

# Large Instances Technology

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# Whose problem is this?

- Vendors?
- Specification?
- Best practice?

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# Working Group Note

“Notes on the Processing of Large XBRL  
Instances 1.0”

<http://www.xbrl.org/WGNs>

- Issued 2012-10-31 by Base Specification Working Group

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# WGN purpose

- Enumerate and separate the problems
- Proposes high-level approaches for solving them
- **Not** a specification – but will suggest where specifications can help
- Will be updated to reflect current thinking

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# WGN contents

Enumerates 3 specific problems...

- 1.XBRL is tied to its syntax – lack of info set
- 2.Flexibility in syntax prevents efficient stream-based processing
- 3.Use of XPath in specifications

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# 1. XBRL is tied to syntax

- XBRL v2.1 specification does not define an “info set”
- Processors are not free to discard irrelevant syntax detail (because there’s no agreement on what’s irrelevant)
- Barrier to alternative syntaxes

## 2. Not streamable

- XBRL v2.1 specification allows freedom to order facts, contexts, units and footnotes
- Efficient stream-based processing is impossible

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# 3. Use of arbitrary XPath

- Related to previous two problems
- Specifications allow use of arbitrary XPath with instance document as context
- Most notably Formula, but also drafts of Table Linkbase
- Offers great flexibility...
- ... but usually unneeded



# WGN contents

- Outlines solution for “streamable” XBRL
- New modular extension to XBRL v2.1
- **Backwards compatible:** compliant instances can be consumed with existing processors (performance issues aside)

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# Streamable XBRL features

- New modular extension to XBRL v2.1
- **Backwards compatible:** compliant instances can be consumed with existing processors (performance issues aside)
- **Simple solution to a simple problem**
- Forms part of the answer but **definitely not a global panacea**

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# XBRL Streaming Extensions Module

- Sub group of Spec WG currently being formed
- Limited, focused scope
- Requirements already drafted...

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# XBRL Streaming Extensions Module - Requirements

2.1 Constant memory processing

2.2 Identification of conformant documents

2.3 Validation of conformant documents

2.4 Backwards compatibility

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# Call for participation

- Spec group members – email [pdw@corefiling.com](mailto:pdw@corefiling.com)
- Otherwise, XII members email [WGAdmin@xbrl.org](mailto:WGAdmin@xbrl.org), then email me!

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