



IPTC Mirror

Experimental Phase Under Way

Proposals for an initial test of the NewsML 2 Architecture were approved at the Autumn 2005 Meeting. Preparations have been completed with a test package produced and available, and the experimental phase is now under way.

Aims of the experimental phase are to allow IPTC members - and other parties invited by IPTC members - to develop their understanding of the standard, make contributions, and help finalise the NewsML 2 Architecture (NAR) Technical Specification. This will involve testing "real life" cases against the NAR model and syntax, and reporting back issues that have not been identified by the NAR development team.

Aims

When the experimental period was approved the NAR Working Party suggested that tests should look at a number of areas including the handling of single and multimedia test feeds; object oriented applications using the NAR model; the persistence of news objects - for example in a relational database; navigation between news objects; and the development and application of stylesheets to convert NewsML 1 instances to NewsML 2.

Time constraints

However, only a limited time is available for this initial experimental phase (EP#1) which ends on the 15 February 2006. This date allows time for the replies to be analysed and a report generated for distribution before the Spring Meeting.

Discussion group

A new discussion group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/newsml-2> - has been set up to provide a public forum for discussion of the NewsML 2 Architecture and the initial Experimental Phase. This group now has over 120 members, with rapid growth occurring since the test package became available.

From the comments made during registration it appears that members interests cover a wide area, including: multimedia news; digital archiving; news interchange; news metadata; news management; in-

formation classification, multimedia annotation, and use of ontologies; faceted navigation and other new ways to mine information; the object oriented aspect of the news structure; and the Semantic Web applied to news.

Participants cover a wide range of application areas: the news industry (news agencies online publishers and newspapers); web portals; technology providers; webmasters integrating news feeds on web sites; consultants involved in news management; and researchers.

Some members of the new group already use IPTC standards like NewsML 1 or NITF and want to follow the evolution of the current NewsML 1 standard, others are new to this domain.

Tutorials

There are plans to provide tutorials and examples of NewsML 2 documents to members of the discussion group, introducing the different features of the NAR in such a way as to provide a quick and easy learning curve.

It is also hoped to arrange public conference calls so participants can talk directly to the people developing the model.

Further information on the NAR is available on www.iptc.org/NAR.

Test package

Potential users who want to take part in the experimental phase can download a test package from the IPTC website "dev" section (<http://www.iptc.org/dev>).

This package contains:

- Overview document of the Experimental Phase 1.
- Model specification of the draft NAR (document version 12).
- Technical Specification of the draft NAR (document version 18).
- W3C XML Schema implementations of the Technical Specification (draft version 0.6).

Spring Meeting 2006

27 - 29 March 2006

Vancouver, Canada

*Marriott Pinnacle
Downtown Hotel*

Initial results from the NewsML 2 Architecture EP#1 will be considered and decisions taken on the next development stages.

The booking form for this meeting will be available at the end of January 2006 in the "Members Only" area of www.iptc.org.

- Glossary for the NAR.
- Additional contributions to from IPTC members.

Other resources

In addition to the download package the public files section of the public newsml-2 group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/newsml-2/files>) includes:

- Errata-and-decisions - gives details of decisions which have been made by the NAR development group since publication of the NewsML 2 Model v11 and NewsML 2 Technical Specification v17.
- IPTC-TempCatalog - this provides temporary default <catalog> elements for use when creating NAR XML instances. Both existing IPTC NewsCodes and codes specifically introduced for NewsML 2 are included.
- NewsML 2 examples contributed by group members
- Tools for NewsML 2 Architecture development - such as XSLT transforms - which have been contributed by group members.

Feedback and contributions

General feedback on the NAR can be sent to the public IPTC newsml-

2 group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/newsml-2>) or - for IPTC members only - to the internal IPTC NAR-dev Yahoo discussion group. (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/iptc-news-architecture-dev>).

All contributions to the Experimental Phase are welcome - the sort of things that would be helpful include sample instances based on the NewsML 2 Architecture, software to process XML instances based on the NAR, and stylesheets for the transformation of NAR instances.

Note that the IPTC considers all member and non-member contributions and related discussions to be provided free and clear of intellectual property protection encumbrances including copyright, patent, and trademark restrictions.

Test Report

As well as specific comments (and contributions) participants are asked to complete the EP#1 Test Report and email it to the IPTC office (office@iptc.org) by the 15 February 2006 at the latest.

This report is included in the overview document of the Experimental Phase 1 and includes a series of questions dealing with the application of the NAR. In addition there are specific questions that cover open issues in both the NAR Model Document and the NAR Technical Specifications - these issues are also highlighted in the documents.

Design

The NewsML 2 Architecture is designed to provide the underlying structure for a series of standards dealing with specific types of information. These are planned to include a successor to NewsML 1 for carrying general news, EventsML, and a major update of SportsML. In addition NAR technology will be applied to the IPTC NewsCodes, with the aim of producing an integrated "concept scheme".

These specific news standards are still under development so a generic container has been provided for EP#1.

Implementation.

So far the NAR implementation includes:

- The abstract "AnyItem" which is used as the model for all other

items - Including the News, Topic and Package Items below;

- A set of general datatypes;
- A set of widely used Common Components, including both basic and sophisticated structures;
- The News Item - for general news content;
- The Topic Item - for providing basic information about a concept;
- The Package Item - to facilitate packaging different kinds of content;
- and the News Message which is used to wrap a set of items.

Work is continuing in other areas such as the building of "concept schemes" to represent controlled vocabularies; detailing named entity components (such as persons and organisations); and defining text markup.

Development

The final specification will not necessarily be the same as the one being used for experimental purposes as modifications may be made if the experimental phase shows they are necessary. This reinforces the need for as many users as possible to see how the experimental specification meets their requirements. It is much easier to make changes -

or additions - at this stage than after the standard has been completed and formally released.

Welcome to new IPTC members since the 2005 AGM

BVPA, (Association of Photo Agencies and Picture Libraries), Germany. <http://www.bvpa.org>

CEPIC, Coordination of European Picture Agencies Press Stock Heritage, Europe. <http://www.cepic.org>

EBU - European Broadcasting Union, Europe. <http://www.ebu.ch>

KUNA, Kuwait News Agency, Kuwait. <http://www.kuna.net.kw>

NewsEngin Inc, USA. <http://www.newsengin.com>

ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) Austria. <http://www.orf.at>

Xinhua News Agency, China. <http://www.xinhua.org>

Eidos Media

Méthode is an integrated knowledge management and editorial system that lets editorial users search and access material from multiple sources.

Intended for cross-channel publishing it can tailor content to suit a range of applications, from conventional print through Web portals to mobile devices and podcasting. Based on XML, Méthode uses Cascading Style Sheets to format items according to the required output, while Scalar Vector Graphics are used for print layouts. A syndication server can be used to control delivery of material to other distributors.

A recently introduced news management model extends the Méthode workflow upstream to include the planning of news coverage and the allocation of editorial resources. The system also has facilities for the management of advertising.

Another development is MéthodeMag which enables user to access Méthode archives and workflow system from within Adobe applications such as InDesign

- this is based on Apple Macintosh workstations. <http://www.eidosmedia.com>

Angelo Grampa, President (right) and Michela Bertagnoli, Marketing Manager (left), of Eidos Media demonstrated the Méthode system at the IPTC Autumn Meeting in Milan.

