Subject: request for an attribute for the Infrastructure Manager of a line
Posted by               on Wed, 23 May 2012 12:57:03 GMT
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Dear all,

in RailML 2.0, we used the attributes <trackGroups>.<line>.uicNumber and
<trackGroups>.<line>.lineNumber to uniqely describe a railway line of
infrastructure. In RailML 2.1, there is the new attribute
<trackGroups>.<line>.code as the only possibility for an external primary
key of a line.

In practice, the Infrastructure Managers give their lines numbers or
names/abbreviations but so far there is no international unique key for a
line. Therefore, it is necessary to add the In-frastructure Manager's key
to the primary key of a line.

If we would put both into 'code', e. g. code='80.6363' or 'DB.6363', this
would mean to 'scan' the code when importing infrastructure or a
timetable. It is one of the agreed principles of RailML to avoid known
'scanning' of strings due to all the problems which comes along (for
instance to force a unique separating character between IM code and line
number). Therefore, we (iRFP) cannot import RailML 2.1 because we refuse
to scan the 'code'.

I think we should introduce attributes
  - clearly to define the Infrastructure Manager of a line separated from
'code',
  - to define the key (number or abbreviation) of the line at this IM which
may be 'code'.

This means: Christian, please provide one new attribute 'IM', string, or
analogous.

Best regards,
Dirk.