



Checking NewsML Conformance

One of the conditions of use for NewsML is that applications should conform to both the DTD and the published Functional Specification (the latest versions are both available from www.iptc.org).

As part of the licence terms users are also asked to let IPTC know of any instances of actual, or suspected, misuse or non-compliance. Ways of ensuring compliance are regularly looked at by the NewsML Support Working party and there are now two tools, both freely-available, which can be used to check compliance.

The stand-alone validation and compliance package developed by IPTC Managing Director David Allen - and available on the IPTC Web site - has two elements.

First a check is made to ensure that the NewsML instance is valid XML and that it conforms to the DTD (Document Type Definition) - always provided that the instance has a correct DOCTYPE declaration that identifies the NewsML DTD. This is achieved by using the *validateNewsML.html* file, which has been based on the Microsoft XML validator.

When it has been confirmed that the instance is valid XML, a test is made to check compliance with NewsML. The test calls an *XSLT stylesheet* which checks the contents of those NewsML elements and attributes

that need to meet specific conditions laid down in the functional specification. Test results are displayed in a series of framed messages which are coloured green for PASS, orange for CAUTION and red for FAIL.

As long as there are no red messages the Instance is probably compliant. CAUTION messages should be checked as they cover features that are not always tested in the stylesheet. The range of tests carried out is generally similar to those described below for the NewsML Toolkit.

The second conformance checking tool forms part of the NewsML Toolkit, which has been sponsored by Reuters (see panel below).

This NewsML conformance suite is said to be designed primarily for incorporation into other applications and the conformance framework is described as being fully open and configurable, so users can easily select which of the tests to use, or can add further conformance tests to suit the specific business application. However, there is also a simple, standalone Java application for running conformance tests from the command line.

Again, a preliminary check is recommended to check that the document conforms to the DTD and this is achieved by

2002 Annual General Meeting

1st to 4th July

The Westin St Francis Hotel, Union Square, 335 Powell Street, San Francisco, USA

The Meeting will be preceded by a Welcome Reception (hosted by the NAA) on the evening of the 30th June.

There will also be a Post-conference Tour starting on the 4th July - see over for further information.

Booking forms for both the Conference and the Tour have been distributed electronically, with prompt reservations recommended.

NewsML Toolkit

Version 2.0 of the NewsML Toolkit was released in April 2002 and is available at <http://newsml-toolkit.sourceforge.net/>. It is copyright (c) 2002 by Reuters PLC and is released under the terms of the *Gnu Lesser General Public License*, which explicitly allows it to be used in non-free software.

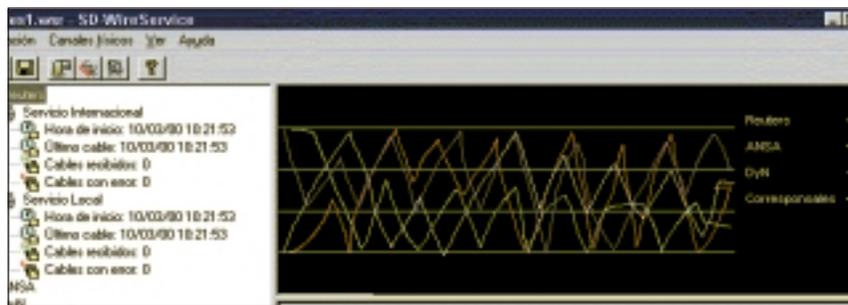
The toolkit is mainly intended for programmers who want to incorporate the *NewsML Toolkit* into their own Java programs. However, it is possible to use most of the toolkit without any specialized XML knowledge. In addition to allowing processing - such as searching and pruning - the latest release provides the ability to create and modify NewsML documents with a read/write interface.

There is also a user manual available at <http://newsml-toolkit.sourceforge.net/newsml-toolkit-manual.html>.

use of the underlying Toolkit XML parser. The conformance package itself consists of a set of tests designed to check, for example data-type constraints, referential integrity, and proper formal-names.

These include: CatalogTest; ContentItemTest; DateTimeTest; DefaultVocabularyForTest; EuidTest; FormalNameTest; NewsComponentTest; NewsIdentifierTest; NewsItemTest; NewsLineTest; PatternTest; PropertyTest; RefTest; ResourceTest; RevisionIdTest; RevisionStatusTest; TopicSetTest; TopicTest; TopicUseTest; and XMLLangTest. By default, the test manager will print messages for warnings and errors to *System.err.*, though - as with most of the other features - this can be modified to suit individual applications.

SD Technology News Systems



Based in Buenos Aires, SD Technology offer a range of software products including systems designed to handle the reception of news agency wire services, editorial and workflow, image handling, archiving and advertising. They have an established customer base in South America which includes News Agencies, Newspapers and Radio and Television Stations.

Running under Windows on a PC, the SD Wire Service is designed to provide an automated system which can handle inputs from up to ten agencies per machine, while networking makes it possible to extend the capacity as required. Where necessary the different reception speeds, protocols and input connections for each agency can be catered for, with up to four variations per machine. Connections may be made to teletype and telephone lines, modems and satellite systems, for example.

Incoming messages can be presented using uniform priority and subject classifications, in accordance with the IPTC and ANPA standards. A display shows the status of each agency, with notification of the arrival of each wire.

The SD-Arc2000 is a multimedia archive system based on the Microsoft SQL server. A modular construction allows users to start with only one part of the system - say a photo and text database - and add facilities for other media (such as video and audio) later. Material is accessed through media-specific "access points" which are designed to provide the appropriate descriptive information - for example photo information can

include the IPTC (IIM) data. To help with searches all words associated with the object will be indexed (apart from words which have been specified as "irrelevant").

Other products from SD Technology include image browser, text editing and pagination packages, along with advertising and workflow systems.

Further details are available from <http://www.soft-data.com>.

IPTC Mirror Circulation Changes

Starting from the July 2002 issue - which will include a report on the Annual General Meeting - the **IPTC Mirror** is moving to electronic distribution.

Issues of the newsletter will be sent direct to members (and other readers) by e-mail. Alternatively a notification may be sent to tell readers that the latest issue is ready for collection from the IPTC Web site. The distributed version will be intended for screen use, but there will also be a high-definition version that can be downloaded for printing.

Any comments on the changes - or suggestions - would be welcome.

Issues of the annual IPTC Spectrum will continue to be printed and distributed by post.

Post Conference Tour 2002

As in previous years a short post-Conference Tour has been arranged to let delegates relax following the formal Meeting, and offer the opportunity to get together with other members in a less-formal atmosphere.

A new feature for this year is a full dinner cruise for the evening of the 4th July, which will also be available for delegates who are not taking the Tour. Cost will be \$125 (provisional) and the event could be particularly attractive for members whose travel arrangements mean that they will be leaving on the 5th.

Programme for the Tour itself is as follows:

July 4th: Full dinner cruise - this might be preceded by a small city tour ending at the boat. Overnight at Westin St. Francis.

July 5th: Depart hotel by bus for wine country tour Dinner on own (but group arrangements could be made). Stay at Marriott Napa.

July 6th: Depart hotel for mountains, and travel through gold country on the way to Tahoe. Stay at Harrahs Tahoe.

July 7th: Local tour of Lake Tahoe area (this may include Carson City and the U.S. Mint). Final dinner in Reno / Tahoe area and overnight at Harrahs.

July 8th: Depart hotel for return home.

Estimated cost for the Tour (subject to confirmation) is \$1013/person single and \$644 / person double (in each case plus meal costs).

Update

Latest papers issued

AGM 02/01	AGM Agenda
CAT 02/03	SRS update
CWC 02/01	Paris Minutes
DIR 02/01	Paris Schedule
MAN 02/07	AGM Schedule
NM 02/07	AGM Schedule
NMLS 02/12	AGM Schedule
NMA 02/11	AGM Schedule
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PRC 02/023	AGM Schedule
SPC 02/07	AGM Schedule
STA 02/05	AGM Schedule

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IPTC Documents

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IPTC-NAA Digital Newsphoto
Parameter Record**

IPTC Recommended Message Format 7901

News Industry Text Format

IPTC Satellite Systems for Press Use