
   xmlns="http://www.review.org">
   <name>
   King's speech
   </name>
   <price>LOW</price>
   <rc:review>
   ...
   </rc:review>
   <publisher>The best one</publisher>
</publication>
```

□ Better:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<publication
   xmlns="http://www.publication.org"
   xmlns="http://www.review.org">
   <name>
   King's speech
   </name>
   <price>LOW</price>
   <other>
        <rc:review>
        </other>
        <publisher>The best one</publisher>
</publication>
```

Conclusion

- □ The provided set of cases was not complete, but a set of motivating examples
 - There are numerous other best practices, recommendations etc.
 - ☐ More or less reasonable
- □ General advice: If you design a set of XML schemas, first think about the particular application and consequences

RELAX NG

RELAX NG

- □ Results from two older languages:
 - TREX (Tree Regular Expressions for XML)
 - □ James Clark
 - □ http://www.thaiopensource.com/trex/
 - RELAX (Regular Language Description for XML)
 - Murata Makoto
 - □ http://www.xml.gr.jp/relax/
- ISO standard: ISO/IEC 19757-2:2002
- Based on the idea of patterns
 - RELAX NG schema = a pattern of XML document
 - Note: XML Schema is considered to be based on types

General features

- □ Simple and easy-to-learn
- Has two types of syntaxes: XML a compact (non-XML)
 - Mutually convertible
 - XML Schema does not have a compact version
- Supports namespaces
 - DTD does not
- Has unlimited support for unordered sequences
 - XML Schema does not
- Has unlimited support for mixed content
 - DTD does not
- It enables to use a wide set of simple data types
 - e.g. from XML Schema

XML vs. Compact Syntax

```
<element xmlns="http://relaxng.org/ns/structure/1.0"</pre>
         name="employee">
 <attribute name="id">
  <text/>
                                       element employee {
 </attribute>
                                        attribute id { text },
 <element name="name">
                                        element name { text },
  <text/>
                                        element surname { text },
 </element>
                                        element salary { text } }
 <element name="surname">
  <text/>
 </element>
 <element name="salary">
                                       <employee id="101">
  <text/>
                                        <name>Irena</name>
 </element>
                                        <surname>Holubova</surname>
</element>
                                        <salary>1000000</salary>
                                       </employee>
```

□ Arbitrary text: <text/> text
□ Attribute: <attribute name="note"> attribute note { text }
 <text/> </attribute>
 <attribute name="note"/>
□ Element with text content:

```
<element name="name">
  <text/>
  </element>
```

element name { text }

☐ Empty element:

```
<element name="hr">
  <empty/>
  </element>
```

element hr { empty }

☐ Element with an attribute (and text content):

```
element person {
  attribute id { text },
  text }
element person {
  text,
  attribute id { text } }
```

The order is not important

☐ Element with subelements (and an attribute):

```
<element name="person">
 <element name="name">
  <text/>
 </element>
 <element name="surname">
  <text/>
 </element>
 <element name="salary">
  <text/>
 </element>
 <attribute name="id"/>
</element>
```

```
element person {
   element name { text },
   element surname { text },
   element salary { text },
   attribute id { text } }
```

Optional pattern:

```
<element name="person">
 <element name="name">
  <text/>
 </element>
 <optional>
  <element name="fax">
   <text/>
  </element>
 </optional>
 <optional>
  <attribute name="note"/>
 </optional>
</element>
```

```
element person {
  element name { text },
  element fax { text }?,
  attribute note { text }? }
```

. . .

```
<element name="person">
 <element name="name">
  <text/>
 </element>
 <element name="surname">
  <text/>
 </element>
 <optional>
  <element name="fax">
   <text/>
  </element>
  <attribute name="note"/>
 </optional>
</element>
```

```
element person {
  element name { text },
  element surname { text },
  ( element fax { text },
    attribute note { text } )? }
```

Neither in DTD nor in XML Schema 1.0 can be expressed

version 1.1: assert

□ Repeating patterns:

```
<element name="person">
    <element name="name">
        <text/>
        </element>
        <oneOrMore>
        <element name="phone">
              <text/>
              </element>
             </element>
              </element>
              </element>
              </element>
              </element>
              </element>
              </element>
```

```
element person {
  element name { text },
  element phone { text }+,
  attribute id { text } }
```

zeroOrMore ⇔ *

Precise number of occurrences as in DTD

Non-trivial

Ordered sequences:

```
<element name="person">
    <element name="name">
        <text/>
        </element>
        <text/>
        </element>
        <element name="surname">
              <text/>
        </element>
        <element name="email">
              <text/>
        </element>
        </element>
        </element>
        </element>
```

```
<element name="person">
 <group>
  <element name="name">
   <text/>
  </element>
  <element name="surname">
   <text/>
  </element>
  <element name="email">
   <text/>
  </element>
 </group>
</element>
```

☐ Choice:

```
<element name="person">
 <element name="name">
  <text/>
 </element>
 <choice>
  <element name="email">
   <text/>
  </element>
  <element name="phone">
   <text/>
  </element>
 </choice>
</element>
```

```
element person {
  element name { text },
  ( element email { text } |
    element phone { text } ) }
```

☐ Unordered sequences:

```
<element name="person">
 <element name="name">
  <text/>
 </element>
 <interleave>
  <element name="email">
   <text/>
  </element>
  <element name="phone">
   <text/>
  </element>
 </interleave>
</element>
```

```
element person {
  element name { text },
  ( element email { text } &
    element phone { text } ) }
```

Contrary to XML
Schema no
restrictions

☐ Mixed content:

```
<element name="para">
 <interleave>
  <zeroOrMore>
   <element name="bold">
    <text/>
   </element>
  </zeroOrMore>
  <zeroOrMore>
   <element name="italic">
    <text/>
   </element>
  </zeroOrMore>
  <text/>
 </interleave>
</element>
```

```
element para {
   element pojem { bold }* &
   element odkaz { italic }* &
   text }
```

- <text/> corresponds to arbitrary number of text nodes
 - Does not need + or *



```
<element name="para">
<mixed>
  <zeroOrMore>
   <element name="bold">
    <text/>
   </element>
  </zeroOrMore>
  <zeroOrMore>
   <element name="italic">
    <text/>
   </element>
  </zeroOrMore>
</mixed>
</element>
```

```
<mixed>
   <group>
    <zeroOrMore>
     <element name="bold">
      <text/>
     </element>
    </zeroOrMore>
    <zeroOrMore>
     <element name="italic">
      <text/>
     </element>
    </zeroOrMore>
   </group>
  </mixed>
 </element>
```

```
element para {
   mixed {
     element bold { text }* &
     element italic { text }* } }
```

group \Rightarrow interleave:

- Built-in: string and token
- Typically we use XML Schema data types

```
datatypes xs = "..."
element price { xs:decimal }
```

element price { xsd:decimal }

xsd = default for XML Schema

□ Parameters of data types:

```
element salary {
  xsd:decimal {
  minInclusive = "100000"
  maxExclusive = "1000000" } },
```

"1001" | "1002" | "1003" }

Enumerations:

```
<attribute name="ports">
    <choice>
        <value>1001</value>
        <value>1002</value>
        <value>1003</value>
        </choice>
        </attribute>
        attribute ports {
```

■ Negative enumeration:

```
element color {
string - ( "black" | "white" ) }
```

■ Multivalue type:

```
<attribute name="dimensions">
    list>
        <data type="decimal"/>
        <data type="decimal"/>
        <data type="decimal"/>
        <choice>
        <value>cm</value>
        </attribute>
        </list>
        </attribute>
```

dimensions="40 38.5 90 cm"

Conclusion

- Other schema components:
 - Naming of schema parts + repeatable usage
 - Usage of namespaces
 - Documentation and comments
- Other sources of information:
 - RELAX NG Tutorial:
 - http://www.relaxng.org/tutorial-20011203.html
 - RELAX NG Compact Syntax Tutorial:
 http://www.relaxng.org/compact-tutorial-20030326.html
 - http://www.relaxng.org/

Schematron

Schematron

- ISO standard: ISO/IEC 19757-3:2006
- □ Based on the idea of <u>patterns</u>
 - Similar meaning as in XSLT
 - Does not define a grammar
 - DTD, XML Schema, RELAX NG are grammar-based
- Defines a set of rules which must be followed by a valid XML document
 - Expressed using XPath
 - For validation we can use an XSLT processor

Structure of Schema

Rod	ot element < schema xmlns="http://purl.oclc.org/dsdl/schematron">
	contains:
	<title> - name of schema (optional)</td></tr><tr><td></td><td><pre><ns prefix="" uri="" /> – declarations of namespace prefixes (arbitrary amount)</pre></td></tr><tr><td></td><td><pre><pattern> - (at least one) pattern containing:</pre></td></tr><tr><td></td><td><rule context=""> – (at least one) rule applied in the context and containing subelements:</td></tr><tr><td></td><td><assert test=""> – if XPath expression in attribute test
does not return true, the result of validation is the content
of assert</td></tr><tr><td></td><td><report test=""> – if XPath expression in attribute test does return true, the result of validation is the content of report</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table></title>

Example

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<schema xmlns="http://www.ascc.net/xml/schematron">
 <pattern name="The list of employees is not empty">
  <rule context="employees">
   <assert test="employee">There must be at least one employee in
    the list</assert>
   <report test="sum(employee/salary) &gt; 500000">The sum of salaries
    can not be greater than 500.000</report>
  </rule>
 </pattern>
 <pattern name="Rules for an employee">
  <rule context="employee">
   <assert test="name">An employee must have a name.</assert>
   <assert test="surname"> An employee must have a surname.</assert>
   <assert test="email"> An employee must have an e-mail.</assert>
   <assert test="@id"> An employee must have an id.</assert>
```

Example

```
<report test="name[2]|surname[2]">An employee can not have multiple
names.</report>
  </rule>
 </pattern>
 <pattern name="Duplicity of IDs">
  <rule context="employee">
   <report test="count(../employee[@id = current()/@id]) &gt; 1">
    Duplicity in ID <value-of select="@id"/> of element
    <name/>.</report>
  </rule>
 </pattern>
</schema>
    <name> - name of current element
    <value-of select="..."> - result of XPath expression in select
```

Validation

- Option A: Special SW / library for Schematron
- □ Option B: Arbitrary XSLT processor
 - There exists an XSLT script which transforms Schematron schemas to XSLT scripts
 - The resulting XSLT script is applied on XML documents
 - The result is content of assert a report elements

Combination with XML Schema

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"</p>
            xmlns:sch="http://www.ascc.net/xml/schematron">
 <xs:element name="employees">
  <xs:annotation>
   <xs:appinfo>
    <sch:pattern name="Do we have enough for salaries?">
     <sch:rule context="employees">
      <sch:report test="sum(employee/salary) &gt; 50000">The sum of
salaries can not be greater than 50.000.</sch:report>
     </sch:rule>
    </sch:pattern>
   </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>
  <xs:complexType>
   <!-- ... definition of element content in XSD ... -->
  </xs:complexType>
 </xs:element>
</xs:schema>
```

Combination with XML Schema

- □ Validation:
 - Option A: Special SW / library for Schematron
 - Option B: Using XSLT we extract a Schematron schema and validate it

Combination with RELAX NG

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<element xmlns="http://relaxng.org/ns/structure/1.0"</pre>
         datatypeLibrary="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-datatypes"
         xmlns:sch="http://www.ascc.net/xml/schematron"
         name="employees">
 <sch:pattern name="Do we have enough for salaries?">
  <sch:rule context="employees">
   <sch:report test="sum(employee/salary) &gt; 50000">The sum of
salaries can not be greater than 50.000.</sch:report>
  </sch:rule>
 </sch:pattern>
 <oneOrMore>
  <!-- ... definition of element content in XSD ... -->
 </ore>
</element>
```

Combination with RELAX NG

☐ There exists also a compact non-XML version:

```
namespace sch = "http://www.ascc.net/xml/schematron"
[sch:pattern [name = "Do we have enough for salaries? "
sch:rule [context = "employees"
sch:report [test = "sum(employee/salary) > 50000"
"The sum of salaries can not be greater than 50.000." ]]]]]
```

- Validation:
 - Option A: Special SW / library for Schematron
 - Option B: Using XSLT we extract a Schematron schema and validate it

Conclusion

- A different approach to schema validation
 - Does not define a grammar
 - Usage of XPath + combination with other languages
 - The language itself has limitations the grammar definition is still more user friendly
- Inspiration for XML Schema assert element
- Other information:

http://www.schematron.com/