

XML Scripter: User Guide

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Overview

The **XML Scripter** is a web-based tool designed to help users create XML scripts for **Decipher** efficiently using a variety of formatting and question types. The tool integrates both **TinyMCE** for rich text editing and the **Ace Editor** for XML editing. Users can format their content, insert specific XML elements, and generate ready-to-use XML code. This guide covers the functionality of each button and section of the interface.

Main Sections

1. Navigation Bar

Located at the top of the screen, it contains three key links:

-  (Created By): Links to the creator's portfolio for additional information about the project or the author. Opens a new tab directing to the portfolio website.
-  (Guide): Opens the PDF guide for using the XML Scripter. This provides quick access to documentation that explains the tool's features.
-  (Feedback): Opens a Google form in a new tab, allowing users to provide feedback about the tool. Feedback is helpful for ongoing improvements.

2. Docx Editor (Left Panel)

This section is a TinyMCE-powered rich text editor where users can input and format text. The editor offers a variety of formatting options:

- Bold, Italic, Underline, Font family, Font size, etc.
- Auto-save feature ensuring no content is lost during editing.

3. XML Editor (Right Panel)

Powered by Ace Editor, this section allows you to work directly with XML code. It features:

- **New**: Clears the entire XML editor for a fresh start.
- **Undo/Redo**: Allows you to undo or redo changes within the XML editor, helpful when making adjustments or corrections.
- **Copy All**: Copies all content from the XML editor to the clipboard, making it easy to paste the generated XML into other applications.

4. Button Panel (Center Panel)

This panel provides the core functionality for generating XML components.

I. Checkboxes (Feature Toggles)

- **Clean PN[...]**: This checkbox, when selected, enables cleaning up specific patterns (PN) within the text. It's useful when you want to remove certain characters or unwanted patterns in the generated XML.
- **Clean PN(...)**: When checked, this removes any content inside parentheses in the text (e.g., PN followed by parentheses).
- **Match Label**: Enables matching labels for XML elements based on the text being processed. This is useful when you need a consistent labelling scheme across your XML structure.

- **Add Values:** Automatically assigns values to elements in the XML. For example, if you are generating options for radio buttons or checkboxes, this will add incremental values to each element (e.g., value="1", value="2", etc.).
- **Descending Order:** This checkbox changes the order of added values to descending (e.g., 5, 4, 3, ...). It's beneficial when you need to reverse the ordering of the values in your XML structure.

II. Generate XML Button

- **Generate XML:** This is the main action button. Once clicked, it processes all the text and settings from the checkboxes, generating a complete XML output based on the document content. The generated XML will appear in the XML editor (right panel). Make sure the document is in proper format before clicking this button for accurate results.
- What exactly proper formatted document looks like:
 - Radio questions start with [SINGLE] or [SINGLE SELECT] <- this
 - Checkbox questions start with [MULTIPLE] or [MULTI] or [MULTI SELECT] <- this
 - Number questions start with [NUMERIC] <- this
 - Text questions start with [OPEN-END] or [OPENEND] or [OE] <- this
 - TextArea questions start with [ESSAY] or [LONG OE] or [LONG OPENEND] or [LONG OPEN-END] <- this
 - Select questions start with [DROP-DOWN] or [DROPDOWN] <- this
 - And HTML type starts with [INTRO] <- this

III. Dropdown Menus

A. Question Types Dropdown

This section is used to create different types of question elements in the XML, based on the input text. Each button automatically generates the appropriate XML tags for the question type.

- **Make Radio:** Creates a radio button input element in the XML. Radio buttons allow users to select one option from a predefined set of choices. It will generate an XML block with <radio> tags, including labels and values for each choice.
- **Make Checkbox:** Like radio buttons but allows multiple selections. This creates a checkbox group within the XML using <checkbox> tags.
- **Make Select:** Generates a <select> dropdown element. The user can select one option from a dropdown list. This is useful for creating survey forms or data entry forms.
- **Make Text:** Adds a text input field using <text> tags in the XML. It allows the user to enter short textual responses.
- **Make TextArea:** Adds a larger multi-line text field using <textarea> tags. This is useful for long responses or descriptive answers.
- **Make Number:** Inserts a number input field in the XML, useful for capturing numeric values.
- **Make Pipe:** Adds custom pipe formatting or elements that can be used for advanced XML structures requiring piping logic.
- **Make HTML:** Inserts a generic HTML block inside the XML, allowing for custom HTML content within the generated XML.

B. Question Elements Dropdown

This section helps generate the structural elements for questions such as rows, columns, and choices. These are essential for organizing data within the XML.

- **Make Rows:** Adds rows for table-like structures in the XML. Rows help structure questions where the user is required to fill in or select options across multiple rows (e.g., matrix questions).
- **Make Cols:** Adds columns within the XML. This is useful for arranging content or questions in a grid-like structure.

- **Make Choice:** Adds choices for radio buttons or checkboxes. This creates a list of options within a question.
- **Make Case:** Adds a <case> element, which can be used for conditional logic in XML. For example, it can be used to handle different cases in a survey based on user input.
- **Make Nets:** Inserts nets or net categories into the XML, used to group related items together logically.
- **Make Resource Tag:** Adds a resource tag in the XML, useful for referencing external resources like images, videos, or documents.
- **Make Term:** Inserts termination logic into the XML. For example, it can be used to define conditions under which the survey or form terminates.
- **Make Groups:** This groups elements together under a <group> tag, which can be useful for organizing related XML components.

C. Text Formatting Dropdown

This section offers various formatting options for the text being edited or processed into XML.

- **Add Formatting:** Applies general formatting to the selected text. It will wrap the text in the appropriate XML formatting tags.
- **Bold Underline:** Adds both bold () and underline (<u>) formatting tags to the selected text in the XML editor.
- **Add Bold:** Wraps the selected text in tags, making it bold in the final XML.
- **Add Underline:** Wraps the selected text in <u> tags, underlining the text.
- **Add Italic:** Wraps the selected text in <i> tags, making it italicized.
- **Add List:** Creates list items within the XML using tags. This is useful for creating bullet points or ordered lists.
- **Add Break:** Inserts line breaks (
) into the XML, typically used for formatting content into multiple lines.
- **Add Comment:** Adds HTML-style comments (<!-- comment -->) into the XML. This is useful for leaving notes or explanations within the XML code that won't be rendered in the final output.

D. Attributes Dropdown

These buttons add specific attributes to elements within the XML, enabling more control over how elements behave.

- **Add Hidden Element:** Adds attributes to hide specific elements from view (e.g., in surveys where you need invisible fields).
- **Add Open-End:** Adds an attribute to make an input field open-ended, allowing for free-form text input.
- **Add Randomize:** Adds the randomize="0" attribute, which disables randomization of the order of elements in the XML.
- **Add Exclusive:** Marks certain elements as exclusive (exclusive="1"), meaning that selecting one will exclude other options.
- **Add Shuffle Rows:** Adds an attribute to shuffle rows in a table or matrix in the XML.
- **Add Sort Rows:** Adds the sortRows attribute, enabling sorting of rows in a specific order.
- **Add Aggregate:** Adds the aggregate attribute (aggregate="0"), used for summing or aggregating values in the XML.
- **Add Optional:** Marks elements as optional using the optional="1" attribute.
- **Add Groups:** Adds grouping functionality to the selected elements, allowing for the organization of related fields under a common group.
- **Add Values:** Automatically adds incremental values (e.g., value="1", value="2") to elements like rows, columns, or choices.
- **Add Values(H-L):** Adds values in descending order, such as value="5", value="4", etc.
- **Add DesktopView:** Marks elements for display only on desktop devices using surveyDisplay="desktop".

E. Control Elements Dropdown

These buttons allow for more advanced structural elements, such as loops and blocks.

- **Add Block Tag:** Wraps selected content in a <block> tag, which can be used to group content or apply conditions to certain sections of the XML.
- **Add Block Tag (randomizeChildren):** Similar to the block tag, but includes the randomizeChildren="1" attribute, allowing the order of the child elements to be randomized.
- **Add Loop Tag:** Wraps content in a <loop> tag, useful for creating repeatable sections or iterating over content within the XML.

F. Custom Setups

This section allows you to upload and work with custom .txt files to personalize your XML generation.

- **Upload File:** Uploads a .txt file from your computer. Once uploaded, the file is parsed, and dynamic buttons are created based on its content, allowing for quick insertion of predefined XML snippets.
- **Change File:** Allows you to upload a new file, replacing the previously uploaded one.

5. Additional Features

File Handling

Users can upload files via the Custom Setups section. Once uploaded, dynamic buttons are generated based on the file's content to help with inserting predefined XML snippets into the editor.

Notifications and Warnings

The tool provides non-blocking notifications for actions like copying content or errors if users try to close the browser without saving.

How to Use

1. Text Input & Formatting:

- Use the Docx Editor to input and format the text.
- Use the Text Formatting dropdown for inline XML formatting.

2. Add Question Elements:

- Choose from the Question Types or Question Elements to generate the appropriate XML structure.

3. XML Editing:

- You can manually adjust the XML in the XML Editor using Ace editor's features like Undo/Redo.
- Copy the generated XML when done and paste it where necessary.

4. File Upload:

- Use the Custom Setups to upload and work with custom .txt files for content generation.