

# Exchange Network Guidance Document Metadata Template Version 1.1

**Title:** XML Schema Design Rules and Conventions (DRC) – Interim Update

**Subject:** The DRCs define the standards for designing XML Schema for the Exchange Network.

**Abstract:** This document represents an interim update to the DRCs. A major DRC update (v2.0) will be performed following the release of the final Core.gov schema XML design rules. While all of the original DRCs are listed in this document, it does not replicate the discussions in the original document describing examples, rationale and benefit/drawback of each approach. The DRC v1.0 should be referenced if this information is sought. However, for new rules and significantly altered original rules, discussion is provided which explains the basis of the change.

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Tom Aten oversaw the process of creating this document for the NTG. Ross & Associates and Yunhao Zhang provided additional review and technical feedback.

**Initiator:** The Network Technology Group

**Version:** Version 1.1

**Version History:** Version 1.0, published in September 2003. Major changes include several additional rules around general XML design, and new namespace guidance. This new version of the DRCs was created to update 1.0 in light of recent decisions such as the namespace guidance, and related changes to Network infrastructure such as the 2.0 version of the Shared Schema Components.

**Revision Date:** March 6, 2006

**Commission Date:** February 2, 2006

**Relationships to Other Products:** This DRC update is related to many other Exchange Network products. Most relevant to this particular update are:

- *Guidance on Namespace Organization, Naming, and Schema File Location* (Namespace paper v1.1)<sup>1</sup> – This DRC update incorporates the changes in Network guidance laid out in the Namespace paper.
- Shared Schema Components 2.0 – The examples in this DRC update have been modified to reflect the new SSCs.
- Schema Checker Tool<sup>2</sup> – This tool is now very out of date with the latest Exchange Network guidelines.

**Review Process:** NTG members were given 1 week to review proposed changes. After those changes were made, NTG members had 3 days to review the document before approving it. During this process, Tom Aten, Ross & Associates, and others were able to provide on-going review and feedback.

**Reviewers:** Same as identified in the Contributors section

**Comments:** Many comments were raised in the review process. While many were addressed, the NTG elected to leave a more extensive review for later – given that this is an interim update.

**Comments Resolution Process:** Bill Rensmith and Tom Aten selected which comments were appropriate for this interim update of the DRCs.

**Pros and Cons:** None identified. The DRCs are a central document in the Exchange Network's guidance for schema developers.

**Follow-up Activities:**

- Continued review and updating of the DRCs, including a 2.0 version of this document
- Updating of the Schema Checker tool

**Actions Required to Complete and Communicate Document:** Approving this document in advance of the Exchange Network User's Conference (April 18-19, 2006) will allow communications regarding the DRC update to begin at that event.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [http://www.exchangenetwork.net/dev\\_schema/Network\\_Namespace\\_v1.11.pdf](http://www.exchangenetwork.net/dev_schema/Network_Namespace_v1.11.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Available at [http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/frs\\_demo/design\\_tool.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/frs_demo/design_tool.html)