DR 19-0011 — SML: Table Name Attributes

Status: Open

Subject: SML: Table Name Attributes

Qualifier: Request for clarification

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Submitter’s Defect Number: None

Supporting Document(s): None

Date Circulated by Secretariat: 2019-01-29

Deadline for Response from Editor: 2019-03-29

IS 29500 Reference(s): 29500:2016, Part 1, §18.5.1.2, “table”

Related DR(s): None

Nature of the Defect:

Spreadsheet tables have two distinct name attributes: name and displayName. Of the two, displayName seems the more important. The narrative describes it thus:

A string representing the name of the table. This is the name that shall be used in formula references, and displayed in the UI to the spreadsheet user.

This name shall not have any spaces in it, and it shall be unique amongst all other displayNames and definedNames in the workbook. The character lengths and restrictions are the same as for definedNames. See SpreadsheetML Reference - Workbook definedNames section for details.

The possible values for this attribute are defined by the ST\_Xstring simple type (§22.9.2.19).

name is described thus:

A string representing the name of the table that is used to reference the table programmatically through the spreadsheet applications object model.

This string shall be unique per table per sheet. It has the same length and character restrictions as for displayName.

By default this should be the same as the table's displayName. This name should also be kept in synch with the displayName when the displayName is updated in the UI by the spreadsheet user.

I read the descriptions as implying that the restriction on spaces in displayName also applies to the name attribute, but have been given a file where this is not the case:

<x:table id="1" name="Historique des modifications du"

displayName="Historique\_des\_modifications\_du" ref="A1:D3"

xmlns:x="<http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/spreadsheetml/2006/main>">

<x:tableColumns count="4">

<x:tableColumn id="1" name="Modification" />

<x:tableColumn id="2" name="Date" />

<x:tableColumn id="3" name="Auteur" />

<x:tableColumn id="4" name="Remarques" />

</x:tableColumns>

<x:tableStyleInfo name="Historique des modifications du-style"

showFirstColumn="1" showLastColumn="1" showRowStripes="1"

showColumnStripes="0" />

</x:table>

Now, if this is a valid bit of OOXML, and Excel seems happy with it, then we should update the narrative to reflect the fact that the name attribute \*\*may\*\* in fact contain spaces. But I think we'd also need to adjust the note about keeping the two in-synch. But I am also slightly confused by the fact that name is used for programmatic access but displayName is used in formula references. We probably need some more context on this, especially as the name attribute is optional. I can't find any implementer's notes on this so I would initially like feedback from the product team on the purpose of the name attribute.

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