

Compatibility Recommendations

When creating version 2 of a standard, the working group should seek to minimize breakage from version 1 to version 2 to enable backward compatibility whenever possible. The working group must determine when the benefits of changing the standard outweigh the risks of reduced uptake.

If an element from a previous version of a standard is no longer necessary, the element should be deprecated in the subsequent official version of the standard, then eliminated in the official version following that.

If there are changes from one version to the next, the working group should provide an xslt translation to enable users of the previous version to translate their data into the format used in the new version.