Getting Started with eXLEpse

Sebastian Sulger

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This file describes some basic usage of eXLEpse, focusing on setting up eXLEpse for the first time, setting up a connection to some Subversion repository, and setting up a local grammar development project. The file is a complement to the documentation files `documentation-en.pdf` / `documentation.pdf`, which basically give an overview of the features available in eXLEpse.

1 Download and Settings

After you download eXLEpse, when starting the Eclipse.app program for the first time, it should give you a dialog asking you for the workspace directory. Create some folder somewhere on your harddisk - that's the folder for your grammars to reside in.

Up comes the "Welcome to Eclipse" screen; just close that by clicking on the "Workbench" button in the top right corner. You are now in the main eXLEpse window.

Make sure all your XLE settings/paths are fine. Click on "Eclipse -> Preferences" and select "XLE" in the left panel. Check all the paths to XLE and the required libraries. Also make sure that the path to X11 is correct. You can also change the editor's color settings and other settings if you click on the small arrow next to the "XLE" sign in the left panel.

If you already have some repository holding some grammar, and you would like to check it out and work on it, continue reading section 2. In case you don't have a repository, and you just want to get the editor working locally, read section 3.

2 Setting up Subversion

To check out a grammar repository, select "File -> New -> Project", then "SVN", and select "Checkout Projects from SVN". Click "Next". Choose "Create a new repository location", click "Next", and enter the URL to your repository. If you are not using ssh to tunnel to your repository, use a `svn://` type of URL. If you are using an ssh connection, use a `svn+ssh://` type of URL.

If there is an error coming up after this step, you can ignore it. Even though the native libraries may not be found on your system, eXLEpse will still be able to talk to your Subversion repository. So if an error comes up, click "OK to dismiss it.

If you use ssh, in the "Enter SSH Credentials" dialog enter your password/provide your ssh key file. Click "OK". In the next box, enter some SVN author name, click "OK" again. You should get a "Select Folder" box after that - click on the repository folder and click "Next". You can then choose how you would like to check out the repos (either as a project using Eclipse's "New Project Wizard" or as a simple project folder in the workspace) and the revision number you would like to check out. Click "Finish".

Depending on your choice of checkout, eXLEpse will either open up the "New Project Wizard" or a vanilla project folder will be created and the repos will be immediately checked out. If you chose the Wizard, you will first have to create a project, and then it will check out the repos.

After check out, you get the complete repos in the "Project Explorer" in the left panel. Double-click the main grammar file (e.g. english.lfg) to take a look. To parse some sentence, right-click the main grammar file and select "XLE -> Set As Project XLE" (you only need to do this once). Then, click the green and blue "Parse Text" button, to the right of the "Documentation" button. Enter some text, click "OK", and eXLEpse should display XLE result windows.

After you make changes to some file, to commit, right click on the file, go to "Team", select "Commit", and follow the dialog.

(As far as I know, there is currently no way to create a repos directly out of Eclipse, and commit newly created files to that repos. Please let me know if you find out otherwise.)

3 Local Grammar Development

If you just want to work with eXLEpse locally on your machine, and do not need SVN interaction, just create a general project via "File -> New -> Project", and paste all necessary grammar files in the created directory. You can do that in the Finder, or directly in eXLEpse, but you should Refresh (right click in the "Project Explorer -> Refresh") after pasting files.

Alternatively, you can of course create grammar files from scratch in your project, by selecting "File -> New -> Other...", "General", and "File". Before trying to parse sentences, do not forget to set the main grammar file as the project's XLE file.

Please don't hesitate to contact me again, if you have further questions or feature requests regarding eXLEpse.

Sebastian Sulger
Department of Linguistics
University of Konstanz
sebastian.sulger@uni-konstanz.de