

Edit xml file using shell script / command

I need to do this using unix script or command There is a xml file in /home/user/app/xmlfiles like

```
<book>
  <fiction type='a'>
    <author type=''></author>
  </fiction>
  <fiction type='b'>
    <author type=''></author>
  </fiction>
  <Romance>
    <author type=''></author>
  </Romance>
</book>
```

I want to edit author type in fiction as local .

```
<fiction>
  <author type='Local'></author>
</fiction>
```

I need to change the author type which is in **fiction tag with attribute b** alone. Please help me with this using command. Thanks !

bash unix shell shell-script bash-scripting

Why not use some text editor like vi / vim / emacs / gedit (pick any of your choice)? Or you can only use shell scripts and can't use any programs? – Darius May 19 '15 at 13:11

unfortunately i can use scripting only – VRVigneshwara May 19 '15 at 13:14

I guess I'd recommend using xslt to transform the input into appropriate output, since that is the XMLish approach. you can perform XLST transformations in bash using `xlstproc` .
linux.byexamples.com/archives/463/xslt-processor-command-line – Frank Thomas May 19 '15 at 13:47

@FrankThomas Take a look at my XMLish answer and please tell what you think about it. – Marco M. von Hagen Jun 11 '15 at 13:04

@Darius you still need the editor to understand XML. – Thorbjørn Ravn Andersen Mar 8 '17 at 15:10

If you just want to replace `<author type=''></author>` with `<author type='Local'></author>` , you can use that `sed` command:

```
sed "/<fiction type='a'>/,/<\/fiction>/ s/<author type=''><\/author>/<author type='Local'><\/author>/g;" file
```

But, when you dealing with xml, I recommend an xml parser/editor like xmlstarlet:

```
$ xmlstarlet ed -u /book/*/author[@type]/@type -v "Local" file
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<book>
  <fiction>
    <author type="Local"/>
  </fiction>
  <Romance>
    <author type="Local"/>
  </Romance>
</book>
```

Use the `-l` flag to edit the file inline, instead of printing the changes.



Comments are not for extended discussion; this conversation has been moved to chat. – Mokubai ♦ May 22 '15 at 17:06

We could use a xsl-document `doThis.xsl` and process the `source.xml` with `xsltproc` into a `newFile.xml`.

The xsl is based on the answer to this question.

Put this into a `doThis.xsl` file

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<xsl:stylesheet version="1.0"
xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform">
<xsl:output method="xml" encoding="UTF-8" omit-xml-declaration="no"/>

<!-- Copy the entire document -->

<xsl:template match="@*|node()">
  <xsl:copy>
    <xsl:apply-templates select="@*|node()"/>
  </xsl:copy>
</xsl:template>

<!-- Copy a specific element -->

<xsl:template match="/book/fiction[@type='b']/author">
  <xsl:copy>
    <xsl:apply-templates select="@*|node()"/>
  </xsl:copy>
  <xsl:attribute name="type">Local</xsl:attribute>
</xsl:template>

<!-- Do something with selected element -->
  <xsl:attribute name="type">Local</xsl:attribute>
</xsl:copy>
</xsl:template>

</xsl:stylesheet>
```

Now we produce the `newFile.xml`

```
$: xsltproc -o ./newFile.xml ./doThis.xsl ./source.xml
```

This will be the `newFile.xml`

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<book>
  <fiction type="a">
    <author type=""/>
  </fiction>
  <fiction type="b">
    <author type="Local"/>
  </fiction>
  <Romance>
    <author type=""/>
  </Romance>
</book>
```

The expression used to find type b fiction is `XPath`.



It is quite easy with `sed`. The following script will change the contents of file `a.xml` and will put the original to `a.bak` as a backup.

What it does is it searches each file for the string `<author type=''>` and replaces it with `<author type='Local'>`. The `/g` modifier means that it will try to make more than 1 replacement on each line if possible (not needed for your example file).

```
sed -i.bak "s/<author type=''>/<author type='Local'>/g" a.xml
```

answered May 19 '15 at 13:19



Marki555

670 ● 4 ● 16

I need to change the author type which is in fiction tag alone.Is that possible to check. I think above code will change all author tags. – VRVigneshwara May 20 '15 at 6:00

Then you should have specified that in your question :) I see you edited the Q already... and also got better answer. – Marki555 May 20 '15 at 10:56

Any way thank yoy for answering ! – VRVigneshwara May 20 '15 at 11:27