


CPS-376 Spike: Investigate introducing ANTRL to resolve CpsPaths

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Reference Material

- <https://github.com/antlr/antlr4/blob/master/doc/getting-started.md>
- <https://pragprog.com/titles/tpantlr2/the-definitive-antlr-4-reference/#resources>
- <https://alexecollins.com/antlr4-and-maven-tutorial/>
- <https://tomassetti.me/antlr-mega-tutorial/>

IntelliJ Ant plugin

- <https://github.com/antlr/intellij-plugin-v4> useful for testing and troubleshooting while developing grammar

PoC Code

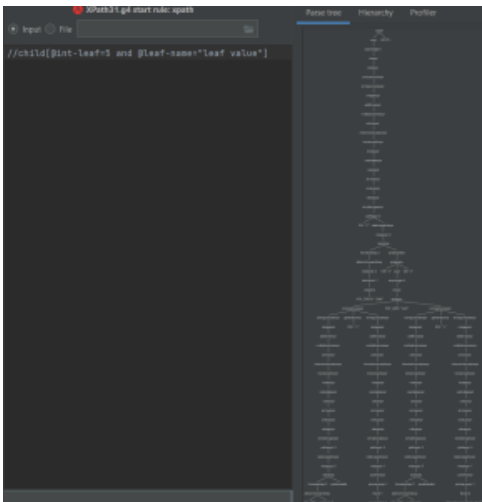
- <https://gerrit.onap.org/r/cps/+121503> (production ready!)

Findings

- Antlr4 can replace regex with less and more readable code
- Replacement of regex for `CpsPathQuery` fully replaced by fully compatible object generated using Antlr4 this commit: <https://gerrit.onap.org/r/cps/+121503>
- Needed to add explicit error rule for handling unexpected tokens (otherwise Antlr would ignore them): `ErrorCharacter : . . ;`
- Current CPS code using regex is inconsistent and needless limited for single leave condition
- Current CPS code was lacking @ token for attribute names in some test cases (fixed in <https://gerrit.onap.org/r/cps/+121503>)
- `CpsPathQuerySpec` did not cover all necessary possibilities (as used in some DB integration tests) This has now been addressed
- `CpsDataPersistenceQueryDataNodeSpec` contains some grammar tests that should be (are already) in `CpsPathQuerySpec`
- IntelliJ plugin very useful for quick testing and troubleshooting of grammar
- Not sure of best way to refresh generated code (in IntelliJ) `mvn clean install` in `cps-path-parser` seems the surest way

Xpath31 grammar

The grammar defined in predefined xpath grammar: <https://github.com/antlr/grammars-v4/tree/master/xpath/xpath31>



To-Do

- Check and Improve error handling
- Re-use CpsPath Exception (wrap `IllegalStateException`)
- Clean up, simplify rules and remove redundant legacy limitations
 - Better names (check name-casing conventions Antlr)

- Consider using predefined xpath grammar: <https://github.com/antlr/grammars-v4/tree/master/xpath/xpath31>
 - Even just study it or extract small parts to get correct definition of valid container-names etc.