

# How to convert XML file to Mathematica Grid and to Latex table

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This is an example how to read a plain text XML file in Mathematica, and display its content in a Mathematica Grid (table like).

I used an example XML I found on the net (ref [2]), which is a plain text file that contains some made up student information.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<students>

  <student>
    <studentnumber>284008</studentnumber>
    <firstname>Benjamin</firstname>
    <lastname>Carson</lastname>
    <dateofbirth>04/10/1995</dateofbirth>
    <Gender>2</Gender>
  </student>

  <student>
    <studentnumber>826084</studentnumber>
    <firstname>Gertrude</firstname>
    <lastname>Simms</lastname>
    <dateofbirth>8/22/1993</dateofbirth>
    <Gender>1</Gender>
  </student>

  <student>
    <studentnumber>628460</studentnumber>
    <firstname>Paul</firstname>
    <lastname>Sandt</lastname>
    <dateofbirth>12/24/1997</dateofbirth>
    <Gender>3</Gender>
  </student>

  <student>
    <studentnumber>792714</studentnumber>
    <firstname>Chrissie</firstname>
```

```

<lastname>Burchs</lastname>
<dateofbirth>02/06/1993</dateofbirth>
<Gender>1</Gender>
</student>

</students>

```

The first step is to download the above file to some folder, then create the following Mathematica code

```

SetDirectory[NotebookDirectory[]];
r = Import["data.xml", "XML"]

```

The above now displays the symbolic XML

```

XMLObject[Document][{XMLObject[Declaration][Version->1.0,
Encoding->utf-8]},
XMLElement[students, {},
{
XMLElement[student, {},
{XMLElement[studentnumber, {}, {284008}],
XMLElement[firstname, {}, {Benjamin}],
XMLElement[lastname, {}, {Carson}],
XMLElement[dateofbirth, {}, {04/10/1995}],
XMLElement[Gender, {}, {2}]}],
XMLElement[student, {},
{XMLElement[studentnumber, {}, {826084}],
XMLElement[firstname, {}, {Gertrude}],
XMLElement[lastname, {}, {Simms}],
XMLElement[dateofbirth, {}, {8/22/1993}],
XMLElement[Gender, {}, {1}]}],
XMLElement[student, {},
{XMLElement[studentnumber, {}, {628460}],
XMLElement[firstname, {}, {Paul}],
XMLElement[lastname, {}, {Sandt}],
XMLElement[dateofbirth, {}, {12/24/1997}],
XMLElement[Gender, {}, {3}]}],
XMLElement[student, {},
{XMLElement[studentnumber, {}, {792714}],
XMLElement[firstname, {}, {Chrissie}],
XMLElement[lastname, {}, {Burchs}],
XMLElement[dateofbirth, {}, {02/06/1993}],
XMLElement[Gender, {}, {1}]}]
}],
{}]

```

Now we read all the fields, using Cases

```
students=Cases[r,XMLElement["student",_,_],Infinity];
numbers=Flatten[Cases[students,XMLElement["studentnumber",_,x_]->x,Infinity],1];
firstName=Flatten[Cases[students,XMLElement["firstname",_,x_]->x,Infinity],1];
lastName=Flatten[Cases[students,XMLElement["lastname",_,x_]->x,Infinity],1];
gender=Flatten[Cases[students,XMLElement["Gender",_,x_]->x,Infinity],1];
dateofbirth=Flatten[Cases[students,XMLElement["dateofbirth",_,x_]->x,Infinity],1];
```

Now put them in a grid

```
Grid[Join[{"first name", "last name", "gender", "DOB"},
  Transpose[{firstName, lastName, gender, dateofbirth}]],
  Frame -> All]
```

This is the result

first name	last name	gender	DOB
Benjamin	Carson	2	04/10/1995
Gertrude	Simms	1	8/22/1993
Paul	Sandt	3	12/24/1997
Chrissie	Burchs	1	02/06/1993

Finally, the output is converted to Latex in the fly, and compiled to HTML and pdf using tex4ht and pdflatex. Here is the result

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first name	last name	gender	DOB
Benjamin	Carson	2	04/10/1995
Gertrude	Simms	1	8/22/1993
Paul	Sandt	3	12/24/1997
Chrissie	Burchs	1	02/06/1993

This is the Mathematica code used to convert the table to Latex

```
str="\documentclass[11pt]{book}
\\begin{document}
\\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|};
Do[str=str<>"|1",{n,1,Length[students]};
str=str<>"|\n";
str=str<>"first name&last name&gender&DOB\\\\ \\hline\n";
Do[
```

```
str=str<>firstName[[n]]<>"&"<>lastName[[n]]<>"&"<>gender[[n]]
      <>"&"<>dateofbirth[[n]]<>"\\\\" \\hline\n",
{n,1,Length[students]}}];
str=str<>"\\end{tabular}
\\end{document}
";

fileName = "output.tex";
If[FileExistsQ[fileName], DeleteFile[fileName]];
file = OpenWrite[fileName, PageWidth -> Infinity];
WriteString[file, str];
Close[file];
```

That is all.

## References

1. <https://reference.wolfram.com/language/XML/tutorial/TransformingXML.html>
2. <http://www.functionx.com/xml/Lesson01.htm>