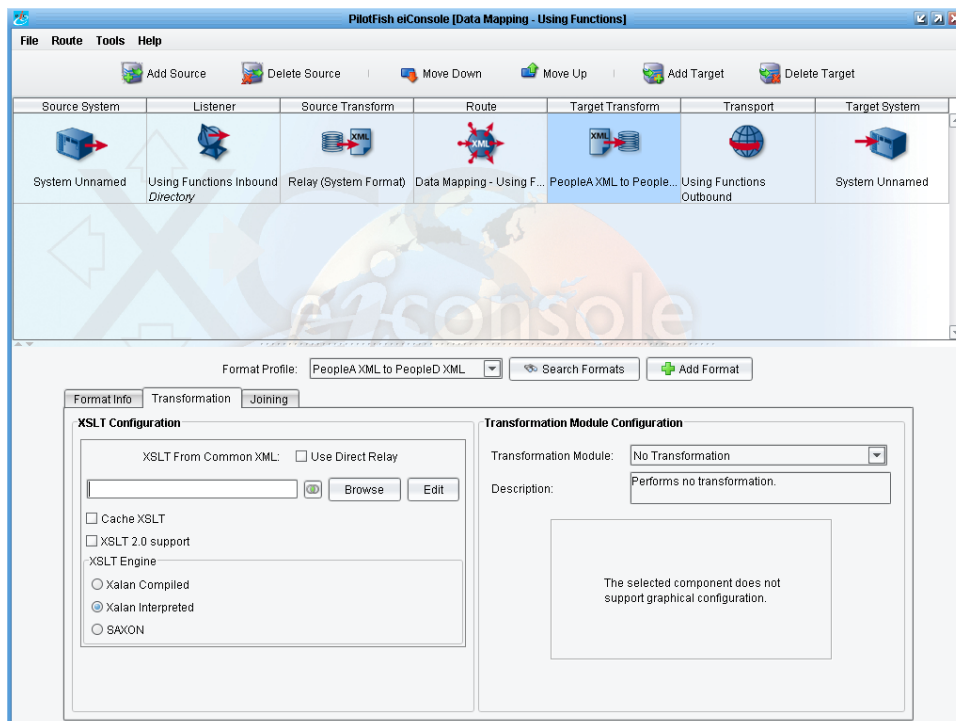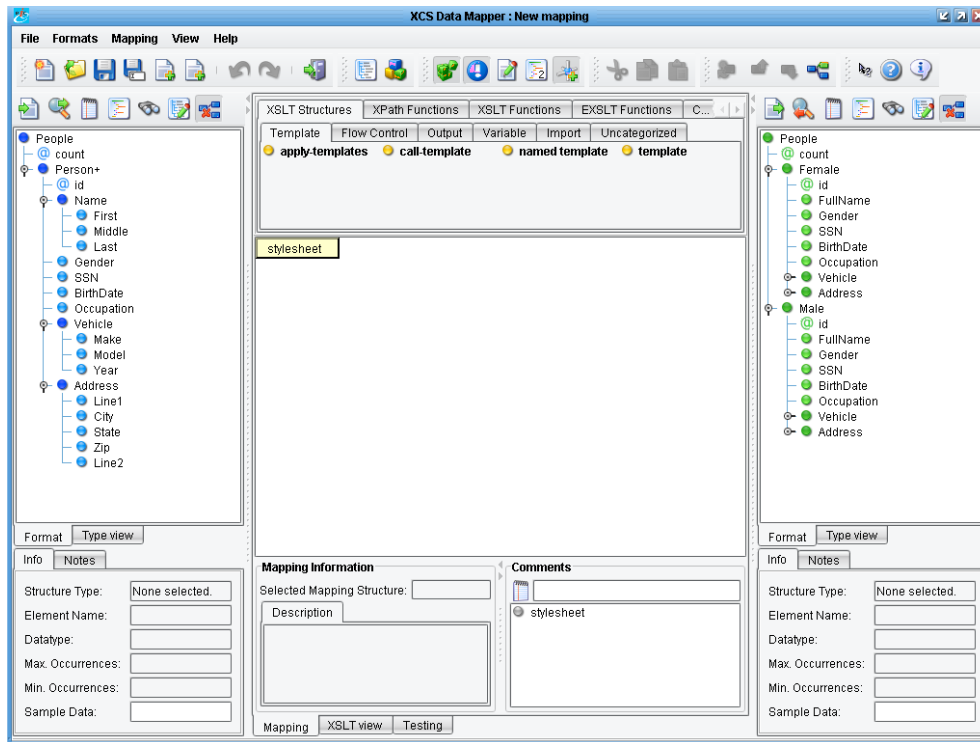# Data Mapping – Using Functions

Overview

In this tutorial we'll cover the use of XPath functions in the Data Mapper to do name concatenation for the Target format. This tutorial expands on concepts covered in "Data Mapping – Using Conditions," so users are expected to be familiar with that material.
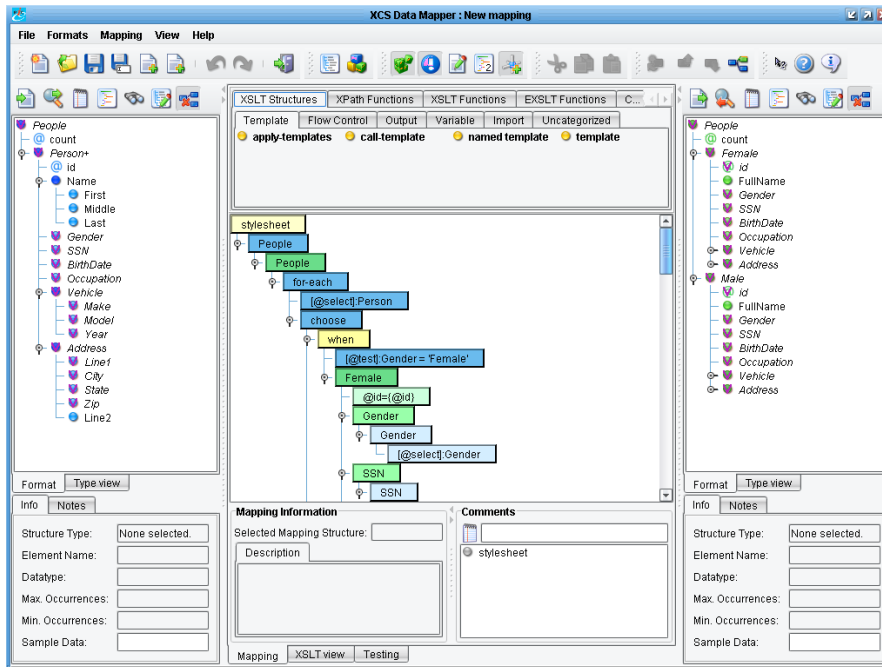
Steps

Begin by creating and configuring a Route as in the previous tutorial. Add a new Format named "PeopleA XML to PeopleD XML" select it on the Target Transform stage, and uncheck "Use Direct Relay":
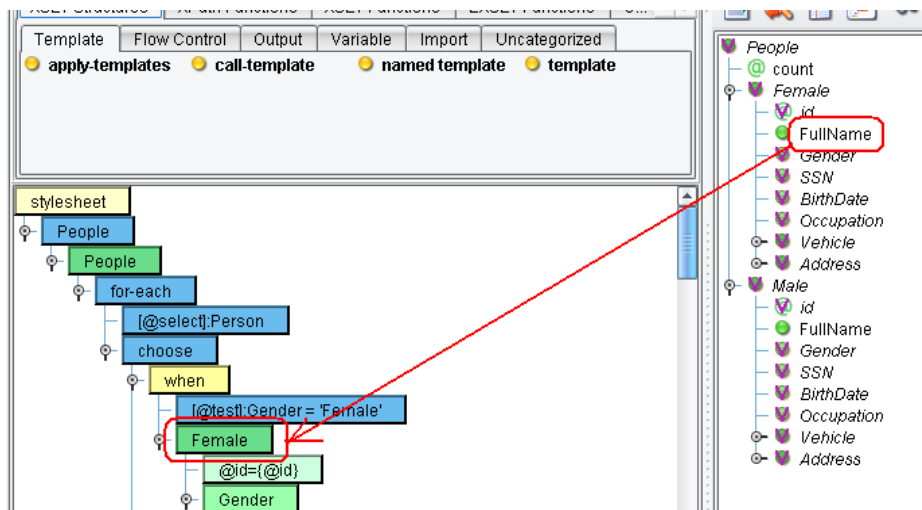
Click "New" to open the Data Mapper. Load "PeopleA.xml" for the Source format and "PeopleD.xml" for the Target format:
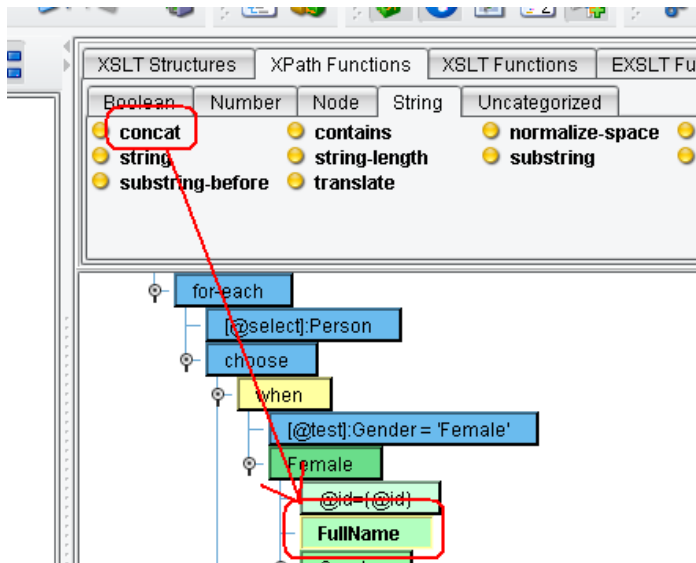

Repeat the mapping exercise from the previous tutorial or copy the XSLT from there, with the exception of leaving the various "name" elements unmapped:
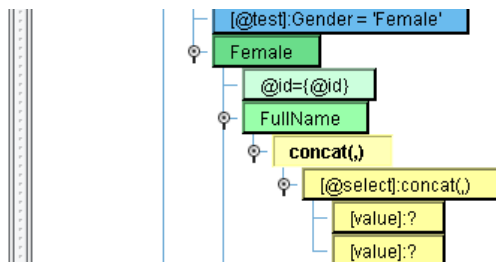
Map "FullName" from the Target onto the "Female" and "Male" elements in the center:
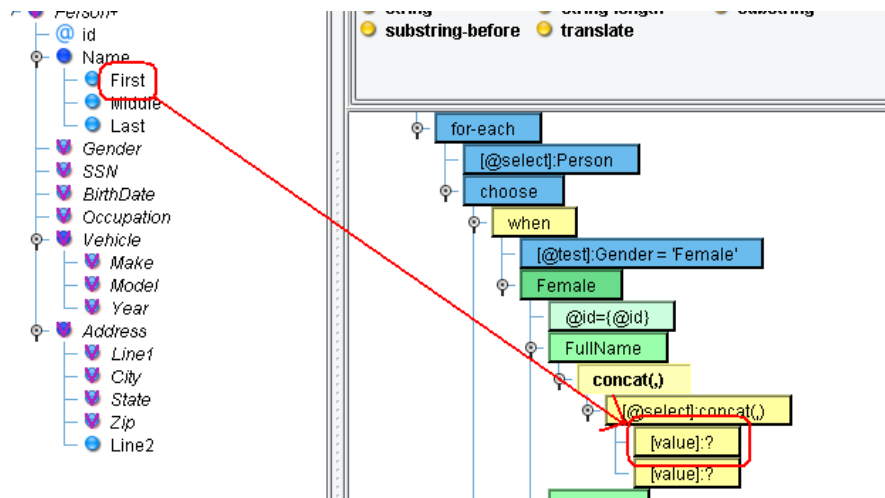

We'll map the "First", "Middle", and "Last" name values onto "FullName", but we also want them to be separated with spaces. While we can do this using additional XSLT instructions, we can also make use of one of the many functions provided by XPath. Under XPath Functions → String, drag "concat" onto "FullName":

This will create an XSLT instruction called "value-of" and populate it with a "concat" function call. "concat" accepts any number of arguments and concatenates their literal values together. The Data Mapper will create a "concat" entry in the mapping panel with two child elements you can drag-and-drop onto:
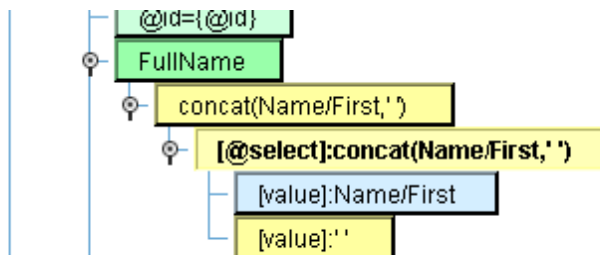

We'll start by mapping "First" onto the first element under the "concat" function:
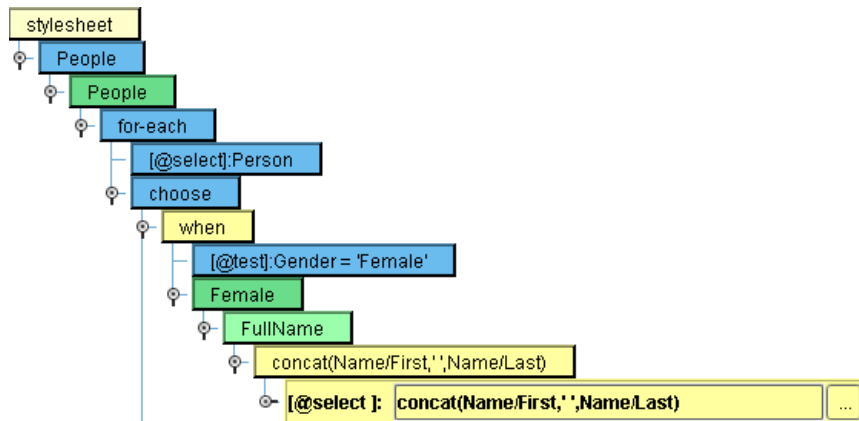
Next, double-click on the second entry to provide a value for it. Modify it to contain a space separated by single quotes:

    ' '

Then hit enter to save it:

This provides the first two entries for the concat() method; however, to add more parameters, we'll need to do so manually. Double-click on the concat() "select" attribute and modify it to read:

    concat(Name/First,' ',Name/Last)

To add middle-name follow the same steps; double-click on the concat() "select" attribute and modify it to read:

concat(Name/First,' ',Name/Middle,' ',Name/Last)

XPath provides numerous other functions, all of which are available in the tool palette at the top of the Data Mapper screen.

Test the mapping and you should see the following for output: