Xalan-J's XSLT 3.0 specification implementation status

Document modified: 2025-04-01

Document author : Apache Xalan-J team

(1) XSL Transformations (XSLT) 3.0 and XML Path Language (XPath) 3.1

The XSLT 3.0 specification defines the following conformance features, and the level to which Xalan-J implements them.

a) Basic XSLT processor Supported

XSLT 3.0 instructions and XPath language features, whose implementations are available are described in subsequent

sections of this document, below.

b) Schema aware XSLT processor Supported

An XML Schema document can be imported into an XSL stylesheet using xsl:import-schema instruction, and schema's global type definitions and element & attribute declarations

can be used within the stylesheet.

Schema aware feature where XML input document,

resulting in node tree having detailed type annotations on all possible nodes is not supported. i.e, XPath processor is

natively not schema aware.

c) Serialization feature Supported

A new support for xsl:output method="json" is available, in

addition to existing xsl:output method values.

d) Streaming feature Not supported

e) Dynamic evaluation feature Supported

f) XPath 3.1 feature, for arrays Supported

g) Higher-order functions feature Supported

Following are details of XSL 3.0 family of language features, whose working implementation is available on Xalan-J's dev repos branch 'xalan-j_xslt3.0_mvn'.

1.1) XSLT 3.0

XSLT version 3.0 specification: https://www.w3.org/TR/xslt-30/

- 1) xsl:for-each-group instruction
- 2) xsl:analyze-string instruction
- 3) xsl:iterate instruction
- 4) xsl:for-each instruction implementation improvements, for new XSLT 3.0 requirements. Particularly, xsl:for-each instruction being able to iterate XPath atomic values in addition to nodes.
- 5) xsl:evaluate instruction
- 6) xsl:function instruction
- 7) xsl:sequence instruction
- 8) The following XSL stylesheet elements can now have attributes 'type' and 'validation': xsl:element, literal result element (xsl:validation and xsl:attribute), xsl:attribute, xsl:copy-of, xsl:copy.
- 9) xsl:attribute element can now have both, "select" attribute and child sequence constructor. But only one of these is allowed to be present on xsl:attribute instruction as specified by XSLT 3.0 specification.
- 10) xsl:import-schema instruction
- 11) xsl:variable instruction evaluation to node set instead of result tree fragment (RTF). This XSLT specification change was first introduced in XSLT 2.0. With XSLT 1.0, if RTF has to be used as node set, then it has to be converted to node set using node-set extension function.
- 12) The sequence type expression "as" attribute on XSLT elements xsl:variable, xsl:template, xs:function, xsl:param, xsl:with-param, xsl:evaluate.
- 13) XSL template tunnel parameters
- 14) xsl:value-of instruction can now produce result either via its "select" attribute, or by xsl:value-of instruction's child sequence constructor. xsl:value-of instruction can now have an attribute named 'separator' as well.
- 15) xsl:merge instruction
- 16) xsl:fork instruction
- 17) xsl:source-document instruction
- 18) XSLT function implementations
 - a) New function implementations : fn:current-grouping-key, fn:current-group, fn:regex-group, fn:current-merge-group, fn:current-merge-key

b) Function implementation enhancements: fn:system-property

Support for following new Xalan-J XSL transformation properties:

http://apache.org/xalan/validation (used to enable XML input document validation when xsl:import-schema instruction is used within an XSL stylesheet, with default value false)

http://apache.org/xalan/xslevaluate (used to enable XSL stylesheet instruction xsl:evaluate, with default value false)

These new XSL transformation properties can be set, using Xalan-J's class TransformerImpl when XSL transformation is invoked via API, or via Xalan-J command line.

1.2) XPath 3.1

XPath version 3.1 specification: https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-31/

- 1) Range "to" expression
- 2) Value comparison operators eq, ne, lt, le, gt, ge
- 3) Function item "inline function expression"
- 4) Dynamic function calls
- 5) "if" expression
- 6) "for" expression
- 7) Quantified expressions 'some', 'every'
- 8) "let" expression
- 9) Sequence constructor expression, using comma operator
- 10) String concatenation operator "II"
- 11) Node comparison operators "is", "<<", ">>"
- 12) Simple map operator '!'
- 13) Instance Of expression
- 14) Implementation of various new XML Schema built-in data types for use in XSLT 3.0 stylesheets and XPath 3.1 expressions. Implementation of, XPath constructor function calls (for e.g, xs:string('hello'), xs:date('2005-10-07') etc) for these supported XML Schema data types.

Following XML Schema built-in types are supported (depicted with XML Schema data type and subtype hierarchy as specified by W3C XML Schema data types specification):

```
xs:anyType
   xs:anySimpleType
      xs:anyAtomicType
         xs:anyURI
         xs:boolean
         xs:decimal
           xs:integer
              xs:long
                 xs:int
                   xs:short
                    xs:byte
             xs:nonNegativeInteger
                xs:positiveInteger
                xs:unsignedLong
                  xs:unsignedInt
                    xs:unsignedShort
                     xs:unsignedByte
             xs:nonPositiveInteger
                xs:negativeInteger
        xs:double
        xs:float
        xs:QName
        xs:string
          xs:normalizedString
          xs:token
            xs:Name
               xs:NCName
        xs:date
        xs:dateTime
        xs:time
        xs:duration
          xs:dayTimeDuration
          xs:yearMonthDuration
        xs:gDay
        xs:gMonth
        xs:gMonthDay
        xs:gYear
        xs:gYearMonth
```

In addition to above mentioned XML Schema built-in data types, an XML Schema type xs:untyped specified by XPath 3.1 specification has also been implemented.

15) Collation support

Within the context of XSL languages, a collation is a method by which text information is compared and sorted.

As specified by XPath 3.1 F&O spec, implementations of following collations are available:

- 15.1) The Unicode Codepoint Collation
- 15.2) The Unicode Collation Algorithm

Support for following collation uri query parameters is available: 'fallback', 'lang', 'strength'

For the collation's query "lang" parameter, all languages as those supported by Java's 'java.util.Locale' class are available within Xalan-J's XSLT 3.0 implementation (ref, https://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/util/Locale.html).

For the collation's query "strength" parameter, following values are supported: 'primary', 'secondary', 'tertiary', 'identical'.

- 15.3) The HTML ASCII Case-Insensitive Collation
- 16) Sequence type expression
- 17) Map expression
- 18) Array expression
- 19) Cast expression
- 20) Castable expression
- 21) Treat expression
- 22) Named function reference
- 23) Map and array lookup using function call syntax, Map and array lookup using unary lookup operator "?"
- 24) Arrow operator (=>)
- 25) Node combination operators union, intersect and except

1.3) XPath 3.1 functions

XPath version 3.1 F&O specification: https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions-31/

Implementation of XPath built-in default functions namespace: http://www.w3.org/2005/xpath-functions

Implementation of XPath built-in math functions namespace: http://www.w3.org/2005/xpath-functions/math

Implementation of XPath built-in map functions namespace: http://www.w3.org/2005/xpath-functions/map

Implementation of XPath built-in array functions namespace: http://www.w3.org/2005/xpath-functions/array

1) Functions on numeric values

fn:abs

fn:round (implementation of an optional second argument, that's used to specify 'precision')

2) Context functions

fn:current-dateTime fn:current-date fn:current-time fn:implicit-timezone fn:default-collation

3) Functions giving access to external information

fn:doc fn:doc-available fn:collection fn:unparsed-text fn:unparsed-text-lines

4) Functions on strings

fn:string-join fn:upper-case fn:lower-case fn:codepoints-to-string fn:string-to-codepoints

fn:compare (with support for collation argument)

fn:codepoint-equal

fn:contains-token (with support for collation argument)

5) String functions that use regular expressions

fn:matches fn:replace fn:tokenize fn:analyze-string

6) Functions that compare values in sequences

fn:distinct-values (with support for collation argument)

fn:index-of (with support for collation argument) fn:deep-equal (with support for collation argument)

7) Maths trigonometric and exponential functions

math:pi

math:exp

math:exp10

math:log

math:log10

math:pow

math:sqrt

math:sin

math:cos

math:tan

math:asin

math:acos

math:atan

math:atan2

8) Component extraction functions on durations

fn:years-from-duration fn:months-from-duration fn:days-from-duration fn:hours-from-duration

fn:minutes-from-duration

fn:seconds-from-duration

9) Constructing xs:dateTime value

fn:dateTime

10) Component extraction functions on dates and times

fn:year-from-dateTime

fn:month-from-dateTime

fn:day-from-dateTime

fn:hours-from-dateTime

fn:minutes-from-dateTime

fn:seconds-from-dateTime

fn:timezone-from-dateTime

fn:year-from-date

fn:month-from-date

fn:day-from-date

fn:timezone-from-date

fn:hours-from-time

fn:minutes-from-time

fn:seconds-from-time

fn:timezone-from-time

11) Built-in higher-order functions

fn:for-each

fn:filter

fn:fold-left

fn:fold-right

fn:for-each-pair

fn:sort

fn:apply

(with support for collation argument)

Dynamic loading and execution, of XSLT stylesheets:

fn:transform

12) Functions on sequences

12.1 General functions on sequences

fn:empty

fn:exists

fn:head

fn:tail

fn:insert-before

fn:remove

fn:reverse

fn:subsequence

fn:unordered

12.2 Aggregate functions

fn:avg

fn:max

fn:min

13) Parsing and serializing

fn:parse-xml

fn:parse-xml-fragment

14) Accessors

fn:node-name

fn:string

fn:data

fn:base-uri

fn:document-uri

15) Functions related to QNames

fn:resolve-QName

fn:QName

16) Functions related to maps

map:merge
map:size
map:keys
map:contains
map:get
map:find
map:put
map:entry
map:remove
map:for-each

17) Functions related to arrays

array:size array:get array:put array:append array:subarray array:remove array:insert-before array:head array:tail array:reverse array:join array:for-each array:filter array:fold-left array:fold-right array:for-each-pair

(with support for collation argument)

18) Functions on JSON data

fn:parse-json fn:json-doc fn:json-to-xml fn:xml-to-json

array:sort

array:flatten

Other than the above mentioned newly implemented XPath 3.1 functions, all the functions that are specified for XPath 1.0 are available with Xalan-J's XPath 3.1 implementation as well.

Please refer to the link https://www.w3.org/TR/1999/REC-xpath-19991116/ (section "4 Core Function Library") for the details about XPath 1.0 functions.

(2) Xalan-J XSLT 3.0 and XPath 3.1 test suite

Xalan-J's XSLT 3.0 and XPath 3.1 test suite is available at the location: https://github.com/apache/xalan-java/tree/xalan-j_xslt3.0_mvn/src/test and the results of these XSL tests are available at https://xalan.apache.org/xalan-j/xsl3/tests/xalan-j_xsl3_test_suite_result.xml.

Apache Xalan-J site https://xalan.apache.org/xalan-j/

Copyright © 1999-2025 The Apache Software Foundation