

NOB Memorandum Identifier:	2006-1
Issue Tracker Identifier:	
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Topic: Exchange Network XML Namespaces

Problem Statement/Background (optional):

Previous Exchange Network (EN) standards called for the use of URN-formatted namespaces in EN XML schema and instance files. The current EN XML Registry confirms that several naming conventions for network namespaces are currently in use. As schemas and their tags continue to proliferate, the consistent use of namespaces on the EN will become increasingly more important. Bringing predictability to developers and users, and to resolving known points of confusion and implementation problems are the goals of implementing a namespace strategy for the Exchange Network.

Summary of Decision:

The NOB approves the following recommendations embodied in the "Namespace Organization, Naming and Schema File Location" document.

Recommendation 1: Namespaces on the EN will be URL formatted following the specifications outlined in Section 4.1.2, "Namespace Construction".

Recommendation 2: Major version number is required in all EN namespaces. Accordingly, proper major and minor version numbering of schema themselves must be strictly enforced.

Recommendation 3: When declaring EN namespaces in instance files, the use of the `xsi:schemaLocation` is optional. This tag can serve a subsidiary function for specifying schema against which instances can be validated.

Current Schema will be "grandfathered" using their existing namespace declarations. All future schema development should change namespaces at the next major version iteration. Instance files should follow conventions relevant to the schema they are using.

Affected Parties and Expectations

Affected Parties	Expectations of Affected Parties
XML Schema Developers	At next business driven schema version update, developers will change targetNamespace to meet the new EN namespace recommendations. In the meantime, no changes on the part of schema developers are required.
EN Guidance document contractors	Revise Shared Schema Components Technical Reference and Usage guide and Design Rules and Conventions to incorporate the new namespace recommendations.
Development contractors	Update Shared Schema Components to comply with the namespace recommendations.
Flow and Schema Developers	The old repository at www.exchangenetwork.net/registry will be frozen, meaning that any new or revised schema must go into the new repository. However, no existing process or schema that uses the old repository will be disturbed. The new repository should be referenced at www.exchangenetwork.net/schema , in accordance with the namespace recommendations.
Repository Schema Browsers	The new repository will be available for human browsing at www.exchangenetwork.net/repository/schema . The old repository will no longer be available for browsing at www.exchangenetwork.net/schema . Instead, an archive will be created for browsing at www.exchangenetwork.net/repository/archive .

Relevant Documents (e.g., guidance documents, decision memoranda, etc.):

“Network Operating Board Recommendations for Namespace Organization, Naming and Schema File Location” Version 1.11 (3/6/2006).

“XML Namespace Use-Cases” Version 1.03 (1/12/2006)

Point of Contact:

Network Technology Group Co-Chairs:

Connie Dwyer, EPA OEI, dwyer.connie@epa.gov

Scott Totten, Missouri Department of Natural Resources scott.totten@dnr.mo.gov