

NAME

XML::SAX – Simple API for XML

SYNOPSIS

```
use XML::SAX;

# get a list of known parsers
my $parsers = XML::SAX->parsers();

# add/update a parser
XML::SAX->add_parser(q(XML::SAX::PurePerl));

# remove parser
XML::SAX->remove_parser(q(XML::SAX::Foodelberry));

# save parsers
XML::SAX->save_parsers();
```

DESCRIPTION

XML::SAX is a SAX parser access API for Perl. It includes classes and APIs required for implementing SAX drivers, along with a factory class for returning any SAX parser installed on the user's system.

USING A SAX2 PARSER

The factory class is XML::SAX::ParserFactory. Please see the documentation of that module for how to instantiate a SAX parser: XML::SAX::ParserFactory. However if you don't want to load up another manual page, here's a short synopsis:

```
use XML::SAX::ParserFactory;
use XML::SAX::XYZHandler;
my $handler = XML::SAX::XYZHandler->new();
my $p = XML::SAX::ParserFactory->parser(Handler => $handler);
$p->parse_uri("foo.xml");
# or $p->parse_string("<foo/>") or $p->parse_file($fh);
```

This will automatically load a SAX2 parser (defaulting to XML::SAX::PurePerl if no others are found) and return it to you.

In order to learn how to use SAX to parse XML, you will need to read XML::SAX::Intro and for reference, XML::SAX::Specification.

WRITING A SAX2 PARSER

The first thing to remember in writing a SAX2 parser is to subclass XML::SAX::Base. This will make your life infinitely easier, by providing a number of methods automatically for you. See XML::SAX::Base for more details.

When writing a SAX2 parser that is compatible with XML::SAX, you need to inform XML::SAX of the presence of that driver when you install it. In order to do that, XML::SAX contains methods for saving the fact that the parser exists on your system to a "INI" file, which is then loaded to determine which parsers are installed.

The best way to do this is to follow these rules:

- Add XML::SAX as a prerequisite in Makefile.PL:

```
WriteMakefile(
    ...
    PREREQ_PM => { 'XML::SAX' => 0 },
    ...
);
```

Alternatively you may wish to check for it in other ways that will cause more than just a warning.

- Add the following code snippet to your Makefile.PL:

```
sub MY::install {
    package MY;
    my $script = shift->SUPER::install(@_);
    if (ExtUtils::MakeMaker::prompt(
        "Do you want to modify ParserDetails.ini?", 'Y')
        =~ /^y/i) {
        $script =~ s/install :: (.*)$/install :: $1 install_sax_driver/m;
        $script .= <<"INSTALL";

install_sax_driver :
\t\@\$ (PERL) -MXML::SAX -e "XML::SAX->add_parser(q(\$ (NAME)))>save_parsers()"

INSTALL
    }
    return $script;
}
```

Note that you should check the output of this - `\$(NAME)` will use the name of your distribution, which may not be exactly what you want. For example XML::LibXML has a driver called XML::LibXML::SAX::Generator, which is used in place of `\$(NAME)` in the above.

- Add an XML::SAX test:

A test file should be added to your `t/` directory containing something like the following:

```
use Test;
BEGIN { plan tests => 3 }
use XML::SAX;
use XML::SAX::PurePerl::DebugHandler;
XML::SAX->add_parser(q(XML::SAX::MyDriver));
local $XML::SAX::ParserPackage = 'XML::SAX::MyDriver';
eval {
    my $handler = XML::SAX::PurePerl::DebugHandler->new();
    ok($handler);
    my $parser = XML::SAX::ParserFactory->parser(Handler => $handler);
    ok($parser);
    ok($parser->isa('XML::SAX::MyDriver'));
    $parser->parse_string("<tag/>");
    ok($handler->{seen}{start_element});
};
```

EXPORTS

By default, XML::SAX exports nothing into the caller's namespace. However you can request the symbols `Namespaces` and `Validation` which are the URIs for those features, allowing an easier way to request those features via `ParserFactory`:

```
use XML::SAX qw(Namespaces Validation);
my $factory = XML::SAX::ParserFactory->new();
$factory->require_feature(Namespaces);
$factory->require_feature(Validation);
my $parser = $factory->parser();
```

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LICENSE

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SEE ALSO

XML::SAX::Base for writing SAX Filters and Parsers

XML::SAX::PurePerl for an XML parser written in 100% pure perl.

XML::SAX::Exception for details on exception handling