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# 11 FAQ XSD interview questions and answers

Posted on [September 4, 2015](#) by [Arulkumaran Kumaraswamipillai](#)

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**Q1.** How do you restrict an element in XSD?**A1.** With "xs:restriction". In the XSD shown below, the "AddressType" is restricted to "Mailing", "Office", and "Home".

```

1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2  <xs:schema xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
3    targetNamespace="http://www.mycompany.com"
4    xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
5    xmlns:tns="http://www.mycompany.com"
6    elementFormDefault="qualified" attributeForm
7
8    <xs:element name="Party" minOccurs="0" maxOc
9      <xs:complexType>
10        <xs:sequence>
11          <xs:element name="id" type="x
12          <xs:element name="PartyName"
13          <xs:element name="PartyType"
14          <xs:element name="AddressDeta
15            <xs:complexType>
16              <xs:sequence>
17                <xs:element name=

```

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```

18         <xs:simpleType
19             <xs:restriction
20                 <xs:base="xs:string"
21                 <xs:pattern="^[a-zA-Z0-9_]+$"
22                 <xs:minLength="1"
23                 </xs:restriction>
24             </xs:simpleType>
25         </xs:element>
26         <xs:element name="Ref_Adviser" type="tns:Ref_Adviser" />
27         <xs:element name="Ref_Adviser" type="tns:Ref_Adviser" />
28         <xs:element name="Ref_Adviser" type="tns:Ref_Adviser" />
29         <xs:element name="Ref_Adviser" type="tns:Ref_Adviser" />
30         <xs:element name="Ref_Adviser" type="tns:Ref_Adviser" />
31     </xs:sequence>
32 </xs:complexType>
33 </xs:element>
34 </xs:sequence>
35 </xs:complexType>
36 <xs:element name="Adviser" type="tns:Ref_Adviser" />
37 <xs:complexType name="Ref_Adviser">
38     <xs:sequence>
39         <xs:element name="firstName" type="xs:string" />
40         <xs:element name="surname" type="xs:string" />
41     </xs:sequence>
42 </xs:complexType>
43 </xs:complexType>
44 </xs:complexType>
45 </xs:complexType>
46 </xs:complexType>
47 </xs:schema>

```

**Q2.** Can you explain as per the XSD shown above the term “targetNamespace”?

**A2.** Placing the targetNamespace attribute at the top of your XSD schema means that all entities defined in it are part of this namespace. In the above example,

The “Ref\_Adviser” is in the targetNamespace  
“http://www.mycompany.com”

```

1 <xs:complexType name="Ref_Adviser">
2     <xs:sequence>
3         <xs:element name="firstName" type="xs:string" />
4         <xs:element name="surname" type="xs:string" />
5     </xs:sequence>
6 </xs:complexType>

```

and then “xmlns:tns” prefix in the declaration uses the same targetNamespace “http://www.mycompany.com”. The element “Adviser” is of custom defined type “Ref\_Adviser” in the “tns” prefix namespace. The other elements are in the “xs” prefix, which is in the “http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema” namespace.

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```
1 <xs:element name="Adviser" type="tns:Ref_Adviser">
```

**Q3.** What is the difference between complexType and simpleType attribute in XSD?

**A3.** A simple element is an XML element that can contain only text. In the above example the “AddressType” is defined as a “simpleType” with enumerated values.

A complex element is an XML element that contains other elements and/or attributes. “Party” is defined as a “complexType”.

**Q4.** What are the different data types in XSD? How do you define it?

**A4.** There are different datatypes like int, string, date, decimal, etc.

```
1 <xs:element name="id" type="xs:string">
```

You can have custom datatype as in the Java classes. For example, “ExpiryDate” is a custom type in the format “MMYY”

```
1 <xs:simpleType name="ExpiryDate">
2   <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
3     <xs:pattern value="(0[1-9]|1[0-2])[0-9][0-9]"
4   </xs:restriction>
5 </xs:simpleType>
```

and use it as

```
1 <xs:element name="validTillDate" type="tns:Expiry
```

**Note:** Namespace prefix is “tns”, which is the “targetNamespace.”

**Q5.** Can you import XSDs?

**A5.** Yes.

```
1 <xsd:import schemaLocation="../common/MyAppCommon
```

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```
2 namespace="http://www.mycompany.com/myapp"
```

**Q6.** What is the difference between “xsd:sequence” and “xsd:all”?

**A6.** “<xsd:all>” indicates that the child elements can appear in any order.

“<xsd:sequence>” indicates that the child elements can only appear in the order mentioned.

**Q7.** How do you provide documentation for your XSDs?

**A7.** with the “annotation” and “documentation” tags.

```
1 <xsd:complexType name="CaseDetailsDto">
2     <xsd:annotation>
3         <xsd:documentation>
4             This object represents details pe
5         </xsd:documentation>
6     </xsd:annotation>
7     ...
8 </xsd:complexType>
```

**Q8.** How do you make an element in XML schema optional?

**A8.** With the “minOccurs” attribute.

```
1 <xs:element name="description" type="xs:string" m
```

**Q9.** How do you make an element in XML schema compulsory?

**A9.** With the “minOccurs” attribute set to 1.

```
1 <xsd:complexType name="DocumentTypeDto">
2     <xsd:sequence>
3         <xsd:element name="Code" type="xsd:string" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
4         <xsd:element name="Name" type="xsd:string" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
5     </xsd:sequence>
6 </xsd:complexType>
```

**Q10.** What is the difference between the terms “Optional” and “Not Required” with respect to XSDs?

**A10. Optional:** means the element does NOT need to be present in the XML.

**Not Required:** means the element can be present, but it does NOT need to have a “value”. You define this with the “nillable” attribute.

```
1 <xsd:element name="Date" type="xsd:date" nillable
```

**Q11.** How will you represent the scenario in XSD where you can have elements “Pending” followed by “Authorised” or “Pending” followed by “Cancelled”?

**A11.** You can use the “choice” element.

```
1 <<xsd:complexType name="OrderProcessing">
2   <xsd:choice>
3     <xsd:sequence>
4       <xsd:element name="Pending" type="..." />
5       <xsd:element name="Authorise" type="..." />
6     </xsd:sequence>
7     <xsd:sequence>
8       <xsd:element name="Pending" type="..." />
9       <xsd:element name="Cancelled" type="..." />
10    </xsd:sequence>
11  </xsd:choice>
12 </xsd:complexType>
```

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