

FEED Validator

INTRODUCTION TO ATOM

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What is Atom?

Atom is the name of an XML-based Web content and metadata syndication format, and an application-level protocol for publishing and editing Web resources belonging to periodically updated websites.

All Atom feeds must be well-formed [XML](#) documents, and are identified with the `application/atom+xml` media type.

About this document

This document focuses on [The Atom Syndication Format](#) produced by the [IETF AtomPub Working Group](#). In the event that this document differs from the Internet Draft, the Internet Draft is to be considered authoritative.

General considerations:

- All elements described in this document must be in the <http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom> namespace.
- All timestamps in Atom must conform to [RFC 3339](#).
- Unless otherwise specified, all values must be plain text (i.e., no entity-encoded html).
- `xml:lang` may be used to identify the language of any human readable text.
- `xml:base` may be used to control how relative URIs are resolved.

Sample feed

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<feed xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom">

  <title>Example Feed</title>
  <link href="http://example.org/" />
  <updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02Z</updated>
  <author>
    <name>John Doe</name>
  </author>
  <id>urn:uuid:60a76c80-d399-11d9-b93C-0003939e0af6</id>

  <entry>
    <title>Atom-Powered Robots Run Amok</title>
    <link href="http://example.org/2003/12/13/atom03" />
    <id>urn:uuid:1225c695-cfb8-4ebb-aaaa-80da344efa6a</id>
    <updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02Z</updated>
    <summary>Some text.</summary>
  </entry>
</feed>
```

Elements of <feed>

A Feed consists of some metadata, followed by any number of entries.

Required feed elements

Here's a list of the required feed elements, each with a brief description, and an example.

Element	Description
id	Identifies the feed using a universally unique and permanent URI. If you have a long-term, renewable lease on your Internet domain name, then you can feel free to use your website's address. <code><id>http://example.com</id></code>
title	Contains a human readable title for the feed. Often the same as the title of the associated website. This value should not be blank. <code><title>Example, Inc.</title></code>
updated	Indicates the last time the feed was modified in a significant way. <code><updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02Z</updated></code>

Recommended feed elements

Atom makes a number of additional requirements and recommendations for feed elements that you should be aware of. They are as follows:

Element	Description
author	Names one author of the feed. A feed may have multiple author elements. A feed must contain at least one author element unless all of the entry elements contain at least one author element. More info here . <code><author></code> <name>John Doe</name> <email>JohnDoe@example.com</email> <uri>http://example.com/~johndoe</uri> <code></author></code>

link	Identifies a related Web page. The type of relation is defined by the <code>rel</code> attribute. A feed is limited to one alternate per type and <code>hreflang</code> . A feed should contain a link back to the feed itself. More info here .
<pre><link rel="self" href="/feed" /></pre>	

Optional feed elements

Here's a list of optional feed elements.

Element	Description
category	Specifies a category that the feed belongs to. A <i>feed</i> may have multiple <i>category</i> elements. More info here .
<pre><category term="sports"/></pre>	
contributor	Names one contributor to the feed. An feed may have multiple contributor elements. More info here .
<pre><contributor> <name>Jane Doe</name> </contributor></pre>	
generator	Identifies the software used to generate the feed, for debugging and other purposes. Both the <code>uri</code> and <code>version</code> attributes are optional.
<pre><generator uri="/myblog.php" version="1.0"> Example Toolkit </generator></pre>	
icon	Identifies a small image which provides iconic visual identification for the feed. Icons should be square.
<pre><icon>icon.jpg</icon></pre>	
logo	Identifies a larger image which provides visual identification for the feed. Images should be twice as wide as they are tall.
<pre><logo>logo.jpg</logo></pre>	
rights	Conveys information about rights, e.g. copyrights, held in and over the feed. More info here .
<pre><rights> © 2005 John Doe </rights></pre>	
subtitle	Contains a human-readable description or subtitle for the feed. More info here .
<pre><subtitle>all your examples are belong to us</subtitle></pre>	

Elements of <entry>

An example of an entry would be a single post on a weblog.

Required Elements of <entry>

Here's a list of the required feed elements, each with a brief description, and an example.

Element	Description
id	Identifies the entry using a universally unique and permanent URI. Suggestions on how to make a good id can be found here . Two entries in a feed can have the same value for id if they represent the same entry at different points in time.
<pre><id>http://example.com/blog/1234</id></pre>	
title	Contains a human readable title for the entry. This value should not be blank.
<pre><title>Atom-Powered Robots Run Amok</title></pre>	
updated	Indicates the last time the entry was modified in a significant way. This value need not change after a typo is fixed, only after a substantial modification. Generally, different entries in a feed will have different updated timestamps.
<pre><updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02-05:00</updated></pre>	

Recommended elements of <entry>

Atom makes a number of additional requirements and recommendations for entry elements that you should to be aware of. They are as follows:

Element	Description
author	Names one author of the entry. An entry may have multiple authors. An entry must contain at least one <i>author</i> element unless there is an <i>author</i> element in the enclosing <i>feed</i> , or there is an <i>author</i> element in the enclosed source element. More info here .
<pre><author> <name>John Doe</name> </author></pre>	
content	Contains or links to the complete content of the entry. Content must be provided if there is no <i>alternate</i> link, and should be provided if there is no <i>summary</i> . More info here .
<pre><content>complete story here</content></pre>	
link	Identifies a related Web page. The type of relation is defined by the <code>rel</code> attribute. An entry is limited to one alternate per type and <code>hreflang</code> . An entry must contain an alternate link if there is no <i>content</i> element. More info here .
<pre><link rel="alternate" href="/blog/1234"/></pre>	
summary	Conveys a short summary, abstract, or excerpt of the entry. Summary should be provided if there either is no content provided for the entry, or that content is not inline (i.e., contains a <code>src</code> attribute), or if the content is encoded in base64. More info here .
<pre><summary>Some text.</summary></pre>	

Optional elements of <entry>

Here's a list of optional feed elements.

Element	Description
category	Specifies a category that the entry belongs to. A <i>entry</i> may have multiple <i>category</i> elements. More info here .
<pre><category term="technology"/></pre>	
contributor	Names one contributor to the entry. An entry may have multiple <i>contributor</i> elements. More info here .
<pre><contributor></pre>	

```
<name>Jane Doe</name>
</contributor>
```

published Contains the time of the initial creation or first availability of the entry.

```
<published>2003-12-13T09:17:51-08:00</published>
```

rights Conveys information about rights, e.g. copyrights, held in and over the entry. More info [here](#).

```
<rights type="html">
  &copy; 2005 John Doe
</rights>
```

source Contains metadata from the source feed if this entry is a copy.

```
<source>
  <id>http://example.org/</id>
  <title>Example, Inc.</title>
  <updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02Z</updated>
</source>
```

Common Constructs

Category

`<category>` has one required attribute, `term`, and two optional attributes, `scheme` and `label`.

`term` identifies the category

`scheme` identifies the categorization scheme via a [URI](#).

`label` provides a human-readable label for display

Content

`<content>` either contains, or links to, the complete content of the entry.

In the most common case, the `type` attribute is either `text`, `html`, `xhtml`, in which case the content element is defined identically to other text constructs, which are described [here](#).

Otherwise, if the `src` attribute is present, it represents the [URI](#) of where the content can be found. The `type` attribute, if present, is the media type of the content.

Otherwise, if the `type` attribute ends in `+xml` or `/xml`, then an xml document of this type is contained inline.

Otherwise, if the `type` attribute starts with `text`, then an escaped document of this type is contained inline.

Otherwise, a [base64](#) encoded document of the indicated media type is contained inline.

Link

`<link>` is patterned after html's [link](#) element. It has one required attribute, `href`, and five optional attributes: `rel`, `type`, `hreflang`, `title`, and `length`.

`href` is the [URI](#) of the referenced resource (typically a Web page)

`rel` contains a single link relationship type. It can be a full [URI](#) (see [extensibility](#)), or one of the following predefined values (default=`alternate`):

- `alternate`: an alternate representation of the entry or feed, for example a permalink to the html version of the entry, or the front page of the weblog.
- `enclosure`: a related resource which is potentially large in size and might require special handling, for example an audio or video recording.
- `related`: an document related to the entry or feed.
- `self`: the feed itself.
- `via`: the source of the information provided in the entry.

`type` indicates the media type of the resource.

`hreflang` indicates the language of the referenced resource.

`title` human readable information about the link, typically for display purposes.

`length` the length of the resource, in bytes.

Person

`<author>` and `<contributor>` describe a person, corporation, or similar entity. It has one required element, `name`, and two optional elements: `uri`, `email`.

`<name>` conveys a human-readable name for the person.

`<uri>` contains a home page for the person.

`<email>` contains an email address for the person.

Text

`<title>`, `<summary>`, `<content>`, and `<rights>` contain human-readable text, usually in small quantities. The `type` attribute determines how this information is encoded (default=`"text"`)

If `type="text"`, then this element contains plain text with no entity escaped html.

```
<title type="text">AT&T bought by SBC!</title>
```

If `type="html"`, then this element contains entity escaped html.

```
<title type="html">
  AT&amp;T bought &lt;b&amp;gt;by SBC&amp;lt;/b&amp;gt;!
</title>
```

If `type="xhtml"`, then this element contains inline xhtml, wrapped in a `div` element.

```
<title type="xhtml">
  <div xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
    AT&amp;T bought <b>by SBC</b>!
  </div>
</title>
```

Extending Atom

The atom content element is designed to support the direct inclusion of other XML vocabularies.

Any fully qualified [URI](#) may be used a value for the `rel` attribute of `link` elements.

Elements from other namespaces may be included pretty much anywhere. This means that most [RSS 1.0](#) and [RSS 2.0](#) modules may be used in Atom.

See Also

- [The Atom Syndication Format](#)
- [Examples of Atom 1.0 Feeds](#)
- [Feed Validator](#)
- [DeveloperWorks Overview](#)
- [RSS 2.0 and Atom 1.0 Compared](#)
- [IETF Charter](#)
- [Atom Wiki](#)

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