DR 16-0008 — SML: sortState

Status: Open

Subject: SML: sortState

Qualifier: Technical defect

Submitter: Charlie Clark Organization: Ecma/Clark Consulting & Research

Contact Information: [charlie.clark@clark-consulting.eu](file:///E%3A%5CStd%5CSC%2034%5CWG4%5CDRs%5CLog%5C2014%5Ccharlie.clark%40clark-consulting.eu)

Submitter’s Defect Number: None

Supporting Document(s): None

Date Circulated by Secretariat: 2016-03-18

Deadline for Response from Editor: 2016-05-18

IS 29500 Reference(s): 29500:2012, Part 1, §18.3.1.92, p. 1,698

Related DR(s): None

Nature of the Defect:

This collection preserves the AutoFilter sort state.

[Example: This example shows a sort which is case-sensitive, descending sort. While the range of data to sort is B4:E8, the range to sort by is B4:B8.

<sortState caseSensitive="1" ref="B4:E8"> <sortCondition descending="1" ref="B4:B8"/></sortState>

end example]

This is inaccurate inasmuch as sortState is also a valid child element the worksheet element. However, I'm not sure whether this should be allowed:

The function of the element in the file format is sort of unclear. Sorting is a one-time, in place operation that actually manipulates the data within the worksheet. As such, and unlike the autoFilter mini-database, there seems no point in persisting this information. Doing so without a clear definition of what applications should do complicates the implementation because expectations are unclear. I recently had this case with my library: someone was hoping to mark rows for sorting but nothing was happening with the rows neither in the library nor when the file was subsequently opened.

Unless someone can come up with a good reason, which can then be added to the docs, I suggest that sortState should not be allowed to be a child element of a worksheet.

The difference between filtering and sorting should be more explicit:

§18.3.2, “AutoFilter Settings” states, “The following subclause defines the settings which can be specified as part of an AutoFilter definition. An AutoFilter temporarily hides rows based on a filter criteria, which is applied column by column to a table of data in the worksheet.”

I suggest that this should be extended with something like "Except for sorting operations, an AutoFilter temporarily hides. Sorting operations are performed at in place and are permanent. The criteria are of the most recent sort are preserved as the SortState".

Solution Proposed by the Submitter:

None

Schema Change(s) Needed:

No

**Editor’s Response:**

None

Changes to Part 1: N Part 2: N Part 3: N Part 4: N