Subject: Re: request for an attribute for the Infrastructure Manager of a line
Posted by on Fri, 29 Jun 2012 19:30:21 GMT
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Dear Christian,

thank you for the proposal on Infrastructure Manager of a line.

> <line code="..." uicCountryCode="80" imCode="DB-Netz">...

Well, many 'codes', but of course it would fit, so no objection from my side.

It may be mis-understandable that sometimes a 'code' shall contain rather a number and sometimes rather an abbreviation or name. So again much depends on good documentation and examples...

> Refining the attribute "imNumber" into "imCode" as an enumeration list
> with typical infrastructure managers with the free (schema-independent)
> extension possibility (other:xxx):

Assuming the IM is a free character string in the writing program: What shall the writing program do to map the free character string to the pre-defined enumeration values? It is possibly demanded a little bit too much to expect that a program can map all spellings of "DB Netz", "DB Netz AG", "DB-Netz", "DB-Netz AG", "DB-Netz-AG", "DB Netze" a.s.o. to the enumeration value.

The problem is that from my opinion, the name or abbreviation of an IM is not a typical case for an enumeration. One should assume that they can change their names as they do it with their shirts...

What should prevent us from writing anything behind "other:", treating the imCode attribute as a simple string without any mapping? Since there is no need to ask a central authority (the Scheme coordinator) to use a new enumeration value, there is also no chance to avoid that two instances use different enumeration values for the same (new) IM. Consequently, we could define imCode as a string from the beginning...

> <xs:attribute name="[uicCountryCode]" type="rail:tTwoDigits" />

Sometimes it is common practice to allow more-than-two-digit numbers to code IM which have no official UIC number. It is not a big problem from my side if we force a UIC-only code here. As earlier discussed in this forum, it is rather a question of how general RailML should be: Should it be valid in UIC countries only or outside also? America, Asia, Africa, Australia?

With uicCountryCode=tTwoDigits, RailML seams to be usable in continents starting with 'E' only but not in continents starting with 'A'. At least, the world has more countries than we could code into two digits. So, we put forward the original problem but do not solve it: With two US-American infrastructure companies both numbering their lines from #1, the uicCountryCode attribute does not help us to distinguish uniquely between the lines.

Best regards,
Dirk.
