

# History of XML Commons

by Shane Curcuru

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## 1. xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1

List: xml-apache-general  
 Subject: [VOTE] Proposal: new xml-commons subproject for standards-based files  
 From: Shane\_Curcuru@lotus.com  
 Date: 2001-04-17 16:08:07

I propose a new xml.apache.org/xml-commons subproject to fulfill the need for a central repository for various XML standards-based files and common tools.

COMMITTERS-PLEASE-VOTE! Although I'm not sure of the exact voting procedure for creating whole new subprojects, I'm hoping to see a bunch of +1's to start with; feel free to either reply-to or use the handy mini-xml ballot below.

NON-COMMITTERS-PLEASE-DISCUSS! While votes from non-committers are not binding your discussion and insights are very valuable!

Key: committer="your\_apache\_login" email="your@preferred.email.address"  
 Leave committer blank if you aren't; vote must be +1 | 0 | -1  
 Add comment(s) if you like on specific issues

```
ballot committer="" email=""
  vote issue="xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1" vote
="comment/comment/vote
  vote issue="xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1-committers" vote
="comment/comment/vote
/ballot
```

xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1  
 Proposal: form a new xml.apache.org subproject called xml-commons to fulfill the below needs.

### (0) Rationale:

Many xml.apache.org projects use and ship with sets of similar externally-defined standards-based code; differences in versioning and configuration of this code often make developing and using our projects more difficult. A common place for all xml.apache.org projects to get DOM, SAX, JAXP, and other externally-defined code would be a fairly low-cost and low-maintenance way to alleviate these difficulties. Having a subproject and a community focused on cross-xml-subproject issues will also help drive better cross-project coordination and tooling.

(0.1) Programming Languages: While the coding details of Java/C/Perl/etc are obviously different, the core concept is the same: a central repository for all xml.apache.org projects to share common interfaces and utilities. We should start with xml-commons/java, xml-commons/c, and xml-commons/perl since these languages are in current use in various xml.apache.org subprojects today.

### (1) Scope of this subproject:

#### (1.1) Common externally-defined standards:

This includes the packages: org.w3c.dom.\*\*, org.xml.sax.\*\*, and javax.xml. \*\* This is designed to essentially be an xml.apache.org-specific holding place for commonly-used interfaces/headers that are created outside of Apache. This subproject should provide guidelines and build scripts to aid xml.apache.org groups to easily use these common files in a common manner across all subprojects. This subproject should provide some basic versioning abilities so that xml.apache.org projects temporarily using new/beta/updated/proposed versions of these specs can continue to get their code from this area.

(1.2) Common xml-oriented utilities:

We should also include additional utilities/common code in this subproject, like current copies of bsf.jar, stylebook, servlet API classes, etc. This could also include code that did originate in an Apache project, that we wanted to centralize the use of: SystemIDResolver, XML Serializers, etc.

(1.3) General project starting guidelines for future directions/scope:

While the details of guidelines for this work should be finalized by the community that forms it (along with input from the other xml.apache.org projects who will be using this code), there are some basics to start with:

- Communicate status regularly with general+xml.apache.org and with other subprojects
- Clearly document and checkin 'best practices' for usage of xml-commons code in other subprojects
- Proactively work with other subprojects to implement and improve our 'best practices'
- Provide upgrade paths and help; deprecate (or equivalent) old API's before removing, so other subprojects have ample time to upgrade.
- Test and document all non-standards-based code; provide tests/additional documentation for standards-based code

(1.4) General guidelines for future directions/scope:

Note this is firstly a subproject to make life inside of xml.apache.org easier, to enable us to more efficiently develop nifty XML projects. As we gain experience in developing this subproject, an obvious future direction for this community will be to work on a potential AXDK (Apache XML Development Kit) that would be a meta-packaging-project composed out of several xml projects together. The AXDK would be a way to make life for end-users easier: a single package of various Apache XML tools that works 'out of the box'. (AXDK naming credit to kellyc I think?)

(1.5) Interaction with other subprojects

Additional guidelines can be drawn up on general+xml.apache.org for this subproject, and then documented and checked in. These should include both how other xml subprojects should use these resources in their development cycles, as well as how all xml subprojects should package these resources when creating public, shipped distributions (to avoid version conflicts, etc.) This subproject's community, along with general+xml.apache.org, will need to draw up guidelines for code within this subproject as well.

(2) Identify the initial source from which the subproject is to be populated:

Standards-based sources would be obtained from the relevant owners/creators and checked into the project repository. A basic build.xml file and apache project usage guidelines would need to be created. Possible legal review would be needed for licensed files (one solution might be to waive the Apache license on these files). For common xml-oriented utilities, the initial sources can be moved in from other xml.apache.org subprojects (cf. potential org.apache.xml.utils.SystemIdResolver from xml-xalan).

(3) Identify the xml.apache.org resources to be created

(3.1) mailing list(s)

xml-commons-dev

(ed note: added xml-commons-cvs as well -Shane)

(3.2) CVS repositories

xml-commons

(3.3) Bugzilla

program: Commons

components: External Standards, Common XML Utils

xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1-committers

A sub-issue that I'd like people to vote on separately for whichever of the

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below option(s) they like best.
(4) Identify the initial set of committers

(4.a) [vote-multiple] kellyc, curcuru, rubys
(4.b) [vote-multiple] one committer from each xml.apache.org subproject
that wants to volunteer, plus at least one PMC member (for projects that
don't get someone volunteered)
(4.c) [vote-multiple] all current xml.apache.org committers

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(*) Important cross-reference:
http://jakarta.apache.org/commons/index.html
Jakarta is currently working on a similar, yet different, tool/util/common
code area. While we can steal a lot of their ideas, I think the needs of
xml.apache.org will be different than Jakarta, so we should make our own
community decision on how to do this. Many thanks to the nice format for a
proposal that I plagiarized. 8-)

- Shane shane_curcuru@lotus.com curcuru@apache.org

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## 2. xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1-vote-count-26-Apr-01

Below follows the votes cast to create this subproject

---- From open general@xml.apache.org mailing list through 3pm 26-Apr-01 ----

Original proposal at: <http://marc.theaimsgroup.com/?l=xml-apache-general&m=987524447023862>

---- 17 Total committer +1 votes, plus 13 +1's for 4.c (allow all xml committers) ----

- +1 4.c Shane Curcuru curcuru@apache.org (my implicit vote with the proposal)
- +1 and 4c Kelly Campbell camk@channelpoint.com
- +1 4.c Arnaud Le Hors lehors@us.ibm.com
- +1, and 4c Tinny Ng tng-xml@ca.ibm.com
- +1, and 4c "Ted Leung" twleung@sauria.com
- +1 (4.c) Elena Litani elena@apache.org
- +1, 4.c Vincent Hardy vhardy@eng.sun.com
- ballot committer="arved" email="asandstrom@accesswave.ca" vote  
issue="xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1" vote="+1" comment/ /vote vote  
issue="xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1-committers" vote="+1" comment4.(c)/comment  
/vote /ballot
- +1 and 4c. Andy Clark andyc@apache.org
- +1 4.c "Jeffrey Rodriguez" jeffreyr\_97@hotmail.com
- +1, I vote for the least restrictive option, 4.c. Edwin.Goei@sun.com
- +1 for the proposal. +1 for 4.d - all current xml.apache.org and jakarta.apache.org :- ) ( but I can  
settle for 4.c :- ) cmanolache@yahoo.com
- +1 for 4c Donald\_Leslie@lotus.com
- +1. Scott Sanders satan@totalsync.com (jakarta committer, don't know if he's an xml committer,  
but he volunteered to work on coordination with jakarta-commons)
- +1, 4.c Thierry Kormann tkormann@sophia.inria.fr
- +1 from me. Davanum Srinivas dims@yahoo.com
- +1 Scott\_Boag@lotus.com
- ---- Other comments and non-committer votes ----

- ballot committer="" email="shugal@gmx.de" vote  
issue="xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1" vote="+1" commentA good and necessary idea!  
I'd like to contribute here. Also see below./comment /vote vote  
issue="xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1-committers" vote="4.b or 4.a" commentI'm no  
committer, but I think we should get the number of committers low at least a this initial stage.  
Everyone is free to contribute code to one of the actual committers who will check it into CVS if  
they think it's useful./comment /vote /ballot
- "Once the /xml-commons repository is set up, I volunteer to check in the latest JAXP code into  
/xml-commons. Right now there are 3 different projects with 3 different versions. It'd be nice to  
have just one." Edwin Goei edwingo@sun.com

/xml-subproject-proposal-commons-v1.1-vote-count-26-Apr-01