Methods and Tools for Management Information Systems

Lecture 2

24. Oktober 2008
XML Syntax

- A simple yet complete example:

  <person>
    Alan Turing
  </person>

- No binary data but completely built from text . . .
- Looks like HTML . . .
- Tags describe the meaning of the data rather than its layout . . .
A more complex example:

```xml
<person born="1912-06-23" died="1954-06-07">
  <name>
    <first_name>Alan</first_name>
    <last_name>Turing</last_name>
  </name>
  <profession>computer scientist</profession>
  <profession>mathematician</profession>
  <profession>cryptographer</profession>
</person>
```

- Types of elements: root, parent, child ...
- Attribute(s) ...
- Element’s contents either child elements or data ...

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XML tree for Example 2:
Another example using attributes instead of child elements:

```xml
<person born="1912-06-23" died="1954-06-07">
  <name first="Alan" last="Turing">
  </name>
  <profession value="computer scientist">
  </profession>
  <profession value="mathematician"/>
  <profession value="cryptographer"/>
</person>
```

- Attribute names have to be unique (on the element level)
- Attributes appropriate for meta data
- Element-based structure more flexible and extensible
A narrative-organized XML document:

```xml
<biography>
  <name><first_name>Alan</first_name> <last_name>Turing</last_name>
  </name> was one of the first people to truly deserve the name <emphasize>computer scientist</emphasize>. Although his contributions to the field are too numerous to list, his best-known are the eponymous <emphasize>Turing Test</emphasize> and <emphasize>Turing Machine</emphasize>.

  <definition>The <term>Turing Test</term> is to this day the standard test for determining whether a computer is truly intelligent. This test has yet to be passed.</definition>

  <!-- ... -->
</biography>
```
Things an XML document may contain:

- Character data, using specific encodings (UTF-8, UTF-16, etc.)
- Whitespace, e.g. blanks, tabulators, empty lines, etc.
- XML names . . .
  - for elements und attributes
  - start with a letter or underscore
  - followed by a letter, digit, dot, hyphen or underscore, no whitespace

- Character references . . .
  - decimal, e.g. &\#38; for & (ampersand)
  - hexadecimal, e.g. 'xa9;' for © (copyright)

- Predefined entities ('&lt;', '&gt;', '&amp;', '&apos;',('&quot;')
- **CDATA (character data) sections** . . .
  - may not be nested
  - may not contain the character sequence `]>`
  - Example:
    
    ```xml
    <![[CDATA[unescaped character & markup data]]>}
    ```

- **Entity references** . . .
  - Macro replacement facility, i.e., references are replaced with the entity’s text while parsing
  - Two different types:
    - Parameter entity references (`'%name;'`)
    - General entity references (`'&name;'`)
Entity references (cont’d) …

Example:

```xml
<!ENTITY % YEAR "2001">
<!ENTITY COPYRIGHT "&%YEAR;">

<copyright_notice>&COPYRIGHT;</copyright_notice>
<copyright_notice>© 2001</copyright_notice>
```

Comments

```xml
<!--[-- This is a comment. -->
```
Processing instructions

<?target [processing-instruction data]?>

- Escape mechanism to include instructions that are not part of the XML markup or character data
- target can be any legal XML name, except xml in any combination of upper- and lowercase
- Example:

  <?xml-stylesheet href="people.css" type="text/css"?>
XML declaration

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" [encoding="name"]
[standalone="yes" | "no"]?>
```

- Must be the very first item in a document
- Version information attribute denotes the version of the XML specification used to create the document
- Encoding attribute indicates the character-encoding scheme
- Attribute standalone denotes if a document is completely self contained, i.e., the DTD, if there is one, is contained completely within the original document
- Example:

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
```
Well-formedness of XML documents:

- Every document must either use a DTD or set the value of the attribute `standalone` to `no`.
- Documents without DTD may only contain CDATA elements and/or attributes.
- Every start-tag must have a matching end-tag.
- Elements may nest, but may not overlap.
- There must be exactly one root element.
- Attribute values must be quoted.
- An element may not have two attributes with the same name.
- Comments and processing instructions may not appear inside tags.
- No unescaped `<` or `&` signs may occur in the character data of an element or attribute.
Things a Document Type Definition (DTD) may contain:

- Document type declarations
  - internal

```xml
<?xml version="1.0"?>

<!DOCTYPE people [  
  <!ELEMENT person (name, firstname, birthdate, title?)>  
  <!ELEMENT name (#PCDATA)>  
  <!ELEMENT firstname (#PCDATA)>  
  <!ELEMENT birthdate (#PCDATA)>  
  <!ELEMENT title (#PCDATA)>  
  <!ELEMENT people (person*)>  
]>```
■ external

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" standalone="no"?>
<!DOCTYPE people SYSTEM "people.dtd">
```

■ mixed

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" standalone="no"?>
<!DOCTYPE people SYSTEM "people.dtd" [ 
  <!ELEMENT address (country, city, zipcode, street, number)> 
  <!ELEMENT country (#PCDATA)> 
  <!ELEMENT city (#PCDATA)> 
  <!ELEMENT zipcode (#PCDATA)> 
  <!ELEMENT street (#PCDATA)> 
  <!ELEMENT number (#PCDATA)>
]>
```
Element declarations:

```xml
<!ELEMENT name contents>
```

- **name** must be a valid XML name
- **contents** may consist of PCDATA (Parsed Character Data) and/or a sequence/choice of child elements
- Cardinality (number of occurrences) of an element:
  - `?` – zero or one element
  - `*` – any number of elements
  - `+` – at least one element

- If elements contain mixed content ...
  - PCDATA must be the first child in the sequence
  - no cardinalities may be given
Empty elements

<!ELEMENT name EMPTY>

Unspecified elements

<!ELEMENT name ANY>
Example:

```xml
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE document [
  <!ELEMENT document (heading+, paragraph+)>
  <!ELEMENT heading (letter+, number?)>
  <!ELEMENT paragraph (letter*, number*)>
  <!ELEMENT letter (lower* | upper*)>
  <!ELEMENT lower (a | b | c | d | e)>
  <!ELEMENT upper (A | B | C | D | E)>
  <!ELEMENT number (one* | two* | three* | four*)>
]

<document>
  <heading>
    <letter/> <number/>
  </heading>
  <paragraph/>
</document>
```
Attribute declarations

```xml
<!ATTLIST element_name attribute_name type default>
```

- `element_name` and `attribute_name` must be valid XML names
- XML attribute types:
  - `CDATA` – any string of text
  - `NMTOKEN` – all characters valid in XML names
  - `NMTOKENS` – list of `NMTOKEN`
  - `enumeration` – list of all possible values
  - `ID` – unique XML name
  - `IDREF` – reference to an ID attribute
  - `IDREFS` – list of `IDREF`
  - `ENTITY` – name of an unparsed entity
XML attribute types (cont’d):

- **ENTITIES** – list of ENTITY
- **NOTATION** – name of a notation

Attribute defaults:

- **#IMPLIED** – attribute is optional, no default
- **#REQUIRED** – attribute is mandatory, no default
- **#FIXED** – attribute value is constant and immutable
- **literal** – actual default value
Examples:

<!ATTLIST picture width CDATA #IMPLIED
    height CDATA #IMPLIED
    source CDATA #REQUIRED
    alt CDATA #IMPLIED>
<picture source="tower.jpeg" alt="The Tower."/>

<!ATTLIST article year NMTOKEN #REQUIRED>
<article year="1992"/>

<!ATTLIST project milestones_due NMTOKENS #REQUIRED>
<project milestones_due="12-01-2004 02-01-2005">
    Groupware Server Setup
</project>
<!ATTLIST date day (1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ... | 31) #REQUIRED>
<!ATTLIST date month (January | ... | December) #REQUIRED>
<!ATTLIST date year (1999 | 2000 | ... | 2009) #REQUIRED>
<date day="27" month="May" year="2005"/>

<!ATTLIST employee SSN ID #REQUIRED>
<!ATTLIST team_member member_id IDREF #REQUIRED>
<!ATTLIST project PID ID #REQUIRED
    team IDREFS #IMPLIED>
<employee SSN="_277711968"/>
<employee SSN="_274574668"/>
<project PID="project-011">
    <team_member member_id="_277711968">
        Will Smith</team_member>
    <team_member member_id="_274574668">
        John Smith</team_member>
</project>
General entity declarations:

```html
<!ENTITY name "replacement text">
```

- name must be a valid XML name
- replacement text ...
  - must be well-formed
  - may also contain entity references
  - may not be self-referencing or circular
  - may not be used to define the DTD itself
External parsed general entities:

```xml
<!ENTITY name SYSTEM "URI">
```

- URI references the replacement text
- not allowed as attribute values
- resulting document must be well-formed, i.e., the referenced document must be well-formed but may not contain XML and/or document type declarations
- referenced document may contain text declarations:

```xml
<?xml [version="1.0"] encoding="ISO-8859-15"?>
```

similar to XML declarations, but while the version attribute is optional, the encoding attribute is mandatory
External unparsed entities and notations:
... to reference non-XML data in XML documents, e.g. ASCII texts, multimedia, etc.

```xml
<!ENTITY name SYSTEM "system_literal" NDATA notation_name>
<!ENTITY name PUBLIC "public_literal" "system_literal" NDATA notation_name>

Example:

<!ENTITY me SYSTEM "http://images.org/me.jpg" NDATA jpeg>

<!ELEMENT image EMPTY>
<!ATTLIST image source ENTITY #REQUIRED>

<image source="me"/>
```
Notations:

... to describe the character content of an element

```xml
<!ENTITY notation_name SYSTEM "system_literal">
<!ENTITY notation_name PUBLIC "public_literal">
<!ENTITY notation_name PUBLIC "public_literal" "system_literal">

Example:

```xml
<!NOTATION java_code PUBLIC "Java source code">
<!NOTATION c_code PUBLIC "C source code">
<!NOTATION perl_code PUBLIC "Perl source code">
<!ELEMENT code_fragment (#PCDATA)>
<!ATTLIST code_fragment
  code_lang NOTATION (java_code | c_code | perl_code) #REQUIRED>
]>
```
Parameter entities:

<!ENTITY % name "replacement text">
<!ENTITY % name SYSTEM "system_literal">
<!ENTITY % name PUBLIC "public_literal" "system_literal">

- Only valid within the context of the DTD
- As a macro replacement facility ...

<!ENTITY % residential_content "address, footage, rooms, baths">
<!ENTITY % rental_content "rent">
<!ENTITY % purchase_content "rent">
<!ELEMENT apartment (%residential_content;, %rental_content;)
<!ELEMENT house (%residential_content;, %purchase_content;)

- As an import facility for external DTDs ...

<!ENTITY % external SYSTEM "external.dtd">
%external;
Externally declared parameter entities can be redefined within the internal part of the DTD

Conditional sections in the external part of a DTD...

```
<![IGNORE[
  <!ELEMENT production_note (#PCDATA)> ]]>  

<![INCLUDE[
  <!ELEMENT production_note (#PCDATA)> ]]> 

<!ENTITY % notes_allowed "INCLUDE">
<![%notes_allowed;[
  <!ELEMENT production_note (#PCDATA)> ]]> 
```
Example: A Data Mining Application
<!-- rulebase.dtd -->

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-15"?>

<!ELEMENT rulebase ( ( logfile, period, item*, rule* )* )>

<!ELEMENT logfile ( transaction* )>
   <!ATTLIST logfile filename CDATA #REQUIRED>

<!ELEMENT transaction ( tid )>
   <!ATTLIST transaction tid ID #REQUIRED
   item IDREFS #REQUIRED>

<!ELEMENT tid ( #PCDATA )>

<!ELEMENT period ( number, cardinality )>
   <!ATTLIST period pid ID #REQUIRED>

<!ELEMENT number ( #PCDATA )>

<!ELEMENT cardinality ( #PCDATA )>
<!ELEMENT item ( content, cardinality, support )>
<!ATTLIST item iid ID #REQUIRED
       period IDREF #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT content ( #PCDATA )>
<!ELEMENT support ( #PCDATA )>

<!ELEMENT rule ( query, cardinality, support, confidence )>
<!ATTLIST rule rid ID #REQUIRED
       period IDREF #REQUIRED
       body IDREFS #REQUIRED
       head IDREFS #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT query ( #PCDATA )>
<!ELEMENT confidence ( #PCDATA )>
<!-- rulebase.xml -->

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-15"?>

<!DOCTYPE rulebase SYSTEM "rulebase.dtd">

<rulebase>
  <logfile filename="january.log">
    <transaction tid="tid-1" item="iid-ABC iid-DEF">
      <tid>1</tid>
    </transaction>
  </logfile>
  <period pid="pid-1">
    <number>1</number>
    <cardinality>1</cardinality>
  </period>
</rulebase>
<item iid="iid-ABC" period="pid-1">
  <content>ABC</content>
  <cardinality>1</cardinality>
  <support>1.0</support>
</item>

<item iid="iid-DEF" period="pid-1">
  <content>DEF</content>
  <cardinality>1</cardinality>
  <support>1.0</support>
</item>

<rule rid="rid-1" period="pid-1" body="iid-ABC" head="iid-DEF">
  <query>support &gt; 0.2, confidence &gt; 0.8</query>
  <cardinality>1</cardinality>
  <support>1.0</support>
  <confidence>1.0</confidence>
</rule>
Motivation:

- To distinguish between elements and attributes from different vocabularies with different meanings (but the same name)
- To group all the related elements and attributes from a single XML application together
- To combine markup from multiple XML applications

Mechanism: qualified names consisting of *prefixes* and *local parts*
Namespace syntax:

Binding prefixes to URIs:

```xml
<rdf:RDF xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-rdf-syntax#">
  <rdf:Description
    about="http://www.cafeconleche.org/examples/impressionist.xml">
    <title>Impressionist Paintings</title>
    <creator>Elliotte Rusty Harold</creator>
    <description>A list of famous impressionist paintings organized by painter and date</description>
    <date>2000-08-22</date>
  </rdf:Description>
</rdf:RDF>
⇒ Name of prefix is irrelevant
■ Setting a default namespace:

```
<svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" width="12cm" height="10cm">
  <ellipse rx="110" ry="130" />
  <rect x="4cm" y="1cm" width="3cm" height="6cm" />
</svg>
```

■ Fixed default namespace:

```
<!ATTLIST svg xmlns CDATA #FIXED "http://www.w3.org/2000/svg">

<svg width="12cm" height="10cm">
  <ellipse rx="110" ry="130" />
  <rect x="4cm" y="1cm" width="3cm" height="6cm" />
</svg>
```

■ Namespaces are completely independent of DTDs, i.e., namespaces do not change DTD syntax
Data Mining application revisited ...

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-15"?>

<!ELEMENT rulebase:rulebase ( ( rulebase:logfile, rulebase:period, 
    rulebase:item*, rulebase:rule* )* )>

<!ELEMENT rulebase:logfile ( rulebase:transaction* )>
  <!ATTLIST rulebase:logfile rulebase:filename CDATA #REQUIRED>

<!ELEMENT rulebase:transaction ( rulebase:tid )>
  <!ATTLIST rulebase:transaction rulebase:tid ID #REQUIRED 
    rulebase:item IDREFS #REQUIRED>

<!ELEMENT rulebase:tid ( #PCDATA )>

<!ELEMENT rulebase:period ( rulebase:number, rulebase:cardinality )>
  <!ATTLIST rulebase:period rulebase:pid ID #REQUIRED>

<!ELEMENT rulebase:number ( #PCDATA )>
<!ELEMENT rulebase:cardinality ( #PCDATA )>

<!ELEMENT rulebase:item ( rulebase:content, rulebase:cardinality, 
  rulebase:support )>
  <!ATTLIST rulebase:item rulebase:iid ID #REQUIRED 
  rulebase:period IDREF #REQUIRED>
  <!ELEMENT rulebase:content ( #PCDATA )>
  <!ELEMENT rulebase:support ( #PCDATA )>

<!ELEMENT rulebase:rule ( rulebase:query, rulebase:cardinality, 
  rulebase:support, rulebase:confidence )>
  <!ATTLIST rulebase:rule rulebase:rid ID #REQUIRED 
  rulebase:period IDREF #REQUIRED 
  rulebase:body IDREFS #REQUIRED 
  rulebase:head IDREFS #REQUIRED>
  <!ELEMENT rulebase:query ( #PCDATA )>
  <!ELEMENT rulebase:confidence ( #PCDATA )>
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-15"?>

<!DOCTYPE rulebase:rulebase SYSTEM "rulebase.dtd">

<rulebase:rulebase xmlns:rulebase="http://somewhere.org/rulebase">
  <rulebase:logfile rulebase:filename="january.log">
    <rulebase:transaction rulebase:tid="tid-1"
      rulebase:item="iid-ABC iid-DEF">
      <rulebase:tid>1</rulebase:tid>
    </rulebase:transaction>
  </rulebase:logfile>
  <rulebase:period rulebase:pid="pid-1">
    <rulebase:number>1</rulebase:number>
    <rulebase:cardinality>1</rulebase:cardinality>
  </rulebase:period>
</rulebase:rulebase>

<!-- .... -->
Validation fails ...

$ validate -v -n rulebase_ns.xml
must be declared for element type
"rulebase:rulebase".

Adding a namespace attribute ...

<!ATTLIST rulebase:rulebase xmlns:rulebase CDATA #IMPLIED>

What if the namespace prefix changes?
Parameter entity references for namespace prefixes:

```xml
<!ENTITY % ns-prefix "prefix">
<!ENTITY % ns-colon ":"/>

<!ENTITY % ns-elem1 "%ns-prefix;%ns-colon;elem1">
<!ENTITY % ns-elem2 "%ns-prefix;%ns-colon;elem2">
<!ENTITY % ns-elem3 "%ns-prefix;%ns-colon;elem3">
<!ENTITY % ns-elem4 "%ns-prefix;%ns-colon;elem4">

<!ELEMENT %ns-elem1; (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT %ns-elem2; (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT %ns-elem3; (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT %ns-elem4; ( %ns-elem1; | %ns-elem2; | %ns-elem3; )>

<!ENTITY % ns-prefix "">
<!ENTITY % ns-colon "">
```
Data Mining application revisited (2) ...
<!ELEMENT %rulebase; ( ( %logfile;, %period;, %item;*, %rule;* )*)>
<!ATTLIST %rulebase; %xmlns; CDATA #IMPLIED>

<!ELEMENT %logfile; ( %transaction;* )>
<!ATTLIST %logfile; %filename; CDATA #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT %transaction; ( %tid; )>
<!ATTLIST %transaction; %tid; ID #REQUIRED
%item; IDREFS #REQUIRED>

<!ELEMENT %tid; ( #PCDATA )>

<!ELEMENT %period; ( %number;, %cardinality; )>
<!ATTLIST %period; %pid; ID #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT %number; ( #PCDATA )>
<!ELEMENT %cardinality; ( #PCDATA )>
<!ELEMENT %item; ( %content;, %cardinality;, %support; )>
   <!ATTLIST %item; %iid; ID #REQUIRED
                %period; IDREF #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT %content; ( #PCDATA )>
<!ELEMENT %support; ( #PCDATA )>

<!ELEMENT %rule; ( %query;, %cardinality;, %support;, %confidence; )>
   <!ATTLIST %rule; %rid; ID #REQUIRED
              %period; IDREF #REQUIRED
              %body; IDREFS #REQUIRED
              %head; IDREFS #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT %query; ( #PCDATA )>
<!ELEMENT %confidence; ( #PCDATA )>