Subject: References across several XML files
Posted by Jörg von Lingen on Sat, 13 Apr 2019 02:12:57 GMT
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Dear all,

during the conference in Linz the question about references in railML3.x was raised. Currently the referencing in IS-IL is using the ID/IDREF mechanism of XML or alternatively UUIDs. At least the first option can be validated only, when reference and target are within the same XML file. However, in future scenarios only parts of the information will be exchanged, e.g. a new timetable will not repeat the complete infrastructure but needs referencing into it.

Thus the option of using the <designator> element available at FunctionalInfrastructureEntity and EntityIL instead. When using an official register the name shall be unique in the register. However, it may appear at least twice when used for IS part and IL part, e.g. signalIS/designator and signalIL/designator.

There is another issue with using designator as it has two mandatory attributes @register and @entry. Thus a reference to designator shall be always contain the complete tuple of @register and @entry to be unambiguous.

What is your opinion on the topic of references?

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Best regards,
Joerg v. Lingen - Interlocking Coordinator