

An XML Solution for Legal Documents

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A Use-case for XML

How we use XML to solve a real problem in our company – maintaining the product End User License Agreements (EULA)

Availability

- Open source project
- Apache 2.0 license
- GitHub

<https://github.com/georgebina/legal>

Context

Context

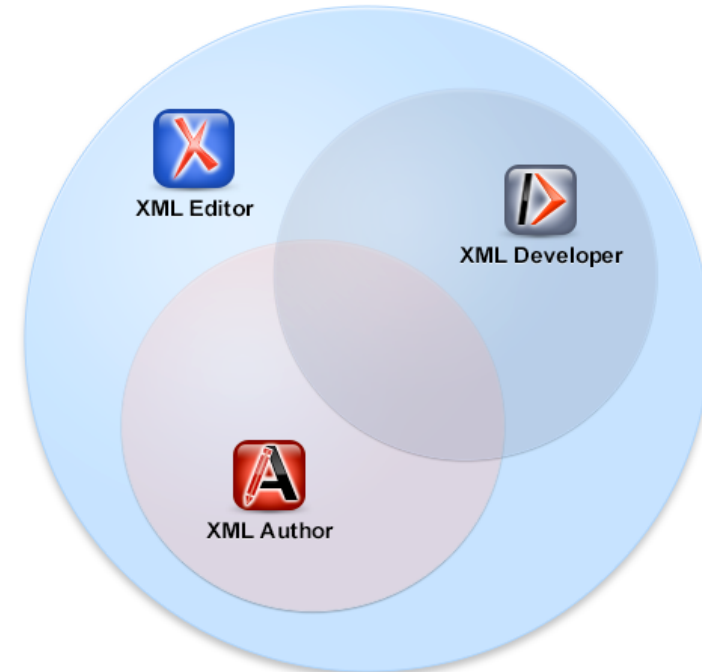
- oXygen Products

- Author
- Developer
- Editor

- oXygen Editions

- Academic
 - user based, floating, classroom, department, site
- Professional
 - user based, floating
- Enterprise
 - user based, floating, subscriptions

- SDK



Context

End User License Agreements

- for a number of similar products and different license types
- published in multiple places
 - on the product website
 - as part of the application

Old Solution

Each license agreement was edited using a word processor and (manually) saved as a plain text document to be included in the product and on the website.

Problem

Problem

We maintained duplicate information:

- difficulty of applying changes
- inconsistent content
- time wasted to update the same content in multiple places

Solution

Use XML to create a single source solution!

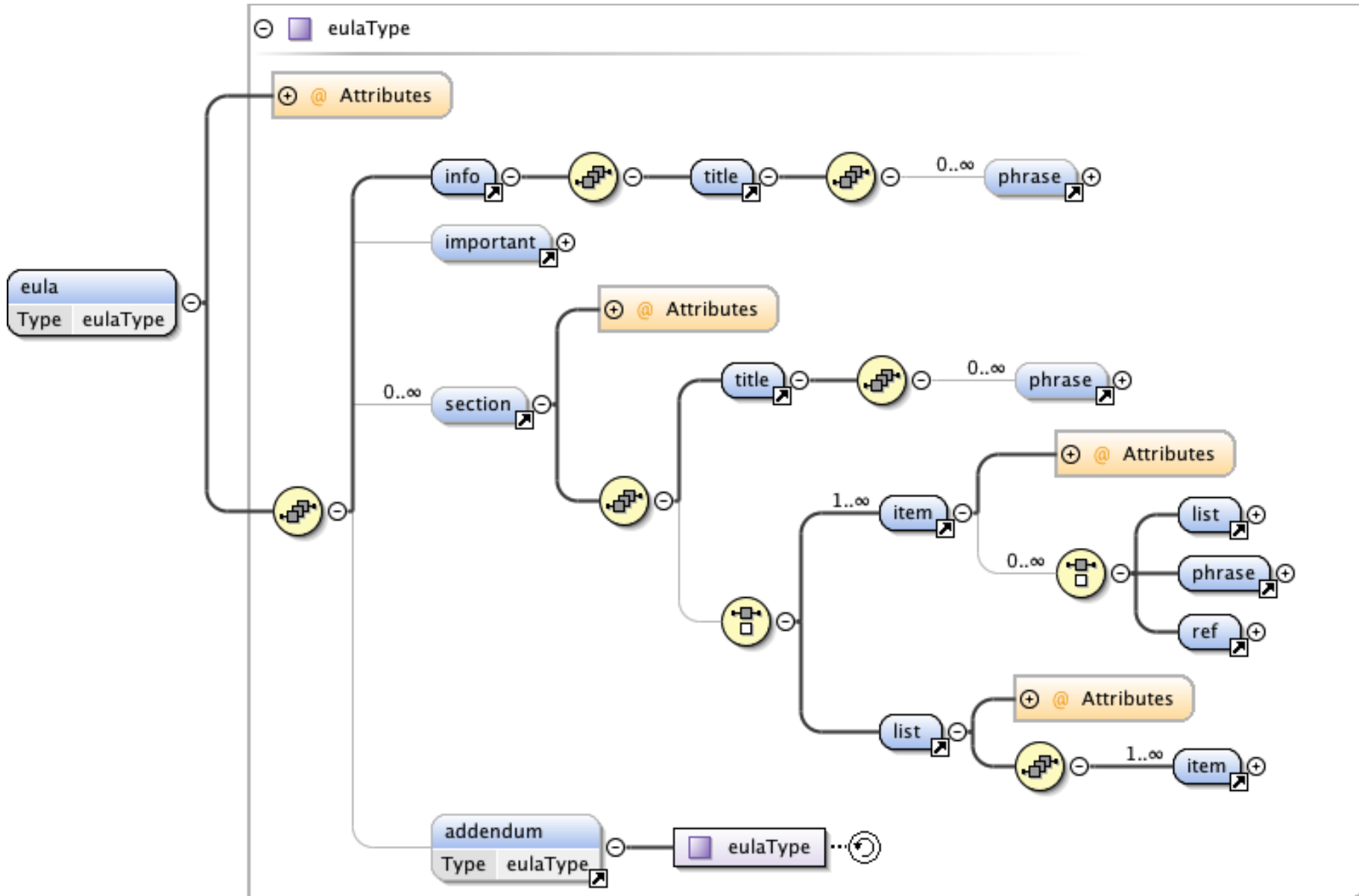
Objectives

- Very simple XML language
- User friendly interface
- Collaboration and review
 - Annotations
 - Change tracking
 - Highlights
- Implement Single-source concepts
 - Conditional content
 - Reuse
- Support for references
- Automate publishing tasks

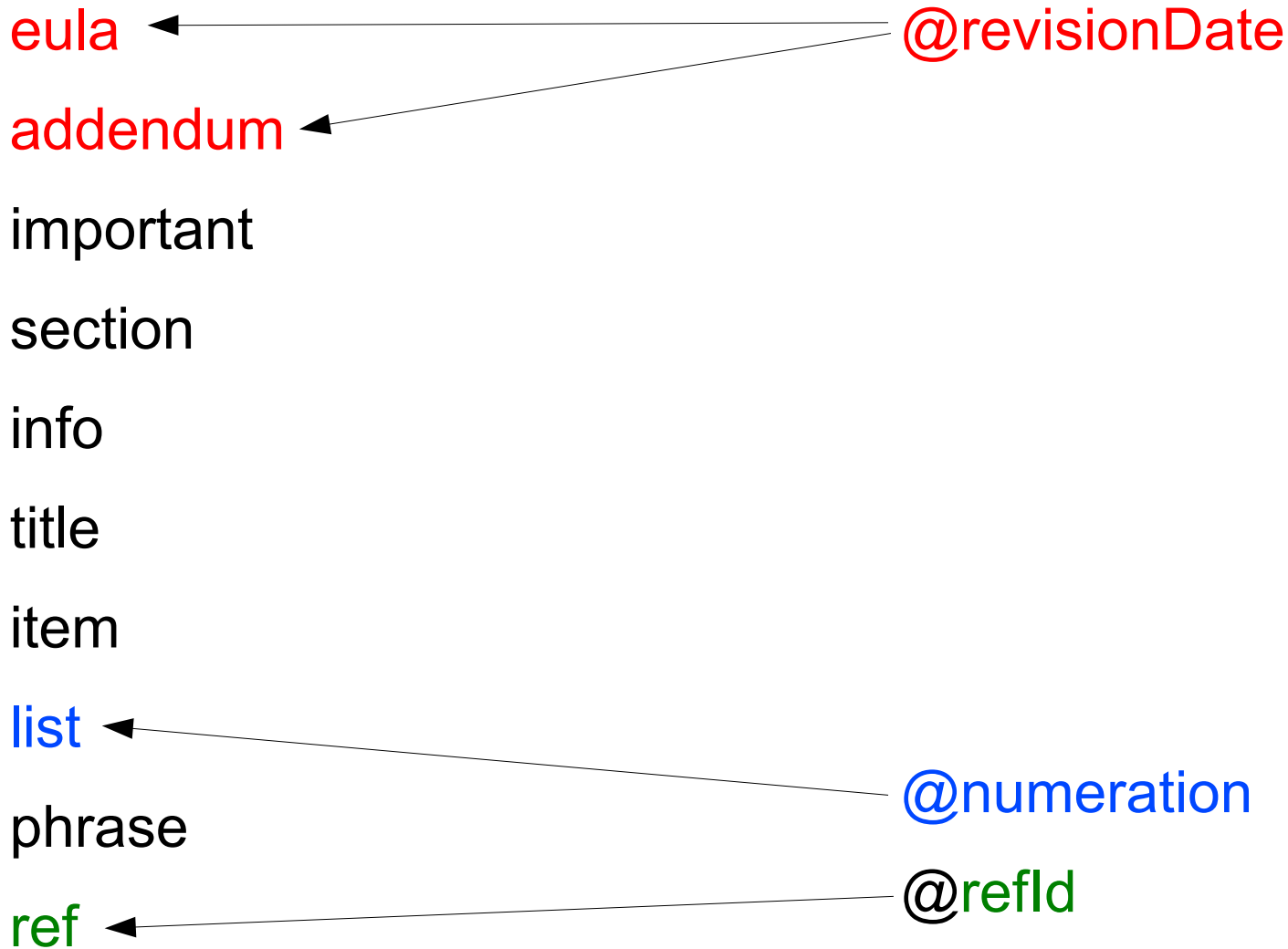
Very Simple XML Language

- 1. eula – a EULA document
- 2. addendum – an addendum to a EULA
- 3. important – the first section, not numbered
- 4. section – a section in the EULA
- 5. info – information about EULA
- 6. title – title for a section, EULA, agreement
- 7. item – an item in a section or in a list
- 8. list – groups a number of items in a list
- 9. phrase – a fragment of content
- 10. ref – a reference to a section or an item

eula Model



Attributes



User-friendly Interface

Use CSS to render the XML documents

- Provide multiple CSS styles to focus on different tasks
- Use counters and lists to get a similar rendering as the output

Provide custom actions to simplify common tasks

Review

- Track changes
- Annotations
- Highlights

All these are based on PIs so they work automatically for any XML language

Word Processor Equivalent

Up to here we have a functionality equivalent to what we had, only that the information is in our XML format.

- c. "Named User" is an individual authorized by You to use the Software through the assignment of a single user ID, regardless of whether or not the individual is using the Software at any given time. A non-human operated device is counted as a Named User in addition to all individuals authorized to use the Software, if such device can access the Software.
- d. "License Key" means a unique key-code issued to You by Syncro (or its authorized reseller) to activate and use the Software.
- e. "Maintenance Pack" is a time-limited right to technical support and Software updates and upgrades which you may elect to purchase in addition to your Software license. Technical support only covers issues or questions resulting directly out of the operation of the Software. Syncro will not provide You with generic consultation, assistance, or advice under any other circumstances.

Commented [stefan]:
Same definition as in
section SUPPORT AND
MAINTENANCE PACK

[license_grants]

2. LICENSE GRANTS

2.1. Trial Period License. You may download and use the Software for free for thirty (30) days after installation ("Trial Period"). During the Trial Period, Syncro grants You a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-renewable license to copy and use the Software for evaluation purposes only and not for any commercial use. At Syncro discretion, Syncro may provide limited support through email or discussion forums at Syncro web site. The evaluation copy of the Software contains a feature that will automatically disable the Software at the end of Trial Period. Syncro will have no liability to you if this feature disables the Software.

Reuse

Two cases

- Build conditional parts
- Reuse an entire fragment (e.g. section)

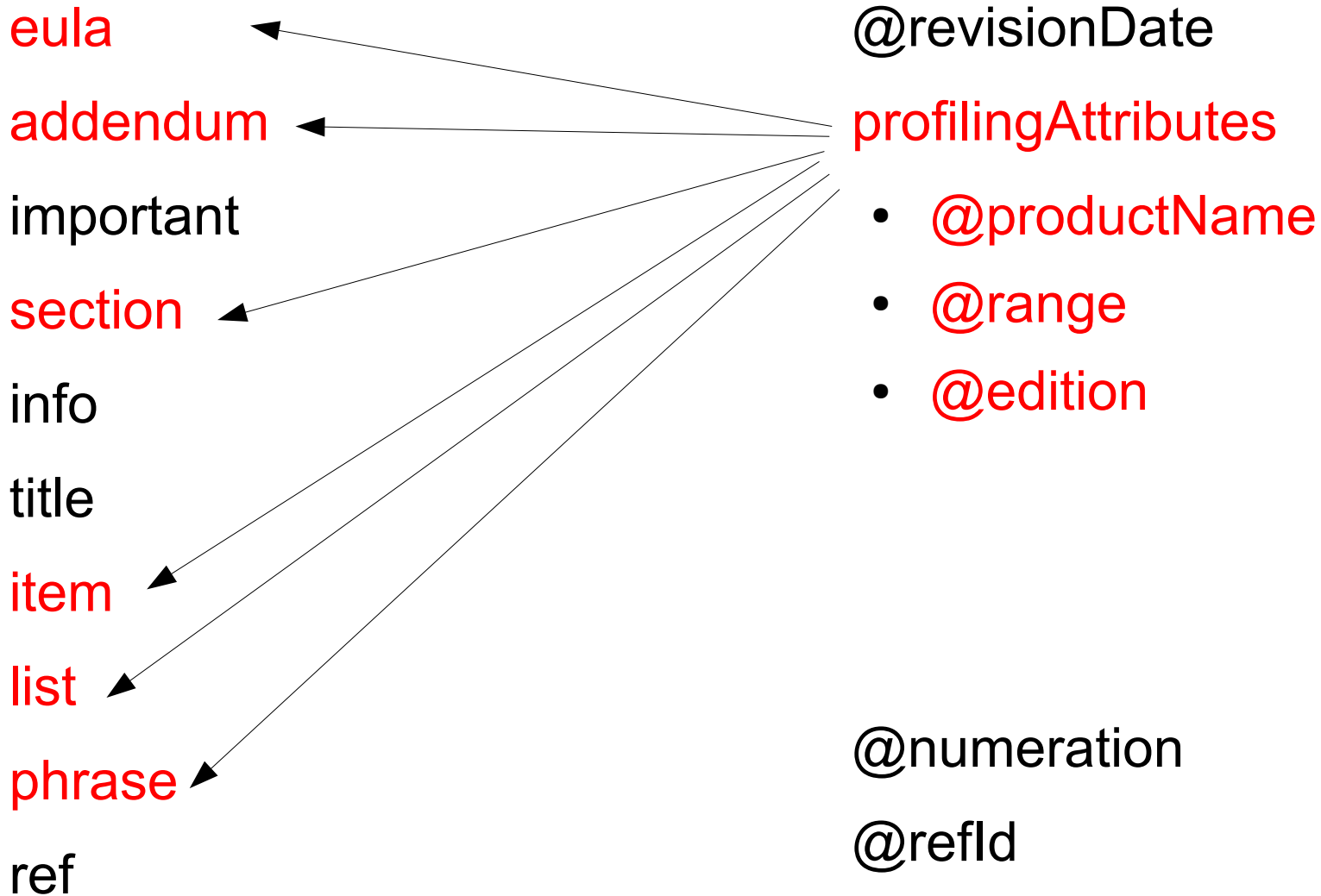
Conditional Content

Profiling attributes:

- @productName (Author, Developer, Editor)
- @range (User, Class, Department, Site)
- @edition (Academic, Professional, Enterprise)

By setting these attributes we mark a specific content to appear only when we generate the deliverables for the matching product, range or edition.

Profiling Attributes



Conditional Content

[definition]

1. DEFINITION

- a. "Syncro" means Syncro Soft SRL.
- b. "Software" means the executable code of oXygen XML `> Editor<` `product [EDITOR]` `Author<` `product [AUTHOR]` `>Developer<` `product [DEVELOPER]` `>Diff<` `product [DIFF]` (▷software program for editing and processing XML documents◄), any updates or error corrections provided by Syncro and on-line or electronic documentation.
- c. "Named User" is an individual authorized by You to use the Software through the assignment of a single user ID, regardless of whether or not the individual is using the Software at any given time. A non-human operated device is counted as a Named User in addition to all individuals authorized to use the Software, if such device can access the Software.
- d. "License Key" means a unique key-code issued to You by Syncro (or its authorized reseller) to activate and use the Software.
- e. "Maintenance Pack" is a time-limited right to technical support and Software updates and upgrades which you may elect to purchase in addition to your Software license. Technical support only covers issues or questions resulting directly out of the operation of the Software. Syncro will not provide You with generic consultation, assistance, or advice under any other circumstances.

Commented [stefan]:
Same definition as in
section SUPPORT AND
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Reuse Fragments

- Based on XInclude
- We need to allow `xml:base` for the elements that can be included
- We allow the following elements to be reused:
 - eula
 - addendum
 - important
 - section

Attributes

eula

addendum

important

section

info

title

item

list

phrase

ref

@revisionDate

profilingAttributes

- @productName
- @range
- @edition

xmlAttributes

- @xml:id
- @xml:base

@numeration

@refId

Reuse advantages

- Avoid duplicating content
- We do not need to review content that was already reviewed

Examples:

The sample oXygen EULA uses conditional content to generate 7 deliverables

The sample oXygen SDK agreement includes many sections from the oXygen EULA (7 out of 16)

References

A section or an item may get a different number depending on:

- profiling conditions
- changes in the document

Example

source: <http://www.avangate.com/online-payment-solutions/terms.php>

11.1 IF YOU ARE A CONSUMER, YOU WILL HAVE A "REFLECTION PERIOD" OF 15 (FIFTEEN) DAYS AFTER DELIVERY DURING WHICH YOU MAY REVOKE YOUR ORDER FOR ANY REASON THROUGH WRITTEN NOTICE TO AVANGATE AS SPECIFIED IN THE CHAPTER 12 - "NOTICE".

...

12. Refund process

12.1 To cancel an order placed in the

...

14. Notices

14.1 Any notification or any other communication made in connection with Our contract shall be in written form and considered as duly sent or adequately issued if it is sent by mail, fax or email and is addressed to the contact data

References

If references are made as text then:

- When a document is updated all reference text need to be manually checked
- The reference text needs to be placed in a fragment and profiled for different deliverables as the numbering may change (for example we can add a new section that applies only for the Academic version)

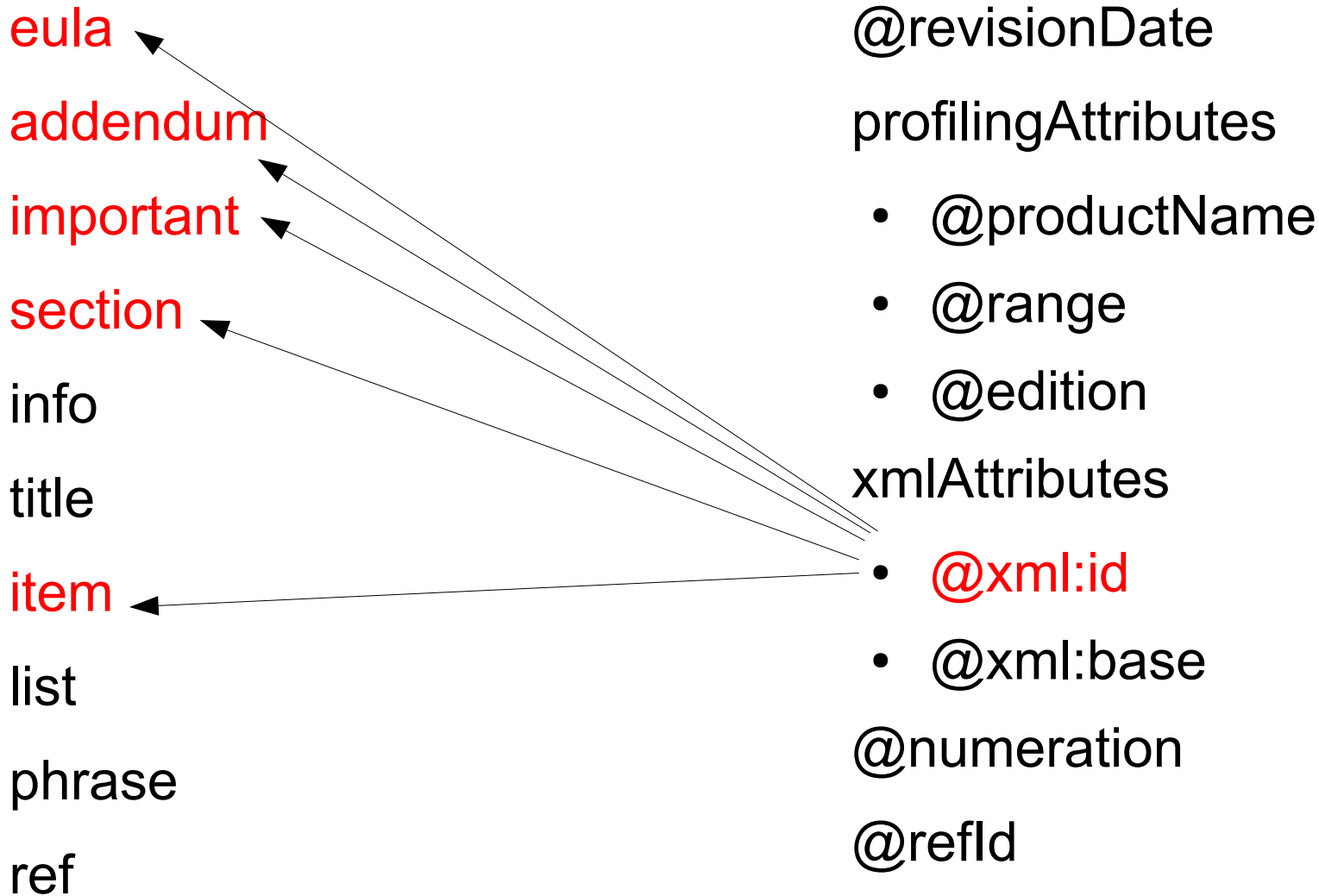
References

We solved this problem by adding a ref element that points to an ID defined on the reference target

Advantages:

- Automatic checking as part of the document validation
- Flexible on document changes
- Flexible on profiling

Attributes



Authoring references

An alternate CSS exposes the references as drop downs and the IDs as editable boxes to allow an easy management of IDs and references

Authoring References

13. TERM AND TERMINATION

13.1. You may terminate this Agreement at any time by removing the Software from the computers on which you had install it. Upon any termination of this Agreement, you shall immediately discontinue use of the Software and destroy all copies of the Software.

13.2. See Section [11.1](#)

13.3. If you are using a Development Key, this Agreement will terminate at the end of the term extended by Syncro consent.

13.4. Syncro may terminate this Agreement without judicial intervention, if You fail to comply with the terms of this Agreement. Upon such termination, You shall cease use of the Software or distributing the Add-on or Application containing the Software. Termination will not affect properly granted end user licenses of the Add-on or Application distributed by You prior to termination.

- ac-enduserapp
- monthlyReporting
- licenseRestrictions
- patent_and_copyright_indemnity
- warranties
- liability
- high_risk_activities
- export

Publishing

- XSLT
 - applies different processing stages like XInclude resolution, profiling, resolving references and conversion to text
- Ant
 - triggers the XSLT processing
 - optionally can trigger also a commit on a versioning system to push the updates on different repositories

Demo

Conclusions

- We can have a functionality similar to a word processor for simple XML document types
 - Simple editing (CSS)
 - Change tracking and annotations (XML PIs, maybe a standard format soon)
- We can easily implement reuse through
 - Conditional text
 - Content references (XInclude)
- References can be made robust adding specific support (IDs and IDREFs)
- We can automate publishing (XSLT)

Thank You!

Questions?

<https://github.com/georgebina/legal>

<oxygen/> XML Editor
<http://www.oxygenxml.com>
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