Subject: data model definition vs. data exchange definition
Posted by Joachim Buechse on Thu, 25 Sep 2003 12:31:47 GMT
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On yesterdays meeting Mr Milde suggested that RailML follows the same strategy as the OKSTRA inititive and defines a complete data model instead of data exchange definitions. [ Mr. Milde gave a brief introduction of the OKSTRA project which defines schemes for a common data model for road construction. OKSTRA is sponsored by the german government. ]

Defining a common data model is certainly a desirable goal.

However: For existing applications it is usualy a high (re)implementation effort to support a common data model while an import/export function is usually quite simple. Additionally a common data model needs to fullfill higher standards in terms of efficiency.

Therefore I would suggest RailML keeps its focus on a pure data exchange format for the time beeing.

It might however be usefull to use IDs for physical or logical entities that SHOULD be preserved by applications when importing from and (re)exporting to RailML. This will allow overlaying a changed file with an original file using XSLT, in a case where an application drops attributes or subtags while importing or exporting (ie optional attributes, attributes defined in a later version of the scheme, etc).

Best regards,
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