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Data fields used in FWA V4.1

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1 Scope

This reference document defines the fields used to make up the XML schema that is utilised by the Filtered Warnings Application to represent notifications.

2 Definitions and abbreviations

2.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply:

Data types:	A data type has a particular set of characteristics which determine a required set of Data Fields.
Data fields:	A data field is defined within a data type and possesses a set of characteristics such as field length. data fields are not exclusive to a data type.
XML schema	The definition of field names and their data types that an XML document will implement. The XML schema explains to a consumer (be it a person or a computer program) what fields could be expected in a corresponding XML document based on the schema.

2.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this document, the following abbreviations apply:

FWA:	Filtered Warnings Application – the software which semi automates the generation of Filtered Warnings
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3 Background

The Filtered Warnings Application (FWA) has been designed to allow WARPs adopting its use to be able to define their own notification format. These formats are implemented within a framework that supports the cooperation between multiple FWA implementations and consequently there is a clearly defined schema that surrounds the user defined elements.

Notifications within FWA are categorised using “ticklist” or “tree” entries, which are defined by the WARP operator. A default tree is supplied, and often used as the basis for a WARP’s FWA system, but this is not mandatory. Please consult the FWA documentation for a full description of the category tree.

In order to ease the use of FWA, four basic types of notification are included with the product, and most WARPs have adopted their use without modification.

The following section describes the data fields used within the FWA, both for the fixed framework, and the supplied notification types.

4 Data fields

The following sections illustrate the data fields that are relevant to FWA notifications.

4.1 Fixed Framework

A notification processed by FWA will contain the following elements:

Mandatory Elements:

- <Notification>** This is the root element for a Notification, it appears once.
- <NotificationType>** This element contains a string which names the notification type used to create this notification.
- <Categories>** This field must contain a comma separated list of ticklist tree entries for this notification. This must match one or more categories that appear in the tree of the FWA this notification will be sent to.
- <Title>** This is the title of the notification
- <Source>** Must contain a string that specifies the name of the source that produced the notification. This name is cross-referenced against the database to retrieve the correct public key to validate the notification. The source names are defined in the FWA license key.
- <Priority>** The importance of this notification must be in the range of 0-4, 0 being unclassified and 4 being critically important.
- <CustomData>** This element may hold none or more children which contain fields defined in the notification type.

Optional Elements:

- <RevisionNotes>** This field can contain text which describes revision notes for the notification. It must be present but can contain no data.

The content of CustomData is defined by an XML document containing a list of fields unique to each Notification Type, this document is also used to render the user interface for inputting data into the custom fields. This element can contain zero, one or more child elements, depending on the notification type. The following two sections detail the data fields that are used in the default notification types supplied with FWA.

4.2 Warning/Advisory Notification Type

- <Notification Type>** This will be set to “Warning V1.0” or “Advisory V1.0”
- <CustomData>** The CustomData field will contain the following:
- <Specific-Software-Affected>** Freeform String describing specific software types and versions to which this notification relates.
 - <Source>** Freeform String identifying the source of the information used.
 - <Impact>** Freeform String describing the possible impact.
 - <Also-Known-As>** Freeform String stating any additional identification used.
 - <Body>** This field contains the body of the notification and may be in HTML format. This field should be encapsulated by a `<![CDATA[]]>`¹ section when HTML is used.

4.3 News/Member News Notification Type

- <Notification Type>** This will be set to “News V1.0” or “Member News V1.0”
- <CustomData>** The CustomData field will contain the following:
- <Body>** As above

5 Example Notification

The following XML section shows a News Notification type. It shows the mandatory elements, followed by the Custom Data that is relevant the News V1.0 notification type - which is just the Body text.

```

<Notification>
  <Title>WARP News Example</Title>
  <Source>P2PExample</Source>
  <Categories>All Categories</Categories>
  <RevisionNotes />
  <Priority>0</Priority>
  <CustomData />
  <NotificationType>News v1.0</NotificationType>
  <Body>This is an example of a WARP news notification. This text
    will appear as the body of the news item.</Body>
</Notification>

```

¹ All the data in an XML files is usually parsed, this can have unexpected results with HTML. The CDATA construct tells the parser to ignore the contained text, see <http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-xml/#sec-cdata-sect>

History

Version	Date	Description
V0.1	Feb 2006	Initial draft based on FWA V4.1
V0.2	Sep 2006	Updated with example
V1.0	Oct 2006	Document Approved