XHTML Access Module

Module to enable generic document accessibility

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Abstract

The XHTML Access module defines an element that, when used in conjunction with other XHTML modules, enables a more robust accessibility model than that found in traditional HTML.

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This is a First Public Working Draft produced by the XHTML 2 Working Group. The goals of the XHTML 2 Working Group are discussed in the XHTML 2 Working Group charter. Note that the content of this document is based upon materials from [XHTML2 [p.15]] and is therefore considered relatively mature.

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1. Introduction

This section is informative.

This document contains a single module designed to be used to help extend the scope of XHTML-family markup languages into new environments. It has been developed in conjunction with the W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative and other interested parties. It is designed to provide a generic mechanism for defining the relationship between document components and well-known accessibility taxonomies.

2. Conformance Requirements

This section is *normative*.

The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119 [p.15]].

Note that all examples in this document are informative, and are not meant to be interpreted as normative requirements.

2.1. Document Conformance

XHTML Access is not a stand-alone document type. It is intended to be integrated into other host languages such as XHTML. A conforming XHTML Access document is a document that requires only the facilities described as mandatory in this specification and the facilities described as mandatory in its host language. Such a document must meet all the following criteria:

1. If the host language is not in the XHTML namespace, then the document MUST contain an `xmlns:` declaration for the XHTML Access namespace [XMLNAMES [p.15]]. The namespace for XHTML Access Module is defined to be `http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml`. An example start tag of a root element might look like:

   Example

   ```
   <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en" >
   ```

2.2. Host Language Conformance

When XHTML Access is included in a host language, all of the facilities required in this specification MUST be included in the host language. In addition, the attribute defined in this specification MUST be included in the content model of the host language. Finally, XHTML Access requires the availability of the XHTML Role Attribute Module [XHTMLROLE [p.15]] and of the Core Attribute Collection as defined in XHTML Modularization.

2.3. User Agent Conformance

A conforming user agent MUST support all of the features required in this specification.

3. Terms and Definitions

This section is *normative*.

3.1. Compact URIs

In order to allow for the scoped expression of `targetrole` values, this specification uses a superset of of QNames that allows the contraction of all URIs (QNames have a syntactic restriction on the sorts of URI that can be contracted).

These Compact URIs are called CURIEs here.

3.1.1. CURIE Syntax Definition

A basic CURIE is comprised of two components, a *prefix* and a *reference*. The prefix is separated from the reference by a colon (`:`).

```
curie       :=   [ [ prefix ] ':' ] reference

prefix      :=   NCName

reference   :=   irelative-ref (as defined in [IRI])
```

The prefix value MUST be defined using the 'xmlns:' syntax specified in [XMLNAMES [p.15]].

If the prefix is omitted from a CURIE, the default value of `http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml/vocab#` MUST be used.

A CURIE is a representation of a full IRI. This IRI is obtained by concatenating the IRI associated with the `prefix` with the `reference`. The result MUST be a syntactically valid IRI [IRI [p.15]].

The CURIE prefix '_' is reserved. For this reason, prefix declarations using '_' SHOULD be avoided by authors.

Host languages MAY define additional constraints on these syntax rules when CURIES are used in the context of those host languages. Host languages MUST NOT relax the CURIE syntax constraints defined in this specification.

4. XHTML Access Module

This section is *normative*.

This module defines the access element.

Element	Attributes	Minimal Content Model
access	Common, activate, key, targetid, targetrole	EMPTY

Implementations: XML DTD [p.13]

4.1. The `access` element

The access element assigns an accessibility mapping to elements within a document. Actuating the mapping results in the element gaining focus or, optionally, in some other event being delivered.

Attributes

4.1.1. `activate` = (yes | no*)

The activate attribute indicates whether a target element should be activated or not once it obtains focus. The default value for this attribute is "no", indicating that the element will not be "activated".

4.1.2. `key` = Character

This attribute assigns a key mapping to an access shortcut. An access key is a single character from the document character set. **Note:** Authors should consider the input method of the expected reader when specifying an accesskey.

Triggering an access key defined in an access element changes focus to the next element in navigation order from the current focus that has one of the the referenced role or id values. Note that it is possible to deliver alternate events via [XMLEVENTS [p.15]]. It is also possible to have the target element activated through the use of the activate attribute. Finally, it is possible to associate additional event handlers with target which might then perform additional actions once focus is changed.

If neither a `targetrole` nor a `targetid` attribute are specified, the user agent MUST NOT define a mapping nor deliver any events.

An `access` element must have either a `targetrole` or a `targetid` attribute specified.

The invocation of access keys depends on the implementation. For instance, on some systems one may have to press the "alt" key in addition to the access key. On other systems, one generally has to press the "cmd" key in addition to the access key.

The rendering of access keys depends on the user agent. We recommend that authors include the access key in label text or wherever the access key is to apply. User agents should render the value of an access key in such a way as to emphasize its role and to distinguish it from other characters (e.g., by underlining it).

The character assigned to a key, and its relationship to a role or id attribute, are a suggestion of the author. User agents may provide mechanisms for overriding, disabling, or re-assigning keys. In such user agents, user-specified assignments must take precendence. If no key attribute is specified, the user agent SHOULD assign a key.

We talk about the id attribute, but we might also need to accomodate xml:id. How can we do that consistently?

4.1.3. `targetid` = IDREFS

The targetid attribute specifies one or more IDREFs related to target elements for the associated event (i.e., the node to which the event should be delivered).

4.1.4. `targetrole` = `CURIE`s

The targetrole attribute specifies a space separated list of `CURIE`s that maps to an element with a role attribute with the same value.

If a targetid and a targetrole are both specified for an element, the targetid attribute value must take precedence.

Access element that focuses into a field

```
<access key="s"
        title="Social Security Number"
        targetrole="ss:number" />
```

Accessing a table of contents

```
<access key="c"
        title="Table of Contents"
        targetrole="toc" />
```

Access that moves to the main content

```
<access key="m"
        title="Main content"
        targetrole="main" />
```

Access element that goes to a specific element

```
<access key="u"
        title="Username"
        targetid="username" />
```

Access element with no specific key mapping

```
<access title="Navigation bar"
        targetrole="navigation" />
```

A. DTD Implementation

This appendix is *normative*.

The DTD implementation of XHTML Access Module conforms to the requirements defined in [XHTMLMOD [p.15]]. Consequently, it provides a Qualified Names sub-module, and a module file for the XHTML Access Module module defined in this specification.

A.1. Qualified Names Module

```
<!-- ....................................................................... -->
<!-- XHTML Access Qname Module  ............................................ -->
<!-- file: xhtml-access-qname-1.mod

     This is XHTML Access - the Access Attribute Module for XHTML.

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     This DTD module is identified by the PUBLIC and SYSTEM identifiers:

       PUBLIC "-//W3C//ENTITIES XHTML Access Attribute Qnames 1.0//EN"
       SYSTEM "http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/DTD/xhtml-access-qname-1.mod"

     Revisions:
     (none)
     ....................................................................... -->

<!-- XHTML Access Attribute Qname (Qualified Name) Module

     This module is contained in two parts, labeled Section 'A' and 'B':

       Section A declares parameter entities to support namespace-
       qualified names, namespace declarations, and name prefixing
       for XHTML Access and extensions.

       Section B declares parameter entities used to provide
       namespace-qualified names for the XHTML role attribute:

         %role.qname;   the xmlns-qualified name for @role
         ...

     XHTML Access extensions would create a module similar to this one.
-->

<!-- Section A: XHTML Access Attribute XML Namespace Framework :::::::::::::: -->

<!-- 1. Declare a %XHTML-ACCESS.prefixed; conditional section keyword, used
        to activate namespace prefixing. The default value should
        inherit '%NS.prefixed;' from the DTD driver, so that unless
        overridden, the default behavior follows the overall DTD
        prefixing scheme.
-->
<!ENTITY % NS.prefixed "IGNORE" >
<!ENTITY % XHTML-ACCESS.prefixed "%NS.prefixed;" >
```

```
<!-- 2. Declare a parameter entity (eg., %XHTML-ACCESS.xmlns;) containing
        the URI reference used to identify the XHTML Access Attribute namespace
-->
<!ENTITY % XHTML-ACCESS.xmlns  "http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" >

<!-- 3. Declare parameter entities (eg., %XML.prefix;) containing
        the default namespace prefix string(s) to use when prefixing
        is enabled. This may be overridden in the DTD driver or the
        internal subset of an document instance. If no default prefix
        is desired, this may be declared as an empty string.

     NOTE: As specified in [XMLNAMES], the namespace prefix serves
     as a proxy for the URI reference, and is not in itself significant.
-->
<!ENTITY % XHTML-ACCESS.prefix  "" >

<!-- 4. Declare parameter entities (eg., %XHTML-ACCESS.pfx;) containing the
        colonized prefix(es) (eg., '%XHTML-ACCESS.prefix;:') used when
        prefixing is active, an empty string when it is not.
-->
<![%XHTML-ACCESS.prefixed;[
<!ENTITY % XHTML-ACCESS.pfx  "%XHTML-ACCESS.prefix;:" >
]]>
<!ENTITY % XHTML-ACCESS.pfx  "" >

<!-- declare qualified name extensions here ............ -->
<!ENTITY % xhtml-access-qname-extra.mod "" >
%xhtml-access-qname-extra.mod;

<!-- 5. The parameter entity %XHTML-ACCESS.xmlns.extra.attrib; may be
        redeclared to contain any non-XHTML Access Attribute namespace
        declaration attributes for namespaces embedded in XML. The default
        is an empty string.  XLink should be included here if used
        in the DTD.
-->
<!ENTITY % XHTML-ACCESS.xmlns.extra.attrib "" >


<!-- Section B: XML Qualified Names ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::: -->

<!-- 6. This section declares parameter entities used to provide
        namespace-qualified names for the XHTML role attribute.
-->

<!ENTITY % xhtml-access.role.qname  "%XHTML-ACCESS.pfx;access" >


<!-- The following defines a PE for use in the attribute sets of elements in
     other namespaces that want to incorporate the XML Event attributes. Note
     that in this case the XHTML-ACCESS.pfx should always be defined. -->

<!ENTITY % xhtml-access.attrs.qname
   "%XHTML-ACCESS.pfx;access             CDATA        #IMPLIED"
    >

<!-- end of xhtml-access-qname-1.mod -->
```

B. References

This appendix is *normative*.

B.1. Normative References

[DOM2EVENTS]
"*Document Object Model (DOM) Level 2 Events Specification*", W3C Recommendation, T. Pixley, *ed.*, 13 November 2000.
Available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/DOM-Level-2-Events/
The latest version is available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/DOM-Level-2-Events

IRI
"*Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRI)*", RFC 3987, M.Duerst, M. Suignard January 2005.
Available at: http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3987.txt

[RFC2119]
"*Key words for use in RFCs to indicate requirement levels*", RFC 2119, S. Bradner, March 1997.
Available at: http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt

[XHTMLMOD]
"*Modularization of XHTML™ 1.1*", W3C Working Draft, D. Austin *et al.*, *eds.*, 5 July 2006.
Available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/2006/WD-xhtml-modularization-20060705
The latest version is available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml-modularization

[XMLNAMES]
"*Namespaces in XML*", W3C Recommendation, T. Bray *et al.*, *eds.*, 14 January 1999.
Available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/1999/REC-xml-names-19990114
The latest version is available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-xml-names

[XHTMLROLE]
"*XHTML Role Attribute Module*", W3C Working Draft, M. Birbeck *et al.*, *eds.*, 13 November 2006.
Available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/2006/WD-xhtml-role-20061113/
The latest version is available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml-role

B.2. Other References

[XHTML2]
"*XHTML™ 2.0*". J. Axelsson *et al.*, 27 May 2005.
Available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/2005/WD-xhtml2-20050527
The latest version is available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml2

[XMLEVENTS]
"*XML Events*", W3C Recommendation, S. McCarron *et al.*, *eds.*, 14 October 2003.
Available at: http://www.w3.org/TR/2003/REC-xml-events-20031014

C. Acknowledgments

This section is informative.

At the time of publication, the participants in the W3C XHTML 2 Working Group were: