



## I-X Syntax

Jeff Dalton, Austin Tate and Stephen Potter  
Artificial Intelligence Applications Institute  
Centre for Intelligent Systems and their Applications  
School of Informatics, The University of Edinburgh  
Appleton Tower, Crichton Street, Edinburgh EH8 9LE, UK

Web: <http://i-x.info>  
E-mail: query@i-x.info

Version 4.0 – 31 August 2004

## **See the separate documentation in the ix-syntax folder for the latest version of the I-X and <I-N-C-A> messages and XML formats used within the I-X system.**

The following information gives an outline of these messages but should not be considered definitive.

An I-X Process Panel can send or be sent a number of XML format messages when communicating with other agents or systems to give it issues to address, activities to perform and reports to note. A Test agent (called I-Test) is provided to give a simple way to try this out. The format of these messages is as follows:

```
issue ::=<issue
    status="status"
    priority="priority"
    sender-id="name"
    ref="name"
    report-back="yes-no">
<pattern><list>pattern-element...</list></pattern>
</issue>

activity ::=<activity
    status="status"
    priority="priority"
    sender-id="name"
    ref="name"
    report-back="yes-no">
<pattern>pattern-element...</pattern>
</activity>

constraint ::=<constraint
    type="name"
    relation="name">
<parameters>
    <list>
        <pattern-assignment>
            <pattern>pattern element...</pattern>
            <value>pattern element...</value>
        </pattern-assignment>
    </list>
</parameters>
</constraint>

constraint types allowed at present are "world-state" and the relations for this are "condition" and "effect". The value must be given, but a default "value" can be set to "true".

report ::=<report
    report-type="report-type"
    priority="priority"
    sender-id="name"
    ref="name">
```

```

        <text>string</text>
    </report>

chat-message ::= 
    <chat-message
        sender-id="name">
        <text>string</text>
    </chat-message>

pattern-element ::= 
    <symbol>name</symbol> |
    <string>text</string> |
    <item-var>?name</item-var> |
    <integer>digits</integer> |
    <long>digits</double> |
    <double>...</integer> |
    <list>pattern-element...</list> |
    other pattern-elements are possible

report-type ::= success | failure | progress | information | event

priority ::= lowest | low | normal | high | highest

yes-no ::= yes | no

status ::= blank | complete | executing | possible | impossible | n/a

```

## Notes

Strings and symbols that contain some special symbols need to have these encoded. Use "&" for ampersands, "<" for less-than, and ">" for greater-than.

In attribute values, double quote should be encoded as """.

It is possible to have a variable match all of the remaining elements in a list by using the special symbol "&rest" followed by an ordinary variable. I.e.,

<symbol>&rest</symbol><item-var>?name</item-var>

```

domain ::= 
    <domain>
        <name>string</name>
        <refinements><list>refinement...</list></refinements>
    </domain>

refinement ::= 
    <refinement>
        <name>string</name>
        <variables><list>variable...</list></variables>
        <pattern><list>...</list></pattern>
        <issues><list>issue...</list></issues>
        <nodes><list>node-spec...</list></nodes>
        <constraints><list>constraint...</list></constraints>
        <orderings><list>ordering...</list></orderings>
        <comments>string</comments>
    </refinement>

variable ::= 
    <item-var>?name</item-var>

```

```

issue ::= 
<issue
    status="status"
    priority="priority"
    sender-id="name"
    ref="name"
    report-back="yes-no">
    <pattern><list>pattern-element...</list></pattern>
</issue>

node-spec ::= 
<node-spec id="name">
    <pattern><list>pattern-element...</list></pattern>
</node-spec>

constraint ::= 
<constraint
    type="name">
    <parameters><list>pattern-element...</list></parameters>
</constraint>

ordering ::= 
<ordering>
    <from>node-end-ref</from>
    <to>node-end-ref</to>
</ordering>

node-end-ref ::= 
<node-end-ref
    end="end"
    node="name">
</node-end-ref>

end ::= begin | end

```

Variables begin with “?” and can be used anywhere. Unbound variables appear in the process panel and can be bound by the user of the panel (and in later versions by external query capabilities).