
Subject: Re: Where to place a "comment" value?

Posted by [christian.rahmig](#) on Sun, 30 Apr 2017 06:07:05 GMT

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Dear Torben,

placing comments within a railML file has not yet been in the focus and therefore, a dedicated element does not exist. However, there are two options how to do it in railML v2.x:

Option 1: the attribute @description

This attribute is available for most of the railML elements and its data type is a string and therefore allows it to put any comment.

Option 2: use the XML comment syntax

You can place comments at every place of your railML file using the standard XML comment syntax `<!-- comment -->`. In contrast to option 1 the comment is not directly included in the railML data model.

If you prefer option 1, I agree with your suggestion to have a separate `<comment>` element implemented in railML v3 in order not to "misuse" the attribute @description. However, option 2 is always valid.

Question to all: how do you solve commenting issues currently?

Any comments appreciated...

Best regards

Christian

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Christian Rahmig - Infrastructure scheme coordinator

railML.org (Registry of Associations: VR 5750)

Phone Coordinator: +49 173 2714509; railML.org: +49 351 47582911

Altplauen 19h; 01187 Dresden; Germany www.railml.org

Am 25.04.2017 um 09:54 schrieb Torben Brand:

- > Where do you place comments on individual elements in
- > railML?
- > As part of the use case capacity planning we need to comment
- > on the elements. This is part of the workflow where we need
- > to describe tasks that needs to be done or has been done and
- > we like to emphasize. Currently this is either a separate
- > list or annotations (comment bubble) on a schematic
- > representation of the railML model (schematic track plan).
- > But embedding it in the railML file is more efficient and
- > less error prone. Comments could be any comment not only
- > connected to the described workflow.
- >
- > Example 1: In a railML file describing the current

- > infrastructure state, on the element speedChange the comment
 - > "Check if this speed is correct"
 - > Example 2: In a railML file describing a planned
 - > infrastructure state, on the element switch the comment "We
 - > need to move this switch outwards 50 meters and increase the
 - > deflecting speed/size of the switch".
 - >
 - > I suggest for railML 2 using the generally for all elements available
 - > attribute @description. The wiki defines
 - > @description as "This is a more detailed description as
 - > addition to the short name. It shall allow a short overview
 - > or hints to the contents of this data set." Comments could
 - > be interpreted as "hints to the contents of this data set".
 - >
 - > I suggest for railML 3 a separate attribute @comment
 - > available for all elements . This as the comments not
 - > usually describe the element directly.
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