Standard-Navigation

Easily Through the Web

Project Goal

The goal of Standard-Navigation is to make navigating web sites easier by standardizing the classic navigation bar across all web sites. This was achieved in two steps:

1. Standard-Sitemap: an XML file format
2. Standard-Navigation: an extension for the Firefox browser

Standard-Sitemap

The goal was to create an XML file format which allows the webmaster to represent the hierarchical structure of the website.

The basic concept is the nesting of tags to indicate subordination of pages. If the website has a home page, plus two (subordinate) pages, the outline of the Standard-Sitemap would be:

```
<item name="Home Page" ... >
  <item name="Page 1" ... />
  <item name="Page 2" ... />
</item>
```

Language Elements

Tag	Mandatory Attributes	Optional Attributes	Parent Elements	Child Elements	Structural Meaning	Displays as (in our Firefox extension)	Terminology
sitemap	baseurl xmlns	lang type charset target	—	style group item external	Root element	—	
style	url type	replace	sitemap	—	—	Stylesheet to be loaded when the Standard-Navigation sidebar is shown	as in HTML
group	—	name relation description priority target lang type baseurl charset	sitemap group item	group item variant external	Group several items logically to: separate them from the rest, or declare a linear sequence	Frame/separator around its embedded objects. If name is given, we show it as a heading.	

Tag	Mandatory Attributes	Optional Attributes	Parent Elements	Child Elements	Structural Meaning	Displays as (in our Firefox extension)	Terminology
					amongst them		
item	url (may be omitted if declared in subordinate <item>'s or <variant>'s) name (may be omitted if declared in subordinate <variant>'s)	description role priority target lang type baseurl charset method data	sitemap group item	group item variant external	A navigable ("clickable") item	Entry in the pages' list	as in RSS
variant	url (may be omitted if already declared in superordinate <item>, or if superordinate element is <group>) name (may be omitted if already declared in superordinate <item>)	description lang type charset data	group item	—	A variant (i.e. version) of its superordinate element	As its superordinate <group> or <item>	as in HTTP's RFC 2616
external	url	baseurl lang type charset priority target	sitemap group item	—	—	Includes another sitemap file. Namely on the very place in the hierarchy at which the <external> element lives. Note: The only purpose of the optional attributes is to pass them on to the content of the external sitemap.	
externalsitemap	—	baseurl lang type charset target	—	group item variant external	Root element of a sub-sitemap	—	

Attributes

Attribute	Allowed in Tags	Explanation	Allowed Values	Terminology
baseurl	sitemap group item	This URL is prefixed to all "url" declarations in subordinate elements. In case a sub element is located on another domain, the complete URL must be given. (In other words: Only if any "url" declaration is no complete URL, the BaseURL is prefixed to it.)	as per RFC 2396 & RFC 2732	
charset	sitemap	Character set of the	as per IANA's	as in HTML

Attribute	Allowed in Tags	Explanation	Allowed Values	Terminology
	group item variant	referenced object. (The character set of the sitemap file itself is declared in the very first line as an attribute of the XML prologue: encoding="utf-8")	Character Sets	
data	item variant	Only allowed if role="search". Data to be sent to the server when the user submits a search request using the searchbox in the Standard-Navigation sidebar. Use %s as a placeholder for the user's search term.	any string	
description	group item variant	Longer description which appears in the tooltip when user hovers the item	any string	as in RSS; describes the attribute's purpose better than HTML's "alt" or "title"
lang	sitemap group item variant	Language of the referenced object.	as per RFC 3066	as in HTML
method	item	Only allowed if role="search". Method to be used to send the user's search request to the server.	get (=default) post.	as in HTML
name	group item variant	Name which appears in the Standard-Navigation sidebar	any string	as in HTML
priority	group item	Denotes the importance of an item, relative to the rest. Default is 0.5	decimal number from 0.0 to 1.0	analogous to sitemaps.org
relation	group	Declare a linear sequence of several pages (i.e. pages typically connected with "next"/"previous" links.	none (=default) sequence.	
replace	style	URL of the CSS file which is to be deactivated when the Standard-Navigation sidebar is shown.	as per RFC 2396 & RFC 2732	
role	item	Causes the object to be displayed in the shortcut toolbar, not in the normal hierarchy. If several role's are located on the same page, they have to be declared as anchors and entered separately into the sitemap.	contact contentinfo search	"role", "contentinfo" & "search": as in the draft for XHTML 2.0
target	sitemap group item	Declaration of the target frame (for web sites using frame sets).	any string (without blanks), except "_blank"	as in HTML
type	sitemap style group item variant	MIME type of the referenced object.	as per IANA's MIME Media Types	as in HTML

Attribute	Allowed in Tags	Explanation	Allowed Values	Terminology
url	style item variant external	If this is no complete URL (e.g. "files/logo.gif"), the BaseURL will be prefixed. Anchors are allowed as URL's.	as per RFC 2396 & RFC 2732	more consistent than HTML's "href" & "src"
xmlns	sitemap	XML namespace. At the same time declaration of the file format version plus URL to the specifications.	http://www.standard-sitemap.org/ version1beta/	as in XHTML

Document Type Definition

```
<!-- DTD for version 1 Beta -->
<!ELEMENT sitemap (style+,(group|item|external)+)>
<!ATTLIST sitemap
          baseurl CDATA #REQUIRED
          xmlns CDATA "http://www.standard-sitemap.org/version1beta/"
          lang CDATA #IMPLIED
          type CDATA #IMPLIED
          charset CDATA #IMPLIED
          target CDATA #IMPLIED
>
<!ELEMENT style EMPTY>
<!ATTLIST style
          url CDATA #REQUIRED
          type CDATA #REQUIRED
          replace CDATA #IMPLIED
>
<!ELEMENT group (group|item|variant|external)+>
<!ATTLIST group
          name CDATA #IMPLIED
          relation (none|sequence) "none"
          description CDATA #IMPLIED
          priority CDATA "0.5"
          target CDATA #IMPLIED
          lang CDATA #IMPLIED
          type CDATA #IMPLIED
          baseurl CDATA #IMPLIED
          charset CDATA #IMPLIED
>
<!ELEMENT item (variant*,(group|item|external)*)>
<!ATTLIST item
          url CDATA #IMPLIED
          name CDATA #IMPLIED
          description CDATA #IMPLIED
          role (contact|contentinfo|search|legal) #IMPLIED
          priority CDATA "0.5"
          target CDATA #IMPLIED
          lang CDATA #IMPLIED
          type CDATA #IMPLIED
          baseurl CDATA #IMPLIED
          charset CDATA #IMPLIED
          method (get|post) "get"
          data CDATA #IMPLIED
>
<!ELEMENT variant EMPTY>
<!ATTLIST variant
          url CDATA #IMPLIED
          name CDATA #IMPLIED
          description CDATA #IMPLIED
          lang CDATA #IMPLIED
          type CDATA #IMPLIED
          charset CDATA #IMPLIED
          data CDATA #IMPLIED
>
<!ELEMENT external EMPTY>
<!ATTLIST external
          url CDATA #REQUIRED
          baseurl CDATA #IMPLIED
          lang CDATA #IMPLIED
          type CDATA #IMPLIED
          charset CDATA #IMPLIED
          priority CDATA "0.5"
          target CDATA #IMPLIED
>
<!ELEMENT externalsitemap (group|item|variant|external)+>
<!ATTLIST externalsitemap
          baseurl CDATA #IMPLIED
          lang CDATA #IMPLIED
```

```
            type CDATA #IMPLIED
            charset CDATA #IMPLIED
            target CDATA #IMPLIED
>
```

The "role" Concept

This is certainly one of the coolest features introduced by Standard-Navigation. The idea is to keep important links in the very same place, making them easier for the user to spot. These role's are defined:

- **contact**
- **contentinfo:** Central repository for all "background" information about the site, especially legal information like imprint, terms and conditions, privacy policy, etc.)
- **search:** Use the website's own search script (instead of Google).
  Example for a search script using GET:
  <item role="search" url="search.php" data="q=%s" />
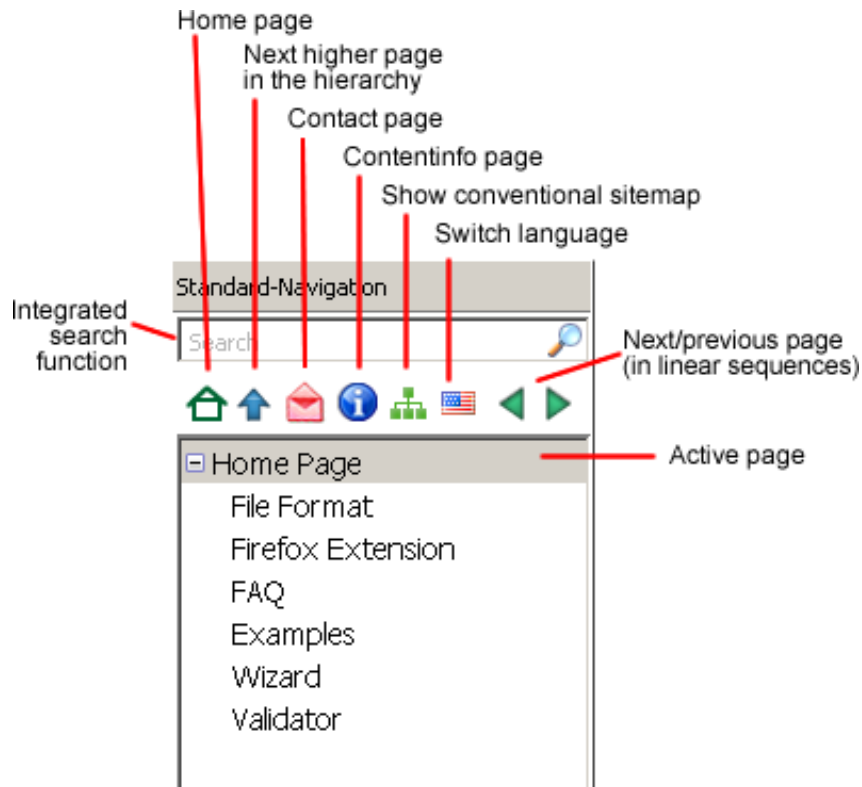 Example for a search script using POST:
  <item role="search" url="search.php" method="post" data="q=%s" />

Example: Standard-Sitemap of www.barbrastreisand.com

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<sitemap baseurl="http://www.barbrastreisand.com/" lang="en" type="text/html" charset="iso-8859-1"
        xmlns="http://www.standard-sitemap.org/version1beta/">

  <style url="templates/default/style-for-sitemap.css" type="text/css"
        replaces="templates/default/style.css" />

  <item name="Home" url="index.php"> <!-- URL can be omitted, because it's equivalent to BaseURL -->

  <!-- 'lang', 'type' & 'charset' are inherited from <sitemap> -->

  <!-- A 'description' attribute for each <item> would be nice -->

    <item name="Biography"    url="index.php?page=bio" /> <!-- BaseURL is prefixed here -->

    <item name="Tour"         url="index.php?page=tourdates" />

    <item name="Music"        url="index.php?page=music" />

    <item name="Film"         url="index.php?page=film" />

    <item name="Television"   url="index.php?page=tv" />

    <item name="News"         url="index.php?page=news" />

    <item name="Gallery"      url="index.php?page=photos&amp;ga=13" />

    <item name="Statements"   url="index.php?page=statements" />

    <item name="Truth Alerts" url="index.php?page=truths" />

    <item name="Links"        url="index.php?page=links" />

    <item name="Shop"          url="http://barbrabtreisand.fanfire.com/artistName=Barbra+Streisand&amp;
        sourceCode=BSTWEB" /> <!-- Full URL necessary, because not compatible with BaseURL -->

    <item name="Auction"         url="http://search.ebay.com/
        _W0QQfgtpZ1QQfrppZ25QQsassZstreisandQ2dstarwares" />

    <!-- The two links at the bottom can be included as 'role's right away: -->

    <item role="contentinfo" name="Copyright &amp; Terms of Use" url="index.php?page=terms" />

    <item role="contact"     name="Contact"                      url="index.php?page=contact" />
  </item> <!-- end tag for home page -->
</sitemap>
```

Standard-Navigation

The goal of the Standard-Navigation extension for the Firefox browser is to display the contents of the Standard-Sitemap XML-file in a clickable sidebar, thereby replacing the usual built-in navigation bar.

Download

The Firefox extension (as well as the complete Standard-Sitemap specification) can be downloaded from our website www.standard-navigation.org