Version 0.1

Content Management Interoperability Services

Part I – Namespace Proposal

OASIS-CMIS Technical Committee
02/2009

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Change Summary

Version 0.1

- Initial draft

NAMESPACES

MOTIVATION

The current 0.5 version of the CMIS specification defines the object type query name and the property name as identifiers according to SQL 92 rules. During the face-to-face meetings and in various discussions proposals have come up to extend this naming to a more powerful mechanism by introducing namespaces. The following proposal is an approach to extend the CMIS specification with a simple concept of namespaces, being widely compatible with the existing specification. The proposal focuses on type query names and property names.

Introducing namespaces provides the following advantages:

1. The CMIS specification defines a set of standard properties. An existing repository may have its own properties with the same names but with different semantics or different sets of constraints. A namespace allows clearly distinguishing between CMIS properties and repository or type specific properties.
2. Certain repositories allow using the same name of a property to be used at more than one place with a different meaning. Common property names like “Name” or “Invoice” might exist in different flavors and in different application contexts.
3. Future versions of the CMIS specifications may define additional standard properties (e.g. for Records Management). By introducing a separate namespace for the CMIS standard we can guarantee backwards compatibility between a newer version of the specification and an existing repository or application implementation.
4. A namespace can be the foundation to introduce extended properties (e.g. hierarchies). Here are some relationships to other upcoming proposals, for example Aspects/Mixins that should be synchronized.

Using namespaces is optional with the exception of the CMIS standard properties. A repository that does not support namespaces can provide the same implementation as for the 0.5 version of the CMIS spec and is still CMIS conformant.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Add section Part I, Section Content / Data Model / Namespaces

> Namespaces are identifiers according to the SQL 92 rules for identifiers. Namespaces can be used to structure type query names and property names and to ease providing unique identifications. Namespaces are separated from the type query name, property name or other namespaces by a colon (“:”) and can be hierarchical. Examples are “myrepository:name” or “MyRepository:Finance:Order:OrderNumber”. Using a namespace is optional. A namespace on a property name or type query name is only provided by the repository and opaque to a client. A CMIS client MUST NOT interpret namespaces. Malformed namespaces (like providing a wrong namespace in a property or type name) are handled by the repository in the same way as providing a wrong property or type name. The maximum length and the set of allowed characters in namespaces and names are according to SQL-92. The maximum length of a name including all namespaces must not exceed the max. length of an SQL 92 identifiers. Namespaces SHOULD be unique within a repository. A query containing properties and/or types with namespaces still has to conform to the SQL92 standard.

> The namespace “cmis:” is a reserved namespace and MUST NOT be used by any repository except for the names that are defined in this specification.

Part I, Section Content / Data Model / Object last paragraph, after second sentence “Within an object, each property is uniquely identified by its name.” add the following:

> A property name can have a namespace. A namespace is separated from the property name by a colon (“:”). A colon can either separate a namespace from a property name or a namespace from a namespace. The part behind the last colon (reading from left-to-right) is always a name. Using namespaces is optional and implementation specific.

Part I: Replace all predefined property names so that they are prefixed with “cmis:”, e.g. change “CreatedBy” to “cmis:CreatedBy”

Add the namespace “cmis:” to the values of ObjectTypeQueryName and RootTypeQueryName of the object types “Document”, “Folder”, “Relationship” and “Policy”.

Part I, Section Content / Data Model /Query

Change the following lines in the BNF of the CMIS query grammar from:

```
<correlation name> ::= <identifier>
<table name> ::= <identifier>
 <column name> ::= <identifier>
```

to:

```
<correlation name> ::= < identifier with namespace >
<table name> ::= < identifier with namespace >
<column name> ::= < identifier with namespace >
```

Add line:

```
<identifer with namespace> ::= [{<identifier> ":"}...] <identifier>
```

unchanged:

```
<identifer> ::= !! As defined by SQL-92 grammar
```