MSXML

Microsoft XML Core Services (**MSXML**) is a set of services that allow applications written in JScript, VBScript, and Microsoft development tools to build Windows-native XML-based applications. It supports XML 1.0, DOM, SAX, an XSLT 1.0 processor, XML schema support including XSD and XDR, as well as other XML-related technologies.

1 Overview

All MSXML products are similar in that they are exposed programmatically as OLE Automation (a subset of COM) components. Developers can program against MSXML components from C, C++ or from Active Scripting languages such as JScript and VBScript. Managed .NET Interop with MSXML COM components is not supported nor recommended.[1]

As with all COM components, an MSXML object is programmatically instantiated by CLSID or ProgID. Each version of MSXML exposes its own set of CLSID's and ProgIDs. For example, to create an MSXML 6.0 DOMDocument object, which exposes the IXmlDomDocument,[2] IXmlDomDocument2,[3] and IXmlDomDocument3[4] COM interfaces, the ProgID "MSXML2.DOMDocument.6.0" must be used.

MSXML also supports version-independent ProgIDs. Version-independent ProgIDs do not have a version number associated with them. For example, "Microsoft.XMLHTTP". These ProgIDs were first introduced in MSXML 1.0, however are currently mapped to MSXML 3.0 objects and the msxml3.dll.

Different versions of MSXML support slightly different sets of functionality. For example, while MSXML 3.0 supports only XDR schemas, it does not support XSD schemas. MSXML 4.0, MSXML 5.0, and MSXML 6.0 support XSD schemas. However, MSXML 6.0 does not support XDR schemas. Support for XML Digital Signatures is provided only by MSXML 5.0. For new XML-related software development, Microsoft recommends[5] using MSXML 6.0 or its lightweight cousin, *XmlLite*, for native code-only projects.[6]

2 Versions

MSXML is a collection of distinct products, released and supported by Microsoft. The product versions can

be enumerated as follows:[7] More information on each version is also available at Microsoft Downloads website.

2.1 Current

- **MSXML 6.0** MSXML6 is the latest MSXML product from Microsoft, and (along with MSXML3) is shipped with Microsoft SQL Server 2005, Visual Studio 2005, .NET Framework 3.0, Windows Vista, Windows 7 and Windows XP Service Pack 3. It also has support for native 64-bit environments. It is an upgrade but not replacement for versions 3 and 4 as they still provide legacy features not supported in version 6. Version 6, 4, and 3 may all be installed and running concurrently. MSXML 6 is not supported on Windows 9x. Windows XP SP3 includes MSXML 6.0 SP2.

- **MSXML 5.0** MSXML5 is a binary developed specifically for Microsoft Office. It originally shipped with Office 2003 and also ships with Office 2007. Microsoft has not released documentation for this version because Microsoft considers MSXML 5 an internal/integrated component of Office 2003. MSXML 5 is not included in Office 2010.[8]

- **MSXML 3.0** MSXML3 is a current MSXML product, represented by msxml3.dll. MSXML 3.0 SP2 first shipped with Windows XP, Internet Explorer 6.0 and MDAC 2.7. Windows XP SP2 includes MSXML 3.0 SP5 as part of MDAC 2.81. Windows 2000 SP4 also ships with MSXML 3.0. By default, Internet Explorer version 6.0, 7.0 and 8.0 use MSXML 3 to parse XML documents loaded in a window. MSXML 3.0 SP7 is the last supported version for Windows 95. Windows XP SP3 includes MSXML 3.0 SP9. Windows Vista also includes MSXML 3.0 (SP10).

2.2 Obsolete

- **MSXML 4.0** MSXML4 was shipped as an independent, downloadable SDK targeted at independent software vendors and third parties. It is an upgrade for, but not a replacement to MSXML3 as version 3 still provides legacy features. There is no 64-bit version offered, although the 32-bit version was supported for 32-bit processes on 64-bit operating systems. Versions 4 and 3 may be run concurrently. MSXML 4.0 SP3 is the most recent ver-

sion released in March 2009, SP2 support expired in April 2010,[9] and MSXML 4.0 SP3 expired in April 2014.[10]

- **MSXML 2.6** This is an early version of MSXML, and is represented by msxml2.dll. This product is no longer supported by Microsoft, and the CLSIDs and ProgIDs it exposes have been subsumed by MSXML 3.0. MSXML 2.6 shipped with Microsoft SQL Server 2000 and MDAC 2.6. The last version for all platforms was released as KB887606.

- **MSXML 2.5** This is an early version of MSXML, and is represented by msxml.dll. This version is also no longer supported by Microsoft, and the CLSIDs and ProgIDs it exposes have been subsumed by MSXML 3.0. MSXML 2.5 shipped with Windows 2000 as part of Internet Explorer 5.01 and MDAC 2.5.

- **MSXML 2.0a** This version shipped with Internet Explorer 5.0. No longer supported.

- **MSXML 1.0** This version shipped with Internet Explorer 4.0. No longer supported.

3   See also

- Ajax (programming)

4   References

[1] "The use of MSXML is not supported in .NET applications". Microsoft. Retrieved 2010-03-18.

[2] "IXMLDOMDocument/DOMDocument". MSDN. Retrieved 2008-05-28.

[3] "IXMLDOMDocument2". MSDN. Retrieved 2008-05-28.

[4] "IXMLDOMDocument3". MSDN. Retrieved 2008-05-28.

[5] "Using MSXML in the browser". Retrieved 2008-05-28.

[6] "XmlLite Programmers' Guide and API Reference". MSDN. Retrieved 2008-05-28.

[7] MSXML Version List at Microsoft.

[8] Office 2010: What's removed: Office 2010 Resource Kit documentation on TechNet

[9] *MSXML 4.0 SP3 Release Notes*, Microsoft, 2009-09-29, retrieved 2011-01-21

[10] *MSXML Roadmap*, Microsoft, 2013-03-15, retrieved 2015-07-11

5   External links

- Official website

- Microsoft XML Team's WebLog
  - Using the right version of MSXML in Internet Explorer

- Microsoft: Data Developer Center: Learn: MSXML

- Microsoft: Support: List of Microsoft XML Parser (MSXML) versions

- Microsoft: Download Center: search results: "MSXML 6.0"

- Microsoft: Download Center: search results: "MSXML 4.0"

- Microsoft: Download Center: search results: "MSXML 3.0"

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