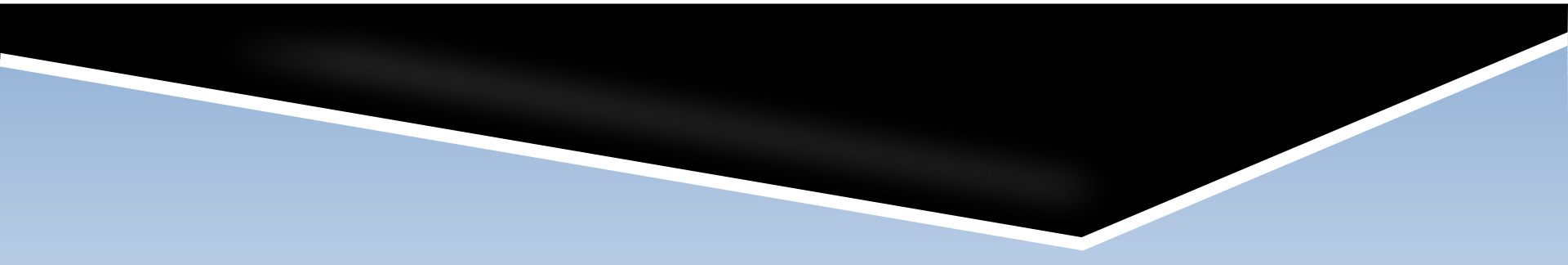
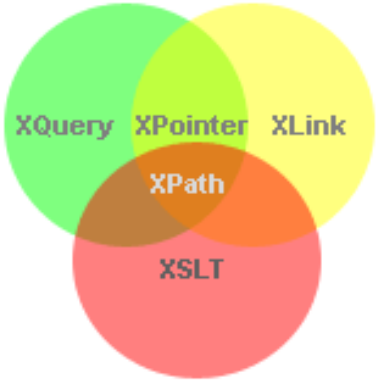
AN OVERVIEW ABOUT XPATH

XPATH INTRODUCTION



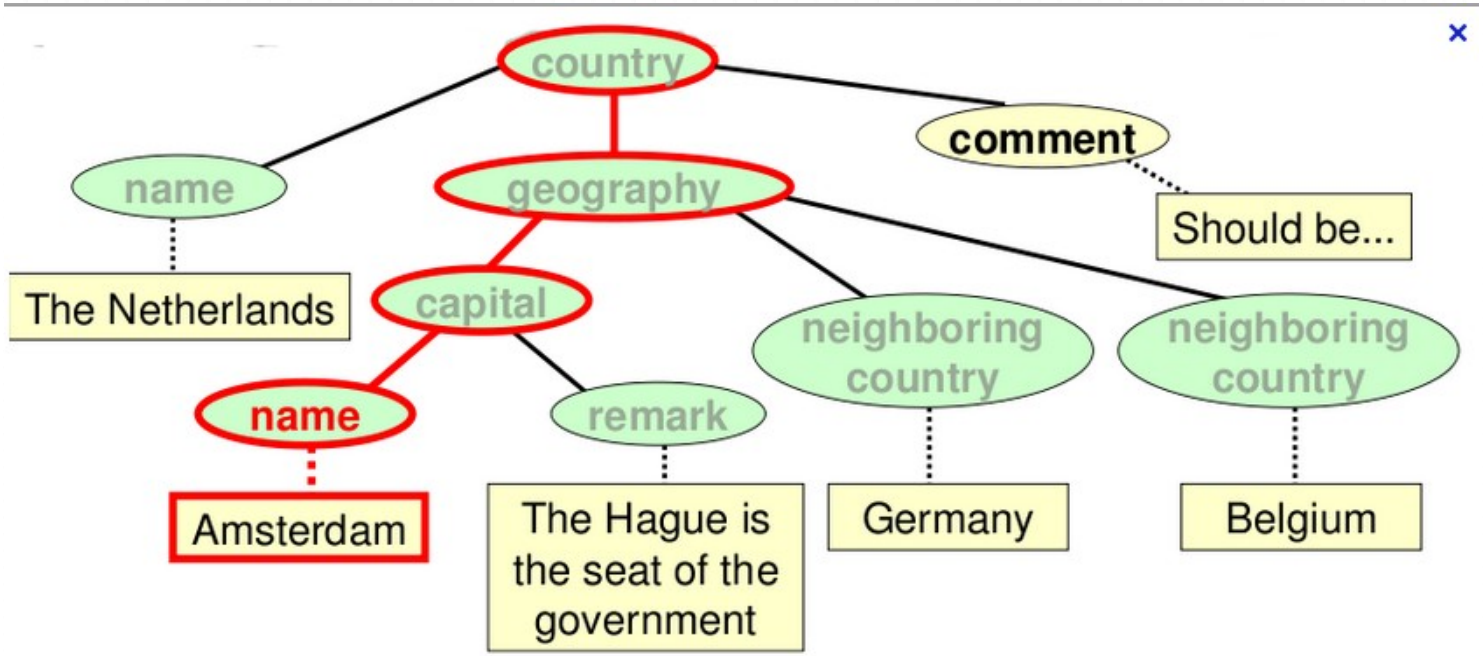
WHAT IS XPATH



- ✓ XPath is a syntax for defining parts of an XML document
- ✓ XPath uses path expressions to navigate in XML documents
- ✓ XPath contains a library of standard functions
- ✓ XPath is a major element in XSLT

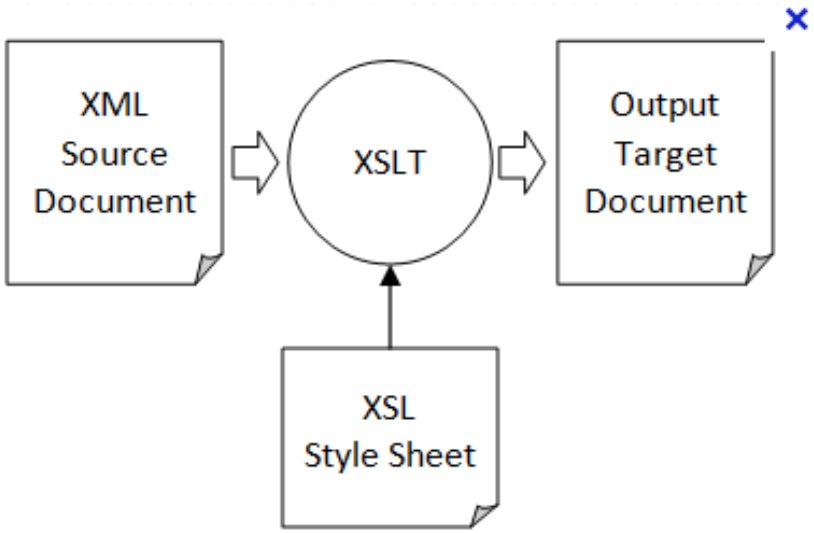
PATH EXPRESSIONS

XPath uses path expressions to select nodes or node-sets in an XML document.



xpath.png +1

XPath is Used in XSLT



XPath Standard Functions

number position()

Return the position of the context node among the list of nodes that are currently being evaluated.

count()

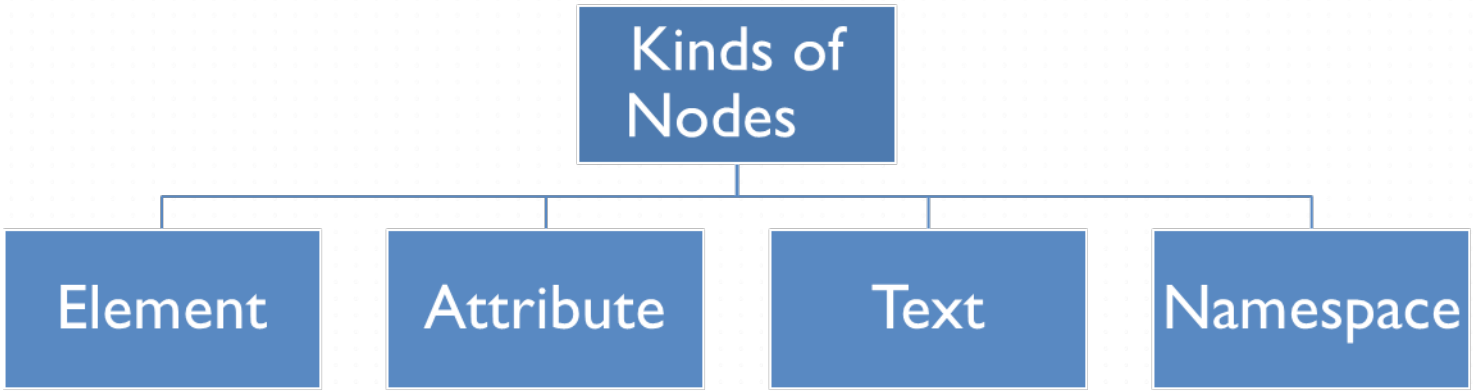
Return the number of nodes in the argument node-set
Ej:
number count(*node-set*)

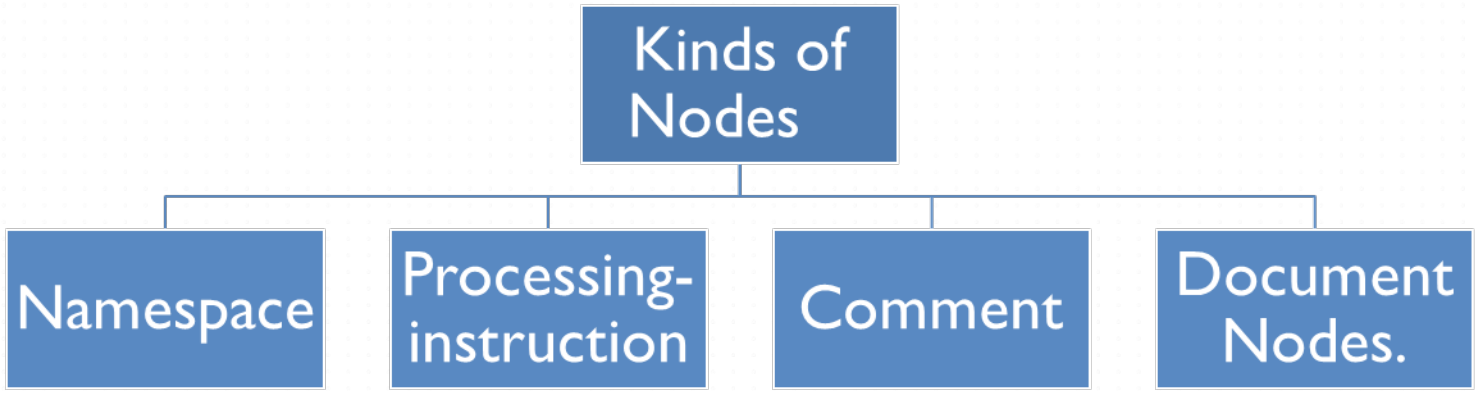
number last()

Return the index of the last node in the list that is currently being evaluated.

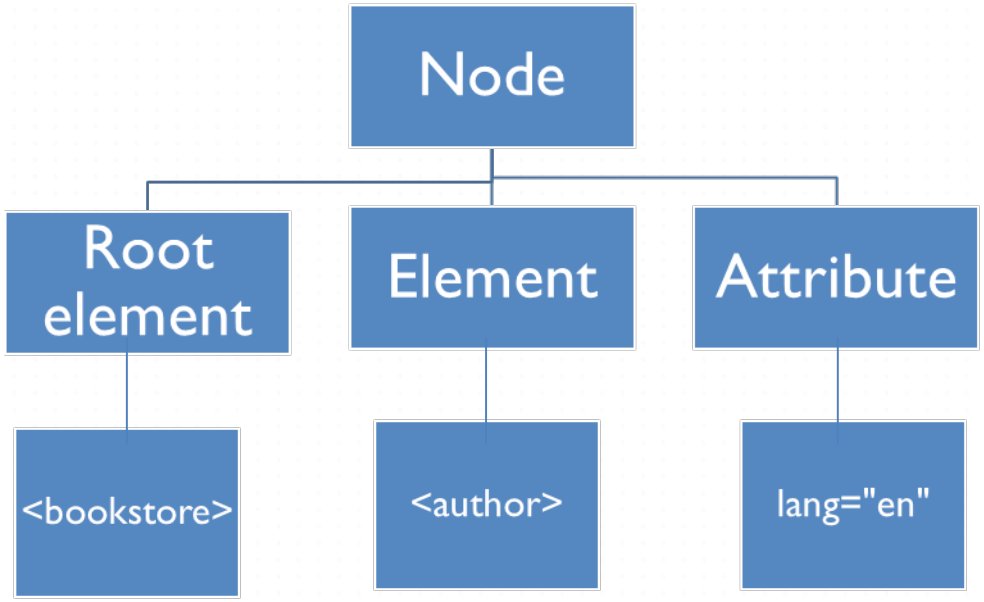
XPATH NODES

XPATH TERMINOLOGY




Kinds of Nodes
Namespace
Processing-instruction
Comment
Document Nodes.

```
<bookstore>
  <book>
    <title lang="en">Harry Potter</title>
    <author>J K. Rowling</author>
    </book>
</bookstore>
```



RELATIONSHIP OF NODES

Parent: Each element and attribute has one parent.
Children: Element nodes may have zero, one or more children.
Siblings: Nodes that have the same parent.

Ancestors: A node's parent, parent's parent, etc.
Descendants: A node's children, children's children, etc.

XPATH SYNTAX

Selecting Nodes

XPath uses path expressions to select nodes in an XML document

Expression	Description
nodename	Selects all nodes with the name "*nodename*"
/	Selects from the root node
//	Selects nodes in the document from the current node that match the selection no matter where they are
.	Selects the current node
..	Selects the parent of the current node
@	Selects attributes

In the table below we have listed some path expressions and the result of the expressions:

Path Expression	Result
bookstore	Selects all nodes with the name "bookstore"
/bookstore	Selects the root element bookstore **Note:** If the path starts with a slash (/) it always represents an absolute path to an element!
bookstore/book	Selects all book elements that are children of bookstore
//book	Selects all book elements no matter where they are in the document
bookstore//book	Selects all book elements that are descendant of the bookstore element, no matter where they are under the bookstore element
//@lang	Selects all attributes that are named lang

Predicates

Predicates are used to find a specific node or a node that contains a specific value.

Path Expression	Result
/bookstore/book[1]	Selects the first book element that is the child of the bookstore element. **Note:** IE5 and later has implemented that [0] should be the first node, but according to the W3C standard it should have been [1]!!
/bookstore/book[last()]	Selects the last book element that is the child of the bookstore element
/bookstore/book[last()-1]	Selects the last but one book element that is the child of the bookstore element
/bookstore/book[position()<3]	Selects the first two book elements that are children of the bookstore element
//title[@lang]	Selects all the title elements that have an attribute named lang
//title[@lang='eng']	Selects all the title elements that have an attribute named lang with a value of 'eng'
/bookstore/book[price>35.00]	Selects all the book elements of the bookstore element that have a price element with a value greater than 35.00
/bookstore/book[price>35.00]/title	Selects all the title elements of the book elements of the bookstore element that have a price element with a value greater than 35.00

Selecting Unknown Nodes

XPath wildcards can be used to select unknown XML elements.

Wildcard	Description
*	Matches any element node
@*	Matches any attribute node
node()	Matches any node of any kind

In the table below we have listed some path expressions and the result of the expressions:

Path Expression	Result
/bookstore/*	Selects all the child nodes of the bookstore element
//*	Selects all elements in the document
//title[@*]	Selects all title elements which have any attribute

Selecting Several Nodes

By using the | operator in an XPath expression you can select several paths.

Path Expression	Result
//book/title | //book/price	Selects all the title AND price elements of all book elements
//title | //price	Selects all the title AND price elements in the document
/bookstore/book/title | //price	Selects all the title elements of the book element of the bookstore element AND all the price elements in the document

XPATH AXES

XPath Axes

An axis defines a node-set relative to the current node.

AxisName	Result
ancestor	Selects all ancestors (parent, grandparent, etc.) of the current node
ancestor-or-self	Selects all ancestors (parent, grandparent, etc.) of the current node and the current node itself
attribute	Selects all attributes of the current node
child	Selects all children of the current node
descendant	Selects all descendants (children, grandchildren, etc.) of the current node
descendant-or-self	Selects all descendants (children, grandchildren, etc.) of the current node and the current node itself
following	Selects everything in the document after the closing tag of the current node
following-sibling	Selects all siblings after the current node
namespace	Selects all namespace nodes of the current node
parent	Selects the parent of the current node
preceding	Selects all nodes that appear before the current node in the document, except ancestors, attribute nodes and namespace nodes
preceding-sibling	Selects all siblings before the current node
self	Selects the current node

LOCATION PATH EXPRESSION

A location path can be absolute or relative. An absolute location path starts with a slash (/) and a relative location path does not. In both cases the location path consists of one or more steps, each separated by a slash:

/step/step/...

step/step/...

Each step is evaluated against the nodes in the current node-set.
A step consists of:

- an axis (defines the tree-relationship between the selected nodes and the current node)
- a node-test (identifies a node within an axis)
- zero or more predicates (to further refine the selected node-set)

axisname:: nodetest [predicate]

EXAMPLES OF PATH EXPRESSION

Example	Result
child::book	Selects all book nodes that are children of the current node
attribute::lang	Selects the lang attribute of the current node
child::*	Selects all element children of the current node
attribute::*	Selects all attributes of the current node
child::text()	Selects all text node children of the current node
child::node()	Selects all children of the current node
descendant::book	Selects all book descendants of the current node
ancestor::book	Selects all book ancestors of the current node
ancestor-or-self::book	Selects all book ancestors of the current node - and the current as well if it is a book node
child::*/child::price	Selects all price grandchildren of the current node

XPATH OPERATORS

Below is a list of the operators that can be used in XPath expressions:

Operator	Description	Example	Return value
|	Computes two node-sets	//book | //cd	Returns a node-set with all book and cd elements
+	Addition	6 + 4	10
-	Subtraction	6 - 4	2
*	Multiplication	6 * 4	24
div	Division	8 div 4	2
=	Equal	price=9.80	true if price is 9.80 false if price is 9.90
!=	Not equal	price!=9.80	true if price is 9.90 false if price is 9.80

<	Less than	price<9.80	true if price is 9.00 false if price is 9.80
<=	Less than or equal to	price<=9.80	true if price is 9.00 false if price is 9.90
>	Greater than	price>9.80	true if price is 9.90 false if price is 9.80
>=	Greater than or equal to	price>=9.80	true if price is 9.90 false if price is 9.70
or	or	price=9.80 or price=9.70	true if price is 9.80 false if price is 9.50
and	and	price>9.00 and price<9.90	true if price is 9.80 false if price is 8.50
mod	Modulus (division remainder)	5 mod 2	1

XPATH EXAMPLES

CLICK ON IT