
Subject: Re: [railML3] References across several XML files
Posted by [christian.rahmig](#) on Tue, 16 Apr 2019 18:52:25 GMT
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Dear Jörg, dear all,

Am 13.04.2019 um 04:12 schrieb Joerg von Lingen:
> [...] What is your opinion on the topic of references?

I think that we have to distinguish different types of references:

- (1) references that are used only inside one railML file
- (2) references from inside a file to "something" outside
- (3) references from "something" outside to an element inside a file

For (1), ID/IDREF seems to be the best solution, because an XML scheme validator can check for corrupt references (e.g. missing destinations or double IDs).

For (2) and (3), we need "external IDs" and "external references". I propose to define new attributes of type xs:string in order to allow for any kind of ID or reference. Using UUIDs or GUIDs might be helpful (e.g. when addressing data stored in data bases), but there are also cases, where the external ID or reference shall be very simple.

Following this approach the railML model need to be modified only a little bit:

- * ID can remain like it is today
- * apart from the IDREF based reference, a new (external) reference of type xs:string shall be added.

You may ask: why don't you use the <designator>?

My answer: an element shall have only on ID that can be used for addressing the element, but it may have an arbitrary number of designators in different registers.

Best regards
Christian

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