

Re: Editing XML

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- *From:* Rob Kennedy <me3@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 12 Jun 2007 01:04:43 -0500
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Hans-Peter Diettrich wrote:

Maarten Wiltink wrote:

Does here "@" refer to (all?) attributes, "*" to all childnodes, and text() to the text? The members of the elements (or nodes?) still are somewhat unclear to me :-(

* is short for all nested elements, @* for all nested attributes, text() for all nested text nodes, node() for all nested nodes. A few other node types such as processing instructions and comments are dutifully ignored in the above code.

I wonder how text and child nodes are distinguished in the XML text. Or can an element have either text or child nodes, but not both at the same time?

A text node is just another kind of child node. The "*" location path selects element children, and the "text()" location path selects text children. The "@*" location path selects all attributes of the context node, which must be an element node.

Consider this XML document:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<tag>Hello, world!</tag>
```

There are three nodes there. The first is the processing instruction, which you'll typically ignore in XSLT. The next is the element node named "tag" and the last is the text node. (There could really be more nodes — you're allowed to have two consecutive text nodes — but they usually get combined into a single node at some point.)

You may want to read the XSLT and XPath specs from W3C. It's a long read, but well worth it — at least I thought so. Be warned that I also thought Christopher Tolkien's editions of his father's mislaid

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writing worth it. There is a certain similarity; both are not to everyone's taste.

Right, I only was not sure which