

Document Object Model (DOM) Level 3 Core Specification

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Editors:

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Abstract

This specification defines the Document Object Model Core Level 3, a platform- and language-neutral interface that allows programs and scripts to dynamically access and update the content, structure and style of documents. The Document Object Model Core Level 3 builds on the Document Object Model Core Level 2.

Status of this document

This document is an early release of the Document Object Model Level 3 Core specification. It is expecting to include all of the DOM Level 2 Core content in the future.

It is guaranteed to change; anyone implementing it should realize that we will not allow ourselves to be restricted by experimental implementations of Level 3 when deciding whether to change the specifications.

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Comments on this document are invited and are to be sent to the public mailing list www-dom@w3.org. An archive is available at http://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/www-dom/.

This document has been produced as part of the W3C DOM Activity. The authors of this document are the DOM WG members.

A list of current W3C Recommendations and other technical documents can be found at http://www.w3.org/TR.

Table of contents

Expanded Table of Co	ntents	•		•									•		.3
Copyright Notice .	• •	•	•	•				•		•	•	•	•	•	.5
1. Document Object M	Iodel Cor	e	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	.9
Appendix A: IDL Defi	initions				•										21
Appendix B: Java Lan	guage Bii	nding	g	•		•	•								23
Appendix C: ECMA S	cript Lan	guag	ge Bi	indir	ng	•	•								25
References		•		•									•		27
Index															29

Expanded Table of Contents

Expanded Table of Contents				•		•					.3
Copyright Notice		•									.5
W3C Document Copyright Notice and License											.5
W3C Software Copyright Notice and License	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	.6
1. Document Object Model Core											.9
1.1. DOM Level 3 Core		•									.9
1.2. DOM Level 3 Java Binding Extension .	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	18
Appendix A: IDL Definitions											21
Appendix B: Java Language Binding		•									23
Appendix C: ECMA Script Language Binding .											25
References											27
1. Normative references											27
Index											29

Expanded Table of Contents

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1. Document Object Model Core

Editors

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1.1. DOM Level 3 Core

(*ED*: Although the following defines a set of new interfaces that extend the DOM Level 2 interfaces the current plan is not to actually add any new interfaces but instead to expand the existing ones.)

```
Issue Level-3-Core-1:
```

Instead of extending the core interfaces should we define some kind of DOMUtility interface which could be optional?

Type Definition *DOMKey*

A DOMKey [p.9] is a unique key generated by the DOM implementation to uniquely identify DOM nodes.

IDL Definition

```
typedef Object DOMKey;
```

Interface Entity3

This interface extends the Entity interface with additional attributes to provide information on the text declaration of external parsed entities.

IDL Definition

```
interface Entity3 : Entity {
    attribute DOMString actualEncoding;
    attribute DOMString encoding;
    attribute DOMString version;
};
```

Attributes

actualEncoding of type DOMString

An attribute specifying the actual encoding of this entity, when it is an external parsed entity. This is null otherwise.

```
encoding of type DOMString
```

An attribute specifying, as part of the text declaration, the encoding of this entity, when it is an external parsed entity. This is null otherwise.

```
version of type DOMString
```

An attribute specifying, as part of the text declaration, the version number of this entity, when it is an external parsed entity. This is null otherwise.

Interface Document3

This interface extends the Document interface with additional attributes and methods.

IDL Definition

};

Attributes

actualEncoding of type DOMString

An attribute specifying the actual encoding of this document. This is null otherwise. encoding of type DOMString

An attribute specifying, as part of the XML declaration, the encoding of this document. This is null when unspecified.

standalone of type boolean

An attribute specifying, as part of the XML declaration, whether this document is standalone.

strictErrorChecking of type boolean

An attribute specifying whether errors checking is enforced or not. When set to false, the implementation is free to not test every possible error case normally defined on DOM operations, and not raise any DOMException. In case of error, the behavior is undefined. This attribute is true by defaults.

version of type DOMString

An attribute specifying, as part of the XML declaration, the version number of this document. This is null when unspecified.

Methods

adoptNode

Changes the ownerDocument of a node, its children, as well as the attached attribute nodes if there are any. If the node has a parent it is first removed from its parent child list. This effectively allows moving a subtree from one document to another. The following list describes the specifics for each type of node.

ATTRIBUTE_NODE

The ownerElement attribute is set to null and the specified flag is set to true on the adopted Attr. The descendants of the source Attr are recursively adopted.

DOCUMENT_FRAGMENT_NODE

The descendants of the source node are recursively adopted.

DOCUMENT_NODE

Document nodes cannot be adopted.

DOCUMENT_TYPE_NODE

DocumentType nodes cannot be adopted.

ELEMENT_NODE

Specified attribute nodes of the source element are adopted, and the generated Attr nodes. Default attributes are discarded, though if the document being adopted into defines default attributes for this element name, those are assigned. The descendants of the source element are recursively adopted.

ENTITY_NODE

Entity nodes cannot be adopted.

ENTITY_REFERENCE_NODE

Only the EntityReference node itself is adopted, the descendants are discarded, since the source and destination documents might have defined the entity differently. If the document being imported into provides a definition for this entity name, its value is assigned.

NOTATION_NODE

Notation nodes cannot be adopted.

PROCESSING_INSTRUCTION_NODE, TEXT_NODE,

CDATA_SECTION_NODE, COMMENT_NODE

These nodes can all be adopted. No specifics.

Issue adoptNode-1:

Should this method simply return null when it fails? How "exceptional" is failure for this method?

Resolution: Stick with raising exceptions only in exceptional circumstances, return null on failure (F2F 19 Jun 2000).

Issue adoptNode-2:

Can an entity node really be adopted?

Resolution: No, neither can Notation nodes (Telcon 13 Dec 2000).

Issue adoptNode-3:

Does this affect keys and hashCode's of the adopted subtree nodes?

If so, what about readonly-ness of key and hashCode?

if not, would appendChild affect keys/hashCodes or would it generate exceptions if key's are duplicate?

Parameters

source of type Node

The node to move into this document.

Return Value

Node The adopted node, or null if this operation fails, such as when the source node comes from a different implementation.

Exceptions

DOMException NOT_SUPPORTED_ERR: Raised if the source node is of type DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT_TYPE.

NO_MODIFICATION_ALLOWED_ERR: Raised when the source node is readonly.

Interface Node3

This interface extends the Node interface with several new methods. One allows to compare a node against another with regard to document order. Another methode allows to retrieve the content of a node and its descendants as a single DOMString. One allows to test whether two nodes are the same. Two methods provide for searching the namespace URI associated to a given prefix and to ensure the document is "namespace wellformed". Finally, it also provides a new attribute to get the base URI of a node, as defined in the XML Infoset.

Issue namespace-wellformed:

The term *namespace wellformed* needs to be defined. **Resolution:** Define it as "being conformant to the Namespaces in XML spec" in the glossary (Telcon 4 Jul 2000).

IDL Definition

```
interface Node3 {
  readonly attribute DOMString
                                       baseURI;
  typedef enum _DocumentOrder {
    DOCUMENT_ORDER_PRECEDING,
    DOCUMENT_ORDER_FOLLOWING,
   DOCUMENT_ORDER_SAME,
   DOCUMENT_ORDER_UNORDERED
  };
 DocumentOrder;
  DocumentOrder
                  compareDocumentOrder(in Node other)
                                         raises(DOMException);
  typedef enum _TreePosition {
    TREE_POSITION_PRECEDING,
    TREE_POSITION_FOLLOWING,
    TREE_POSITION_ANCESTOR,
    TREE_POSITION_DESCENDANT,
    TREE_POSITION_SAME,
    TREE_POSITION_UNORDERED
  };
 TreePosition;
                compareTreePosition(in Node other)
  TreePosition
                                         raises(DOMException);
           attribute DOMString
                                       textContent;
              isSameNode(in Node other);
  boolean
                  lookupNamespacePrefix(in DOMString namespaceURI);
lookupNamespaceURI(in DOMString prefix);
  DOMString
  DOMString
  void
                     normalizeNS();
  readonly attribute DOMKey
                                       key;
  boolean
                    equalsNode(in Node arg,
                                in boolean deep);
};
```

Type Definition *DocumentOrder*

A type to hold the document order of a node relative to another node.

Enumeration _*DocumentOrder*

An enumeration of the different orders the node can be in.

Enumerator Values

DOCUMENT_ORDER_PRECEDING	The node preceds the reference node in document order.
DOCUMENT_ORDER_FOLLOWING	The node follows the reference node in document order.
DOCUMENT_ORDER_SAME	The two nodes have the same document order.
DOCUMENT_ORDER_UNORDERED	The two nodes are unordered, they do not have any common ancestor.

Type Definition *TreePosition*

A type to hold the relative tree position of a node with respect to another node.

Enumeration _*TreePosition*

An enumeration of the different orders the node can be in.

Enumerator Values

TREE_POSITION_PRECEDING	The node preceds the reference node.
TREE_POSITION_FOLLOWING	The node follows the reference node.
TREE_POSITION_ANCESTOR	The node is an ancestor of the reference node.
TREE_POSITION_DESCENDANT	The node is a descendant of the reference node.
TREE_POSITION_SAME	The two nodes have the same position.
TREE_POSITION_UNORDERED	The two nodes are unordered, they do not have any common ancestor.

Attributes

baseURI of type DOMString, readonly

Returns the absolute base URI of this node.

Issue baseURI-1:

How will this be affected by resolution of relative namespace URIs issue?

Issue baseURI-2:

Should this only be on Document, Element, ProcessingInstruction, Entity, and Notation nodes, according to the infoset? If not, what is it equal to on other nodes? Null? An empty string?

Issue baseURI-3:

Should this be read-only and computed or and actual read-write attribute? **Resolution:** The former (F2F 19 Jun 2000).

key of type DOMKey [p.9], readonly

This attribute returns a unique key identifying this node.

Issue key-1:

What type should this really be?

Resolution: DOMKey, mapped to Object in Java and Number in ECMAScript (Telcon 13 Dec 2000).

Issue key-2:

In what space is this key unique (Document, DOMImplementation)? Issue key-3:

What is the lifetime of the uniqueness of this key (Node, Document, ...)?

textContent of type DOMString

This attribute returns the text content of this node and its descendants. When set, any possible children this node may have are removed and replaced by a single Text node containing the string this attribute is set to. On getting, no serialization is performed, the returned string does not contain any markup. Similarly, on setting, no parsing is performed either, the input string is taken as pure textual content.

The string returned is made of the text content of this node depending on its type, as defined below:

Node type	Content
ELEMENT_NODE, ENTITY_NODE, ENTITY_REFERENCE_NODE, DOCUMENT_NODE, DOCUMENT_FRAGMENT_NODE	concatenation of the textContent attribute value of every child node, excluding COMMENT_NODE and PROCESSING_INSTRUCTION_NODE nodes
ATTRIBUTE_NODE, TEXT_NODE, CDATA_SECTION_NODE, COMMENT_NODE, PROCESSING_INSTRUCTION_NODE	nodeValue
DOCUMENT_TYPE_NODE, NOTATION_NODE	empty string

Issue textContent-1:
Should any whitespace normalization be performed?
Issue textContent-2:
Should this be two methods instead?
Issue textContent-3:
What about the name?
Issue textContent-4:
Should this be optional? If yes, how do we signal it is not supported?

Methods

compareDocumentOrder

Compares a node with this node with regard to document order.

Issue compareOrder-1:

Should an exception be raised when comparing attributes? Entities and notations? An element against an attribute? If yes, which one? HIERARCHY_REQUEST_ERR? Should the enum value "unordered" be killed then?

Resolution: No, return unordered for attributes (F2F 19 Jun 2000).

Issue compareOrder-2:

Should this method be moved to Node and take only one node in argument? **Resolution:** Yes (F2F 19 Jun 2000).

Issue compareOrder-3:

Should this method be optional?

Parameters

other of type Node

The node to compare against this node.

Return Value

DocumentOrder	Returns how the given node compares with this node in
[p.12]	document order.

Exceptions

DOMException WRONG_DOCUMENT_ERR: Raised if the given node does not belong to the same document as this node.

compareTreePosition

Compares a node with this node with regard to their position in the tree. Issue compareTreePosition-1:

Should this method be optional?

Parameters

other of type Node

The node to compare against this node.

Return Value

TreePosition	Returns how the given node is positioned relatively to this
[p.13]	node.

Exceptions

DOMException WRONG_DOCUMENT_ERR: Raised if the given node does not belong to the same document as this node.

equalsNode

Tests whether two nodes are equal.

This method tests for equality of nodes, not sameness (i.e., whether the two nodes are exactly the same object) which can be tested with Node.isSameNode. All objects that are the same will also be equal, though the reverse may not be true. Issue equalsNode-1:

Should this be optional?

Parameters

arg of type Node

The node to compare equality with.

deep of type boolean

If true, recursively compare the subtrees; if false, compare only the nodes themselves (and its attributes, if it is an Element).

Return Value

boolean If the nodes, and possibly subtrees are equal, true otherwise false.

No Exceptions

isSameNode

Returns whether this node is the same node as the given one.

Issue isSameNode-1:

Do we really want to make this different from equals?

Resolution: Yes, change name from isIdentical to isSameNode. (Telcon 4 Jul 2000). Issue isSameNode-2:

Is this really needed if we provide a unique key?

Parameters

other of type Node

The node to test against.

Return Value

boolean Returns true if the nodes are the same, false otherwise.

No Exceptions

lookupNamespacePrefix

Look up the prefix associated to the given namespace URI, starting from this node. Issue lookupNamespacePrefix-1:

Should this be optional?

Parameters

namespaceURI of type DOMString

The namespace URI to look for.

Return Value

DOMString Returns the associated namespace prefix or null if none is found.

No Exceptions

lookupNamespaceURI

Look up the namespace URI associated to the given prefix, starting from this node. Issue lookupNamespaceURI-1:

Name? May need to change depending on ending of the relative namespace URI reference nightmare.

Issue lookupNamespaceURI-2:

Should this be optional?

Parameters

prefix of type DOMString

The prefix to look for.

Return Value

DOMString Returns the associated namespace URI or null if none is found.

No Exceptions

normalizeNS

This method walks down the tree, starting from this node, and adds namespace declarations where needed so that every namespace being used is properly declared. It also changes or assign prefixes when needed. This effectively makes this node subtree is "namespace wellformed".

What the generated prefixes are and/or how prefixes are changed to achieve this is implementation dependent.

Issue normalizeNS-1:

Any other name?

Issue normalizeNS-2:

How specific should this be? Should we not even specify that this should be done by walking down the tree?

Issue normalizeNS-3:

What does this do on attribute nodes?

Resolution: Doesn't do anything (F2F 1 Aug 2000).

Issue normalizeNS-4:

How does it work with entity reference subtree which may be broken?

Resolution: This doesn't affect entity references which are not visited in this operation (F2F 1 Aug 2000).

Issue normalizeNS-5:

Should this be really be on Node?

Resolution: Yes, but this only works on Document, Element, and

DocumentFragment. On other types it is a no-op. (F2F 1 Aug 2000).

Issue normalizeNS-6: What happens with read-only nodes? Issue normalizeNS-7: What/how errors should be reported? Are there any? Issue normalizeNS-8: Should this be optional? No Parameters No Return Value No Exceptions

Interface Text3

This interface extends the Text interface with a new attribute that allows one to find out whether a Text node only contains whitespace in element content.

IDL Definition

```
interface Text3 : Text {
   readonly attribute boolean
};
```

Attributes

isWhitespaceInElementContent of type boolean, readonly

Returns whether this text node contains whitespace in element content, often abusively called "ignorable whitespace".

Note: An implementation can only return true if, one way or another, it has access to the relevant information (e.g., the DTD or schema).

isWhitespaceInElementContent;

1.2. DOM Level 3 Java Binding Extension

Because the DOM only defines interfaces, applications have to rely on some "proprietary" API to start from. Typically, a Java application starts with a line of code such as:

DOMImplementation impl = org.apache.xerces.dom.DOMImplementationImpl.getDOMImplementation();

Since there is no language independent way of "bootstrapping" a DOM implementation, this section describes a solution for Java. Hopefully, similar solutions could be defined for other language bindings.

The following defines a Java class called DOMImplementationFactory which provides with a static method to get a reference to a DOMImplementation. The actual class to be returned by getDOMImplementation can be specified by the application or the implementation, depending on the context, through the Java system property "org.w3c.dom.DOMImplementation". In addition, an implementation can provide its own version of this class, *with the same class name and package name*, in order to set the default name to the desired value.

```
package org.w3c.dom;
public abstract class DOMImplementationFactory {
```

```
// The system property to specify the DOMImplementation class name.
private static String property = "org.w3c.dom.DOMImplementation";
// The default DOMImplementation class name to use.
private static String defaultImpl = "NO DEFAULT IMPLEMENTATION SET";
/**
 * Returns a DOMImplementation
 **/
public static DOMImplementation getDOMImplementation()
    throws ClassNotFoundException, InstantiationException,
           IllegalAccessException, ClassCastException
{
    // Retrieve the system property
    String impl;
    try {
        impl = System.getProperty(property, defaultImpl);
    } catch (SecurityException e) {
    // fallback on default implementation in case of security pb
    impl = defaultImpl;
    }
    // Attempt to load, instantiate and return the implementation class
    return (DOMImplementation) Class.forName(impl).newInstance();
}
```

With this, the first line of an application typically becomes something like:

DOMImplementation impl = DOMImplementationFactory.getDOMImplementation();

Issue Level-3-Java-Bootstrap-1:

}

Should this provides for handling more than one implementation at a time? Issue Level-3-Java-Bootstrap-2:

Should this be even simpler and force the implementation to provide this class (and not necessarily rely on any system property)?

1.2. DOM Level 3 Java Binding Extension

Appendix A: IDL Definitions

This appendix contains the complete OMG IDL [OMGIDL] for the Level 3 Document Object Model Core definitions.

The IDL files are also available as: http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/WD-DOM-Level-3-Core-20010126/idl.zip

dom.idl:

```
// File: dom.idl
#ifndef _DOM_IDL_
#define _DOM_IDL_
#pragma prefix "w3c.org"
module dom
  typedef Object DOMKey;
  interface Node3 {
   readonly attribute DOMString
                                      baseURI;
    typedef enum _DocumentOrder {
      DOCUMENT_ORDER_PRECEDING,
      DOCUMENT_ORDER_FOLLOWING,
      DOCUMENT_ORDER_SAME,
      DOCUMENT_ORDER_UNORDERED
    };
 DocumentOrder;
    DocumentOrder compareDocumentOrder(in Node other)
                                       raises(DOMException);
    typedef enum _TreePosition {
      TREE_POSITION_PRECEDING,
      TREE_POSITION_FOLLOWING,
      TREE_POSITION_ANCESTOR,
      TREE_POSITION_DESCENDANT,
      TREE_POSITION_SAME,
      TREE_POSITION_UNORDERED
    };
 TreePosition;
    TreePosition
                      compareTreePosition(in Node other)
                                      raises(DOMException);
             attribute DOMString
                                       textContent;
                     isSameNode(in Node other);
    boolean
    DOMString
                      lookupNamespacePrefix(in DOMString namespaceURI);
   DOMString lookupNamespaceURI(in DOMString prefix);
    void
                      normalizeNS();
    readonly attribute DOMKey
                                       key;
    boolean
                      equalsNode(in Node arg,
                                 in boolean deep);
```

```
dom.idl:
```

```
};
 interface Entity3 : Entity {
            attribute DOMString
                                     actualEncoding;
            attribute DOMString
                                     encoding;
            attribute DOMString
                                     version;
 };
 interface Document3 : Document {
           attribute DOMString
                                     actualEncoding;
            attribute DOMString
                                    encoding;
            attribute boolean
                                    standalone;
            attribute boolean
                                    strictErrorChecking;
            attribute DOMString
                                    version;
   Node
                     adoptNode(in Node source)
                                     raises(DOMException);
 };
 interface Text3 : Text {
   readonly attribute boolean
                             isWhitespaceInElementContent;
 };
};
#endif // _DOM_IDL_
```

Appendix B: Java Language Binding

This appendix contains the complete Java [Java] bindings for the Level 3 Document Object Model Core.

```
The Java files are also available as http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/WD-DOM-Level-3-Core-20010126/java-binding.zip
```

org/w3c/dom/Entity3.java:

```
package org.w3c.dom;
```

```
public interface Entity3 extends Entity {
   public String getActualEncoding();
   public void setActualEncoding(String actualEncoding);
   public String getEncoding();
   public void setEncoding(String encoding);
   public String getVersion();
   public void setVersion(String version);
```

}

org/w3c/dom/Document3.java:

package org.w3c.dom;

}

org/w3c/dom/Node3.java:

package org.w3c.dom;

```
public interface Node3 {
    public String getBaseURI();
    public static final int DOCUMENT_ORDER_PRECEDING= 1;
    public static final int DOCUMENT_ORDER_FOLLOWING= 2;
    public static final int DOCUMENT_ORDER_SAME= 3;
    public static final int DOCUMENT_ORDER_UNORDERED= 4;
    public int compareDocumentOrder(Node other)
                                    throws DOMException;
    public static final int TREE_POSITION_PRECEDING= 1;
    public static final int TREE_POSITION_FOLLOWING= 2;
    public static final int TREE_POSITION_ANCESTOR= 3;
    public static final int TREE_POSITION_DESCENDANT= 4;
    public static final int TREE_POSITION_SAME= 5;
    public static final int TREE_POSITION_UNORDERED= 6;
    public int compareTreePosition(Node other)
                                   throws DOMException;
    public String getTextContent();
    public void setTextContent(String textContent);
    public boolean isSameNode(Node other);
    public String lookupNamespacePrefix(String namespaceURI);
    public String lookupNamespaceURI(String prefix);
    public void normalizeNS();
    public Object getKey();
    public boolean equalsNode(Node arg,
                              boolean deep);
```

}

org/w3c/dom/Text3.java:

```
package org.w3c.dom;
```

```
public interface Text3 extends Text {
    public boolean getIsWhitespaceInElementContent();
```

}

Appendix C: ECMA Script Language Binding

This appendix contains the complete ECMA Script [ECMAScript] binding for the Level 3 Document Object Model Core definitions.

Object Entity3

Entity3 has the all the properties and methods of the Entity object as well as the properties and methods defined below.

The Entity3 object has the following properties:

actualEncoding

This property is of type String.

encoding

This property is of type String.

version

This property is of type String.

Object Document3

Document3 has the all the properties and methods of the **Document** object as well as the properties and methods defined below.

The **Document3** object has the following properties:

actualEncoding

This property is of type String.

encoding

This property is of type String.

standalone

This property is of type **Boolean**.

strictErrorChecking

This property is of type **Boolean**.

version

This property is of type **String**.

The **Document3** object has the following methods:

adoptNode(source)

This method returns a **Node** object.

The **source** parameter is a **Node** object.

This method can raise a **DOMException** object.

Object Node3

The Node3 object has the following properties:

baseURI

This read-only property is of type String.

textContent

This property is of type **String**.

key

This read-only property is of type **Number**.

The **Node3** object has the following methods:

compareDocumentOrder(other)

This method returns a **DocumentOrder** object.

The other parameter is a Node object.

This method can raise a **DOMException** object. **compareTreePosition(other)** This method returns a **TreePosition** object. The **other** parameter is a **Node** object. This method can raise a **DOMException** object. **isSameNode(other)** This method returns a **Boolean**. The **other** parameter is a **Node** object. **lookupNamespacePrefix(namespaceURI)**

This method returns a **String**.

The namespaceURI parameter is of type String.

lookupNamespaceURI(prefix)

This method returns a **String**.

The prefix parameter is of type String.

normalizeNS()

This method has no return value.

equalsNode(arg, deep)

This method returns a **Boolean**.

The arg parameter is a Node object.

The **deep** parameter is of type **Boolean**.

Object Text3

Text3 has the all the properties and methods of the **Text** object as well as the properties and methods defined below.

The **Text3** object has the following properties:

isWhitespaceInElementContent

This read-only property is of type **Boolean**.

References

For the latest version of any W3C specification please consult the list of W3C Technical Reports available at http://www.w3.org/TR.

D.1: Normative references

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D.1: Normative references

Index

Index

actualEncoding 9, 10	adoptNode	
baseURI		
compareDocumentOrder	compareTreePosition	
Document3	DocumentOrder	DOMKey
ECMAScript equalsNode	encoding 9, 10	Entity3
isSameNode	isWhitespaceInElementContent	
Java		
key		
lookupNamespacePrefix	lookupNamespaceURI	
Node3	normalizeNS	
OMGIDL		
standalone	strictErrorChecking	
Text3	textContent	TreePosition

version 9, 10