OASIS - Object naming guidelines

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Abstract:

This document contains a set of guidelines for naming objects, such as specifications and schema definitions by the technical committees of OASIS.

Status:

This document is a working draft.

If you are on the tab-quality@lists.oasis-open.org list, send comments there.

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1. Introduction (non-normative)

The Board of Directors of OASIS recognizes the need for guidelines for naming objects used in its activities, such as requirements documents, specifications, schema definitions, attribute identifiers, profile identifiers, etc.. This document describes a convention for naming such objects.

TCs MUST name their specification documents according to these guidelines. TCs MAY choose, but are NOT REQUIRED, to use the guidelines for the naming of other objects.

These guidelines come into effect upon receiving the approval of the OASIS Board of Directors. TCs are NOT REQUIRED to apply them retroactively.

2. Notation (normative)

The key WORDS MUST, MUST NOT, REQUIRED, SHALL, SHALL NOT, SHOULD, SHOULD NOT, RECOMMENDED, MAY, and OPTIONAL in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119].

This specification uses the following typographical conventions in text: *variable name*, `literal string`. Terms in **italic bold-face** are intended to have the meaning defined in Section 3 or in other normative OASIS documents, such as the TC Process and IPR Policy.

3. Definitions (normative)

Contributor – The family name of the individual, individuals, organization or organizations that authors a submission. It SHALL contain lower-case letters only. If there is informal agreement in the TC that the submission forms the sole basis for further discussion of the subject matter, then the submission SHALL be names as a working draft. ***(Note: Eduardo recommends that we drop the term "contributor". If we accept this suggestion, then we need to come up with an alternative technique for identifying contributions.)***

Form - A particular presentation of a document. The same revision of a document might have several ***forms***. Typically the distinguishing factor is the publication file format it uses, where the file extension indicates this information, for example, HTML (.htm or .html), Microsoft Word (.doc or .rtf), OpenOffice.org (.sxw), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) or XML schema definition (.xsd).

Revision – The development stage of a working draft that is designated by a number in the form *nn* for purposes of distinguishing drafts under active TC development. An individual working draft typically goes through several revisions before becoming a Committee Draft or OASIS Standard. ***(Note: Eduardo recommends allowing the full spelling of characters from the Greek alphabet as an alternative – let's discuss.)***

Part - The name of a sub-part of a TC's ***product*** (e.g. "core" or a profile).

Prefix – A string prefix to the document identifier.

Product – The name (or abbreviation) of a significant body of work undertaken by a TC. For example, the Security Assertions Mark-up Language (saml) undertaken by the Security Services Technical Committee.

Object – The type of the object. Here are some examples:

Charter – "charter"

Requirements – "requirements"

Specification – "spec"

Schema – "schema"

Data model – "data-model"

Attribute definition – "attribute"

Conformance criteria – "conformance"

Etc..

Note: No such list will ever be exhaustive. Oftentimes, committees will have to define their own special-purpose *objects*. It is recommended that object type identifiers be either well accepted abbreviations (e.g. "spec") or the full spelling.

Stage - A specification maturity level, as recognized by the OASIS TC process. The two stages requiring special levels of TC and membership approval are Committee Draft and OASIS Standard. Prior to becoming a Committee Draft, a document is known as a Working Draft and cannot be assumed to have TC approval or support. The following abbreviations SHALL be used:

working draft – `wd`

Committee Draft – `cd`

OASIS Standard – `os`

(Note: Eduardo says there is no such thing as an OASIS Working Draft. The TC process refers only to (lower case) working drafts.)

In the case of an individual or organizational submission, the value of *stage* SHALL be the *contributor*. *(Note: Eduardo suggests making this "contribution". I suppose the original idea was that separate contributions would have different identifiers; an outcome that is not achieved if all are simply identified "contribution". Let's discuss.)*

TC – The short name assigned by OASIS to the Technical Committee. For example, `sstc`, for the OASIS Security Services Technical Committee.

Version - A specification development stage that is formally designated by a number (typically in *major.minor* format, such as 1.0 or 2.3) for purposes of distinguishing levels of implementation and conformance by a public community of developers. An OASIS Standard is associated with a single version throughout its development and approval. For example, several products claim conformance to SAML version 1.0.

4. Common conventions (non-normative)

This section contains guidelines that are common to objects of all types.

Lowercase spelling is RECOMMENDED.

The revision component MUST be omitted from identifiers for Committee Drafts and OASIS Standards.

In the case where an object is equally applicable to all parts of a TC's work, the *part* component SHALL be omitted.

Hyphens MUST be used to separate the name components. Spaces MUST NOT be used. It is NOT RECOMMENDED to use hyphens between words within the *part*, *object* and *contributor* components. Rather, it is RECOMMENDED to use underscore (_). *(Note: Eduardo disagrees with the use of underscore. Let's discuss.)*

If a document uses change bars or other change-tracking devices, then an extended *object* component MAY indicate this (for example, by extending the *revision* with the string "-diff").

5. Specific conventions

The following sections provide the naming guidelines for objects of specific types.

5.1 Document identifiers (normative)

OASIS documents MUST contain a document identifier. The following format SHALL be used for document identifiers:-

prefix-TC-product-version-part-object-stage-revision

Ordinarily, the *prefix* component SHALL be:-

```
oasis-
```

Some TCs may choose to use a hyperlink as a document identifier. In such cases the *prefix* SHALL be

```
http://www.docs.oasis-open.org/TC/
```

(Note: Eduardo sees no purpose for the prefix. If we decide to retain the prefix, then he says we should not dictate the method. Perhaps the counter-argument is that Kavi primarily supports "http". Let's discuss.)

And the *form* component MAY be appended. However, for purposes of bibliographic citation, the *form* component MUST be omitted.

Note that in this case, the *TC* component is duplicated in the *prefix*.

Some TCs may choose to use a URN as a document identifier. In such cases, the component separator SHALL be a colon (:) and the prefix SHALL be:-

```
urn:oasis:
```

(Note: Eduardo believes Karl has written a document on this topic.)

5.2 Filenames (non-normative)

Documents may be contained in files. In which case, the associated leaf filename SHOULD be in the following form:-

Prefix-TC-product -version-part-object-stage-revision.form

The *prefix* component SHALL be:-

```
oasis-
```

5.3 Namespace declarations (non-normative)

Namespace declarations MAY be of the same form as document identifiers. See Section 5.1. A namespace declaration MAY be a hyperlink to the schema definition document.

6. Examples (non-normative)

The following examples illustrate the application of the object naming guidelines to the first working draft of the schema definition file for the timestamp token project within the OASIS Digital Signature Services version 1.0 technical committee.

Document identifier = oasis-dss-1.0-timestamp_token-schema-wd-01

Document identifier = http://www.docs.oasis-open.org/dss/dss-1.0-timestamp_token-schema-wd-01.xsd

(Note: Eduardo wants to see more examples. I prefer to create examples once we have agreed the scheme.)

Appendix A. Notices

Appendix B. Revision History

Revision	Date	By whom	What
WD 01	12 Sep 2003	Tim Moses	Initial draft
WD 02	10 Oct 2003	Tim Moses	Introduced the product component. Introduced the urn convention. Introduced the hyperlink prefix.
WD 03	1 Mar 2004	Tim Moses	Incorporated comments from Eduardo

Appendix C. References

[RFC 2119] S. Bradner. *RFC 2119: Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels.* IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force). 1997.