

Background Information about XML + XSLT + XSL FO

What is XSLT and XSL FO?

- XSLT – XML Style Language Transformation
 - A means to transform XML into other forms, manipulate XML
 - Even includes conditionals blocks such as if – when type blocks
- XSL FO – XML Style Language Formatting Objects
 - CSS on steroids
 - Content Formatting for typeset type display

What do they do?

- XSLT – transforms an IEP document to be ready to be formatted
 - Changes codes to written out statements
 - Applies conditional formatting to XML tree elements present
- XSL FO –
 - Formats page layout, fonts, margins, list formatting, . . .

How can they be used?

- IEP's XML documents
- Transformed with XSLT the XML tree can contain prose ready to be formatted.
- Formatted with XSL FO, the data is ready to be processed to be viewed.
- Using an FO processor, PDF, HTML, audio, RTF, etc can be produced for human consumption.

Why is this useful?

- Machines love to see XML
- Humans love to see PDF's or other similar document types
- The data that is transferred, signed, and stored in the CMS is in XML.
 - It can stay that way as long as the human viewable can be generated when needed.
 - Also makes network transmissions much smaller. (70 KB v/ 2000 KB)

How reliable is the display?

- The constraints on formatting are made for typesetting printed documents, so can be very reliable.
- The W3C Recommendation focuses on strict means for the processing of the language.
- For forms driven documents, very reliable

Proposal for how to do this:

- Easiest with forms
 - Even easier with machine generated and populated forms
- IEP's can have attached artifacts
 - The XSLT transformation can be done by the originator of the document
 - The XSL FO style sheet can be attached as an artifact of the IEP for transmission

More Information:

- W3C Tutorial:
<http://www.w3schools.com/xslfo/default.asp>
- XML.com “What is XSL FO?”:
<http://www.xml.com/pub/a/2002/03/20/xsl-fo.html>

Demonstration:

- Summons and Rule NISI for Child Support Enforcement
 - XML available at <http://schema.gaaoc.us>
 - Flash Video of this demo is also available at <http://efilinginfo.gaaoc.us/#XMLDocument>