

xtpxlib-xoffice

Conversions for Word and Excel files

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0 Xatapult XML Library - Conversions for Word and Excel files



xtpplib library - component **xtpplib-xoffice** - v2.0 (2023-07-19)

Xatapult Content Engineering - <http://www.xatapult.com> - +31 6 53260792

Erik Siegel - erik@xatapult.com

xtpplib-xoffice is part of the **xtpplib** library. **xtpplib** contains software for processing XML, using languages like XSLT and XProc. It consists of several separate components, all named **xtpplib-***. Everything can be found on GitHub (<https://github.com/xatapult>).

This component contains XProc (1.0 and 3.0) pipelines for converting Microsoft Office Word (.docx) and Excel (.xlsx) files to and from somewhat more manageable XML formats.

Installation and usage information can be found on **xtpplib**'s main website <https://www.xtpplib.org>.

Technical information:

Component documentation: <https://xoffice.xtpplib.org>

License: GNU GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE - Version 3, 29 June 2007

Git URI: [git@github.com:xatapult/xtpplib-xoffice.git](https://github.com/xatapult/xtpplib-xoffice.git)

Git site: <https://github.com/xatapult/xtpplib-xoffice>

This component depends on:

- [xtpplib-container](#) (Support for XML containers (multiple files wrapped into one))
- [xtpplib-common](#) (Common component: Shared libraries and IDE support)

Release information:

v2.0 - 2023-07-19 (current)

Added XProc 3.0 support.

v1.1.B - 2020-02-16

Added the option to insert dates into Excel sheets and a small library for converting dates between Excel and xs:date formats.

v1.1.A - 2020-02-16

New logo and minor fixes.

v1.1 - 2020-02-16

Added basic support for modifying Excel files and fixed some minor bugs.

v1.0 - 2019-12-18

Initial release

(Abbreviated. Full release information in README.md)

1 Description

Microsoft Office files are actually zip files with a lot of XML and other stuff inside. It is remarkably difficult to get to the actual contents of them: What is in Excel cell A1B2 or what is written in this Word document. To help with this, the xtpplib-xoffice component contains XProc (1.0 and 3.0) pipelines to extract contents from Excel (.xlsx) and Word (.docx) files.

The namespace prefix `xtlxo:` is bound to the namespace `http://www.xtpplib.nl/ns/xoffice` (`xmlns:xtlxo="http://www.xtpplib.nl/ns/xoffice"`).

NOTE:

Especially the .docx (Word) conversions should be considered unfinished and experimental. Not everything is converted.

1.1 Converting from Excel (.xlsx)

The `xtlxo:extract-xlsx` pipeline takes an Excel .xlsx file and turns this into much more manageable XML. The schema for the resulting XML format is [here](#).

Take for instance this simple Excel sheet:

	1	2
1	1	What's up?
2	2	Cell with bold in it

Figure 1-1 - Excel example sheet

Running this through the `xtlxo:extract-xlsx` pipeline returns something like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<workbook xmlns="http://www.xtpplib.nl/ns/xoffice"
  href="file:///path/to/excel.xlsx"
  timestamp="2019-12-11T12:50:20.252+01:00">

  <properties>
    ... Sheet properties ...
  </properties>

  <worksheet name="Sheet1">
    <row index="1">
      <cell index="1" ref="A1">
        <value>1</value>
      </cell>
      <cell index="2" ref="B1">
        <value>What's up?</value>
      </cell>
    </row>
    <row index="2">
      <cell index="1" ref="A2">
        <value>2</value>
        <formula>A1+1</formula>
      </cell>
      <cell index="2" ref="B2">
        <value>Cell with <span class="b">bold</span> in it</value>
      </cell>
    </row>
  </worksheet>
</workbook>
```

1.2 Converting to Excel (.xlsx)

The `xtlxo:modify-xlsx` pipeline takes a template Excel .xlsx file and changes this. The result will be written to a new Excel file.

It has the following features:

- You can change the individual worksheets in the Excel file. A worksheet is identified by its *name* (the name that is visible on its tab at the bottom of the Excel screen).
- You can identify a cell on a worksheet in three ways:
 - As a direct numeric row/column index
 - As identified by an Excel *name*. You can use this to identify a cell, by row, column, or both. An Excel name can reference an area (or even multiple areas) on a worksheet. To work around this the most upper-left cell in the named area(s) is used.
 - Using an Excel name (like above) and adding a numeric offset.
- You can insert a numeric or string value in a cell.
- You have to specify the type of the data to insert (so you can, for instance, insert a numeric value as a string if necessary)

There are some things you need to take care of creating the template Excel file:

- If you need formatting in a cell you're going to fill with this pipeline (like colors, borders, etc.) there *must* be some contents in the cell. Since this will be overwritten, it should not be a problem.
- The same is true for a cell you're referencing by name: It must contain some contents. If you need this contents to be invisible you can always use a single space character.
- Names of worksheets and cells are case-sensitive.

The XML for specifying the changes to the Excel file is quite simple. The schema can be found [here](#). A simple example:

```
<xlsx-modifications xmlns="http://www.xtpxlib.nl/ns/xoffice">

  <worksheet name="TEST">

    <row name="NAMEDCELL" >
      <column name="NAMEDCELL" >
        <number>12345</number>
      </column>
      <column name="NAMEDCELL" offset="1">
        <string>One to the right</string>
      </column>
    </row>

    <row index="1">
      <column index="1">
        <string>Upper left-hand corner</string>
      </column>
      <column index="2">
        <number>6E3</number>
      </column>
    </row>
  </worksheet>

</xlsx-modifications>
```

1.3 Converting from Word (.docx)

The `xtlxo:extract-docx` pipeline takes a Word (.docx) file and turns this into an understandable XML format. This format is experimental, there is currently no schema for it.

As an example take this simple Word file:

Hello there!

Something in **Bold**!

- A list entry
- Another one

Simple table header	More header
Column1, row 2	Column 2 row 2

Figure 1-2 - Example Word document

Running this through the `xtlzo:extract-docx` pipeline returns something like:

```
<document xmlns="http://www.xtpxlib.nl/ns/xoffice"
  dref=""
  timestamp="2019-12-11T13:09:15.415+01:00">
  <properties>
    ... document properties ...
  </properties>

  <p xml:space="preserve">Hello there!</p>
  <p xml:space="preserve">Something in <span class="b">Bold</span>!</p>
  <p class="ListBullet" xml:space="preserve">A list entry</p>
  <p class="ListBullet" xml:space="preserve">Another one</p>
  <p class="ListBullet" indent-left="360" indent-level="0" xml:space="preserve">
  <table>
    <tr>
      <td>
        <p class="ListBullet" indent-level="0" xml:space="preserve">Simple table header</p>
      </td>
      <td>
        <p class="ListBullet" indent-level="0" xml:space="preserve">More header</p>
      </td>
    </tr>
    <tr>
      <td>
        <p class="ListBullet" indent-level="0" xml:space="preserve">Column1, row 2</p>
      </td>
      <td>
        <p class="ListBullet" indent-level="0" xml:space="preserve">Column 2 row 2</p>
      </td>
    </tr>
  </table>
  <p class="ListBullet" indent-left="360" indent-level="0" xml:space="preserve">
</document>
```

There's an experimental pipeline `xtlzo:create-docx` to create Word documents (using a template Word document for things like styles, margins, etc.). If you feed this the same kind of XML you get from `xtlzo:extract-docx`, the result *should* be a valid, useable Word document with the new text in it. It's currently incomplete (it doesn't do tables for instance). Use at your own risk.

2 XProc 3.0 Support

The xtpxlib-xoffice component contains the following XProc 3.0 pipelines:

Module/Pipeline	Description
create-docx.xpl	Takes as input the same kind of (unspecified) XML as create by docx-to-xml.xpl and tries to turn this into a Word file. Unfinished and experimental (for instance: tables are not (yet) supported)!
docx-to-xml.xpl	Extracts the contents of a Word (.docx) file in a more useable XML format (unspecified). Somewhat experimental and unfinished!
modify-xlsx.xpl	Takes an input/template Excel (.xlsx) and a modification specification and from this creates a new modified Excel file that merges these two sources.
xlsx-to-xml.xpl	Extracts the contents of an Excel (.xlsx) file in a more useable XML format .

Table 2-1 - Module overview

2.1 XProc (3.0) pipeline: create-docx.xpl

File: xpl3/create-docx.xpl

Type: xtlxo:create-docx

Takes as input the same kind of (unspecified) XML as create by [docx-to-xml.xpl](#) and tries to turn this into a Word file. Unfinished and experimental (for instance: tables are not (yet) supported)!

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
source	in	yes	The XML to convert into .docx.
result	out	yes	The output is identical to the input but with @timestamp, @docx-href-in and @docx-href-out added to the root element.

Option	Type	Rq?	Default	Description
docx-href-in	xs:string	yes		URI of the input (template) .docx file to process
docx-href-out	xs:string	yes		URI of the output .docx file.

2.2 XProc (3.0) pipeline: docx-to-xml.xpl

File: xpl3/docx-to-xml.xpl

Type: xtlxo:docx-to-xml

Extracts the contents of a Word (.docx) file in a more useable XML format (unspecified). Somewhat experimental and unfinished!

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
result	out	yes	The resulting XML document.

Option	Type	Rq?	Default	Description
xlsx-href	xs:string	yes		Document reference of the .docx file to process (must have file:// in front).

2.3 XProc (3.0) pipeline: modify-xlsx.xpl

File: xpl3/modify-xlsx.xpl

Type: xtlxo:modify-xlsx

Takes an input/template Excel (.xlsx) and a [modification specification](#) and from this creates a new modified Excel file that merges these two sources.

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
source	in	yes	The modification specification .
result	out	yes	The output is identical to the input but with @timestamp, @xlsx-href-in and @xlsx-href-out added to the root element.

Option	Type	Rq?	Default	Description
xlsx-href-in	xs:string	yes		URI of the input (template) .xlsx file to process
xlsx-href-out	xs:string	yes		URI of the output .xlsx file.

2.4 XProc (3.0) pipeline: xlsx-to-xml.xpl

File: xpl3/xlsx-to-xml.xpl

Type: xtlxo:xlsx-to-xml

Extracts the contents of an Excel (.xlsx) file in a more useable [XML format](#).

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
result	out	yes	The resulting XML document.

Option	Type	Rq?	Default	Description
xlsx-href	xs:string	yes		Document reference of the .xlsx file to process (must have file:// in front).

3 XProc 1.0 Support

The xtpxlib-xoffice component contains the following XProc 1.0 library modules:

WARNING: XProc 1.0 support is considered deprecated and will be removed in the near future!

Module/Pipeline	Description
common.mod.xpl	XProc (1.0) library with generic steps.

Table 3-1 - Module overview

3.1 XProc (1.0) library: common.mod.xpl

File: `xplmod/common.mod/common.mod.xpl`

XProc (1.0) library with generic steps.

Prefix	Namespace URI
<code>xtlc</code>	<code>http://www.xtpxlib.nl/ns/common</code>

Step	Description
xtlc:copy-directory	Copies a full directory structure.
xtlc:copy-file	Copies a file, if necessary from inside a zip file.
xtlc:log	Writes a message to a log file.
xtlc:recursive-directory-list	Returns the contents of a directory, going into sub-directories recursively. When the requested directory does not exist, it returns only a <code>c:directory</code> root element with an <code>error="true"</code> attribute.
xtlc:remove-dir	Removes a full directory. When the directory does not exist, everything continues without error.
xtlc:tee	Tees the input to a file and passes it unchanged (like the Unix tee command).
xtlc:zip-directory	Zips a directory and its sub-directories into a single zip file.

3.1.1 Step: `xtlc:copy-directory`

Copies a full directory structure.

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
<code>source</code>	<code>in</code>	yes	Input, will be passed unchanged.
<code>result</code>	<code>out</code>	yes	The input unchanged.

Option	Rq?	Default	Description
<code>href-source-dir</code>	yes		Reference to the directory to copy from (must have a leading <code>file:/</code> specifier!).
<code>href-target-dir</code>	yes		Reference to the directory to copy to (must have a leading <code>file:/</code> specifier!). If it does not exist the step will try to create it.

3.1.2 Step: `xtlc:copy-file`

Copies a file, if necessary from inside a zip file.

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
<code>source</code>	<code>in</code>	yes	Input, will be passed unchanged.
<code>result</code>	<code>out</code>	yes	The input unchanged.

Option	Rq?	Default	Description
<code>enable</code>		<code>true ()</code>	Whether the copying is done at all.
<code>href-source</code>	yes		Reference to the source file to copy (must have a leading <code>file:/</code> specifier!).
<code>href-source-zip</code>		<code>' '</code>	Document reference to a zip file (must have a leading <code>file:/</code> specifier!). When filled, <code>\$href-source</code> is assumed to be a path inside this zip.
<code>href-target</code>	yes		Reference to the target.

3.1.3 Step: xtlc:log

Writes a message to a log file.

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
source	in	yes	Input to the logging, will be passed unchanged to the output
result	out	yes	The input unchanged.

Option	Rq?	Default	Description
enable		true ()	Whether the logging will be done at all.
href-log	yes		Name of the file to write the log messages to (must have a leading file: / specifier!).
keep-messages		100	The number of messages to keep in the logfile. If le 0, all messages are kept. Set by default to 100 to prevent overflowing files...
message	yes		The actual log message to write.
status		'ok'	Status of the message. Must be ok, warning, error or debug.

3.1.4 Step: xtlc:recursive-directory-list

Returns the contents of a directory, going into sub-directories recursively. When the requested directory does not exist, it returns only a c:directory root element with an error="true" attribute.

Adapted from Norman Walsh's [example code](#).

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
result	out	yes	The resulting directory structure listing in XML format.

Option	Rq?	Default	Description
depth		-1	The sub-directory depth to go. When le 0, all sub-directories are processed.
exclude-filter			An optional regular expression exclude filter.
flatten		false ()	When true, the list will be "flattened": All c:file children will be direct children of the root's c:directory element. These c:file elements get a @name, @href-abs (absolute filename) and @href-rel (relative filename) attribute.
include-filter			An optional regular expression include filter.
path	yes		The path to get the directory listing from.

3.1.5 Step: xtlc:remove-dir

Removes a full directory When the directory does not exist, everything continues without error.

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
source	in	yes	Input, will be passed unchanged.
result	out	yes	The input unchanged.

Option	Rq?	Default	Description
enable		true ()	Whether the removal is done at all.
href-dir	yes		Reference to the directory to remove (must have a leading file: / specifier!).

3.1.6 Step: xtlc:tee

Tees the input to a file and passes it unchanged (like the Unix tee command).

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
source	in	yes	Input to the tee.
result	out	yes	The input unchanged (unless a <code>\$root-attribute-href</code> was specified).

Option	Rq?	Default	Description
enable		true ()	Whether to actually do the write. When false, nothing happens.
href	yes		Name of the file to write to (must have a leading <code>file:/</code> specifier!)
indent		true ()	Whether or not to indent the tee-d output.
root-attribute-href		' '	If filled, <code>\$href</code> is recorded as an attribute with this name on the root element of the original input. Must be a valid attribute name.

3.1.7 Step: xtlc:zip-directory

Zips a directory and its sub-directories into a single zip file.

Port	Type	Primary?	Description
result	out	yes	The output of the actual zip step, listing all the files that went in.

Option	Rq?	Default	Description
base-path	yes		Directory which contents will be stored in the zip (must have a leading <code>file:/</code> specifier!)
href-target-zip	yes		Document reference for the zip file to produce (must have a leading <code>file:/</code> specifier!)
include-base		true ()	When true, the last part of <code>\$base-path</code> (e.g. <code>a/b/c ==> c</code>) is used as the root directory in the zip file.

4 XML Schemas

The xtpxlib-xoffice component contains the following XML Schemas:

Module/Pipeline	Description
xlsx-extract.xsd	Schema for the result of an Excel (.xlsx) data extraction to XML. Format produced by the [**** Referenced linkend id "excel.mod.xpl-xtlxo_extract-xlsx" not found (phase: inline)] pipeline.
xlsx-modify.xsd	Schema for the modification specification of Excel (.xlsx) files. Format used by the [**** Referenced linkend id "excel.mod.xpl-xtlxo_modify-xlsx" not found (phase: inline)] pipeline.

Table 4-1 - Module overview

4.1 XML Schema: xlsx-extract.xsd

File: xsd/xlsx-extract.xsd

Target namespace: <http://www.xtpxlib.nl/ns/xoffice>

Schema for the result of an Excel (.xlsx) data extraction to XML. Format produced by the **[**** Referenced linkend id "excel.mod.xpl-xtlxo_extract-xlsx" not found (phase: inline)]** pipeline.

Element	Description
workbook	Root element of the Excel workbook extraction XML result.

4.2 XML Schema: xlsx-modify.xsd

File: xsd/xlsx-modify.xsd

Target namespace: <http://www.xtpxlib.nl/ns/xoffice>

Schema for the modification specification of Excel (.xlsx) files. Format used by the **[**** Referenced linkend id "excel.mod.xpl-xtlxo_modify-xlsx" not found (phase: inline)]** pipeline.

Element	Description
xlsx-modifications	Root element of the Excel modifications specification.

5 XSLT Modules

The xtpxlib-xoffice component contains the following XSLT modules.

Module/Pipeline	Description
excel-conversions.mod.xsl	Excel data specific conversions
xoffice.mod.xsl	Library with support code for the MS Office file handling.

Table 5-1 - Module overview

5.1 XSLT (3.0): excel-conversions.mod.xsl

File: xslmod/excel-conversions.mod.xsl

Excel data specific conversions

Prefix	Namespace URI
xtlxo	http://www.xtpxlib.nl/ns/xoffice

Variable	Type	Value	Description
xtlxo:excel-start-date	xs:date	xs:date('1900-01-01')	

Function	Description
xtlxo:excel-date-to-xs-date()	Converts an Excel date integer into an xs:date.
xtlxo:xs-date-to-excel-date()	Converts an xs:date into an Excel date integer.

5.1.1 Function: xtlxo:excel-date-to-xs-date() as xs:date

Converts an Excel date integer into an xs:date.

Parameter	Type	Description
excel-value	xs:integer	The Excel date integer to convert.

5.1.2 Function: xtlxo:xs-date-to-excel-date() as xs:integer

Converts an xs:date into an Excel date integer.

Parameter	Type	Description
date	xs:date	The xs:date to convert.

5.2 XSLT (3.0): xoffice.mod.xsl

File: xslmod/xoffice.mod.xsl

Library with support code for the MS Office file handling.

Depends on the following XSLT modules from the xtpxlib-common component:

- [general.mod.xsl](#)
- [href.mod.xsl](#)

Yet largely undocumented. Use at your own risk.

Prefix	Namespace URI
xtlxo	http://www.xtpxlib.nl/ns/xoffice

Variable	Type	Value	Description
xtlxo:relationship-type-comments	xs:string	'http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/comments'	
xtlxo:relationship-type-core-properties	xs:string	'http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/package/2006/relationships/metadata/core-properties'	
xtlxo:relationship-type-custom-properties	xs:string	'http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/custom-properties'	
xtlxo:relationship-type-extended-properties	xs:string	'http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/extended-properties'	
xtlxo:relationship-type-main-document	xs:string	'http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/officeDocument'	
xtlxo:relationship-type-shared-strings	xs:string	'http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/sharedStrings'	

Named template	Description
xtlxo:get-properties	

Function	Description
xtlxo:doc-href()	
xtlxo:get-file-root()	
xtlxo:get-file-root-from-relationship-id()	
xtlxo:get-file-root-from-relationship-type()	
xtlxo:get-file-root-relationship()	
xtlxo:get-href()	
xtlxo:get-rels-href()	

5.2.1 Named template: xtlxo:get-properties

Parameter	Type	Rq?	Default	Description
extracted-office-xml	element (xtlcon:document-container)			

5.2.2 Function: xtlxo:doc-href() as xs:string

Parameter	Type	Description
href-parts	xs:string+	

5.2.3 Function: xtlxo:get-file-root() as element()?

Parameter	Type	Description
extracted-office-xml	element (xtlcon:document-container)	
href-parts	xs:string+	
is-mandatory	xs:boolean	

5.2.4 Function: xtlxo:get-file-root-from-relationship-id() as element()?

Parameter	Type	Description
extracted-office-xml	element (xtlcon:document-container)	
basefile-href	xs:string	
relationship-id	xs:string	
is-mandatory	xs:boolean	

5.2.5 Function: xtlxo:get-file-root-from-relationship-type() as element()?

Parameter	Type	Description
extracted-office-xml	element (xtlcon:document-container)	
basefile-href	xs:string	
relationship-type	xs:string	
is-mandatory	xs:boolean	

5.2.6 Function: xtlxo:get-file-root-relationship() as element(mso-rels:Relationships)?

Parameter	Type	Description
extracted-office-xml	element (xtlcon:document-container)	
basefile-href	xs:string	
is-mandatory	xs:boolean	

5.2.7 Function: xtlxo:get-href() as xs:string

Parameter	Type	Description
elm	element ()	

5.2.8 Function: xtlxo:get-rels-href() as xs:string

Parameter	Type	Description
basefile-href	xs:string	