



Application Level Toolkit

Release of the Application Level NewsML toolkit (sponsored by Reuters) represents another significant step in making NewsML more generally accessible.

The NewsML Application Level Toolkit (ALT) makes use of the functionality of the Low Level Toolkit (LLT) and is designed to enable higher level news analysis and support cross-platform applications. Aim of the toolkit is "to enable news-centric processing of NewsML documents, without the need for in-depth knowledge of the underlying

would involve location of the NewsComponents in the document, examining them to see if equivalents exist, and then for each equivalent <NewsComponent> resolving the <BasisForChoice> Xpath expression.

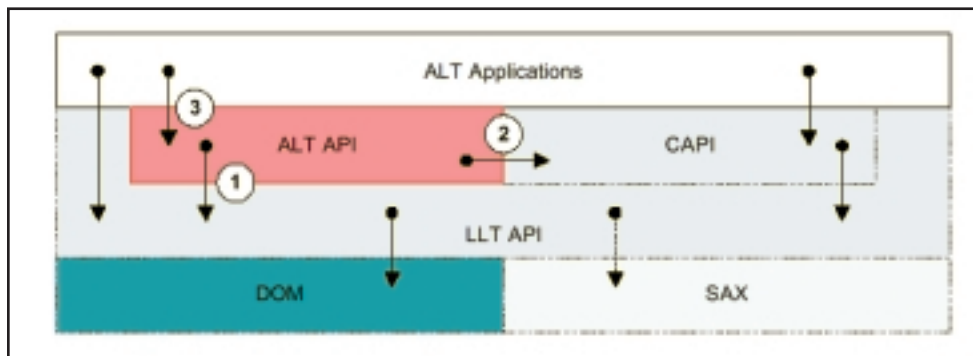
Another application might be to remove the video content from a NewsML document. In this case the ALT first checks the occurrences of <MediaType> to find cases where the FormalName corresponds to "Video". For each match it then determines the relevant "ContentItem" and so generates a list of the "Video" ContentItems. The items on the list are deleted, and the resulting modified NewsItem saved.

Version 1.1 beta of the Toolkit has now been released. The NewsML Toolkit is

2002 Spring Meeting

Will be held in Paris from 25 to 27 February. As usual electronic booking forms will be available, with prompt reservations recommended.

Open Source (LGPL), and may be used in free or commercial software products, following the provisions of the license. Further information, and the toolkit, is available from <http://sourceforge.net/projects/newsml-toolkit/>.



Relationships between the Application Level Toolkit (ALT) applications, the ALT API (application Program Interface), the Low Level Toolkit (LLT) API and the Conformance API.

ing technologies and XML structure".

Processing follows the sequence: Input - acquisition of the NewsML document; Analysis - searching of elements, NewsML functional areas, and XPath related; Pruning - generally applied at previously determined nodes; and Output - to create a modified version of the NewsML document. There is also a Conformance API (CAPI) that can be used to check the output is functionally correct.

In a typical example, to identify the French language HeadLines in a document, the ALT will first find all the <HeadLine> occurrences. Then for each occurrence it will check the associated language looking at both the local and parent metadata to find those cases where there is a French language attribute.

Similarly, finding equivalent content

Digital Rights Language

Designed as a general purpose tool for specifying and managing the rights and conditions associated with digital content, version 2.0 of the eXtensible Rights Markup Language (XrML) has just been released by ContentGuard Inc. Developed at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, XrML is claimed to be the only rights language currently being used in working Digital Rights Management systems.

ContentGuard intended to pass control of XrML to an international standards organisation (yet to be decided) with the aim of opening up future development to broad industry participation. The standard has also been submitted to various organisations for consideration as a way to help meet their rights management needs

The XrML specification and schema are freely available from www.xrml.org. However, ContentGuard have a series of patents in the Digital Rights Management area and a licence will be needed to use XrML in areas covered by the patents - more information is available on www.contentguard.com. A Software Development Kit for XrML has also been produced and is available from

Knowledge Management

A demonstration of the Eidos Méthode Knowledge Management system at the Autumn Meeting was very well received, and following requests from members Eidos are now working on a version using NewsML and the NITF - it is hoped that this will be ready for demonstration at the Spring 2002 meeting.

One of the main challenges for publishers is the change in the business environment to handle multiple products. This creates the need for a horizontal information platform that can meet the different requirements, though vertical production efficiency remains important for individual products. With the Eidos approach the emphasis changes from information to knowledge, with the aim of creating a culture for knowledge sharing.

Organisations tend to have different systems to suit their products (such as Newspapers, Magazines, On-line services. and books). Digital archives can provide a first stage of integration, but generally they only take care of the information which has been

published - and the value lies in the total knowledge,

This is where a knowledge management system can be applied - across both existing and new products. At the same time XML is now seen as a must for publishers and it should be a part of the creation process, so journalists must also adapt to XML applications.

Méthode is a Knowledge Management Platform, based on XML for both documents and the associated metadata. It is designed to create a 'transparent workspace' for creation and accessing knowledge resources. The browser-like interface can be customised to individual user requirements and allows handling of different file types from different sources. Virtually any media type can be handled and can be viewed in its native format without having to open a separate application.

Advanced queries can be handled, while the engine is XML aware and can search both data and metadata. Typically the system would be configured to ensure that any



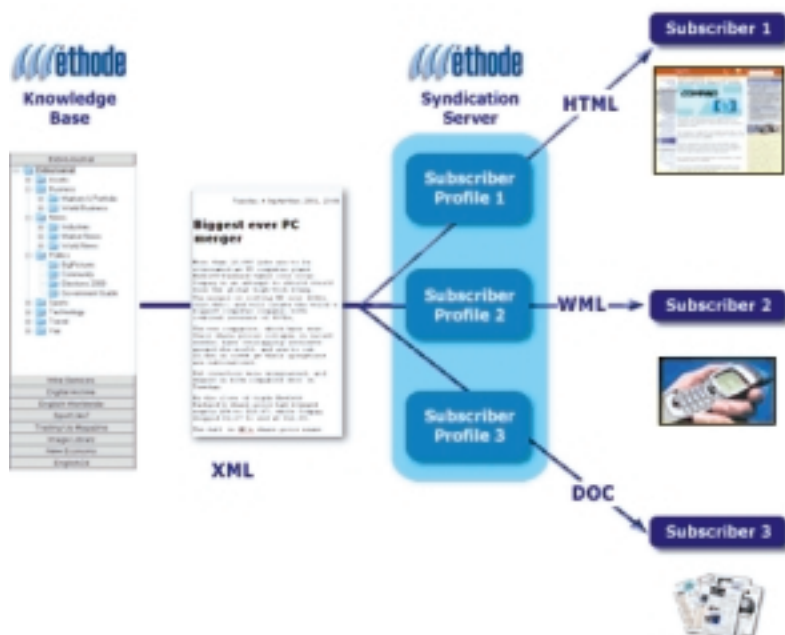
Gabriella Franzini demonstrated some of the features of Méthode during the Autumn Meeting.

imported files have sets of required metadata attached before they are made available for use.

XSmile (*lets journalists smile at XML!*) is an XML editor with a WYSIWYG word-processor interface for handling text, images and multimedia content. Standard templates are used and the system also allows processing of the metadata. Markup tags are concealed unless required.

Various type of output can be produced: Web publishing makes use of drag-and-drop dynamic web pages; Print publishing can be interfaced with Quark Xpress; WAP output is achieved using stylesheets to select a reduced set of element; and facilities are provided for putting broadcast programmes together.

Syndication (see left) is catered for with the Méthode Syndication Module which allows information providers (such as news agencies) to automate the distribution process, tailoring the format and delivery modes to match individual client profiles.



Mirror publication

There will not be an issue of the Mirror in January, with the February 2002 issue planned for publication at the start of the month.

Update

Latest papers issued

CAT 01/08	Ad-Hoc report
MAN 01/09	Vevey Minutes
NM 01/14	Vevey Minutes
NMLS 01/17	Vevey Minutes
NMA 01/20	Swiss radio codes
NMG 01/06	Vevey Minutes
PRC 01/06	Vevey Minutes
SPC 01/07	Vevey Minutes
STA 01/12	Ischia Minutes
AGM 01/03	Vevey Minutes

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IPTC Documents

**IPTC-NAA Information Interchange Model and
 IPTC-NAA Digital Newsphoto
 Parameter Record**

IPTC Recommended Message Format 7901

News Industry Text Format