Introduction to XProc 3.0 – Part 2

Markup UK 2020
Webinar



What have we learned in part 1?

- XProc is a *pipeline* language for documents, it chains *steps*
- Documents flow in and out of steps through ports
 - Documents can be XML, HTML, text, JSON oir binary
- One input and one output port can be primary: These ports implicitly connect (unless explicitly connected)
 - Primary ports are called source and result by convention
- You can connect a port to:
 - Another port (either *implicit* for primary ports or *explicit*: <p:pipe> or @pipe)
 - To a document stated inline (<p:inline>)
 - To a document on disk (<p:document> or @href)
- Options are additional switches for the steps and/or your pipelines



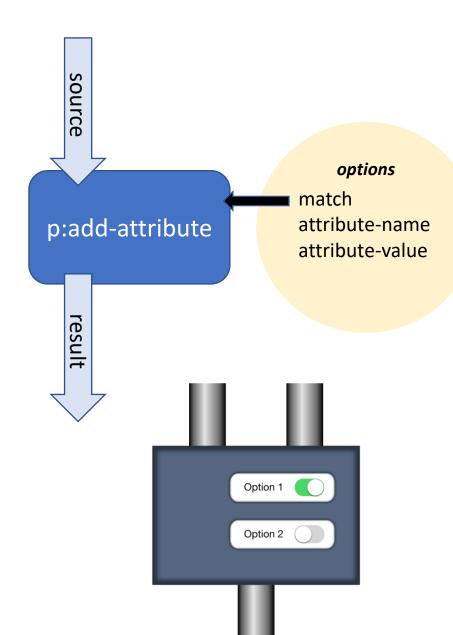
What are we going to do today?

- Revisit options
 - Setting option with attributes or <p:with-option>
- Variables
 - How to create, how to use
- Core (or Compound) steps
 - Show example of multiple document handling using <p:for-each>

Sounds kinda interesting, tell me more!



Options revisited



```
Set an option's value:
```

```
<p:add-attribute
  match="/*"
  attribute-name="timestamp"
  attribute-value="{current-dateTime()}"/>
```

Declare an option for your own step:

```
<p:option name="author" select="'Erik'"/>
```

Piece of cake, you've seen this last time...



Setting option's values 1: Use attributes

```
<p:add-attribute match="/*" attribute-name="timestamp"
attribute-value="{current-dateTime()}"/>
```

- Use AVTs (Attribute-Value Templates) { ... } to insert XPath expressions
- Works only for:
 - Simple atomic values (strings, integers, booleans, etc.)
 - Single values (so no sequences!)
 - Map and array typed values, for instance:

```
<p:xslt parameters="map{ 'myparam': 'myvalue'}" ...</pre>
```



Setting option values 2: Use <p:with-option>

```
See: markupuk-2020/101-B/example-1/example-1a.xpl

<p:add-attribute>
  <p:with-option name="match" select="'/*'"/>
  <p:with-option name="attribute-name" select="'timestamp'"/>
  <p:with-option name="attribute-value" select="current-dateTime()"/>
</p:add-attribute>
```

Much more verbose, but sometimes you can't do without...



To quote or not to quote...

```
<p:add-attribute match="/*"
<p:with-option name="match" select="'/*"/>
```

- The match option needs an XPath expression
 - Passed to p:add-attribute as a string
 - Processed by the step itself, not by the surrounding pipeline
- An attribute's value is just an atomic value (with the AVTs expanded)
- Any select attribute in a pipeline contains an XPath expression
 - This will be processed by the pipeline
 - The resulting value will be passed to the step



Don't try this at home

ERORR

See: markupuk-2020/101-B/example-1/example-1b.xpl

- /* will be executed against the implicit connection
- Result passed as option's value: This is a piece of text to demonstrate ...
- The match option expects a valid XPath expression, which this is not...
- Result: Error...



Some use-cases for <p:with-option>

• If you need to pass something more complex than a single atomic value: See: markupuk-2020/101-B/example-1/example-1c.xpl

```
<p:directory-list path=".">
  <p:with-option name="include-filter" select="('\.txt$', '\.xml$')"/>
  </p:directory-list>
```

 If you want to process your XPath expression against something floating out of another port:

```
<p:with-option name="attribute-value" select="/*/@status"
    pipe="some-port@some-step"/>
```

It's getting complicated...

Don't worry, most of the times setting options will

be really simple!



Variables

See: markupuk-2020/101-B/example-2/example-2a.xpl

• Declare a variable:

```
<p:variable name="id" select="..."/>
```

Use a variable:

```
<p:add-attribute match="/*"
attribute-name="id" attribute-value="{$id}"/>
```



Variables with values from document

See: markupuk-2020/101-B/example-2/example-2b.xpl

```
<input-example user="erik">
                            <title>Just some XML...</title>
                          </input-example>
                   document
<p:variable name="status" select="... something based on /*/@user"/>
                   document
```



Variables with values from additional document

See: markupuk-2020/101-B/example-2/example-2c.xpl



The core (or compound) steps

- p:for-each: loop over multiple documents or parts of a document
- p:choose / p:when / p:otherwise: Make choices
- p:if: Make a single choice (there is no else)
- p:viewport: Work on only a part of a document
- p:try / p:catch: Error catching and handling
- p:group: Grouping of instructions

Regrettably, there is no time to look at them all...



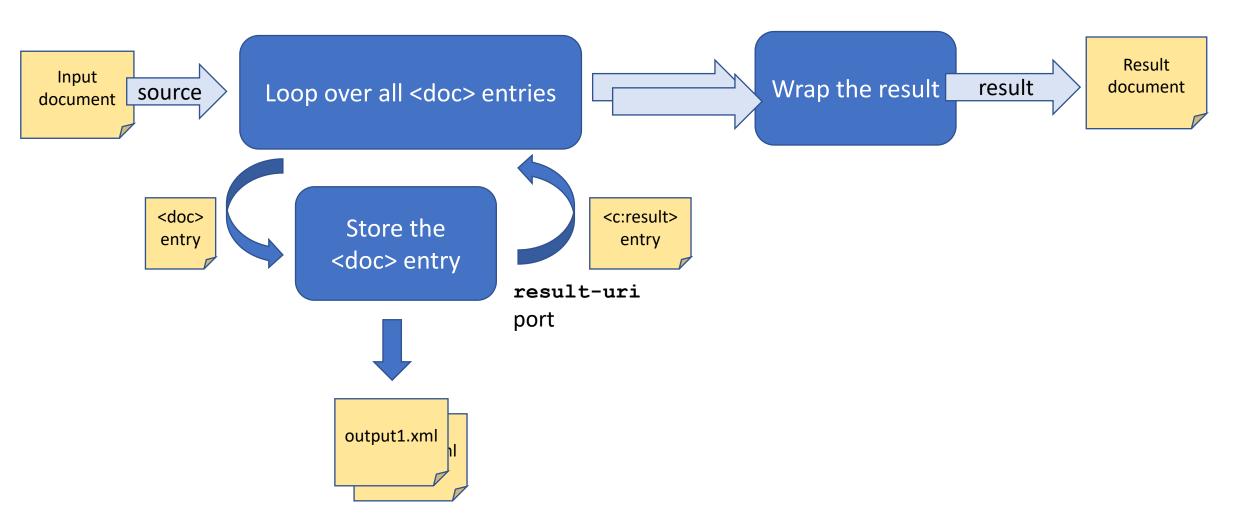
Use p:for-each to split a document

See: markupuk-2020/101-B/example-3/example-3a.xpl and example-3b.xpl

```
Input
<documents>
                                               document
 <doc filename="output1.xml">
                                                                              output1.xml
    <contents>This is document number 1
 </doc>
                                                               Pipeline
 <doc filename="output2.xml">
    <contents>This is document number 2</contents>
                                                                              output2.xml
    <more>It has some more...
 </doc>
</documents>
                                                                    Boring contents Erik
```

Output the resulting filenames

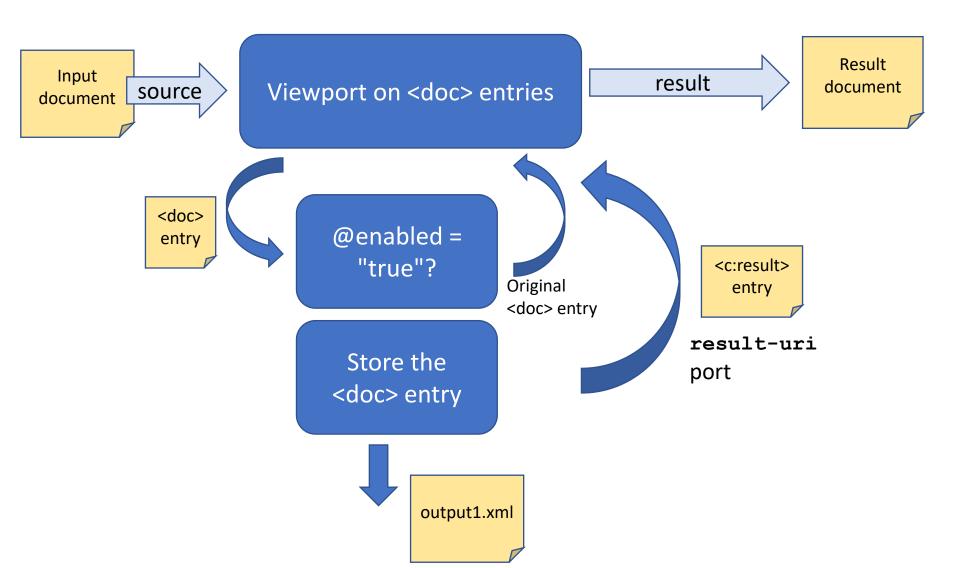
See: markupuk-2020/101-B/example-3/example-3d.xpl





Only store files marked enabled

See: markupuk-2020/101-B/example-3/example-3f.xpl





Wrap up:

- You can set options by attribute or using <p:with-option>
 - Watch out: Who is going to interpret the XPath expressions?
- You can define and use variables
 - XPath expression do not have to be based on the document flowing through
- There are core steps for looping, decision making, etc.
 We looked at:
 - p:for-each
 - p:viewport
 - •p:if



Goodbye and thank the fish, again!

Your guide today: Erik Siegel – erik@xatapult.nl

Specification: https://spec.xproc.org/

Processors:

- Morgana: https://www.xml-project.com/
- Calabash: https://xmlcalabash.com/

Articles on XProc: https://www.xml.com

Book: https://xmlpress.net/publications/xproc-3-0/

See you!
And remember,
Kanava says:
XProc rocks...



Who Am I?

- Erik Siegel
- Content Engineer, XML Specialist, Technical Writer
- Company: Xatapult
 - Groningen, The Netherlands
 - Customers mostly in publishing and standardization
- Part of the XProc 3.0 editing committee
- Writer of the XProc 3.0 Programmer Reference
- Contact:

erik@xatapult.nl
www.xatapult.com
www.linkedin.com/in/esiegel/
+31 6 53260792

