
**Information technology — Document
Schema Definition Language (DSDL) —
Part 2:
Regular-grammar-based validation —
RELAX NG**

Technologies de l'information — Langage de définition de schéma de documents (DSDL) —

Partie 2: Validation de grammaire orientée courante — RELAX NG

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 19757-2 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 34, *Document description and processing languages*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 19757-2:2003), of which it constitutes a minor revision. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO/IEC 19757-2:2003/Amd.1:2006.

ISO/IEC 19757 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Document Schema Definition Language (DSDL)*:

- Part 2: *Regular-grammar-based validation — RELAX NG*
- Part 3: *Rule-based validation — Schematron*
- Part 4: *Namespace-based validation dispatching language — NVDL*
- Part 8: *Document semantics renaming language — DSRL*
- Part 9: *Namespace and datatype declaration in Document Type Definitions (DTDs)*

The following parts are under preparation:

- Part 1: *Overview*
- Part 5: *Extensible Datatypes*
- Part 7: *Character Repertoire Description Language (CREPDL)*

Introduction

The structure of this part of ISO/IEC 19757 is as follows. Clause 5 describes the data model, which is the abstraction of an XML document used throughout the rest of the document. Clause 6 describes the syntax of a RELAX NG schema. Clause 7 describes a sequence of transformations that are applied to simplify a RELAX NG schema, and also specifies additional requirements on a RELAX NG schema. Clause 8 describes the syntax that results from applying the transformations; this simple syntax is a subset of the full syntax. Clause 9 describes the semantics of a correct RELAX NG schema that uses the simple syntax; the semantics specify when an element is valid with respect to a RELAX NG schema. Clause 10 describes requirements that apply to a RELAX NG schema after it has been transformed into simple form. Finally, Clause 11 describes conformance requirements for RELAX NG validators.

This part of ISO/IEC 19757 is based on the RELAX NG Specification^[1], and the compact syntax shown in Annex C is based on the RELAX NG Compact Syntax^[3]. A tutorial for RELAX NG is available separately (see the RELAX NG Tutorial^[2]).

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Information technology — Document Schema Definition Language (DSDL) —

Part 2: Regular-grammar-based validation — RELAX NG

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 19757 specifies RELAX NG, a schema language for XML. A RELAX NG schema specifies a pattern for the structure and content of an XML document. The pattern is specified by using a regular tree grammar. This part of ISO/IEC 19757 establishes requirements for RELAX NG schemas and specifies when an XML document matches the pattern specified by a RELAX NG schema.

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.

NOTE Each of the following documents has a unique identifier that is used to cite the document in the text. The unique identifier consists of the part of the reference up to the first comma.

W3C XML, *Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 (Second Edition)*, W3C Recommendation, 6 October 2000, available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/2000/REC-xml-20001006>

W3C XML-Names, *Namespaces in XML*, W3C Recommendation, 14 January 1999, available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/1999/REC-xml-names-19990114/>

W3C XLink, *XML Linking Language (XLink) Version 1.0*, W3C Recommendation, 27 June 2001, available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xlink-20010627/>

W3C XML-Infoset, *XML Information Set*, W3C Recommendation, 24 October 2001, available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xml-infoset-20011024/>

IETF RFC 2045, *Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) Part One: Format of Internet Message Bodies*, Internet Standards Track Specification, November 1996, available at <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2045.txt>

IETF RFC 2046, *Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) Part Two: Media Types*, Internet Standards Track Specification, November 1996, available at <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2046.txt>

IETF RFC 2396, *Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax*, Internet Standards Track Specification, August 1998, available at <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt>

IETF RFC 2732, *Format for Literal IPv6 Addresses in URL's*, Internet Standards Track Specification, December 1999, available at <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2732.txt>

IETF RFC 3023, *XML Media Types*, Internet Standards Track Specification, August 1998, available at <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3023.txt>

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

resource

something with identity, potentially addressable by a URI

**3.2
URI**

compact string of characters that uses the syntax defined in IETF RFC 2396 to identify an abstract or physical resource

**3.3
URI reference**

URI or relative URI and optional fragment identifier

**3.4
relative URI**

form of URI reference that can be resolved with respect to a base URI to produce another URI

**3.5
base URI**

URI used to resolve relative URIs

**3.6
fragment identifier**

additional information in a URI reference used by a user agent after the retrieval action on a URI has been successfully performed

**3.7
instance**

XML document that is being validated with respect to a RELAX NG schema

**3.8
space character**

character with the code value #x20

**3.9
whitespace character**

character with the code value #x20, #x9, #xA or #xD

3.10

name <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/746be345-fd8c-4f00-9287-8af6ca51f7cd/iso-iec-19757-2-2008>
pair of a URI and a local name

**3.11
namespace URI**

URI that is part of a name

**3.12
local name**

NCName that is part of a name

**3.13
NCName**

string that matches the NCName production of W3C XML-Names

**3.14
name class**

part of a schema that can be matched against a name

**3.15
pattern**

part of a schema that can be matched against a set of attributes and a sequence of elements and strings

3.16**foreign attribute**

attribute with a name whose namespace URI is neither the empty string nor the RELAX NG namespace URI

3.17**foreign element**

element with a name whose namespace URI is not the RELAX NG namespace URI

3.18**full syntax**

syntax of a RELAX NG grammar before simplification

3.19**simple syntax**

syntax of a RELAX NG grammar after simplification

3.20**simplification**

transformation of a RELAX NG schema in the full syntax to a schema in the simple syntax

3.21**datatype library**

mapping from local names to datatypes

NOTE

A datatype library is identified by a URI.

3.22**datatype**

set of strings together with an equivalence relation on that set

3.23**axiom**

proposition that is provable unconditionally

3.24**inference rule**

rule consisting of one or more positive or negative antecedents and exactly one consequent, which makes the consequent provable if all the positive antecedents are provable and none of the negative antecedents is provable

3.25**valid with respect to a schema**

member of the set of XML documents described by the schema

3.26**schema**

specification of a set of XML documents

3.27**grammar**

start pattern together with a mapping from NCNames to patterns

3.28**correct schema**

schema that satisfies all the requirements of this part of ISO/IEC 19757

3.29**validator**

software module that determine whether a schema is correct and whether an instance is valid with respect to a schema

3.30

path

list of NCNames separated by / or //

3.31

infoset

an abstraction of an XML document defined by W3C XML-Infoset

3.32

information item

constituent of an information set

3.33

data model

abstract representation of an XML document defined by this part of ISO/IEC 19757

3.34

XML document

string that is a well-formed XML document as defined in W3C XML

3.35

EBNF

Extended BNF

notation used to describe context-free grammars

3.36

weak matching

kind of matching specified in detail in 9.3.7

3.37

in-scope grammar

nearest ancestor *grammar* element

3.38

content-type

one of the three values empty, complex, or simple

3.39

mixed sequence

sequence that may contain both elements and strings

4 Notation

4.1 EBNF

This part of ISO/IEC 19757 uses EBNF notation to describe the full syntax and the simple syntax of RELAX NG. A description of a grammar in EBNF consists of one or more production rules. Each production rule consists of the name of a non-terminal, followed by ::=, followed by a list of alternatives separated by |. Within an alternative, italic type is used to reference a non-terminal, concatenation indicates sequencing, [] indicates optionality, + indicates repetition one or more times and * indicates repetition zero or more times; other characters in normal type stand for themselves.

4.2 Inference rules

4.2.1 Variables

The symbol used for a variable indicates the variable's range as follows:

— *n* ranges over names

- nc ranges over name classes
- ln ranges over local names; a local name is a string that matches the NCName production of W3C XML-Names, that is, a name with no colons
- u ranges over URIs
- cx ranges over contexts (as defined in Clause 5)
- a ranges over sets of attributes; a set with a single member is considered the same as that member
- m ranges over sequences of elements and strings; a sequence with a single member is considered the same as that member; the sequences ranged over by m may contain consecutive strings and may contain strings that are empty

NOTE There are sequences ranged over by m that cannot occur as the children of an element.

- p ranges over patterns (elements matching the pattern production)
- s ranges over strings
- ws ranges over the empty sequence and strings that consist entirely of whitespace
- $params$ ranges over sequences of parameters
- e ranges over elements
- ct ranges over content-types

4.2.2 Propositions

The following notation is used for propositions:

- n in nc means that name n is a member of name class nc
- $cx \vdash a; m \sim p$ means that with respect to context cx , the attributes a and the sequence of elements and strings m matches the pattern p
- $\text{disjoint}(a_1, a_2)$ means that there is no name that is the name of both an attribute in a_1 and of an attribute in a_2
- m_1 interleaves $m_2; m_3$ means that m_1 is an interleaving of m_2 and m_3
- $cx \vdash a; m \sim_{\text{weak}} p$ means that with respect to context cx , the attributes a and the sequence of elements and strings m weakly matches the pattern p
- $\text{okAsChildren}(m)$ means that the mixed sequence m can occur as the children of an element: it does not contain any member that is an empty string, nor does it contain two consecutive members that are both strings
- $\text{deref}(ln) = \langle \text{element} \rangle nc p \langle / \text{element} \rangle$ means that the grammar contains $\langle \text{define name}="ln"> \langle \text{element} \rangle nc p \langle / \text{define} \rangle$
- $\text{datatypeAllows}(u, ln, params, s, cx)$ means that in the datatype library identified by URI u , the string s interpreted with context cx is a legal value of datatype ln with parameters $params$
- $\text{datatypeEqual}(u, ln, s_1, cx_1, s_2, cx_2)$ means that in the datatype library identified by URI u , string s_1 interpreted with context cx_1 represents the same value of the datatype ln as the string s_2 interpreted in the context of cx_2

- $s_1 = s_2$ means that s_1 and s_2 are identical
- $\text{valid}(e)$ means that the element e is valid with respect to the grammar
- $\text{start}() = p$ means that the grammar contains $\langle \text{start} \rangle p \langle / \text{start} \rangle$
- $\text{groupable}(ct_1, ct_2)$ means that the content-types ct_1 and ct_2 are groupable
- $p :_c ct$ means that pattern p has content-type ct
- $\text{incorrectSchema}()$ means that the schema is incorrect

4.2.3 Expressions

The following notation is used for expressions in propositions:

- $\text{name}(u, ln)$ returns a name with URI u and local name ln
- m_1, m_2 returns the concatenation of the sequences m_1 and m_2
- $a_1 + a_2$ returns the union of a_1 and a_2
- $()$ returns an empty sequence
- $\{\}$ returns an empty set
- $""$ returns an empty string
- $\text{attribute}(n, s)$ returns an attribute with name n and value s
- $\text{element}(n, cx, a, m)$ returns an element with name n , context cx , attributes a and mixed sequence m as children
- $\text{max}(ct_1, ct_2)$ returns the maximum of ct_1 and ct_2 where the content-types in increasing order are $\text{empty}()$, $\text{complex}()$, $\text{simple}()$
- $\text{normalizeWhiteSpace}(s)$ returns the string s , with leading and trailing whitespace characters removed, and with each other maximal sequence of whitespace characters replaced by a single space character
- $\text{split}(s)$ returns a sequence of strings one for each whitespace delimited token of s ; each string in the returned sequence will be non-empty and will not contain any whitespace
- $\text{context}(u, cx)$ returns a context which is the same as cx except that the default namespace is u ; if u is the empty string, then there is no default namespace in the constructed context
- $\text{empty}()$ returns the empty content-type
- $\text{complex}()$ returns the complex content-type
- $\text{simple}()$ returns the simple content-type
- $[cx]$ within the start-tag of a pattern refers to the context of the pattern element

5 Data model

RELAX NG deals with XML documents representing both schemas and instances through an abstract data model. XML documents representing schemas and instances shall be well-formed in conformance with W3C XML and shall conform to the constraints of W3C XML-Names.

An XML document is represented by an element. An element consists of

- a name
- a context
- a set of attributes
- an ordered sequence of zero or more children; each child is either an element or a non-empty string; the sequence never contains two consecutive strings

A name consists of

- a string representing the namespace URI; the empty string has special significance, representing the absence of any namespace
- a string representing the local name; this string matches the NCName production of W3C XML-Names

A context consists of

- a base URI
- a namespace map; this maps prefixes to namespace URIs, and also may specify a default namespace URI (as declared by the `xmlns` attribute)

An attribute consists of

- a name
- a string representing the value

A string consists of a sequence of zero or more characters, where a character is as defined in W3C XML.

The element for an XML document is constructed from the infoset (see W3C XML-Infoset) of the XML document as follows. The notation $[x]$ refers to the value of the x property of an information item. An element is constructed from a document information item by constructing an element from the [document element]. An element is constructed from an element information item by constructing the name from the [namespace name] and [local name], the context from the [base URI] and [in-scope namespaces], the attributes from the [attributes], and the children from the [children]. The attributes of an element are constructed from the unordered set of attribute information items by constructing an attribute for each attribute information item. The children of an element are constructed from the list of child information items first by removing information items other than element information items and character information items, and then by constructing an element for each element information item in the list and a string for each maximal sequence of character information items. An attribute is constructed from an attribute information item by constructing the name from the [namespace name] and [local name], and the value from the [normalized value]. When constructing the name of an element or attribute from the [namespace name] and [local name], if the [namespace name] property is not present, then the name is constructed from an empty string and the [local name]. A string is constructed from a sequence of character information items by constructing a character from the [character code] of each character information item.

It is possible for there to be multiple distinct infosets for a single XML document. This is because XML parsers are not required to process all DTD declarations or expand all external parsed general entities. Amongst these multiple infosets, there is exactly one infoset for which [all declarations processed] is true and which does not contain any

unexpanded entity reference information items. This is the infoset that is the basis for defining the RELAX NG data model.

6 Full syntax

The following grammar in EBNF notation summarizes the syntax of RELAX NG. Although the notation is based on the XML representation of an RELAX NG schema as a sequence of characters, the grammar operates at the data model level. For example, although the syntax uses `<text/>`, an instance or schema can use `<text></text>` instead, because they both represent the same element at the data model level. All elements shown in the grammar are qualified with the namespace URI:

```
http://relaxng.org/ns/structure/1.0
```

The symbols `QName` and `NCName` are defined in W3C XML-Names. The `anyURI` symbol indicates a string that, after escaping of disallowed values as described in Section 5.4 of W3C XLink, is a URI reference as defined in IETF RFC 2396 (as modified by IETF RFC 2732). The symbol `string` matches any string.

In addition to the attributes shown explicitly, any element can have an `ns` attribute and any element can have a `datatypeLibrary` attribute. The `ns` attribute can have any value. The value of the `datatypeLibrary` attribute shall match the `anyURI` symbol as described in the previous paragraph; in addition, it shall not use the relative form of URI reference and shall not have a fragment identifier; as an exception to this, the value may be the empty string.

Any element can also have foreign attributes in addition to the attributes shown in the grammar. A foreign attribute is an attribute with a name whose namespace URI is neither the empty string nor the RELAX NG namespace URI. Any element that cannot have string children (that is, any element other than `value`, `param` and `name`) may have foreign child elements in addition to the child elements shown in the grammar. A foreign element is an element with a name whose namespace URI is not the RELAX NG namespace URI. There are no constraints on the relative position of foreign child elements with respect to other child elements.

Any element can also have as children strings that consist entirely of whitespace characters, where a whitespace character is one of `#x20`, `#x9`, `#xD` or `#xA`. There are no constraints on the relative position of whitespace string children with respect to child elements.

Leading and trailing whitespace is allowed for value of each `name`, `type` and `combine` attribute and for the content of each `name` element.

```
pattern ::=
  <element name="QName"> pattern+ </element>
  | <element> nameClass pattern+ </element>
  | <attribute name="QName"> [pattern] </attribute>
  | <attribute> nameClass [pattern] </attribute>
  | <group> pattern+ </group>
  | <interleave> pattern+ </interleave>
  | <choice> pattern+ </choice>
  | <optional> pattern+ </optional>
  | <zeroOrMore> pattern+ </zeroOrMore>
  | <oneOrMore> pattern+ </oneOrMore>
  | <list> pattern+ </list>
  | <mixed> pattern+ </mixed>
  | <ref name="NCName"/>
  | <parentRef name="NCName"/>
  | <empty/>
  | <text/>
  | <value [type="NCName"]> string </value>
  | <data type="NCName"> param* [exceptPattern] </data>
  | <notAllowed/>
  | <externalRef href="anyURI"/>
  | <grammar> grammarContent* </grammar>
param ::=
```