Functions & Operators 4.0

DA2025 XPath, XSLT & XQuery 4 Tutorial 6th November 2025



Overview

- EXPath File and Binary modules adopted and refined
- ~90 new functions
- ~60 functions extended
- Options maps where appropriate
- Argument names are now significant (keyword calls)
- Consistency improved



Optional arguments

Multiple-arity functions now defined with optional arguments:

```
fn:deep-equal(
   $input1 as item()*,
   $input2 as item()*,
   $options as (xs:string | map(*))? := {}
) as xs:boolean
```



Sequence position arguments in Higher-Order Functions

Many of the higher-order functions now have an optional sequence position:

```
fn:filter($input as item()*,
            $predicate as fn(item(), xs:integer) as xs:boolean?
) as item()*
                                  Sequence position
('a', 'z') =!> string-to-codepoints()
  => fn($t) { $t[1] to $t[2] }() =!> codepoints-to-string() => filter(fn($item,$pos) {$pos mod 2 eq 0})
                               'b', 'd', 'f'... 'x', 'z'
```



Keyword arguments in static function calls

Argument names are now significant:

Arguments by position

Arguments by keyword (following)

```
sort(//employee, key := fn($e) { xs:decimal($e/salary) };
```



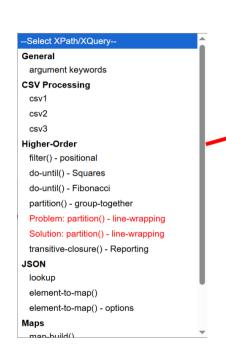
Options as a record argument

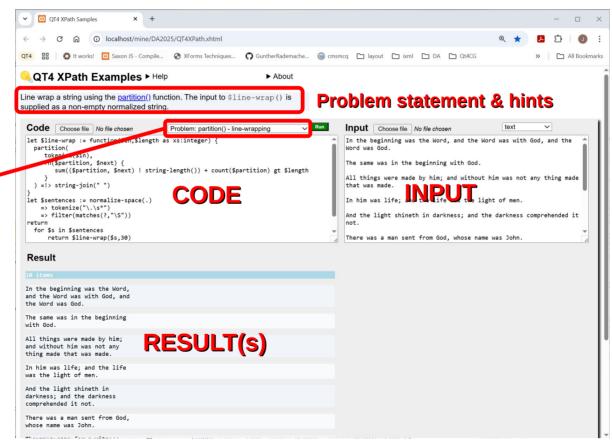
Mostly on functions processing maps, arrays and resources:

```
fn:csv-to-arrays(
      $value as xs:string?,
      $options as map(*)
 as array(xs:string)*
                               record(
                                   field-delimiter? as xs:string,
                                   row-delimiter? as xs:string,
                                   quote-character? as xs:string,
                                   trim-whitespace? as xs:boolean
```



XPath workbench





CODE & INPUT

can be edited and loaded by:

- Example drop-down
- · Local file chooser
- Drag-and-drop (not Firefox)

Run uses
BaseX Fiddle
to process the
expression
(Many thanks!)



General Functions on Sequences

fn:foot()	The last of a sequence	cf fn:head()
fn:trunk()	All but the last	cf fn:tail()
<pre>fn:identity()</pre>	Passes argument unchanged	
<pre>fn:void()</pre>	Consumes the argument	
fn:items-at()	Items from selected positions	Can be any order and have duplicates
<pre>fn:replicate()</pre>	Multiple copies of a sequence	(1 to \$count) ! \$input
<pre>fn:sequence-join()</pre>	Insert separator between adjacent items	
<pre>fn:slice()</pre>	Subsequence with 'step/stride'	Can be in reverse cf Javascript/Python



Comparison Functions

<pre>fn:atomic-equal()</pre>	(Coerced) type/value equality	≡ comparing map keys
<pre>fn:contains-subsequence()</pre>	One sequence contains a given contiguous subsequence	Used-suppliable comparison function
<pre>fn:duplicate-values()</pre>	Values that appear more than once	
fn:ends-with-subsequence()	One sequence finishes with a given contiguous subsequence	Used-suppliable comparison function
fn:starts-with-subsequence()	One sequence starts with a given contiguous subsequence	Used-suppliable comparison function
<pre>fn:all-equal()</pre>	All items have equal atomic value	Used-suppliable collation
<pre>fn:all-different()</pre>	No two items have equal atomic value	Used-suppliable collation



Basic Higher-Order Functions i

<pre>fn:do-until() fn:while-do()</pre>	Processes a value repeatedly while a condition is (false true)	Action & predicate functions, with \$position
<pre>fn:every() fn:some()</pre>	(Every at least one) item satisfies a predicate	Predicate function with \$position
<pre>fn:highest() fn:lowest()</pre>	Items which have the (highest lowest) sort key	Collation & key function
<pre>fn:sort-by()</pre>	Sort using several sort-key functions	Collations & sort-key value functions
<pre>fn:sort-with()</pre>	Sort using comparator functions	List of -ve 0 +ve comparison functions



Example - fn:do-until()

```
Current result
          Starting value
fn:do-until
                     as item()*
        $input
                                     xs:integer) as item()*,
                     as fn(item()*,
         Saction
        $predicate as fn(item()*, xs:integer) as xs:boolean?
  as item()*
                                   Sequence position
         Stop when
                                                                    Example
                                                                  Higher-Order
                                                                    do-until()
```



Basic Higher-Order Functions ii

<pre>fn:index-where()</pre>	Positions in input of items that match predicate	Predicate function with \$position
fn:subsequence-where()	Contiguous subsequence – start and end points determined by predicates	Start & end predicate functions with <i>\$position</i>
<pre>fn:take-while()</pre>	Items prior to the first failing predicate match	Predicate function with \$position
<pre>fn:partition()</pre>	Partition into arrays splitting when a condition is true. cf xsl:for-each-group[@split-when]	Split function(\$so-far, \$item, \$position).
<pre>fn:scan-left() fn:scan-right()</pre>	Array of successive partial results of fn:fold-left() fn:fold-right()	



Example – fn:partition()

```
Next item
fn:partition(
         $input as item()*,
         $split-when as fn(item()*, item(), xs:integer
                                                                as xs:boolean?
  as array(item()*)*
                                               Sequence position
                Partition so far
                                                                      Example
                                                                     Higher-Order
                                                                      partition()
                                                                     line wrapping
```



Basic Higher-Order Functions iii

<pre>fn:transitive-closure()</pre>	ļ .	Can be used on nested maps/arrays
<pre>fn:partial-apply()</pre>		More flexible than f:is-larger(?,0)
fn:op()	Generates a function to apply a binary operator to two arguments	



Numeric/Math Functions

<pre>fn:divide-decimals()</pre>	Divide xs:decimals to defined precision returning quotient and remainder.	
fn:isNaN()	true if xs:float or xs:double NaN value	
fn:parse-integer()	String to integer with radix 2 to 36	
<pre>math:e() math:cosh() math:sinh() math:tanh()</pre>		



String Functions

<pre>fn:collation()</pre>	Constructs a collation URI with properties.	For Unicode Collation Algorithm
fn:collation-available()	Checks whether a collation URI with properties is recognized by the implementation	
fn:char()	A string containing a single character or glyph	
fn:characters()	Split into a sequence of single- character strings	<pre>string-to- codepoints(\$value) ! codepoints-to-string(.)</pre>
fn:graphemes()	Produces grapheme clusters	
fn:hash()	Hash, checksum or CRC function applied to string or binary input	



URI & QName Functions

<pre>fn:decode-from-uri()</pre>	Decodes URI-escaped characters in a string	
<pre>fn:parse-uri()</pre>	Parses a URI to a map of its parts	
fn:build-uri()	Constructs a URI string from its parts	
fn:parse-QName()	EQName → xs:QName	prefix:local or Q{URI}local
fn:expanded-QName()	xs:QName → EQName	Q{URI}local



Date/Time Functions

fn:seconds()	A duration defined in seconds	
<pre>fn:unix-dateTime()</pre>	Conventional timezone offset for a given place and time	
<pre>fn:civil-timezone()</pre>	A string containing a single character or glyph	



Node Functions

fn:in-scope-namespaces()	A map of prefix → namespace URI in-scope for an element node	<pre>fn:namespace-uri-for- prefix() and fn:in-scope- prefixes() redefined in terms of this</pre>
<pre>fn:siblings()</pre>	Siblings of a GNode in document order	Works with map/array entries
<pre>fn:distinct-ordered-nodes()</pre>	Removes duplicate GNodes and sorts the input into document order	



Map Functions

map:build()	Build a map from a sequence of items	Key and value generating functions with <i>\$position</i>
<pre>map:empty()</pre>	true if a map has no entries	
<pre>map:entries()</pre>	Returns all the key-value pairs of a map as a sequence of single-entry maps	
<pre>map:filter()</pre>	Selects entries from a map, returning a new map	Predicate function(\$key, \$value)
<pre>map:items()</pre>	All the values of a map, as a sequence in order	
map:keys-where()	Selects keys from a map	Predicate function(\$key, \$value)



Example - map:build()

```
Sequence position
```

Example Maps map-build()



Element → Map (for JSON)

Converts an element node into a map that is suitable for JSON serialization	Can use a pre-analysed plan
generate a conversion plan, organised by element and	Suitable for use by fn:element-to-map() Anticipated running on a sample set to then apply to a larger corpus

Example JSON element-to-map()-*



Array Functions - i

array:build()	Build an array from a sequence of items	Value generating function with \$position	
array:empty()	true if an array has no entries		
array:foot()	The last member of an array	cf fn:foot()	
array:trunk()	Remove the last member of an array	cf fn:trunk()	
array:slice()	An array containing members of an input array selected by position	\$start, \$end and \$step. cf fn:slice()	
array:index-of()	Returns positions of members equal to a target	Comparison using fn:deep-equal() with collation	
array:index-where()	Returns positions of members which match a predicate	Predicate function(\$value,\$position)	



Array Functions - ii

<pre>array:items()</pre>	All the values of an array, as a concatenated sequence	
<pre>array:members()</pre>	The contents of an array, as a sequence of value records	{'value': \$sequence}*
<pre>array:of-members()</pre>	Constructs an array from the contents of a sequence of value records	{'value': \$sequence}*
array:sort-by()		Collations & sort-key value functions cf fn:sort-by()
array:split()	The contents of an array, as a sequence of single entry arrays	



JNode Functions

<pre>fn:jtree()</pre>	Delivers a root JNode wrapping a map or array, enabling the use of lookup expressions to navigate a JTree rooted at that map or array	
<pre>fn:jnode-selector()</pre>	The selector property of a JNode	xs:integer ≥ 1 for an array JNode, xs:anyAtomicType for a map JNode
fn:jnode-content()	The content property of a JNode	Most coercion rules handle this automatically
<pre>fn:jnode-position()</pre>	The position property of a JNode	1 except for map/array multiple sequence values (never in JSON structures)



External Resources - i

fn:unparsed-binary()	Reads an external resource (e.g. a file) and returns its contents in binary	<pre>cf file:read-binary()</pre>
<pre>fn:xsd-validator()</pre>	Generates a function suitable for validating a document or element	
<pre>fn:parse-html()</pre>	Parses input as HTML returning a document node	
<pre>fn:html-doc()</pre>	Reads an external resource containing HTML and parses it	



External Resources - ii

fn:csv-to-arrays()	Parses CSV data supplied as a string, returning the results as a sequence of arrays of strings	
fn:parse-csv()	Parses CSV data, returning a record containing information about the names in the header, as well as the data itself	
fn:csv-doc()	Reads an external resource containing CSV and parses it	
fn:csv-to-xml()	Parses CSV data supplied as a string, returning the results as an XML document	
<pre>fn:invisible-xml()</pre>	Creates an Invisible XML parser for a grammar	