Form Editor - XPath Addressing, Absolute versus Relative

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Lasernet

XPath can use either absolute addressing, through a single forward slash "/", or relative addressing, through two forward slashes "//".
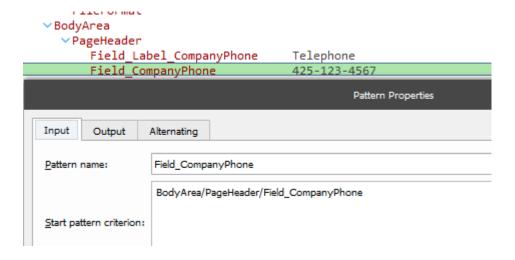
- A single forward slash "/" selects from the root node. It quickly identifies the addressed element.

- Two forward slashes "//" selects nodes in the document from the current node, which match the selection no matter where they are. This is slower compared to absolute as it will take longer to identify the element, since the user specifies the partial path (not the exact path).

Using "//" (relative addressing) means that Lasernet has to run through entire datafile (or place in file) to search for all the elements with that name. The parsing of this takes time.

Therefore, extensive use of "//" to address Patterns and Rearranges will have an impact on performance.

For this reason, we recommend being careful when using relative addressing.

Example of Pattern addressed Absolute

The same Pattern addressed Relative