XML Events XML Events



## XML Events

# An Events Syntax for XML

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## **Abstract**

The XML Events module defined in this specification provides XML languages with the ability to uniformly integrate event listeners and associated event handlers with Document Object Model (DOM) Level 2 event interfaces [DOM2EVENTS] [p.23] . The result is to provide an interoperable way of associating behaviors with document-level markup.

# Status of This Document

This section describes the status of this document at the time of its publication. Other documents may supersede this document. The latest status of this document series is maintained at the W3C.

Contents XML Events

This is an updated Working Draft of the XML Events specification. It has been modified from the previous public draft as a result of last call period comments. The Working Group expects that this document will soon move into Candidate Recommendation status.

Please report errors in this document to www-html-editor@w3.org (archive).

This document has been produced as part of the W3C HTML Activity for review by W3C Members and other interested parties. It is a draft document and may be updated, replaced or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use W3C Working Drafts as reference material or to cite them as other than "work in progress". This is work in progress and does not imply endorsement by, or the consensus of, the W3C Membership.

At the time of publication, the Working Group believed there were zero patent disclosures relevant to this specification. A current list of patent disclosures relevant to this specification may be found on the Working Group's patent disclosure page.

A list of current W3C Recommendations and other technical documents can be found at http://www.w3.org/TR.

# Changes since the last version

This document has changed as a result of last-call comments from various commentators.

Reviewers can see a diff-marked version to understand the details of the changes.

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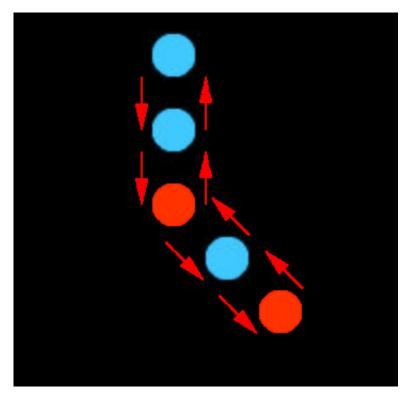
XML Events 1. Introduction

## 1. Introduction

This section is informative.

An *event* is the representation of some asynchronous occurrence (such as a mouse click on the presentation of the element, or an arithmetical error in the value of an attribute of the element, or any of unthinkably many other possibilities) that gets associated with an element (*targeted* at it) in an XML document.

In the DOM model of events [DOM2EVENTS] [p.23], the general behavior is that when an event occurs it is *dispatched* by passing it down the document tree in a phase called *capture* to the element where the event occurred (called its *target*), where it then may be passed back up the tree again in the phase called *bubbling*. In general an event can be responded to at any element in the path (an *observer*) in either phase by causing an action, and/or by stopping the event, and/or by cancelling the default action for the event at the place it is responded to. The following diagram illustrates this:



Event flow in DOM2: an event targeted at an element (marked 'target') in the tree passes down the tree from the root to the target in the phase called 'capture'. If the event type allows it, the event then travels back up the tree by the same route in a phase called 'bubbling'. Any node in the route, including the root node and the target, may be an 'observer': that is to say, a handler may be attached to it that is activated when the event passes through in either phase. A handler can only listen for one phase. To listen for both you have to attach two handlers.

1. Introduction XML Events

An *action* is some way of responding to an event; a *handler* is some specification for such an action, for instance using scripting or some other method. A *listener* is a binding of such a handler to an event targeting some element in a document.

HTML [HTML4 [p.23]] binds events to an element by encoding the event name in an attribute name, such that the value of the attribute is the action for that event at that element. This method has two main disadvantages: firstly it hardwires the events into the language, so that to add a new event, you have to make a change to the language, and secondly it forces you to mix the content of the document with the specifications of the scripting and event handling, rather than allowing you to separate them out. SVG [SVG [p.23]] uses a similar method.

The process of defining a new version of HTML identified the need for an extensible event specification method. The design requirements were the following:

- Syntactically expose the DOM event model to an XML document [XML]. [p.23]
- Provide for new event types without requiring modification to the DOM or the DTD.
- Allow for integration with other XML languages.

The DOM specifies an event model that provides the following features:

- A generic event system,
- Means for registering event listeners and handlers,
- Means for routing events through a tree structure,
- Access to context information for each event, and
- A definition of event flow, as sketched above.

Element listener and its attributes defined in this specification is the method of binding a DOM level 2 event at an element to an event handler and encapsulates various aspects of the DOM level 2 event interface, thereby providing markup-level specification of the actions to be taken during the various phases of event propagation.

This document neither specifies particular events, nor mandates any particular methods of specifying actions. These definitions are left to any markup language using the facilities described here.

XML Events 2. The XML Events Module

# 2. The XML Events Module

This section is normative.

This specification defines a module called XML Events. The XML Events module uses the XML namespace [NAME] [p.23] identifier http://www.w3.org/2001/xml-events.

Examples in this document that use the namespace prefix "ev" all assume an xmlns declaration xmlns:ev="http://www.w3.org/2001/xml-events" somewhere suitable in the document involved. All examples are informative.

The remainder of this section describes the elements and attributes in this module, the semantics, and provides an abstract module definition as required in [XHTMLMOD] [p.23].

The XML Events Module supports the following element and attributes:

Element	Attributes	Minimal Content Model
listener [p.7]	event (NMTOKEN), observer (IDREF), target (IDREF), handler (URI), phase ("capture"   "default"*), propagate ("stop"   "continue"*), defaultAction ("cancel"   "perform"*), id (ID)	EMPTY

Implementations: DTD [p.17], XML Schema [p.20]

## 2.1. The listener Element

Element listener supports a subset of the DOM's EventListener interface. It is used to declare event listeners and register them with specific nodes in the DOM, and has the following attributes:

### event

The required event attribute specifies the event type for which the listener is being registered. As specified by [DOM2EVENTS [p.23]], the value of the attribute should be an XML Name [XML [p.23]].

### observer

The optional observer attribute specifies the id of the element with which the event listener is to be registered. If this attribute is not present, the observer is the element that the event attribute is on (see later under "Attaching Attributes Directly to the Observer Element [p.10] "), or the parent of that element (see later under "Attaching Attributes Directly to the Handler Element [p.10] ").

2.1. The listener Element XML Events

## target

The optional target attribute specifies the id of the target element of the event (i.e., the node that caused the event). If this attribute is present, only events that match both the event and target attributes will be processed by the associated event handler. Clearly because of the way events propagate, the target element should be a descendent node of the observer element, or the observer element itself.

Use of this attribute requires care; for instance, if you specify

where 'para1' is some ancestor of the following node

```
<a id="link1" href="doc.html">The <em>draft</em> document</a>
```

and the user happens to click on the word "draft", the <em> element, and not the <a>, will be the target, and so the handler will not be activated; to catch all mouse clicks on the <a> element and its children, use observer="link1", and no target attribute.

#### handler

The optional handler attribute specifies the URI-reference of an element that defines the action that should be performed if the event reaches the observer. (This specification does not mandate what form that element should take: see further the section "Event Handlers [p.12]"). If this attribute is not present, the handler is the element that the event attribute is on (see later under "Attaching Attributes Directly to the Handler Element [p.10]").

#### phase

The optional phase attribute specifies when (during which DOM 2 event propagation phase) the listener will be activated by the desired event.

capture

Listener is activated during capturing phase.

default

Listener is activated during bubbling or target phase.

The default behavior is phase="default".

Note that not all events bubble, in which case with phase="default" you can only handle the event by making the event's target the observer.

### propagate

The optional propagate attribute specifies whether after processing all listeners at the current node, the event is allowed to continue on its path (either in the capture or the bubble phase).

stop

event propagation stops

continue

event propagation continues (unless stopped by other means, such as scripting, or by another listener).

The default behavior is propagate="continue".

#### defaultAction

The optional defaultAction attribute specifies whether after processing of all listeners for the event at the current element, the default action for the event (if any) should be performed or not. For instance, the default action for a mouse click on an <a> element in XHTML is to traverse the link. Note that this is only useful when the observer is the <a> element, and not some parent element.

cancel

if the event type is cancellable, the default action is cancelled  ${\tt perform}$ 

the default action is performed (unless cancelled by other means, such as scripting, or by another listener).

The default value is defaultAction="perform".

Note that not all events are cancellable, in which case this attribute is ignored.

id

The optional id attribute is a document-unique identifier. The value of this identifier is often used to manipulate the element through a DOM interface.

Note that observer = "<element-id>" and event = "<event-type>" are similar to the begin = "<element-id>.<event-type>" attribute in SMIL EventTiming [SMIL20] [p.23].

# 2.1.1. Examples of listener usage

1. This example attaches the handler in the element at "#doit" that will get activated when the event called activate occurs on the element with id="button1", or any of its children. The activation will occur during bubbling, or if the event happened on the observer element itself, when the event reaches the element (phase target).

```
<listener event="activate" observer="button1" handler="#doit"/>
```

2. This attaches the handler at #overflow-handler that will get activated when the event overflow occurs on the element with id="exprl" and bubbles up to the element with id="progl".

```
target="expr1"
handler="#overflow-handler"/>
```

3. This attaches the handler at #popup that will get activated whenever an activate event occurs at the element with id="embargo" or any of its children. Since it will be activated during the capture phase, and propagation is stopped, this will have the effect (regardless of what the handler does) of preventing any child elements of the embargo element seeing any activate events.

4. This attaches a handler from another document.

```
tener event="activate" observer="image1"
handler="/handlers/events.xml#activate"/>
```

# 2.2. Attaching Attributes Directly to the Observer Element

All the attributes from the listener element with the exception of id may be used as global attributes, as defined in *Namespaces in XML* [NAME [p.23]], to attach the attributes to other elements.

Note that this means that the stener> element is strictly speaking redundant, since the following

```
<anyelement ev:event="click" ev:observer="button1" ev:handler="#clicker"/>
```

would have the same effect as

```
<ev:listener event="click" observer="button1" handler="#clicker"/>
```

Nonetheless, for utility the stener> element has been retained.

If the observer attribute is omitted (but not the handler attribute), then the element that the other attributes are attached to is the observer element.

# 2.2.1. Examples of Using Attributes Attached to an Observer Element

1. This first example will attach the handler identified by "#popper" to the <a> element, and cancel the default action for the event.

```
<a href="doc.html" ev:event="activate" ev:handler="#popper"
   ev:defaultAction="cancel">The document</a>
```

2. This will attach the handler at #handle-overflow for the event overflow to the current element.

```
<div ev:event="overflow" ev:handler="#handle-overflow"> ... </div>
```

# 2.3. Attaching Attributes Directly to the Handler Element

If, when attaching the global attributes to an element, the handler attribute is omitted then the element that the other attributes are attached to is the handler element.

Note that, since the observer and target attributes are IDREFs, in this case the handler and observer/target elements must be in the same document (while in other cases, since the handler attribute is a URI, the handler element may be in another document).

If the observer attribute is also omitted, then the parent of the handler element is the observer element.

# 2.3.1. Examples of Using Attributes Attached to a Handler Element

1. In this case the element is the handler for the submit event on the element with id="form1".

2. In this case the <action> element is the handler for event q-submit, and the observer is the questionnaire element.

3. The <script> element is the handler for event click; the <img> element is the observer.

4. The <onevent> element is the handler for event enterforward. The <card> element is the observer.

5. The <catch> element is the handler for the nomatch event. The observer is the <field> element.

6. This example shows three handlers for different events. The observer for all three is the <secret> element.

# 2.4. Summary of Observer and Handler Attribute Defaulting

The following table summarizes which elements play the role of observer or handler if the relevant attribute is omitted.

The effect of omitted observer and handler attribute
--

	Handler present	Handler omitted				
Observer present	(As declared)	Element is handler				
Observer omitted	Element is observer	Element is handler Parent is observer				

## 2.5. Event Handlers

This specification does not require an XML application that uses XML Events to use any particular method for specifying handlers. However, the examples, particularly those in the section on attaching the attributes directly to the handler, are intended to give examples of how they could be specified.

It is however recognized that two methods are likely to occur often: scripting (such as XHTML's <script> element) and declarative markup using XML elements (such as WML's <onevent> element). A companion specification will provide markup to support these methods.

XML Events 3. Naming Event Types

## 2.6. The Basic XML Events Profile

The Basic XML Events Profile allows restrictions on the usage of the XML Events Module in order to make processing easier on small devices.

The Basic Profile allows the following restrictions on the use of listener element and its attributes, and on the use of the attributes from the listener element as global attributes.

### 1. External Event Handlers

The ability to process external event handlers is not required. When the 'handler' attribute on the listener element is used, or when the global 'handler' attribute is used, the handler specified in the value of that attribute should be within the current document.

For example, the following is allowed:

```
<listener event="click" target="#button1" handler="#clicker"/>
```

while the following is not required to be processed:

```
tener event="click" target="#button1" handler="doc2.html#clicker"/>
```

### Ordering of Event Bindings

The binding of an event handler to an observer may be required to be lexically before the end of the observer element. In other words, a listener> binding to an observer may not occur after the closing tag of the observer element, and an event handler carrying the attributes to bind it to an observer may also not occur after the closing tag of the observer element.

# 3. Naming Event Types

This section is informative.

This specification does not normatively specify how language designers should name events (i.e., the values used in the event attribute).

To avoid clashes with names used by other applications, it is recommended to use a prefix separated with a hyphen from the event name, for instance xforms-alert.

A number of event types are defined in DOM2 [DOM2EVENTS] [p.23], to which you should refer for their names and semantics.

3. Naming Event Types XML Events

XML Events A. DTD Implementation

# A. DTD Implementation

This appendix is normative.

The DTD implementation of XML Events conforms to the requirements defined in [XHTMLMOD] [p.23]. Consequently, it provides a Qualified Names sub-module, and a module file for the XML Events module defined in this recommendation.

## A.1. Qualified Names Module

Note that this module defines the Parameter Entity %xml-events-attrs.qname. This entity is intended to be used in the attribute lists of elements in any host language that permits the use of event attributes on elements in its own namespace. In this case the Host Language driver should set a parameter entity XML-EVENTS.prefixed to INCLUDE and a parameter entity XML-EVENTS.prefix to a value that is the prefix for the XML Events attributes.

```
<!-- XML Events Qname Module ---- -->
<!-- file: xml-events-qname-1.mod
    This is XML Events - the Events Module for XML,
    a definition of access to the DOM events model.
    Copyright 2000-2001 W3C (MIT, INRIA, Keio), All Rights Reserved.
    This DTD module is identified by the PUBLIC and SYSTEM identifiers:
     PUBLIC "-//W3C//ENTITIES XML Events Qnames 1.0//EN"
     SYSTEM "http://www.w3.org/TR/xml-events/DTD/xml-events-gname-1.mod"
    Revisions:
    (none)
    -->
<!-- XML Events Qname (Qualified Name) Module
    This module is contained in two parts, labeled Section 'A' and 'B':
     Section A declares parameter entities to support namespace-
     qualified names, namespace declarations, and name prefixing
     for XML Events and extensions.
     Section B declares parameter entities used to provide
     namespace-qualified names for all XML Events element types:
       %listener.qname; the xmlns-qualified name for <listener>
    XML Events extensions would create a module similar to this one.
    Included in the XML distribution is a template module
    ('template-qname-1.mod') suitable for this purpose.
```

A.1. Qualified Names Module XML Events

```
<!-- 1. Declare a %XML-EVENTS.prefixed; conditional section keyword, used
       to activate namespace prefixing. The default value should
       inherit '%NS.prefixed;' from the DTD driver, so that unless
       overridden, the default behaviour follows the overall DTD
       prefixing scheme.
<!ENTITY % NS.prefixed "IGNORE" >
<!ENTITY % XML-EVENTS.prefixed "%NS.prefixed;" >
<!-- 2. Declare a parameter entity (eg., %XML-EVENTS.xmlns;) containing
       the URI reference used to identify the XML Events namespace
<!ENTITY % XML-EVENTS.xmlns "http://www.w3.org/2001/xml-events" >
<!-- 3. Declare parameter entities (eg., %XML.prefix;) containing
       the default namespace prefix string(s) to use when prefixing
       is enabled. This may be overridden in the DTD driver or the
       internal subset of an document instance. If no default prefix
       is desired, this may be declared as an empty string.
    NOTE: As specified in [XMLNAMES], the namespace prefix serves
    as a proxy for the URI reference, and is not in itself significant.
<!ENTITY % XML-EVENTS.prefix "" >
<!--4. Declare parameter entities (eg., %XML-EVENTS.pfx;) containing the
       colonized prefix(es) (eg., '%XML-EVENTS.prefix;:') used when
       prefixing is active, an empty string when it is not.
<![%XML-EVENTS.prefixed;[
<!ENTITY % XML-EVENTS.pfx "%XML-EVENTS.prefix;:" >
]]>
<!ENTITY % XML-EVENTS.pfx "" >
<!-- declare qualified name extensions here ...... -->
<!ENTITY % xml-events-gname-extra.mod "" >
%xml-events-qname-extra.mod;
<!-- 5. The parameter entity %XML-EVENTS.xmlns.extra.attrib; may be
       redeclared to contain any non-XML Events namespace declaration
       attributes for namespaces embedded in XML. The default
       is an empty string. XLink should be included here if used
       in the DTD.
<!ENTITY % XML-EVENTS.xmlns.extra.attrib "" >
<!-- 6. This section declares parameter entities used to provide
       namespace-qualified names for all XML Events element types.
<!ENTITY % xml-events.listener.qname "%XML-EVENTS.pfx;listener" >
```

XML Events A.2. XML Events Module

```
<!-- The following defines a PE for use in the attribute sets of elements in
       other namespaces that want to incorporate the XML Event attributes. Note
       that in this case the XML-EVENTS.pfx should always be defined. -->
   <!ENTITY % xml-events.attrs.qname
     "%XML-EVENTS.pfx;event
                                 NMTOKEN
                                             #IMPLIED
      %XML-EVENTS.pfx;observer
                                 IDREF
                                             #IMPLIED
                                 IDREF
                                             #IMPLIED
      %XML-EVENTS.pfx;target
      %XML-EVENTS.pfx;handler
                                 %URI.datatype;
                                                 #IMPLIED
      %XML-EVENTS.pfx;phase
                                 (capture default) #IMPLIED
      %XML-EVENTS.pfx;propagate (stop|continue) #IMPLIED
      %XML-EVENTS.pfx;defaultAction (cancel|perform) #IMPLIED"
  <!-- end of xml-events-gname-1.mod -->
A.2. XML Events Module
   <!-- XML Events Module ..... -->
   <!-- file: xml-events-1.mod
       This is XML Events - the Events Module for XML.
       a redefinition of access to the DOM events model.
       Copyright 2000-2001 W3C (MIT, INRIA, Keio), All Rights Reserved.
       This DTD module is identified by the PUBLIC and SYSTEM identifiers:
        PUBLIC "-//W3C//ENTITIES XML Events 1.0//EN"
        SYSTEM "http://www.w3.org/TR/xml-events/DTD/xml-events-1.mod"
       Revisions:
       (none)
       -->
  <!-- XML Events defines the listener element and its attributes -->
  <!ENTITY % xml-events.listener.content "EMPTY" >
  <!ELEMENT %xml-events.listener.qname; %xml-events.listener.content;>
   <!ATTLIST %xml-events.listener.qname;
      id
                    ID
                               #IMPLIED
                   NMTOKEN
      event
                               #REQUIRED
                    IDREF
      observer
                               #IMPLIED
                    IDREF
                               #IMPLIED
      target
      handler
                    %anyURI.datatype;
                                          #IMPLIED
      phase
                   (capture default) #IMPLIED
                   (stop|continue) #IMPLIED
      propagate
      defaultAction (cancel perform) #IMPLIED
```

<!-- end of xml-events-1.mod -->

A.2. XML Events Module XML Events

# B. Schema Implementation

This appendix is normative.

The SCHEMA implementation of XML Events conforms to the requirements defined in [XHTMLSCHEMAMOD] [p.23]. It is divided into an attributes module and an element module for the XML Events module defined in this recommendation.

## **B.1.** Attributes Module

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<xs:schema</pre>
   targetNamespace="http://www.w3.org/2001/xml-events"
   xmlns:ev="http://www.w3.org/2001/xml-events"
   xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
   xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
   xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema
                        http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema.xsd"
   elementFormDefault="unqualified"
   version="1.1"
   blockDefault="#all"
   finalDefault="#all"
   attributeFormDefault="unqualified">
-->
 <xs:annotation>
   <xs:documentation>
     This is the XML Schema for XML Events global attributes
     $Id: xml-events-attribs-1.xsd,v 1.3 2002/08/12 14:52:13 ahby Exp $
   </xs:documentation>
   <xs:documentation source="xml-events-copyright-1.xsd"/>
 </xs:annotation>
<!--
 <xs:annotation>
   <xs:documentation>
        XML Event Attributes
            These "global" event attributes are defined in "Attaching
            Attributes Directly to the Observer Element" of the XML
            Events specification.
        </xs:documentation>
 </xs:annotation>
<!--
   <xs:attribute name="event" type="xs:NMTOKEN"/>
   <xs:attribute name="observer" type="xs:IDREF"/>
   <xs:attribute name="target" type="xs:IDREF"/>
   <xs:attribute name="handler" type="xs:anyURI"/>
   <xs:attribute name="phase" default="default">
```

B.2. XML Events Module XML Events

```
<xs:simpleType>
            <xs:restriction base="xs:NMTOKEN">
                <xs:enumeration value="capture"/>
                <xs:enumeration value="default"/>
            </xs:restriction>
        </xs:simpleType>
    </xs:attribute>
    <xs:attribute name="propagate" default="continue">
        <xs:simpleType>
            <xs:restriction base="xs:NMTOKEN">
                <xs:enumeration value="stop"/>
                <xs:enumeration value="continue"/>
            </xs:restriction>
        </xs:simpleType>
    </xs:attribute>
    <xs:attribute name="defaultAction" default="perform">
        <xs:simpleType>
            <xs:restriction base="xs:NMTOKEN">
                <xs:enumeration value="cancel"/>
                <xs:enumeration value="perform"/>
            </xs:restriction>
        </xs:simpleType>
    </xs:attribute>
<!--
    <xs:attributeGroup name="XmlEvents.attlist">
        <xs:attribute ref="ev:event"/>
        <xs:attribute ref="ev:observer"/>
        <xs:attribute ref="ev:target"/>
        <xs:attribute ref="ev:handler"/>
        <xs:attribute ref="ev:phase"/>
        <xs:attribute ref="ev:propagate"/>
        <xs:attribute ref="ev:defaultAction"/>
    </xs:attributeGroup>
</xs:schema>
```

# **B.2. XML Events Module**

XML Events B.2. XML Events Module

```
<xs:annotation>
    <xs:documentation>
         This is the XML Schema XML Events
        $Id: xml-events-1.xsd,v 1.3 2002/08/12 14:52:13 ahby Exp $
    </xs:documentation>
    <xs:documentation source="xml-events-copyright-1.xsd"/>
 </xs:annotation>
<!--
 <xs:annotation>
    <xs:documentation>
        XML Events element listener
            This module defines the listener element for XML Events.
            This element can be used to define event listeners. This
            module relies upon the XmlEvents.attlist attribute group
            defined in xml-events-attribs-1.xsd.
    </xs:documentation>
 </xs:annotation>
<!--
 <xs:attributeGroup name="listener.attlist">
    <xs:attribute name="event" use="required" type="xs:NMTOKEN"/>
    <xs:attribute name="observer" type="xs:IDREF"/>
    <xs:attribute name="target" type="xs:IDREF"/>
    <xs:attribute name="handler" type="xs:anyURI"/>
    <xs:attribute name="phase" default="default">
        <xs:simpleType>
            <xs:restriction base="xs:NMTOKEN">
                <xs:enumeration value="capture"/>
                <xs:enumeration value="default"/>
            </xs:restriction>
        </xs:simpleType>
    </xs:attribute>
    <xs:attribute name="propagate" default="continue">
        <xs:simpleType>
            <xs:restriction base="xs:NMTOKEN">
                <xs:enumeration value="stop"/>
                <xs:enumeration value="continue"/>
            </xs:restriction>
        </xs:simpleTyle>
    </xs:attribute>
    <xs:attribute name="defaultAction" default="perform">
        <xs:simpleType>
            <xs:restriction base="xs:NMTOKEN">
                <xs:enumeration value="cancel"/>
                <xs:enumeration value="perform"/>
            </xs:restriction>
        </xs:simpleTyle>
    </xs:attribute>
    <xs:attribute name="id" type="xs:ID"/>
  </xs:attributeGroup>
```

B.2. XML Events Module XML Events

```
<xs:complexType name="listener.type">
    <xs:attributeGroup ref="listener.attlist"/>
    </xs:complexType>

<xs:element name="listener" type="listener.type"/>
</xs:schema>
```

XML Events C. References

## C. References

This appendix is *normative*.

## C.1. Normative References

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C.2. Other References XML Events

XML Events D. Acknowledgments

# D. Acknowledgments

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At the time of publication, the members of the W3C HTML Working Group were:

List will be inserted when this document becomes a Recommendation.