Document Object Model (DOM) Level 2 Views Specification

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Abstract

This specification defines the Document Object Model Level 2 Views, a platform- and language-neutral interface that allows programs and scripts to dynamically access and update the content of a representation of a document. The Document Object Model Level 2 Views builds on the Document Object Model Level 2 Core [DOM Level 2 Core].

Status of this document

This is a W3C Proposed Recommendation for review by W3C members and other interested parties. W3C Advisory Committee Members are invited to send formal comments, visible only to the W3C Team, to dom-review@w3.org until October 25, 2000.

Comments on this document are invited and are to be sent to the public mailing list www-dom@w3.org. An archive is available at http://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/www-dom/.

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This document has been produced as part of the W3C DOM Activity. The authors of this document are the DOM WG members. Different modules of the Document Object Model have different editors.

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1. Document Object Model Views

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1.1. Introduction

A document may have one or more "views" associated with it, e.g., a computed view on a document after applying a CSS stylesheet, or multiple presentations (e.g., HTML Frame) of the same document in a client. That is, a view is some alternate representation of, or a presentation of, and associated with, a source document.

A view may be static, reflecting the state of the document when the view was created, or dynamic, reflecting changes in the target document as they occur, subsequent to the view being created. This Level of the DOM specification makes no statement about these behaviors.

This section defines an `AbstractView` [p.9] interface which provides a base interface from which all such views shall derive. It defines an attribute which references the target document of the `AbstractView`. The only semantics of the `AbstractView` defined here create an association between a view and its target document.

There are no subinterfaces of `AbstractView` [p.9] defined in the DOM Level 2.

However, `AbstractView` [p.9] is defined in and used in this Level in two places:

- A Document may implement a `DocumentView` [p.10] that has a default view attribute associated with it. This default view is typically dependent on the implementation (e.g., the browser frame rendering the document). The default view can be used in order to identify and/or associate a view with its target document (by testing object equality on the `AbstractView` [p.9] or obtaining the `DocumentView` attribute).
- A `UIEvent` typically occurs upon a view of a Document (e.g., a mouse click on a browser frame rendering a particular Document instance). A `UIEvent` has an `AbstractView` [p.9] associated with it which identifies both the particular (implementation-dependent) view in which the event occurs, and the target document the `UIEvent` is related to.

The interfaces found within this section are not mandatory. A DOM application can use the `hasFeature` method of the `DOMImplementation` interface to determine whether they are supported or not. The feature string for all the interfaces listed in this section is "Views" and the version is "2.0".

1.2. Interfaces

Interface *AbstractView* (introduced in **DOM Level 2**)

A base interface that all views shall derive from.
IDL Definition

```
// Introduced in DOM Level 2:
interface AbstractView {
  readonly attribute DocumentView     document;
};
```

Attributes

`document` of type `DocumentView` [p.10] , readonly

The source `DocumentView` [p.10] of which this is an `AbstractView`.

Interface *DocumentView* (introduced in **DOM Level 2**)

The `DocumentView` interface is implemented by `Document` objects in DOM implementations supporting DOM Views. It provides an attribute to retrieve the default view of a document.
IDL Definition

```
// Introduced in DOM Level 2:
interface DocumentView {
  readonly attribute AbstractView     defaultView;
};
```

Attributes

`defaultView` of type `AbstractView` [p.9] , readonly

The default `AbstractView` [p.9] for this `Document`, or `null` if none available.

Appendix A: IDL Definitions

This appendix contains the complete OMG IDL [OMGIDL] for the Level 2 Document Object Model Views definitions.

The IDL files are also available as:
http://www.w3.org/TR/2000/PR-DOM-Level-2-Views-20000927/idl.zip

views.idl:

```
// File: views.idl

#ifndef _VIEWS_IDL_
#define _VIEWS_IDL_

#include "dom.idl"

#pragma prefix "dom.w3c.org"
module views
{

  interface DocumentView;

  // Introduced in DOM Level 2:
  interface AbstractView {
    readonly attribute DocumentView     document;
  };

  // Introduced in DOM Level 2:
  interface DocumentView {
    readonly attribute AbstractView     defaultView;
  };
};

#endif // _VIEWS_IDL_
```

views.idl:

Appendix B: Java Language Binding

This appendix contains the complete Java [Java] bindings for the Level 2 Document Object Model Views.

The Java files are also available as
http://www.w3.org/TR/2000/PR-DOM-Level-2-Views-20000927/java-binding.zip

org/w3c/dom/views/AbstractView.java:

```
package org.w3c.dom.views;

public interface AbstractView {
    public DocumentView getDocument();

}
```

org/w3c/dom/views/DocumentView.java:

```
package org.w3c.dom.views;

public interface DocumentView {
    public AbstractView getDefaultView();

}
```

org/w3c/dom/views/DocumentView.java:

Appendix C: ECMA Script Language Binding

This appendix contains the complete ECMA Script [ECMAScript] binding for the Level 2 Document Object Model Views definitions.

Note: Exceptions handling is only supported by ECMAScript implementation compliant with the Standard ECMA-262 3rd. Edition ([ECMAScript]).

Object **AbstractView**

The **AbstractView** object has the following properties:

document

This read-only property is of type **DocumentView**.

Object **DocumentView**

The **DocumentView** object has the following properties:

defaultView

This read-only property is of type **AbstractView**.

Appendix C: ECMA Script Language Binding

Appendix D: Acknowledgements

Many people contributed to this specification, including members of the DOM Working Group and the DOM Interest Group. We especially thank the following:

Lauren Wood (SoftQuad Software Inc., *chair*), Andrew Watson (Object Management Group), Andy Heninger (IBM), Arnaud Le Hors (W3C and IBM), Ben Chang (Oracle), Bill Smith (Sun), Bill Shea (Merrill Lynch), Bob Sutor (IBM), Chris Lovett (Microsoft), Chris Wilson (Microsoft), David Brownell (Sun), David Singer (IBM), Don Park (invited), Eric Vasilik (Microsoft), Gavin Nicol (INSO), Ian Jacobs (W3C), James Clark (invited), James Davidson (Sun), Jared Sorensen (Novell), Joe Kesselman (IBM), Joe Lapp (webMethods), Joe Marini (Macromedia), Johnny Stenback (Netscape), Jonathan Marsh (Microsoft), Jonathan Robie (Texcel Research and Software AG), Kim Adamson-Sharpe (SoftQuad Software Inc.), Laurence Cable (Sun), Mark Davis (IBM), Mark Scardina (Oracle), Martin Dürst (W3C), Mick Goulish (Software AG), Mike Champion (Arbortext and Software AG), Miles Sabin (Cromwell Media), Patti Lutsky (Arbortext), Paul Grosso (Arbortext), Peter Sharpe (SoftQuad Software Inc.), Phil Karlton (Netscape), Philippe Le Hégaret (W3C, *W3C team contact*), Ramesh Lekshmynarayanan (Merrill Lynch), Ray Whitmer (iMall, Excite@Home and Netscape), Rich Rollman (Microsoft), Rick Gessner (Netscape), Scott Isaacs (Microsoft), Sharon Adler (INSO), Steve Byrne (JavaSoft), Tim Bray (invited), Tom Pixley (Netscape), Vidur Apparao (Netscape), Vinod Anupam (Lucent).

Thanks to all those who have helped to improve this specification by sending suggestions and corrections.

D.1: Production Systems

This specification was written in XML. The HTML, OMG IDL, Java and ECMA Script bindings were all produced automatically.

Thanks to Joe English, author of cost, which was used as the basis for producing DOM Level 1. Thanks also to Gavin Nicol, who wrote the scripts which run on top of cost. Arnaud Le Hors and Philippe Le Hégaret maintained the scripts.

For DOM Level 2, we used Xerces as the basis DOM implementation and wish to thank the authors. Philippe Le Hégaret and Arnaud Le Hors wrote the Java programs which are the DOM application.

Thanks also to Jan Kärrman, author of html2ps, which we use in creating the PostScript version of the specification.

References

For the latest version of any W3C specification please consult the list of W3C Technical Reports available at http://www.w3.org/TR.

E.1: Normative references

DOM Level 2 Core

W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) Document Object Model Level 2 Core Specification, September 2000. Available at http://www.w3.org/TR/2000/PR-DOM-Level-2-Core-20000927

ECMAScript

ECMA (European Computer Manufacturers Association) ECMAScript Language Specification. Available at http://www.ecma.ch/ecma1/STAND/ECMA-262.HTM

Java

Sun Microsystems Inc. The Java Language Specification, James Gosling, Bill Joy, and Guy Steele, September 1996. Available at http://java.sun.com/docs/books/jls

OMGIDL

OMG (Object Management Group) IDL (Interface Definition Language) defined in The Common Object Request Broker: Architecture and Specification, version 2.3.1, October 1999. Available from http://www.omg.org/

E.1: Normative references

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