xml collaborator

blue oxide technologies

Blue Oxide's XML Collaborator is a collaborative design and registry platform for XML document structures and XML Web service interfaces. Stakeholders in the XML design process can work together through XML Collaborator's Web-based interface to create, manage, and deploy XML document structures and XML Web service definitions.

XML and XML Web services have become the primary mechanism for data representation and exchange in the enterprise. By defining common XML vocabularies, systems can easily share information with each other regardless of the particular hardware or software implementation of those systems.

Get the most from your XML assets
Maximizing reuse is the key to the success of XML implementations in the enterprise. Identifying common XML vocabularies and associating detailed semantic information with those vocabularies will lead to shorter software development cycles and higher quality applications. Unfortunately, this can be a difficult task in many cases; the large number of stakeholders in the design process can make it difficult to reach consensus on designed structures (especially if the stakeholders are not located in the same company or even the same country). The problem is further complicated by the complex nature of XML Schemas and WSDL XML Web service definitions, requiring a high level of expertise from the participants to ensure a good design. XML Collaborator makes it easy to collaboratively design, manage and deploy XML document structures and XML Web service definitions.

No knowledge of WSDL or XML Schema required
XML Collaborator is unique in that it decouples the design of the data structures from the actual representation of those structures in XML Schemas or WSDL documents; this enables the business experts to design strong XML vocabularies without necessarily having a high level of expertise in XML Schema design or WSDL design.

In order to increase reuse, XML Collaborator manages content at the component level. Rather than designing and registering entire XML document structures or XML Web service definitions, the individual elements, attributes, datatypes, and so on that make up a definition each have semantic information and version information associated with them. This allows portions of designed structures to easily be reused in other structures, improving portability between the structures and simplifying code written to take advantage of those structures.

Flexible interfaces and federated capabilities
The XML Collaborator platform consists of a core repository engine that manages the generated data components and tracks their versions, along with a set of XML Web service interfaces to that component repository. You can access the repository with our browser-based interface or easily integrate its functionality directly into your existing systems by calling the engine's XML Web services. Installations of XML Collaborator are also able to act as a federated super-repository, allowing components to be reused across multiple installations.

E-Gov and XML Collaborator

Blue Oxide's XML Collaborator has been selected as one of the six incubator pilot projects of the Federal CIO Council's XML Web Services Working Group. Recently formed as part of the Leveraging Technology Subcommittee of the Federal CIO Council's Architecture and Infrastructure Committee, the goal of the XML Web Services Working Group is to "accelerate the effective and appropriate implementation of XML Web services technology in the federal government."

In pursuit of this goal, XML Collaborator is being used to define, register and publish federal XML Web service definitions and XML Schemas to provide support for various E-Gov initiatives and the other incubator pilot projects. Using XML Collaborator also allows government personnel to gain experience with the emerging "publish, find, bind" paradigm associated with the service-oriented architecture of XML Web services.

Features

Collaboration

Real-time collaboration: Changes made to the metadata repository are reflected immediately through the engine interfaces – allowing teams to easily work together from across town or across the country.

Scratchpad support: Each user and group has a scratchpad where information items can be imported, examined, and manipulated.

Threaded collaboration at every level: Each component in XML Collaborator has its own threaded forum. This allows users to communicate issues about individual structures within the context of XML Collaborator, rather than switching back and forth between XML Collaborator and email.

Full-featured security model: A full security model is provided in XML Collaborator, allowing individual users or groups to be granted specific permissions in specific namespaces to reflect the operating guidelines of the group working on the XML document and XML Web service designs.

Flexibility and ease of use

Information design independent of serialization: XML Collaborator abstracts the data modeling process away from any particular implementation. This loosely-coupled approach to information modeling gives the created document and service structures longer-lasting value.

Robust import/export functionality: XML Collaborator can import structures from a wide variety of sources, such as XML Schemas, DTDs, WSDL descriptions of services, and even relational databases and spreadsheets. XML Collaborator can also produce any of these as exports of selected information models, as well as supporting exports such as structure documentation and shell parser code.

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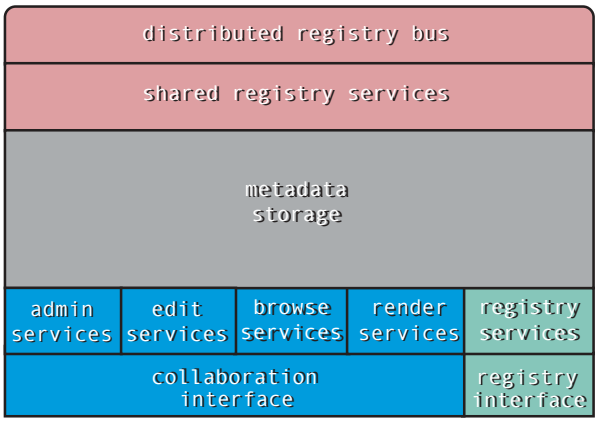

Distributed development environment: Installations of XML Collaborator may be instructed to operate in a federated manner, allowing information composites to be built from smaller components distributed across multiple servers.

Management of the design process

Atomic versioning: Each information component stored in XML Collaborator is individually tracked and versioned. A full audit trail for changes made to each component is also stored.

Namespace support: Components stored in XML Collaborator are subdivided into namespaces, with each namespace having its own set of permissions. This enables security to be managed at a more granular level.

Full semantics available for all components: Each component in the system has a logical name and a physical name, as well as a description. Taxonomies may also be defined for components stored in XML Collaborator.

Registry

Robust search mechanisms: XML Collaborator features a robust set of search services, allowing individual published structures to quickly be identified and retrieved.

Support for existing standards: XML Collaborator is designed to conform to ISO/IEC 11179, the ebXML registry standard, and UDDI.

Registration of supporting materials: In addition to data structure components, XML Collaborator allows supporting materials to be stored as well. This can include such items as UML diagrams, stylesheets, and other documentation.