

A Brief History of ANSI/NIST-ITL XML Encodings

The first official XML encoding for ANSI/NIST-ITL was the 2-2008 version of the standard. This was based on the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), version 2.0.

When the time came for a new version of the standard, the ANSI/NIST-ITL 1-2011 XML Working Group worked to keep the new encoding backwards compatible for users of 2-2008. In the 1-2011 process, it was decided to allow a new NIEM domain to be created to encompass all of the biometric elements that the ITL XML WG had developed. Since establishing a new NIEM domain is a long and slow process, the 1-2011 working groups forged ahead with their work, endeavoring to accommodate both existing implementations and future development.

The resulting artifacts of the 1-2011 XML WG were two-fold: a “full” biometrics schema that contained all previous ansi-nist elements from the 2008 version, and a “subset” biometrics schema that contained only the elements that were needed for the 2011 version. The intention was that when the time came, the “full” schema would be the basis for the NIEM Biometrics Domain. As such, it is permissible for user profiles of ITL (such as EBTS or IXM) to add any of the types or elements from the “full” schema to the “subset” schema to support agency-specific needs.

The “full” biometrics schema has been updated with the 2011 errata and the 2013 updates, and is available in the ITL 1-2013 Information Exchange Package Documentation, alongside the updated “subset” biometrics schema.