Subject: Re: Globally Unique IDs (GUIDs)
Posted by Wolfgang Keller on Tue, 18 May 2004 12:04:49 GMT

Hello,

sorry for bursting into the group just like this, but...

Am Mon, 05 Apr 2004 11:00:01 +0200 schrieb Nils Poldrack:

> Joachim Buechse from Ergon (CH) suggested on 2003-09-25 to use globally
> unique
> identifier for railML elements. He suggested to use the IP of the
> creating computer concatenated with the milliseconds (e.g. since
> 1970-01-01).

Such a GUID schema would not fulfil one essential requirement: It would not
allow to exchange data edited by different people on different computers at
different moments with different software in a consistent way (therefore,
such a GUID would be essentially useless).

To achieve this, a GUID must be defined in such a way that the same
physical "real world" object gets always the same GUID, no matter who edits
the set of data representing the object in the computer system, when and
with what software.

In other standardisation groups working on data models of any kind where
the data represents physical objects in the "real world" this requirement
is usually respected.

In maintenance software, for example, maintenance assets are identified
within the computer system by the ID of the manufacturer of the asset plus
the serial number of the asset as it is indicated on the identification
plate.

Best regards,

Wolfgang Keller