

Notes About Namespaces

The discussion about namespaces has emerged in conjunction with template requests for Common Types, CIQ profile and GML Simple Features profile.

When filling in a template request, there are 3 fields affected by the namespace conversation: "Work Product Title", "Work Product Abbreviation" and "Namespace(s)" as they tie into the notions of document path, filename and xml namespace.

Let me use the 3 targeted work products to exemplify the proposed conventions for each of these fields.

1) Work Product Title: there are not many constraints from OASIS for this field. e.g. in a communication to the editors, the TC Administrator recommended abstaining from the use of hyphens in titles, for 2 reasons. (1) Semantics: readers may have different understanding of their meaning; (2) Syntax: there are about 10 different codes to represent "-".

Suggested **rule:** *a Work Product title should be descriptive, reflective of its position within the hierarchy of EM documents, and be complemented with a version ID "Version v.r" or "Version v.r.s" with v = version number, r = revision number and s = sub-revision number. Avoid leading "0" in v-, r- and s-numbers in version ID. The wording should be chosen in anticipation of a short form that will serve as file name; avoid use of comma ",".*

Here are the proposed titles for the 3 work products:

- Common types: "Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) Reference Information Model (RIM): Common Types Version 1.0"
- CIQ profile: "Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) Customer Information Quality (CIQ) Profile Version 1.0"
- GML Simple Features profile: "Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) GML Simple Features Profile Version 1.0"

2) Work Product Abbreviation: the Work Product registration form states "*a short abbreviation that will be used as part of all file names as well as the citation label. (for example: cap, saml, xdiff, xspaws-trust-profile)*" for that field.

Rules for naming files and directories are governed by the OASIS Naming Directives which define

- a) the valid character set (A-Za-z0-9.-), noting that "." is FULL STOP [decimal 46] and "-" is HYPHEN-MINUS [decimal 45] (**NO** "_" *underscore*), and
- b) the name construction rules which state among others that mixed cases / camelCase are allowed (OASIS servers are case sensitive), and that the file name of a work product must have the structure [WP-abbrev]-[version-id]-[stage-abbrev][revisionNumber].[ext].

For more details about OASIS naming rules, see

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/specGuidelines/ndr/namingDirectives.html>

Here are the proposed abbreviations for the 3 work products:

- **Common types: "edxl-ct"**

Example filename: `edxl-ct-v1.0-wd01.odt` -- Working Draft, revision 01 of EDXL Common Types version 1.0, in odt format

Valid alternatives could be "EDXLct", "edxlCT" – preference given to hyphenated lower case form.

- **CIQ profile: "edxl-ciq"**

Example filename: `edxl-ciq-v1.1-csd02.pdf` -- Committee Specification Draft, revision 02 of EDXL Customer Information Quality Profile version 1.1, in pdf format.

- **GML Simple Features: "edxl-gsf"**

Example filename: `edxl-gsf-v2.1-wd07.doc` -- Working Draft, revision 07 of EDXL GML Simple Features Profile version 2.1, in doc format.

For documents that derive from more complex structures, e.g. profiles that rely on other edxl standards, we should use name "**concatenation**":

For instance the abbreviation for IPAWS profile built on CAP 1.2 concatenates the abbreviation of the standard, the version and an abbreviation for the profile: **edxl-cap-v1.2-ipaws**

This would then be used to build a filename: `edxl-cap-v1.2-ipaws-v1.0-cos03.xsd` which designates the schema for the Candidate OASIS Standard revision 03 of IPAWS profile version 1.0 built on CAP v1.2.

3) Namespaces: consideration must be given to http scheme name spaces (URI), XML namespaces and URN namespaces.

i) Path components in document URI : URIs serving as primary identifiers for Work Products installed in the OASIS Library must be rooted at `docs.oasis-open.org/` and conform to this pattern:

```
http://docs.oasis-open.org/[tc-shortname]/[WP-abbrev]/[version-id]/[stage-abbrev]
[revisionNumber]/[doc-id].[ext]
```

ii) An XML namespace name identified by an HTTP scheme URI reference must conform to the pattern:

```
http://docs.oasis-open.org/ns/[tc-shortname]/xxxx
```

iii) OASIS discourages the use of URNs: *“URN-based XML namespaces may be declared by TCs that have already used this feature, or by associated Maintenance Activity TCs, where architectural considerations require continued use of URNs. URN-based XML namespaces must not be declared otherwise, since they lack a standard, ubiquitous resolution method using DNS[+HTTP]”* - OASIS has shelved plans for the development of a URN Resolver, but given the potential of URN for future ontology work of the RIM and the possibility for external registration services, I recommend that we continue this practice of including URN, until further notice.

Respective suggestions for our work products of interest:

- **Common types:**

i) `http://docs.oasis-open.org/emergency/edxl-ct/v1.0/wd01.odt`

ii) `http://docs.oasis-open.org/ns/emergency/edxl-ct/v1.0`

iii) `urn:oasis:names:tc:emergency:edxl:ct:1.0`

CIQ profile:

- i) <http://docs.oasis-open.org/emergency/edxl-ciq/v1.1/csd02.pdf>
- ii) <http://docs.oasis-open.org/ns/emergency/edxl-ciq/v1.1>
- iii) <urn:oasis:names:tc:emergency:edxl:ciq:1.1>

GML Simple Feature:

- i) <http://docs.oasis-open.org/emergency/edxl-gsf/v2.1/wd07.doc>
- ii) <http://docs.oasis-open.org/ns/emergency/edxl-gsf/v2.1>
- iii) <urn:oasis:names:tc:emergency:edxl:gsf:2.1>

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