



Redvers Consulting Ltd

Redvers COBOL XML Interface Level Comparison

The different interface levels are designed to operate at maximum potential for differing application conditions. Below is a comparison of the different attributes of each level:

Attribute	Batch	Message	CICS	Standalone	SuperFast
General	Designed to run as a subroutine in a batch job stream.	Batch process compatible with MQ Series message transport.	XCTL within a typical asynchronous CICS transaction. Uses minimal storage.	Requires no external file access. Can run in batch or on-line modes.	Designed for high transaction volumes in an on-line environment.
CRD¹ Access	Read from an 80 byte sequential file.	Read from an 80 byte sequential file.	Read from a pre-loaded TSQ.	Passed as a pre-loaded storage area from the application.	CRD is pre-compiled in RCFSTCMP. The output passed as a pre-loaded storage area from the application.
COBOL Data Access	Passed to/from the application in LINKAGE.	Passed to/from the application in LINKAGE.	Passed to/from the application in COMMAREA.	Passed to/from the application in LINKAGE.	Passed to/from the application in LINKAGE.
XML Document Access	Written to, or read from, a variable length sequential file.	Passed to/from the application in LINKAGE.	Passed to/from the application in COMMAREA.	Passed to/from the application in LINKAGE.	Passed to/from the application in LINKAGE.
Chunking² Option Available	Not necessary.	X	✓	✓	X
Maximum Generated Document Length	Unlimited	99 MB	Unlimited if <i>Chunking²</i> option is used - otherwise 99 MB	Unlimited if <i>Chunking²</i> option is used - otherwise 99 MB	99 MB

Continued:

Attribute	Batch	Message	CICS	Standalone	SuperFast
Maximum Parsed Document Length	Unlimited	99 MB	99 MB	99 MB	99 MB
Multiple Document Capability	Yes - for the same document type (schema) ³	Yes - for the same document type (schema) ³	Yes - for various document types (schemas)	Yes - for various document types (schemas)	Yes - for various document types (schemas)
Part Document Capability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
XML Tag lengths > 100 chtrs.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Suitable for SOA projects?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

¹ The COBOL Record Definition (CRD) is a series COBOL language data definitions (often held in the form of a copybook member) that describe the format of the COBOL data.

² The *Chunking* option allows applications to build XML documents in sections (chunks) within a fixed memory footprint. These sections can be passed for subsequent processing before the complete XML document is generated. This procedure provides the facility for building large XML documents without extensive storage overheads.

³ Different XML document types can be processed in a single application program by cloning the Redvers interface subroutine under different program id's and using these programs to generate/parse each different XML document type.