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Part 1: TTCN‑3 Core Language

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### 6.2.1 Record type and values

#### 6.2.1.0 General

TTCN‑3 supports ordered structured types known as **record**. The fields of a **record** type may be any of the basic types or user-defined data types (such as other records, sets or arrays). The values of a **record** shall be compatible with the types of the **record** fields. The field identifiers are local to the **record** and shall be unique within the **record** (but do not have to be globally unique).

EXAMPLE 1:

**type** **record** MyRecordType

{

**integer** field1**,**

MyOtherRecordType field2 **optional,**

**charstring** field3

}

**type** **record** MyOtherRecordType

{

**bitstring** field1**,**

**boolean** field2

}

Records may be defined with no fields, i.e. as empty records.

EXAMPLE 2:

**type** **record** MyEmptyRecord {}

A **record** value is assigned on an individual field basis. The order of field values in the value list notation shall be the same as the order of fields in the related type definition.

EXAMPLE 3:

**var** **integer** v­\_myIntegerValue := 1;

**const** MyOtherRecordType c\_myOtherRecordValue:=

{

field1 := '11001'B,

field2 := **true**

}

**var** MyRecordType v\_myRecordValue :=

{

field1 := v\_myIntegerValue,

field2 := c\_myOtherRecordValue,

field3 := "A string"

}

The same value specified with a value list.

EXAMPLE 4:

v\_myRecordValue:= {v\_myIntegerValue, {'11001'B, **true**}, "A string"};

When the assignment notation is used for **record**‑s, fields wished to be changed shall be identified explicitly and a value, the not used symbol "-" or the **omit** keyword can be associated with them. The **omit** keyword shall only be used for optional fields. Its result is that the given field is not present in the given value.  
Mandatory fields, not explicitly referred to in the notation or explicitely unspecified using the not used symbol "-", shall remain unchanged. In particular, when specifying partial values (i.e. setting the value of only a subset of the fields) using the assignment notation, at initialization, only the fields to be assigned values shall be specified. Fields not mentioned are implicitly left uninitialized. When re-assigning a previously initialized value, using the not used symbol or just skipping a field in an assignment notation, will cause that field to remain unchanged. Even when specifying partial values each field shall not appear more than once.

NOTE: Please note the difference between omitted and uninitialized fields. Omitted optional fields are not present in the record or set value intentionally, i.e. the field is initialized and it does not prevent the whole record or set from being completely initialized.

EXAMPLE 5:

**type** **record** MyRecordType

{

**bitstring** field1**,**

**boolean** field2 **optional,**

**charstring** field3

}

**var** MyRecordType v\_myVariable :=

{

field1 := '111'B,

field2 := **false,**

field3 := -

}

v\_myVariable := { '10111'B, -, - };

// after this, v\_myVariable contains:

// { '10111'B, false /\* unchanged \*/, <undefined> /\* unchanged \*/ }

v\_myVariable :=

{

field2 := **true**

}

// after this, v\_myVariable contains:

// { '10111'B /\* unchanged \*/, true, <undefined> /\* unchanged \*/ }

v\_myVariable :=

{

field1 := -,

field2 := **false,**

field3 := -

}

// after this, v\_myVariable contains:

// { '10111'B /\* unchanged \*/, false, <undefined> /\* unchanged \*/}

When the assignment notation is used in a scope, where the **optional** attribute is implicitly or explicitly set to "explicit omit", optional and mandatory fields, not directly referred to in the notation shall remain unchanged.  
When optional fields of variables are not assigned explicitly, they are uninitialized (i.e. the optional attribute shall not have any effect on variables as described in section 27.7 restriction a).

When the assignment notation is used in a scope, where the **optional** attribute is set to "implicit omit", optional fields, not directly referred to in the notation, shall implicitly be set to **omit**, while mandatory fields shall remain unchanged (see also clause 27.7).

EXAMPLE 6:

**type** **record** MyRecordType

{

**bitstring** field1**,**

**boolean** field2 **optional,**

**charstring** field3

}

**const** MyRecordType c\_myConst1 :=

{

field1 := '111'B,

field3 := “A string”

} // { '10111'B, <undefined>, “A string”}

**const** MyRecordType c\_myConst2 :=

{

field1 := '111'B,

field3 := “A string”

} **with** { **optional** "implicit omit" }

// { '10111'B, omit /\* because of the optional attribute \*/, “A string”}

When using the value list notation, all fields listed in the notation shall be specified either with a value, the not used symbol "‑" or the **omit** keyword. The **omit** keyword shall only be used for optional fields. Its result is that the given field is not present in the given value. The first component of the list (a value, a "-" or **omit**) is associated with the first field, the second list component is associated with the second field, etc. No empty assignment is allowed (i.e. two commas, the second immediately following the first or only with white space between them). Fields to be left unchanged, but followed by fields to which a value or template is assigned explicitly, shall be skipped by using the not used symbol "-".

When using value list notation in a scope where the **optional** attribute is implicitly or explicitly set to "explicit omit", all remaining fields at the end of the type definition, missing from the value list notation,are left unchanged.

When using value list notation in a scope where the **optional** attribute is set to "implicit omit", optional fields wished to be omitted by the implicit mechanism, but followed by fields to which a value or template is assigned explicitly, shall be skipped by using the not used symbol "-". When all remaining fields at the end of the type definition are optional and they are wished to be omitted by the implicit mechanism, either the not used symbol "-" can be used for some or all of them or they can simply be left out from the notation.

EXAMPLE 7:

**type** **record** R {  
 **integer** f1,  
 **integer** f2 **optional**,  
 **integer** f3,  
 **integer** f4 **optional**,  
 **integer** f5 **optional**  
 }  
  
 **const** R c\_x := { 1, -, 2 } **with** { **optional** "implicit omit" }  
 // after the assignment c\_x contains { 1, omit, 2, omit, omit }  
 **const** R c\_x2 := { 1, 2, 3, - } **with** { **optional** "implicit omit" }  
 // after the assignment c\_x2 contains { 1, 2, 3, omit, omit }

When using direct assignment notation in a scope where the **optional** attribute is set to "implicit omit", the uninitialized optional fields in the referenced value, shall implicitly be set to omit after the assignment in the new value, while mandatory fields shall remain unchanged (see also clause 27.7).

EXAMPLE 8:

**const** R c\_x3 := { 1, -, 2 }   
// after the assignment c\_x3 contains { 1, <undefined>, 2, <undefined>, <undefined>}  
**const** R c\_x4 := c\_x3 **with** { **optional** "implicit omit" }  
// after the assignment c\_x4 contains { 1, omit, 2, omit, omit }

## 15.5 Modified templates

In cases where small changes are needed to specify a new template, it is possible to specify a modified template. A modified template specifies modifications to particular fields of the original template, either directly or indirectly. As well as creating explicitly named modified templates, TTCN‑3 allows the definition of in-line modified templates.

***Syntactical Structure***

Global or local modified template:

**template** [*restriction*] [ **@fuzzy** ] *Type* *TemplateIdentifier* ["(" *TemplateFormalParList* ")"]

**modifies** *TemplateRef* ":=" *TemplateBody*

NOTE 1: The optional restriction part is covered by clause 15.8.

In-line modified template:

[ *Type* ":" ] **modifies** *TemplateRefWithParList* ":=" *TemplateBody*

***Semantic Description***

The **modifies** keyword denotes the parent template from which the new, or modified template shall be derived. This parent template may be either an original template or a modified template.

The modifications occur in a linked fashion, eventually tracing back to the original template.

a) In case of templates, template fields or list elements of simple types, **union** and **enumerated** types, the matching mechanism specified in the modified template is simply replacing its corresponding content in its parent.

b) For templates, template fields and elements of **record** and **set** types, if a **record** or **set** field and its corresponding matching mechanism is specified in the modified template, then the specified matching mechanism replaces the one specified in the corresponding field of the parent template. If a **record** or **set** field or its corresponding matching mechanism is – implicitly or explicitly by using the not used symbol "‑" - left unspecified in the modified template, then the matching mechanism in the corresponding field of the parent template shall be used. When the field to be modified is nested within a template field which is a structured field itself, no other field of the structured field is changed apart from the explicitly denoted one(s).

c) For templates, template fields and elements of **record of** and **set of** types, the above rules specified for **records** and **sets** apply with the following deviations:

* if the value list notation is used, only the number of elements listed in the modified template is inherited from the parent (i.e. the list is truncated at the last element of the list notation in the modified template);
* when individual values of a modified template or a modified template field of **record of** or **set of** type wished to be changed, and only in these cases, the index assignment notation may also be used, where the left hand side of the assignment is the index of the element to be altered.

In case of **record of** and **set of** types first apply rule (c) to the complete structure (e.g. truncation) than apply further rules for the remaining individual type structure elements (see example 3).

Formal value or template parameters of modified templates inherit the default value or respectively template of the corresponding parameter of their parent templates only, if this is denoted by the dash (don't change) symbol at the place of the parameters' default value or respectively template.

Modified templates may also be restricted. Template restrictions are specified in clause 15.8.

A modified template may also be declared fuzzy using the **@fuzzy** modifier.

NOTE 2: If a fuzzy modified template modifies a non-fuzzy unparameterized template, the inherited fields before modification will be the same for every evaluation of the fuzzy template.

***Restrictions***

In addition to the general static rules of TTCN‑3 given in clause 5, the following restrictions apply:

a) A modified template shall not refer to itself, either directly or indirectly, i.e. recursive derivation is not allowed.

b) If a base template has a formal parameter list, the following rules apply to all modified templates derived from that base template, whether or not they are derived in one or several modification steps:

1) the derived template shall not omit parameters and change types or names of parameters defined at any of the modification steps between the base template and the actual modified template;

2) a template parameter restriction of a derived template specified at any of the modification steps between the base template and the actual modified template can be changed to a stricter one (see clause 15.8);

3) a derived template can have additional (appended) parameters if wished;

4) if the dash (don't change) symbol is used at the place of a default value or default template, the corresponding parameter of the parent template shall have a valid default value or default template, either assigned directly or inherited. If not, this shall cause an error.

c) Restrictions on referencing elements of templates or template fields are described in clause 15.6: for modified templates the rules for the left hand side of assignments apply.

d) Limitations on template restrictions described in clause 15.8 shall apply.

***Examples***

EXAMPLE 1: Modifying record templates (non-embedded case)

// Modifying records

**type record** MyRecordType

{

**integer** field1 **optional**,

**charstring** field2,

**boolean** field3

}

**template** MyRecordType m\_myRecTemplate1 :=

{

field1 := 123,

field2 := "A string",

field3 := **true**

}

// then writing

**template** MyRecordType m\_myRecTemplate2 **modifies** m\_myRecTemplate1 :=

{

field1 := **omit,** // field1 is optional but present in m\_myTemplate1

field2 := "A modified string"

// field3 is unchanged

}

// is the same as writing

// template MyRecordType m\_myRecTemplate2 :=

// {

// field1 := omit,

// field2 := "A modified string",

// field3 := true

// }

**template** MyRecordType m\_myRecTemplate3 **modifies** m\_myRecTemplate1 := {**omit,** "A modified string"}

//field3 is implicitly left unchanged;

//m\_myRecTemplate3 has the same content as m\_myRecTemplate2

**template** MyRecordType m\_myRecTemplate4 **modifies** m\_myRecTemplate1 := {**omit,**"A modified string",-}

//field3 is explicitly left unchanged;

//m\_myRecTemplate4 has the same content as m\_myRecTemplate2 and m\_myRecTemplate3

EXAMPLE 2: Modifying record of templates (non-embedded case)

**type record of integer** MyRecordOfType;

**template** MyRecordOfType m\_myBaseTemplate := { 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 };

**template** MyRecordOfType m\_myRecOfTemplate1 **modifies** m\_myBaseTemplate :=

{ -, -, 3, 2, -, -, -, -, -, - };  
 // m\_myRecOfTemplate1 contains { 0, 1, 3, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 }

**template** MyRecordOfType m\_myRecOfTemplate2 **modifies** m\_myBaseTemplate := { -, -, 3, 2 };  
 // m\_myRecOfTemplate2 replaces m\_myBaseTemplate with: { 0, 1, 3, 2 };

// elements 5 to 10 of m\_myBaseTemplate are truncated

**template** MyRecordOfType m\_myRecOfTemplate3 **modifies** m\_myBaseTemplate := { [2] := 3, [3] := 2 };  
 // m\_myRecOfTemplate3 has the same content as m\_myMod1Template: { 0, 1, 3, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 }

EXAMPLE 3: Modifying embedded record and record of templates

//Modifying a record embedded in a record of

**type record of record** {  
 integer a,  
 integer b  
 } MyListType

**template** MyListType mw\_myBaseListTemplate := { ?, { a := 1, b := 2 }, ?, { a := 3, b := 4 } }

**template** MyListType mw\_myListTemplate1 **modifies** mw\_myBaseListTemplate := { [1] := { a := 42 } }  
 //Content of field ″a″ of the second element is modified,

//the content of mw\_myListTemplate1 is: { ?, { a := 42, b := 2 }, ?, { a := 3, b := 4 } }

**template** MyListType mw\_myListTemplate2 **modifies** mw\_myBaseListTemplate := { -, { a := 42 } ,- }  
 //Content of field ″a″ of the second element is modified, and the

//record of is truncated after the third element: { ?, { a := 42, b := 2 }, ? }

EXAMPLE 4: Modified in-line template

// Given

**template** MyRecordType m\_setup :=

{

field1 := 75,

field2 := "abc",

field3 := **true**

}

// Could be used to define an in-line modified template of Setup

// pco1.send (modifies m\_setup := {field1:= 76});

EXAMPLE 5: Modified parameterized template

// Given

**template** MyRecordType m\_myTemplate1(**integer** p\_myPar):=

{

field1 := p\_myPar,

field2 := "A string",

field3 := **true**

}

// then a modification could be

**template** MyRecordType m\_myTemplate2(**integer** p\_myPar) **modifies** m\_myRecTemplate1 :=

// field1 is parameterized in m\_myTemplate1 and remains also parameterized in m\_myTemplate2

{

field2 := "A modified string"

}

EXAMPLE 6: Default values of modified parameterized templates

// Given

**template** MyRecordType m\_myTemplate11 (**integer** p\_int := 5 ):=

// p\_int has the default value 5

{

field1 := p\_int,

field2 := "A string",

field3 := **true**

}

// then possible template modifications are

**template** MyRecordType m\_myTemplate12(**integer** p\_int) **modifies** m\_myTemplate11 :=

// p\_int had a default value in m\_myTemplate11 but has none in this template

{

field2 := "B string"

}

**template** MyRecordType m\_myTemplate13(**integer** p\_int := 0) **modifies** m\_myTemplate12 := { }

// p\_int has the default value 0

// no change is made to the template's content, but only to the default value of p\_int

**template** MyRecordType m\_myTemplate14(**integer** p\_int := - ) **modifies** m\_myTemplate13 :=

// p\_int inherits the default value 0 from its parent m\_myTemplate13

{

field2 := "C string"

}

**template** MyRecordType m\_myTemplate15(**integer** p\_int := - ) **modifies** m\_myTemplate14 :=

// p\_int inherits the default value 0 from m\_myTemplate13 via m\_myTemplate14

{

field2 := "D string"

}

**template** MyRecordType m\_myTemplate16(**integer** p\_int) **modifies** m\_myTemplate15 := { }

// p\_int has no default value; no change in the template's content

**template** MyRecordType m\_myTemplate17(**integer** p\_int := - ) **modifies** m\_myTemplate16 :=

// causes an error as p\_int has no default value in the parent template m\_myTemplate16

{

field2 := "E string"

}

## 27.7 Optional attributes

The **optional** attribute can be used to indicate that optional fields of constants, module parameters or templates of record and set types are implicitly set to **omit**.

***Syntactical Structure***

**optional**

***Semantic Description***

TTCN‑3 constants, module parameters, and templates can have an **optional** attribute. Also, TTCN-3 language elements that contain such definitions, i.e. module, group, function, altstep, test case, control, and component type definitions can have an **optional** attribute. When an **optional** attribute is associated to a function, altstep, test case, control or component type definitions, it shall have effect on all the constants, module parameters, and templates declared within these definitions and not on the enframing definition itself.

**Special optional strings:**

The following strings are the predefined (standardized) **optional** attributes.

a) "implicit omit" means that all optional fields, that have no assigned value definition in the statement on which the attribute operates, are set to omit. This applies recursively to the optional fields of the entity and to subfields of the mandatory fields.

b) "explicit omit" means that all optional fields, that have no assigned value definition in the statement on which the attribute operates, are left undefined. This applies recursively to the optional fields of the entity and to subfields of the mandatory fields.

***Restrictions***

In addition to the general static rules of TTCN‑3 given in clause 5, the following restrictions apply:

a) Data type, port type, procedure signature and variable definitions and import statements shall not have an **optional** attribute associated to them directly. When an **optional** attribute is associated to module, group, function, altstep, test case, control or component type containing such definitions, it shall not have any effect on the included data type, port type, procedure signature, variable or import statement.

***Examples***

**type** **record** MyRecord1 { **integer** a, **boolean** b **optional**}  
**type record** MyRecord2{MyRecord1m}  
// reference templates with explicitly set fields  
**template** MyRecord1mw\_myTemplate1:= { a := ?, b := **omit** }  
**template** MyRecord2mw\_myTemplate2:= { m := { a := ?, b := **omit** }}// reference templates  
**template** MyRecord1mw\_myTemplate1a:= {a := ? } // b is undefined  
**template** MyRecord1mw\_myTemplate1b:= {a := ? } **with** {**optional** "explicit omit**"**} // b is undefined  
 **template** MyRecord2mw\_myTemplate2a:= {} // m and its subfields are undefined

**template** MyRecord2mw\_myTemplate2b:= { m := { a := ?}}; // m.b is undefined

// templates with attribute

**template** MyRecord1mw\_myTemplate11 **:=** { a := ? } **with** {**optional "**implicit omit**"**}  
 // same as mw\_myTemplate1, b is set to omit

**template** MyRecord2mw\_myTemplate21:= { m := { a := ?}} **with** {**optional "**implicit omit**"**}  
// same as mw\_myTemplate2, by recursive application of the attribute

**template** MyRecord2mw\_myTemplate22:= { m := mw\_myTemplate1a } **with** {**optional "**implicit omit**"**}  
// same as mw\_myTemplate2, by recursive application of the attribute

**template** MyRecord2mw\_myTemplate23:= {} **with** {**optional "**implicit omit**"**}  
 // same as mw\_myTemplate2a, m remains undefined

**template** MyRecord2mw\_myTemplate24 **:=** { m := mw\_myTemplate1b } **with** {**optional "**implicit omit**"**}  
// same as mw\_myTemplate2b, the attribute on the lower scope is not overwritten

**template** MyRecord2mw\_myTemplate25:= { m := MyTemplate1b } **with** {**optional override "**implicit omit**"**}  
 // same as mw\_myTemplate2, the attribute on the lower scope is overwritten  
  
 // implicitly omitted fields stay omitted after assignment  
**template** MyRecord1 mw\_myTemplate3a := mw\_myTemplate1a **with** {**optional** "implicit omit**"**}  
 // same as mw\_myTemplate1, b is set to omit  
**template** MyRecord1 mw\_myTemplate3b := mw\_myTemplate3a;  
 // same as mw\_myTemplate1, b is set to omit, by implicit omit attribute of mw\_myTemplate3a  
**template** MyRecord1 mw\_myTemplate3c := mw\_myTemplate3a **with** {**optional** "explicit omit**"**}  
 // same as mw\_myTemplate1, b is set to omit, by implicit omit attribute of mw\_myTemplate3a