use XMLTV::Compile;

Configuration of channels and video sources in MythTV with Perl

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mk.pm, May 2012
“Man came by to hook up my cable TV
We settled in for the night my baby and me
We switched 'round and 'round 'til half-past dawn
There was fifty-seven channels and nothin' on”

Bruce Springsteen

“57 Channels (And Nothin' On)”
Background

- MythTV is a powerful, open source digital video recorder, supporting DVB-T/S/C tuners and analog MPEG-2 encoders
- MythTV configuration is stored in a MySQL database
- Configuration and maintenance of channels (especially with XMLTV) can be a PITA
Current solutions

- Configure once and never touch again
- Configure with a likely out-of-date shell/SQL script
- Stick to EIT (over-the-air) listings and default channel assignments
Motivation

- Make channel reconfiguration a simple and reproducible process
- Cater for users with Sky/Virgin services where all channels must be added and reconfigured manually (that's 100's...)
- Learn more about XML::Compile, XML Schema creation, XPath and XSLT
My Cunning Plan

1) Implement the oft-talked-about “lineups” feature within the XMLTV project for managing available channel listings
2) Write a tool for managing channel configuration in MythTV using this data
3) ???
4) Profit!
In case you were wondering...

- Step 3 on the previous slide turned out to be “happen to attend 2011's mk.pm technical talk where Colin Bradford talked about XML::Compile”
- I overestimated Step 4...
Part 1
Generating Lineups
XMLTV Lineups

- Problem: XMLTV needs an agreed way to describe available channels on a given TV/radio/IP platform
- A couple of proposals were drafted in 2008, but nothing happened
- After hearing about XML::Compile at a previous mk.pm I thought I'd have a go
Lineups Implementation

- Write an XSD to describe the concept and structure of a lineup
- Write a tool to generate a code structure representing the XML document structure described in the XSD
- Use XML::Compile to validate the code structure and generate XML
Lineups XSD

- Intended to describe an Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) and its entries
- Separates the concept of stations (content, e.g. BBC1 West Midlands) from channels (physical broadcast, e.g. DVB-T, onid 9018, sid 4165), with 1-to-many relationship
- Each channel element will contain only the tuning information relevant to its sub-type
Assembling the data

- EPG lineups are retrieved by scraping Wikipedia (and updated if necessary)
- Digital channel data is obtained via `scan` from DVB-T/S tuners
- XMLTV configuration and channel logo data is obtained from tv_grab_uk_rt
- A utility merges these sources, producing the input data structure for XML::Compile
use XML::Compile::Schema;
use XML::LibXML;

my $schema = XML::Compile::Schema->new('xmltv-lineups.xsd');
my $doc = XML::LibXML::Document->new('1.0', 'UTF-8');
my $writer = $schema->compile(WRITER => 'xmltv-lineups');
my $xml = $writer->($doc, $xml_lineups_href);

my $pi = $doc->createProcessingInstruction("xml-stylesheet");
$pi->setData(type=>'application/xml', href=>'xmltv-lineups.xsl');
$doc->appendChild($pi);
$doc->setDocumentElement($xml);
print $doc->toString(2);
TV platform support

- The lineup generator currently creates “master” channel lineups for:
  - Freeview
  - Freesat
  - Sky
  - Virgin
  - Saorview
  - UPC Ireland
Sample Freeview <lineup-entry>  

<preset>2</preset>  
<section>General entertainment</section>  
<package type="basic">Free-to-air</package>  
<availability area="country">England</availability>  
<station>...</station>  
<dvb-channel>...</dvb-channel>  
</lineup-entry>
Sample <station>

<station rfc2838="bbc2.bbc.co.uk" type="TV">
  <name lang="en-GB">BBC Two England</name>
  <short-name lang="en-GB">BBC Two</short-name>
  <logo
    url="http://www.lyngsat-logo.com/logo/tv/bb/bbc2.jpg"
    height="99" width="132"/>
  <commercial-free>true</commercial-free>
  <video>
    <format>SDTV</format>
    <aspect-ratio>16:9</aspect-ratio>
  </video>
</station>
Sample `<dvb-channel>`

```xml
<dvb-channel>
  <original-network-id>9018</original-network-id>
  <service-id>4287</service-id>
  <lcn>2</lcn>
  <service-name>BBC TWO</service-name>
  <encrypted>false</encrypted>
</dvb-channel>
</lineup-entry>
```
Part 2
Using Lineups in XMLTV
Supporting lineups in XMLTV

- Add new grabber capability “lineups”
- Implement required functionality:
  - Add support to core XMLTV libs
  - Implement callbacks in tv_grab_uk_rt
- New grabber options available:
  --list-lineups
  --get-lineup
Lineups grabber options

- **--list-lineups**
  - Produces an XML document listing all platform lineups supported

- **--get-lineup**
  - Produces a (filtered) lineup using the information provided at configuration

(XML produced by these options must validate against the xmltv-lineups XSD)
Refining a lineup

- Each “master” platform lineup generated by XML::Compile covers all regions served by a platform, permitting a single document per platform, but...

- The end-user (or consuming app) wants a lineup that (ideally) only includes the channels available in the user's location and to which they subscribe
Personalising lineups

- During configuration of tv_grab_uk_rt, the user is asked for details of:
  - Country
  - Postcode
  - TV platform
  - Subscribed packages*
  - Premium channels*

  (* if relevant)
Lineup filtering

- Retrieve “master” platform lineup
- Process the document with XML::LibXML using XPath to get details of geographic and package availability for channels
- Remove extraneous <lineup-entry> entries
- Output filtered lineup (when called with --get-lineup)
Part 3
Viewing Lineups
Quick and dirty validation

- Problem: The lineups XML is human-readable, but it's not easy to quickly see if it contains what you expect.

- Solution: Use XSL Transformations (XSLT) to transform the lineups document into a simple HTML document that can be scanned quickly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preset</th>
<th>Icon</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td><img src="bbc_one.png" alt="BBC One" /></td>
<td>BBC One West Midlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td><img src="bbc_two.png" alt="BBC Two" /></td>
<td>BBC Two England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td><img src="itv.png" alt="ITV1" /></td>
<td>ITV1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td><img src="channel_4.png" alt="Channel 4" /></td>
<td>Channel 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td><img src="channel_5.png" alt="Channel 5" /></td>
<td>Channel 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td><img src="bbc_three.png" alt="BBC Three" /></td>
<td>BBC Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td><img src="bbc_four.png" alt="BBC Four" /></td>
<td>BBC Four</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Not much further to go...

- At this point, filtering available channels (and therefore TV listings) is available within the tv_grab_uk_rt grabber - and - we can view lineups

**BUT**

- Most users want XMLTV configured in their PVR software (and this is where the pain lies)
Part 4
Configuring MythTV with XMLTV Lineups
MythTV Perl bindings

- MythTV has included Perl bindings for several releases
- Auto-detect database connection settings
- Use Perl DBI to talk to the MythTV database:

```perl
use MythTV;
my $Myth = new MythTV();
my $sh = $Myth->dbh->prepare("UPDATE channel..."
```
MythTV Services API

- MythTV 0.25 (released April 2012) includes a new Services API framework
- Allows configuration of many MythTV aspects with HTTP/REST
- However, many users are still using older versions of MythTV so I went with the bindings for the first version
MythTV Lineup Tool

- Intended to be “the one ring”
- Allow existing DVB-based videosources and channels to be reconfigured
- Allow STB-based videosources (e.g. Virgin, Sky) to be created and populated with configured channels
- Permit use of either EIT (where available) or XMLTV listings data
What does it do?

- Renumbers channels per platform EPG
- Updates channel name/short-name/callsign
- Downloads and configures channel icons
- Configures XMLTV ID
- Hides all extraneous channels on source (e.g. this removes ~400 FTA non-Freesat channels from the MythTV EPG)
Example Usage

- **Generate lineup file:**
  
  ```
  tv_grab_uk_rt --configure
  tv_grab_uk_rt --get-lineup > freesat.xml
  ```

- **Configure MythTV (DVB sources):**
  
  ```
  lineup_tool --source-id 1 --lineup-xml freesat.xml
  ```

- **Configure MythTV (STB sources):**
  
  ```
  lineup_tool --source-name "Virgin" --lineup-xml virgin.xml
  ```
Freesat (before lineup tool, 558 channels)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>08:00 PM</th>
<th>08:15 PM</th>
<th>08:30 PM</th>
<th>08:45 PM</th>
<th>09:00 PM</th>
<th>09:15 PM</th>
<th>09:30 PM</th>
<th>09:45 PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1613</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1624</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1625</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1628</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1629</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3081</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3082</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3083</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Freesat (after lineup tool, 165 channels)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>08:00 PM</td>
<td>Holby City: Coercion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Crimewatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>08:15 PM</td>
<td>Hairy Bikers’ Bakedation: Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meet the Romans with Mary Beard: Behind Closed Doors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>08:30 PM</td>
<td>William and Kate: The First Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Hunt for bin Laden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>08:45 PM</td>
<td>Supersize vs Superskinny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hidden Talent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>09:00 PM</td>
<td>War Hero In My Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CSI: Crime Scene Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>09:15 PM</td>
<td>Young, Dumb and Living off Mum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Britain Unzipped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>09:30 PM</td>
<td>The Story of British Pathé: The Birth of the News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yellowstone: Unnatural Histories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Future plans

- Support for renumbering channels on a given platform's EPG to those of another
- Testing across all supported platforms
- Develop XSD
- Support for MythTV's Services API
- Investigate adding support directly into MythTV using XMLTV's apiconfig feature
Questions?

“I can see by your eyes friend you're just about gone
Fifty-seven channels and nothin' on”

Bruce Springsteen

“57 Channels (And Nothin' On)”
Code

- XMLTV

- Lineup generator / Lineups / MythTV configuration tool
  [https://github.com/knowledgejunkie](https://github.com/knowledgejunkie)