XML SIG Meeting Minutes
Working Group Meeting
Hyatt Regency San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

January 11 – 17, 2003

Attendees

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<th>Name</th>
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2003-01-13 Monday (Q1-Q4) XML SIG

• Introduction, Detail meeting planning for San Antonio

• V3 XML ITS ballot issues
  o Type naming
    □ Types have to be declared unique across all message types. This has an impact on the way you have to write code, for example XSLT, based on these type names (if you want to process message instances based on types).
Proposal on how to make them unique: the name type is prefixed by the message type

Restricting complex types even if they are anonymous is a HL7 requirement for W3C schema 1.1

- There is the need to have schemas for D-MIMs and R-MIMs. Up to now schemas are created for specific message types in an R-MIM. If somebody wants to deal with all message types derived from a specific R-MIM he might want to “implement” an R-MIM schema. The same issue applies to D-MIM/R-MIM derivation

Representation of Choices

- A choice was represented as an element containing a choice of the choice objects as its content model
- Now all choices are named groups that can be referenced. There is still an open tool issues related to the XML transformation to schemas which will be addressed by Dale.
- All CMETs are named groups as well.
- Incoming associations to the choice box are going to the named group element
- Outgoing associations from the choice box are going from each individual child element of the choice box. This does not affect the distal class where these associations are pointing to. It appears only once.

Tooling

- There is work on the road to include all transformation from an R-MIM to schemas, grid views etc. into RoseTree directly rather than having a separate step with tools. This would simplify the transformation steps.
- Charlie reported that they use RoseTree as a black box transformation step without doing anything in RoseTree except generating the HMD XML representation (and then continuing the schema generation). There is a discussion whether RoseTree is needed in the way it is used today and what’s the benefit because it adds another “layer” of tooling to the “road down” to schemas.
The volunteer process of creating all the tools does not working sufficiently. Beyond work that is done concerning Visio, RoseTree, XML transformation (schemas, publication artifacts), publication database, annotation tool, and the wrapper determination methodology etc. there are open and unresolved issues like creating a test environment, a helpdesk, sufficient documentation, setting up a change process, maintenance, and much more. It seems that some early implementor project weren’t even able to create specifications using the HL7 tooling due to instability. This issue has been discussed at several working group meetings within the XML SIG. Now, having a Process Improvement committee (PIC), we should forward the requirement to professionalize the tool building and maintenance process. This includes spending money to get this critical work done by creating a “tooling task force”. We assert that this work would need funding for at least two full time person for at least one year plus an additional amount to outsource some of the work. We should collect early implementor projects to specify and substantiate the urgency of these requirements. Urgent tasks are how to identify and get rid of the current bottlenecks, prioritize what are the deliverables and services by this tooling task force.

- Namespaces in HL7 (v2+V3, Versioning)
  - Single namespace for V3 (and no separate namespace for the data types)
  - Single namespace for v2.xml
  - Suggestion to have namespace URIs that does neither contain versions nor realm information. Rather than that attributes (for example, for the root element) are chosen to represent this information.
  - Suggestion to have an HL7 draft and an HL7 release namespace
  - According to W3C namespace URIs should be dereferencable. But we still think that namespace URIs should not be dereferencable (actually always used URNs to indicate that namespace is not). There are also a couple of other issues with deref URIs (web server capacity and
performance, systems working without internet connection, password protected sites etc.)

- Example: urn:hl7-org:v3

- Decision about interversion compatibility and extensibility
  - If a v3.0 processor receives are v3.1 message he should be able to determine what he can ignore from the 3.1 in order to get and process it as a 3.0 message. This could be done by automatically determine a schema containing the differences of the 3.1 and 3.0 schema and put these information of what is added to the 3.0 message (and can be ignored) into annotations of the schema for the v3.1 message.
  - To achieve forward compatibility / extensibility wildcards could be added at any place in the schemas. This assures that things which must be there are there, and other things can be ignored.

- Alternative transport and security mechanisms
  - HL7 profiles for HL7 abstract message wrappers
  - ebXML (Paul Knapp), WSI (Roberto, Vassil)
    - Paul introduced his paper on using ebXML as a transport wrapper
      - Line protocol (TCP/IP) and TSL or SSL with 128 bit encryption
        - Open: need messages to be signed
      - Message Handling
      - Transport Wrapper
    - Paul’s document will be published thru XML SIG material web page right after the meeting. He will inform the XML SIG list that the document is downloadable there, along with some question that came up during his implementation in Canada.

- Wrapper discussion (MSH and EVN equivalents, relationship to ebXML)
  - Paul talked to Lloyd and Mark Shafarman. The “wrapper task force” concluded to have a MSH and an EVN wrapper. For a specific ITS, it could be chosen to not use these wrappers.

- v2.xml 1st membership ballot reconciliations (Q4)
- 33 affirms, 16 negs, 5 abstain. The ballot did not pass the 90% rule of a membership ballot so far. However, most of the negatives could be resolved. According to the rules 45 of 49 of the combined affirmatives and negatives must be affirmative.

- Kai reported on Siemens’ negative block vote that was driven by the added hold harmless text that was included in the schemas/DTDs of the recent v2.xml ballot package (as well as in the recent V3 ballot package). The text will be removed from the schemas, however an alternative and approved hold harmless text exist (according to an information by John Quinn) and could be included (by a board directive) in future technical corrections of the schemas. Distinguishing the hold harmless text is sufficient for the Siemens commenter, all block voters will withdraw their negatives.

- Peter Ronteys issue about the data type appendix to certain data type components was resolved by eliminating these suffixes in the database excerpts. However, this should be promoted to the chapter editors of HL7 v2.6 to make this notation of data types of components unique and consistent across the paper standard. The other negative was a typo in the schema transformation script that will be corrected. He will withdraw his negative.

- Tim Barry’s negative was cast to make sure that the schemas for message definitions that were missing in the initial ballot package. These will be included in the following technical correction. Tim is not at the meeting but will probably withdraw his negative when the missing schemas are available.

- Not a ballot comment but an issue that came up while creating technical corrections was the problem with CNS being both, a segment ID and and data type (CM replacement) can be easily solved by a technical correction of the data type naming because this does not effect the vertical bar encoding, but solves this name-clash problem for the XML encoding. The new name of the data type CNS is CNN. The schemas will reflect this.

**2003-01-14 Tuesday Q1 joint w/CQ**

- For minutes and attendance please refer to CQ meeting minutes
- Options for extensibility for V3 messages (solution: namespaces)
• Backward / Interversion compatibility between V3 series of standards (Vassil demo)

2003-01-14 Tuesday Q3+Q4
• XML Encoding of HL7 Messages Tutorial (Kai, Paul)

2003-01-15 Wednesday Q4 joint w/CQ, MnM, SD, Voc
• For minutes and attendance please refer to CQ meeting minutes

2003-01-16 Thursday Q1 joint w/CQ
• For minutes and attendance please refer to CQ meeting minutes
• Alternative transport and security mechanisms
  o HL7 profiles for HL7 abstract message wrappers
  o ebXML (Paul Biron), WSI (Roberto)

2003-01-16 Thursday Q2 XML SIG
• Meeting planning Cleveland, Agenda, Tutorials
  o There will be an additional XML SIG meeting on Wednesday Q3. Wed Q4 is still dedicated to a joint w/ CQ.
  o At the Cleveland meeting, there will be offered the “XML encoding of HL7 messages tutorial” and the “XML for developers” tutorial
  o Andrew shortly reports on the “XML Developers” tutorial at the San Antonio meeting (on Thursday Q3+Q4)
    □ has two parts: Slides and hands-on exercises
    □ topics covered:
      • How to use XML in HL7
      • Summary of V2 + V3 message mapping, transformation
      • V2 workbench, V3 tooling schema production
    □ Purpose: peek interest about XML in HL7, first steps
    □ Charlie McCay already stated, that he will not be available for this tutorial. Paul will hold this together with Andrew.
- Recommended pre-requisites for the encoding tutorial: basic XML, basic v2, basic V3, for example by Introduction to Version 3 tutorial. Kai will make sure that the prerequisites will be part of the tutorial announcement.

- The encoding tutorial and the developer tutorial will be switched concerning their schedules for Cleveland because this sequence would serve the needs and pre-requisites better. The XML for developers will thus be on Tuesday, the XML Encoding tutorial on Thursday.

- **W3C Update (Joey, Paul, Charlie)**
  - Three above mentioned persons are representatives (and co-representatives) in the following areas: XML Schema, XQL, XPath
  - Paul briefly talks about XML Schema 1.1 requirements for W3C (TS harmonization, date time right hand truncation, multiple substitution groups, occurrence based vs value based co-current constraints expressed for example by XPath predicates, versioning, typed wildcards (“any element of type x goes here”). Any suggestions or requirements should be emailed to either of the representatives.

- **V2.xml ballot wrap up**
  - The naming conflict of the CNS segment with the data type CNS was resolved by the ARB by renaming the CNS data type to CNN. The way to publish that is open, but the issue has been addressed and accepted. The technical correction of the v2.xml schemas will reflect this.
  - Kai reported shortly that all negatives are resolved, however, some of the were rejected and commented appropriately. Andrew asked whether the ballot comments will be sent around. Kai will send around the spreadsheet by next week to all negative voters and to encourage them to withdraw their negatives. As soon as this has happened the ballot spreadsheet will be posted to the XML SIG materials webpage.
  - The revised and corrected schemas/DTDs will probably be available by end February, 2003, downloadable thru the XML dev webpage.

- **Meeting continues to M&M**
  - XML SIG "Work Products" (Publishing, Tooling, etc.)
XML SIG meeting minutes

- Artifact representation (RIM etc.)
- See meeting minutes from M&M

2003-01-16 Thursday Q3+Q4 XML SIG
  - XML Developers Workshop (Charlie, Andrew)

Minutes: Kai U. Heitmann