

Quick Guide to XML Querying

XML Querying

A popular processor for XPath/XQuery and XSLT is [Saxon](#). Since Saxon only supports command-line and Java/.NET APIs, for our demos we use the [Kernow](#) tool, which provides a convenient interface for working with XML queries. Kernow incorporates Saxon for its query processing, so with Kernow you'll be all set to experiment with XML querying. The quickest way to get started with Kernow is to download [the .zip file for Kernow 1.6.1](#). Unzip its contents to a folder of your choice, then double-click the kernow.jar file to run. You'll be most interested in the XQuery and XSLT Sandbox tabs. (The XML Schema Sandbox/Validation tabs can do XML Schema validation, but Kernow does not support DTD validation as far as we could find.)

The XQuery Sandbox supports both XPath and XQuery, since XPath is part of XQuery. When running XPath/XQuery, if you don't want to specify the full path to an XML file (like "~/IntroToDatabases/XML/Bookstore.xml"), you can copy the file into the same folder with the Kernow executable and refer to it by name only ("Bookstore.xml"). The XSLT Sandbox takes an XML document in the left pane, transforms it according to the XSL stylesheet in the right pane, and outputs the result at the bottom of the window.