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XML

Re: Problems with multiple multiple-level inclusion of DTDs

Discussion in 'XML' started by Peter Flynn, Jul 26, 2008.



Peter Flynn
Guest

wrote:

```
> Hi all,
>
> I have one DTD fragment, base.dtd, that contains a bunch of useful
> element definitions (say an element named "base"), and two DTD
> fragments, a.dtd and b.dtd, that each build on base.dtd and defines a
> few more elements. I use an entity to include base.dtd in a.dtd and
> b.dtd. For example, in a.dtd:
>
> <!ENTITY % include.base SYSTEM "base.dtd">
> %include.base
> <!ELEMENT a (base+)>
>
> In b.dtd:
>
> <!ENTITY % include.base SYSTEM "base.dtd">
> %include.base
> <!ELEMENT b (#PCDATA|base)*>
>
> In my XML documents, if I just want to use element a (or b), I simply
> need to entity-include a.dtd, and that will automatically include
> base.dtd, which is nice.
>
> However, the trouble comes in when I entity-include both a.dtd and
> b.dtd. The problem is that the element "base" will be included twice
> (once via a.dtd->base.dtd and another time via b.dtd->base.dtd). Note
> that multiple definitions of the "include.base" entity is fine (as per
> XML standard), but multiple definitions of any element is disallowed.
```

The technique is to use parameter-entity switches.

In a.dtd:

```
<!ENTITY % use.base.from.a "INCLUDE">
<![%use.base.from.a;[
%include.base;
<!ENTITY % use.base.from.b "IGNORE">
]]>
```

In b.dtd

```
<!ENTITY % use.base.from.b "INCLUDE">
<![%use.base.from.b;[
%include.base;
<!ENTITY % use.base.from.a "IGNORE">
]]>
```

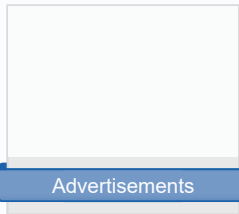
This way, whichever one you invoke first will prevent the other one from being activated.

Better would be to parameterise a and b alone, and invoke your base in your document type declaration with a PE switch to include whichever or a and b (or both) that you require for the instance.

///Peter

Peter Flynn, Jul 26, 2008

#1



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Peter Flynn
Guest

wrote:

> On Jul 26, 4:40 pm, Peter Flynn <> wrote:

[snip]

>> Better would be to parameterise a and b alone, and invoke your base in
>> your document type declaration with a PE switch to include whichever or
>> a and b (or both) that you require for the instance.

>

> This is what I am doing for now, though users of a.dtd and b.dtd have
> to manually manage inclusion.

>

> Another possibility I thought of is to have an exclude-base-
> includes.dtd file that sets all PE switches to false. This file would
> be included by base.dtd. Each includer of base.dtd would set the its
> own PE switch to true, and then include base.dtd. End users are hidden
> from all this mess, but the downside of this approach is that the
> exclude-base-includes.dtd file needs to be maintained.

It's usually far easier to manage if you make base.dtd the external entity referenced by the DOCTYPE Declaration, and let users add their own selection of a, b, ... using a PE in the internal subset.

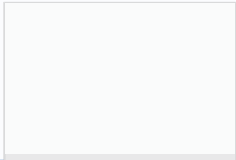
```
<!DOCTYPE whatever SYSTEM "/some/uri/for/base.dtd" [
<!ENTITY % a "INCLUDE">
]>
```

and do all your entity management and file inclusion in base.dtd, a.ent, b.ent, or whatever.

///Peter

Peter Flynn, Jul 27, 2008

#2











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