



IPTC Mirror

Nearly There!

A special session of the Standards Committee held at the end of January 2008 gave approval to NewsML-G2 v2.0 and EventsML-G2 v1.0 - the first members of the new IPTC G2-Standards family - with the formal release planned for the end of February

Version 1.1 of the News Architecture (NAR) was adopted in October 2007, with the Model specifications (and associated XML Schemas) for both NewsML-G2 v2.0 and EventsML-G2 v1.0 also being adopted. This established the design and structure for both the initial G2-Standards and subsequent work has concentrated on refining the documentation.

Accuracy

Throughout the process a major aim has been to ensure accuracy and clarity with a lot of effort being given to detailed checking of the documentation and XML Schema. This, coupled with experience gained during developments of the first applications, resulted in the identification of a series of errata. Proposed ways of dealing with these errata are considered by the development group, with the agreed solution then being included in the documentation.

Documentation

Specification documentation for the NAR based standards is generated as a single master file with individual sections being flagged to show which specification they form part of

- there are core conformance level (CCL) and power conformance level (PCL) specification for both NewsML-G2 and EventsML-G2. This approach ensures that all standards will remain synchronised when any changes are made to the master specification (a similar approach has been adopted for the XML Schemas).

Individual specification documents for each standard (taking in errata that had been identified and dealt with), and associated XML Schemas, were made available on the 17 January, for consideration at a Special Standards Committee session, held as a teleconference on the 29 January 2008. Subsequent work on the specification documents identified a further series of errata, which were also presented to the Standards Committee.

Approval

After checking that a quorum of nominating members were present, motions were passed to approve the specification documents (and XML Schemas) together with the outstanding errata lists for both NewsML-G2 v2.0 and EventsML-G2 v1.0.

Approval was also given to two sets of News Exchange Format NewsCodes, one for the NAR and the other for EventsML which had been forwarded to the Standards Committee by the NewsCodes Working Party (see below for further details).

At the end of the Standards Committee session, IPTC Chairman Stéphane Guérillot complimented the development team on the high quality of the documentation, and thanked them for their (considerable) efforts in bringing the project to a successful conclusion.

High standard

Resolution of points raised by the outstanding errata list is under way. Doing this in a way that ensures a high standard is maintained is a time-consuming operation - after agreement has been reached on the best way to deal with each item the appropriate changes to both the documentation and the XML Schema have to be specified, and then carried out.

Following this the amended items are rechecked, with particular care being taken to ensure that the documentation and XML Schema are fully synchronised. Finally the individual specification documents have to be extracted from the master file.

Formal release

Once this process is completed there will be a formal release of the NewsML-G2 and EventsML-G2 specifications and XML Schema. This is planned for the end of February and, as with other IPTC standards, the information will be freely available from the IPTC web site - subject to licence terms which are included in the documentation.

Supplemental documentation, including "Best Practices and Guidelines" and "Concepts and QCodes" is also planned, along with a series of application examples.

The standards have been designed to be as comprehensive as possible (though a majority of the features are optional) and this

Summary

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Release of first **G2-Standards** planned for late February - **Page 1**.

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NewsCodes for NewsML-G2 - **Page 2**.

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The IPTC Mirror has hyperlinks for **web addresses** and for **page references**.

means that specifications are substantial documents - for example the NewsML-G2 core specification runs to 185 pages, and includes details for some 110 elements.

Updates

Given the scope of the project it is anticipated that further errata will be identified, particularly as more advanced applications start to make use of the many optional features. To allow for this formal errata pages will be maintained on the IPTC web site, with the documentation including links to these pages. Regular updates will be undertaken to deal with these errata - possibly on a six-month cycle - though this has yet to be decided on.

In addition consideration is being given evolution of the standards. Proposals have already been made for NewsML-G2 v2.1 (a number of major implementations of this standard are already under way, with development identifying possible additional features), along with requests for evolution of some of the associated controlled vocabularies.

NAR NewsCodes

In standards based on the News Architecture concepts (both abstract and real-world) are expressed as QCodes, each of which provides a compact way of representing a value from a controlled vocabulary. A group of eighteen controlled vocabularies - as sets of IPTC NewsCodes - has been developed for specific metadata schemes needed by the NAR as follows (the QCode alias for each scheme is given in parentheses):

- Nature of a News Item (ninat)
- Nature of a Concept Item (cinat)
- Nature of a concept (cpnat)
- Media type (mtyp)
- Description Role (drol)
- Editorial Role (erol)
- Item-relation (irel)
- Item Representation (irep)
- Packagegroup Mode (pgrmod)
- Publishing Status (stat)
- Rendition (rnd)
- Name Role (nrol)
- Name Part (nppt)
- Why-present (why)
- Infosource Role (isrol)
- Language Role (lrol)
- Role of a part of the contact info (ciprol)
- Communication technology (ctech)

EventsML NewsCodes

Similarly there is a group of four NewsCodes specifically designed for use with EventsML-G2:

- Event date confirmation (edconf)
- Event occurrence status (eocstat)
- Event registration role (eregrol)
- Event participant role (eprol)
- Event organiser role (eorol)
- Event contact info role (ecirol)

These sets of NewsCodes were developed by the NAR Working Group and were made available to IPTC delegates at the start of January. They were then considered during special joint session of the News Architecture and News Content Working Parties (held by teleconference) held in mid January.

Both groups of NewsCodes were approved for presentation at the special Standards Committee session.

Subject NewsCodes

A first draft of the revised Subject NewsCodes has been made available to IPTC delegates using the SchemaLogic Taxonomy Management system. The system provides both reference and context views, with the reference view showing the term names and descriptions (in English).

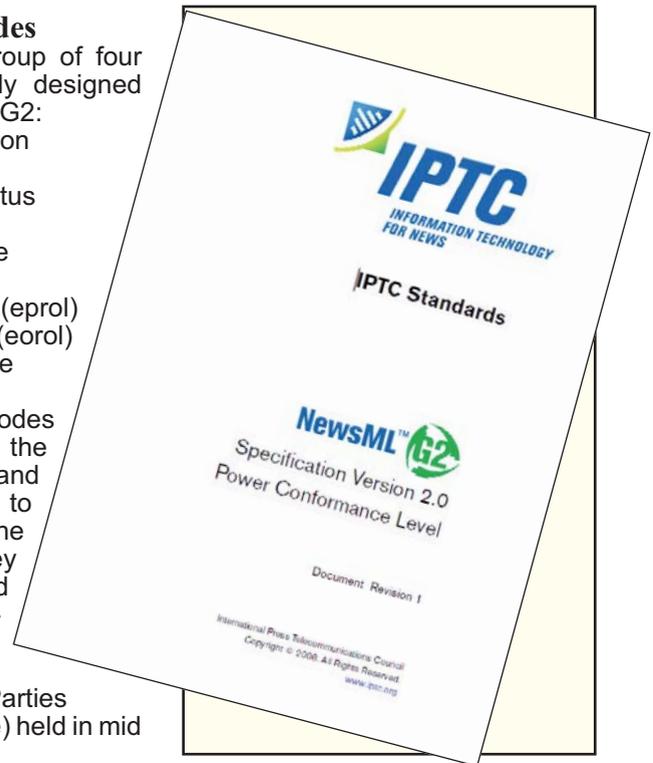
More detailed properties (including names and descriptions in other languages where available) can also be viewed. At the moment the context view provides a hierarchical tree structure.

Cleanup

Main aim for this initial phase has been to clean up the structure, making it more usable and dealing with duplicate concepts. However, in the review version work has not been completed on the Sports section, or on the Sports Qualifiers. Further work is planned to revise the existing definitions, and add new terms to give more comprehensive coverage.

Core Set

Suggestions have been made that it would be useful to have a limited



Documentation for the G2-Standards has been produced in a consistent format that emphasises the family relationship.

“Core Set” of Subject NewsCodes, limited to two or three hundred items, that would be relatively easy to use for general news applications. It is hoped that the first two levels of the new Subject NewsCodes will be suitable for this purpose.

Delegates were asked to review the proposals and send comments to the NewsCodes development discussion group (membership of which is restricted to IPTC delegates) - <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/iptc-news-codes-dev>. These comments will be taken into account in the continuing development process, and the aim is to present.

Other NewsCodes

Although efforts have been concentrated on the Subject NewsCodes, the other IPTC NewsCode sets have also been loaded into the system and can be viewed. However, this does not yet apply to the new sets for the News Architecture and EventsML-G2, which were formally approved at the special Standards Committee Meeting.