

# XML Shell

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Thu May 1 17:34:37 CEST 2003

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## 2 About this document

Ok, simple as it is, I needed to have a bash script driven by a xml file...

At the time, I didn't know about pyxie or that nsgmls gives a nice output that can be easily used, so I ended up taking "xml2" by Dan Egnor from the Debian archive, stripping down most of the lines and adding a bounce of them just to get "xml-sh".

xml-sh is just a small C program that given an xml file on standard input (using < redirection), it generates on standard output something like the following:

```
E      html
E      head
E      title
T      This is the title
L      title
E      meta
```

```

A      http-equiv      content-type
A      content text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1
L      meta
L      head
[...]
```

easy to read from a bash script with something like:

```

while read type name value; do
  case $type in
    A)
      ;;

    E)
      ;;

    L)
      ;;

    T)
      ;;
  done;
```

As you may guess, “E” means a tag was entered, “L” that it was left, “A” means an attribute was found, and “T” is followed by the text enclosed by an opening and a closing tag, with spaces stripped down to “”.

Each argument is separated by a “tab”, so you can use a simple “read”...

You can also specify the “-c” option, in which case xml-sh will also print the nesting level the tag was found in. This is useful for skipping all the tags between one opening and closing tags. For example, the following xml:

```

<test>
  <test>
    <test>
      This is a test look how
      spaces are handled
    </test>
  </test>
</test>
```

would generate the following “xml-sh -c” output:

```

E      1      test
E      2      test
E      3      test
T      3      This is a test look how spaces are handled
L      3      test
L      2      test
L      1      test
```

### 3 Installation

You need:

- A POSIX C compiler, a POSIX system and any kind of make
- libxml 1 installed somewhere on your system, complete of the headers (in Debian, install libxml-dev)
- the script “xml-config” somewhere in your path

After decompressing the tarball with something like

```
gzip -cd xml-sh.tar.gz |tar xv
```

just cd into xml-sh and run make.

```
$ cd xml-sh  
$ make
```

and you should be done. Now, you can simply copy the file xml-sh wherever you prefer.

Keep in mind that xml-sh is **really** simple... you shouldn't have any problem compiling it once all the prerequisites are satisfied. It actually took me longer to write this document than to hack xml-sh. Have fun!