# Split a giant XML file in few simple steps

Learn how to examine big XML files a fragment at time and how to split them in a smaller pieces.

Sometimes, working with XML data, there is the need to inspect a giant file that does not fit in memory of the computer or, if it does it, slows down the system. In fact, being the XML a sort of data file with meta informations, it is well suited to be shredded in pieces, taking on only the fragment of information we are looking for.
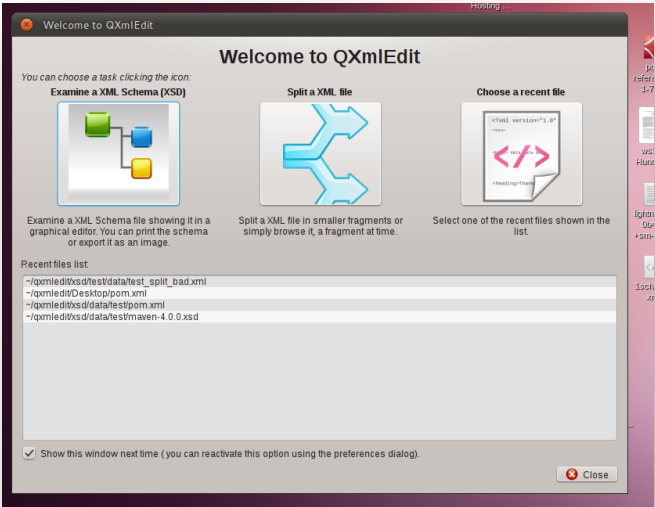
1 Start QxmlEdit

When starting the program will open a welcome dialog leading to the most common operations. Choose "Split a file". If you choose to hide the dialog next time the program restart and change your mind, you can reactivate it in the configuration panel.
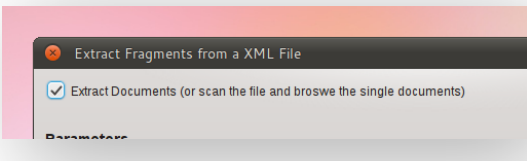
2 Decide if you want to extract information or browse it

If you want only navigate the data without creating any file, uncheck '**Extract Documents**'. Even if you don't extract the XML fragments into smaller file, QXmlEdit scans the file and records the information for an interactive review.

3 Choose the file and how to fragment it

Browse to the file to examine, the insert the XPath that identifies a fragment. Insert a string of the form /ROOT/DATA and so on.
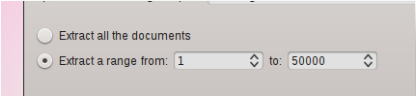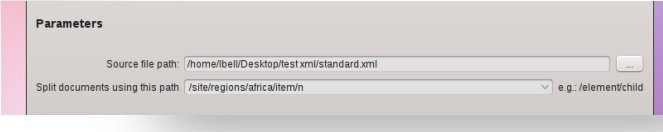
4 How many fragments?

Selecting a range permits to extract only a small subset of the original file. No wasted space on your disk.

5 Decide the output folder and the naming

Enter the location where write the extracted fragments and decide if you want to create a folder each N files. Decide also how to name the files and the folders. The combo boxes have some predefined values to ease the task, like a timestamp, or a progressive counter.
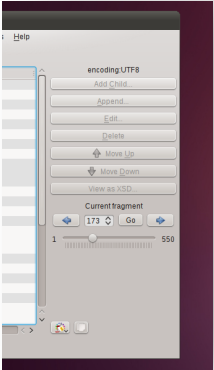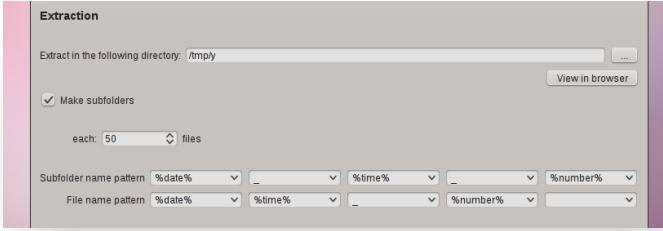
6 Go and examine data

After the start of the operation, in the the main window a navigation box appears. The fragments found in the input file are accessible directly with a random access using the informations collected in the previous phases. If you choose to split the file in fragments, you can examine them in the