

Adding Z to web services time specification (Crotwell)

If/when there is a revision to the FDSN ws spec, I think it should allow the appending of a Z to signify UTC to all input time parameters. Currently there is no timezone on the times and they are limited to:

YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SS.ssssss
YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SS
YYYY-MM-DD

This would change to time parameters being expressed as one of these, with the first 2 being preferred.

YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SS.ssssssZ
YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SSZ
YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SS.ssssss
YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SS
YYYY-MM-DD

The reason for this is that it is annoying to have a valid ISO formatted UTC time and then have to delete the last character in order to use it in a fdsn ws URL.

I am not sure if it should be mandatory, but outputting times with the "Z" within QuakeML and StationXML output from the web services would also be very helpful. I do not want to admit to the number of times I have been burned by the fact that most time parsers assume local time if the Z is not present. Having the service always use times with Z is a relatively simple way to prevent a whole bunch of hard to track down errors.

thanks
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