STANDARDS AND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

AES31-4-2015
(r2020)

AES standard for network and file transport of audio - XML Implementation of Audio Decision Lists

AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY, INC.
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Abstract

This document provides a syntax mapping for AES31-3 Edit Decision Markup Language (EDML) to XML Schema Language. This facilitates the expansion of the Audio Decision List format to include non-ASCII characters and updates the format facilitating it's implementation using standard XML parsers and tools. It also supports multi-byte chacter sets for human-readable matadata in all territories worldwide. This document includes both an XML schema definition and an XSLT implementation capable of transforming a conforming XML instance document back to EDML.

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Foreword

This foreword is not part of the AES31-4-2015 *AES standard for network and file transport of audio - XML Implementation of Audio Decision Lists*.

AES31-3 was published in 1999 to provide a long-term alternative to proliferating proprietary formats. It provided a convention for expressing edit data in text form in a manner that enabled simple and accurate computer parsing while retaining human readability. It also described a method for expressing time-code information in character notation and simple automation for stereo & surround panning and audio gain. These edit documents were known as Audio Decision Lists (ADL) and used an Edit Decision Markup Language (EDML).

The subsequent growth of XML offers a similar markup facility but with better availability of software tools for faster implementations. XML also offers support for multi-byte characters in human-readable metadata instead of the plain ASCII of EDML, opening implementation to a world-wide user community.

This document was developed from a proposal written by David Ackerman with the assistance of Bruce Gordon at Harvard Library. It was developed in AESSC working group SC-07-01 under project AES-X214.

Chris Chambers
Co-chair, working group SC-07-01 on Audio Metadata
2015-12-16

Note on normative language

In AES standards documents, sentences containing the word “shall” are requirements for compliance with the document. Sentences containing the verb “should” are strong suggestions (recommendations). Sentences giving permission use the verb “may”. Sentences expressing a possibility use the verb “can”.

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0 Introduction

0.1 Purpose

This standard sets out a mapping to express EDML as XML as defined by a new XML Schema that closely mirrors the original structure of an Audio Decision List documents as defined in AES31-3. EDML was developed prior to wide adoption of XML as a standard data carrier. As a result it has features that are XML-like as well as features that are idiosyncratic. Perhaps it's greatest limitation is the restriction that requires all data to be represented in ASCII. This limitation makes it difficult to use in regions that rely on multi-byte character encodings to carry project metadata. By updating the standard to use XML this limitation is overcome. Doing so also opens up a set of programming tools for working with the resulting instance documents that may provide easier/faster implementation and better document validation.

Backwards compatibility to EDML may be maintained through XSLT. An example XSLT document is included for reference.

0.2 Documentation conventions

A Courier typeface may be used to identify computer listing examples to distinguish them from regular text.

1 Scope

This document specifies the mapping between EDML elements, described in AES31-3, and their XML counterparts described in the included schema. The complete schema is included along with an XSLT document which provides a reference transform back to EDML for backwards compatibility.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

AES31-3-2008 (r2013): *AES standard for network and file transfer of audio - Audio-file transfer and exchange - Part 3: Simple project interchange* Audio Engineering Society, New York, NY., US.

XML Schema Definition Language (XSD) 1.1 Part 1: Structures. World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), 2012-04-05

XML Schema Definition Language (XSD) 1.1 Part 2: Datatypes, World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), 2012-04-05