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# custom-attribute handler

Generates virtual attributes derived from other attributes or external elements of the application. It can be applied to any DataNode to add attributes that were not originally present at the underlying business object. Those attributes will be presented at the XPath interface just as if they were business objects attributes

Attribute	Usage
name	Name of the virtual attribute
expr	EL expression that evaluates de attribute value
if	EL expression that must be evaluated to true prior to handler action
unless	EL expression that must be evaluated to false prior to handler action
depends	XPath to a attribute or business object the expression depends on

It's important to properly set the depends attribute as long as the attribute will be reevaluated whenever a dependent attribute has been changed.

The custom attribute can have an empty EL expressions and use a BeanShell script instead. Here is an example of both approaches:

```
<datanode name="network">
  <custom-attribute name="networkMask1" expr="${instance.network}/${instance.mask}">
  <custom-attribute name="networkMask2">
    <depends>@network</depends>
    <depends>@mask</depends>
    return instance.network + "/" + instance.mask;
  </custom-attribute>
  ...
</datanode>
```

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