Subject: Suggestion for improved references with RailML

Posted by Dr. Volker Knollmann on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 21:18:34 GMT

Hello newsgroup,

besides the previous question about accuracies, I received another
suggestion from the same user and I'm happy to share it with you for
discussion.

Mr. Pitz (Ansaldo) suggested the following improvement regarding linking
and references between RailML elements. Let me cite from his email:

> There seems to be no references between data in your model. XML
> allows for reference to another part of the model and we feel like
> this might be necessary to have consistent reference between
> interlocking and infrastructure model. Did you consider this kind of
> syntax (<xsd:keyref name="signal_segmentId"
> refer="segmented>   <xsd:selector
> xpath="trackElements/signals/signal/location"/> <xsd:field
> xpath="segmentId"/") ?

It seems to me that this way of referencing between elements offers
additional ways of consistency checking (XML now knows that a number is
a reference and not just an arbitrary number). On the other hand,
introducing this syntax would require significant modifications in the
XSD-file although the RailML-XML-file would syntactically not be
affected. It's a change "behind the scenes".

Please give me your feedback: what do you think about introducing this
syntax in RailML?

Best regards,
Volker Knollmann

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