W3C: XML Schema Definition Language (XSD) 1.1 Part 1: Structures

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Table 1: Data sheet for XML Schema Definition Language (XSD) 1.1 Part 1: Structures)

Title	XML Schema Definition Language (XSD) 1.1 Part 1: Structures
Acronym	XSD
Version	1.1
Series	TR
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Note: The following is an excerpt from the W3C site. It is provided here as a convenience and is not authoritative. Refer to the original document as the authoritative reference.

Abstract

This document specifies the XML Schema Definition Language, which offers facilities for describing the structure and constraining the contents of XML documents, including those which exploit the XML Namespace facility. The schema language, which is itself represented in an XML vocabulary and uses namespaces, substantially reconstructs and considerably extends the capabilities found in XML document type definitions (DTDs). This specification depends on XML Schema Definition Language 1.1 Part 2: Datatypes.

Introduction / Purpose

The purpose of XML Schema Definition Language: Structures is to define the nature of XSD schemas and their component parts, provide an inventory of XML markup constructs with which to represent schemas, and define the application of schemas to XML documents.

The purpose of an XSD schema is to define and describe a class of XML documents by using schema components to constrain and document the meaning, usage and relationships of their constituent parts: datatypes, elements and their content and attributes and their values. Schemas can also provide for the specification of additional document information, such as normalization and defaulting of attribute and element values. Schemas have facilities for self-documentation. Thus, XML Schema Definition Language: Structures can be used to define, describe and catalogue XML vocabularies for classes of XML documents.

Any application that consumes well-formed XML can use the formalism defined here to express syntactic, structural and value constraints applicable to its document instances. The XSD formalism allows a useful level of constraint checking to be described and implemented for a wide spectrum of XML applications. However, the language defined by this specification does not attempt to provide all the facilities that might be needed by applications. Some applications will require constraint capabilities not expressible in this language, and so will need to perform their own additional validations.

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