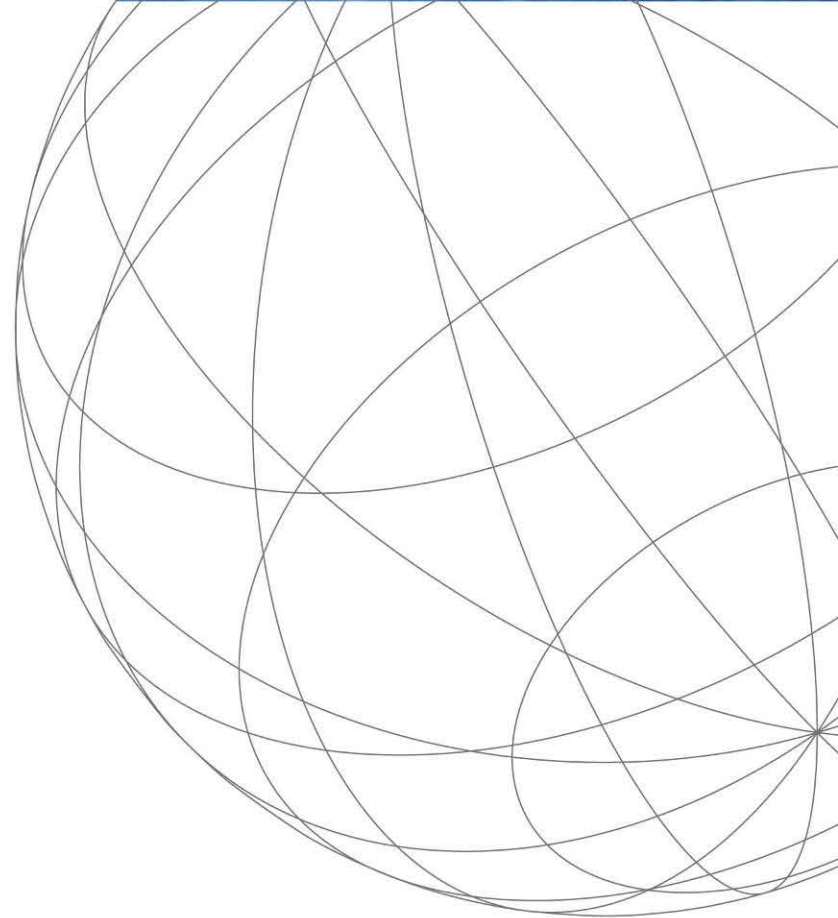

MODULE 4



Life Standards Overview

Agenda

- Why XML?
- XML Basics



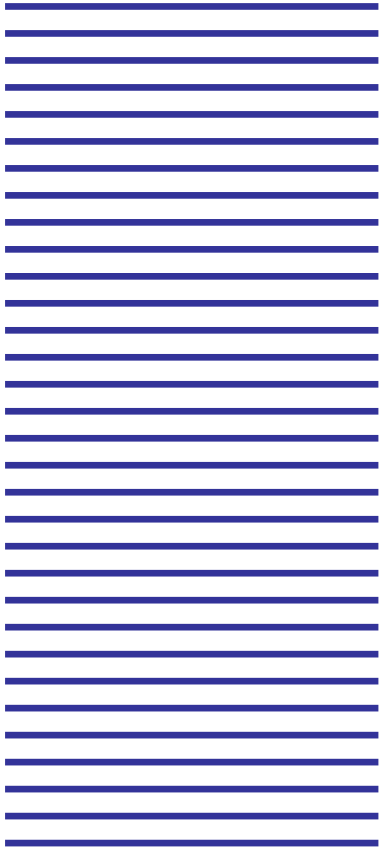
Why XML?

“Fixing classic EDI problems”

What is XML?

- “eXtensible Markup Language”
- Technology not tied to a platform or vendor
- Standard Developed by the W3C
- Visit www.w3c.org



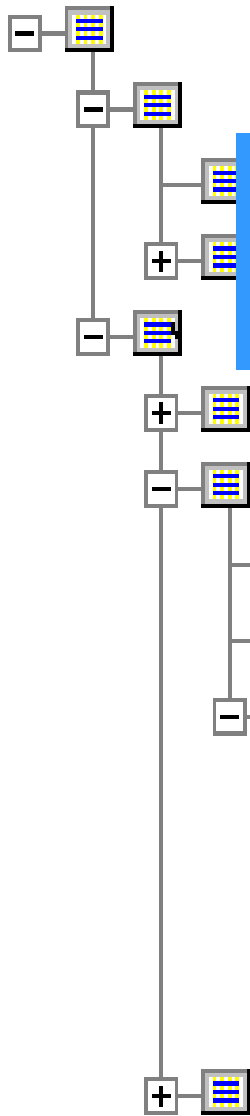


Party_1Gallo, Joseph M.
30350892145 Ohio
1USA1Home108 Dawson St
Philadelphia PA 19130 USA
Joseph Michael
Gallo 2 Single 1Male 1965-
04-22

Hard to read

Rigid

*Versioning
problems*



*Self
Describing*

Structured

Extensible

```

<Party id="Party_1">
  <FullName>Gallo, Joseph M.</FullName>
  <GovtID>303508921</GovtID>
  <ResidenceState tc="41">Ohio</ResidenceState>
  <ResidenceCountry tc="1">USA</ResidenceCountry>
  <Address>
    <AddressTypeCode tc="1">Home</AddressTypeCode>
    <Line1>108 Dawson St</Line1>
    <City>Philadelphia</City>
    <AddressState>PA</AddressState>
    <Zip>19130</Zip>
    <AddressCountry>USA</AddressCountry>
  </Address>
  <Person>
    <FirstName>Joseph</FirstName>
    <MiddleName>Michael</MiddleName>
    <LastName>Gallo</LastName>
    <MarStat tc="2">Single</MarStat>
    <Gender tc="1">Male</Gender>
    <BirthDate>1965-04-22</BirthDate>
  </Person>
</Party>
  
```

(partial example)

ACORD's Contribution to XML = "The Model"

- XML Provides the Language

- ACORD Provides the Vocabulary

- Reusable
- Expandable
- Interoperable

MODULE: XML BASICS

XML Basics

“Getting started with XML”

XML Basics

- Tag
 - Delimited by angle-brackets
`<FullName>`
- All Data between Begin/End Tags
`<FullName>Chaney, Clifford</FullName>`
- Shorthand for No Data (The following are identical)
`<FullName />`
`<FullName></FullName>`
- Simple Types (a.k.a. "Properties")
 - Tag/Data Pair
`<Tag>Data Here</Tag>`
- Complex Types (a.k.a. "Objects")
 - Include Child Tags
`<Address>`
`<Line1>1234 Any Street</Line1>`
`<City>Lincoln</City>`
`</Address>`
- Mixed Types (not used in ACORD Model)

XML Basics

■ Attributes

- Additional information in the open tag

```
<Gender tc="1">Male</Gender>
```

■ ID/IDREF

- A Special Kind of Attribute
- Used to link from one tag to another

```
<Party id="Party_1"> ... </Party>
```

```
<FinancialStatement MailToPartyID="Party_1" />
```

■ Each XML Stream is a single document

- A "Document" is nothing more than a containing Complex Type

■ One or More Schemas Describe the Document

- Order and Cardinality of Tags
- Minimums, Maximums, and more



XML Basics

- Schema – Defines the Following:
 - Dictionary of Valid Tags
 - Ordering/Sequencing of Tags
 - Cardinality of Tags
 - Business Rules for Tag Values
 - ▶ Minimums
 - ▶ Maximums
 - ▶ Formatting Rules
 - ▶ More
- A Schema is Itself an XML Document

XML Basics

■ Well Formed

- Ensures that XML meets basic syntax rules
- Only one Document per stream
- Begin/End Tags Match
- Tags are nested properly
 - ▶ BAD: `<i>Hello Mr. Smith</i>`

■ Valid

- Ensures that XML Meets Schema Requirements

XML Basics

■ Namespaces

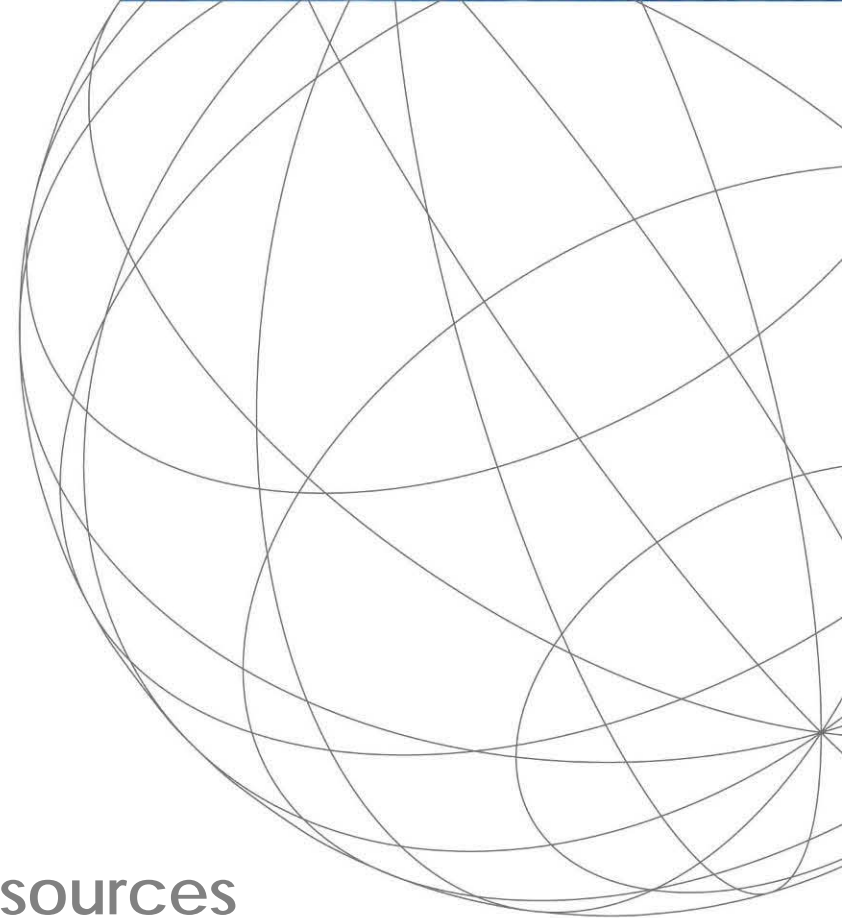
- Actually, a fairly advanced topic
- A way to differentiate two tags that have the same name
- Used when you'd like to combine elements from two (or more) XML Schemas into a single Document
- Also used to extend Schemas
`<ns:Age>1.5</ns:Age>`



Life Standards Overview

Conclusion

- Why XML?
- XML Basics



Resources

<http://teams.acord.org>

<http://www.acord.org>

Questions for the Life Team

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