

# Reject Elements

- Reject element means...
  - Part of the data didn't parse
  - Able to determine where it is, and its length
  - Create element as hexBinary
  - Ex: `<unknown>090809afb9028ff</unknown>`
- Should these be allowed?
  - Maybe yes: if there are a small number of reject records
    - A reasonable thing some file formats may allow
  - Clearly no: if there are no non-reject records.
    - If the file parses to all or mostly rejects then probably the schema is incorrect.
- Sometimes it is a matter of degree!

# Reject Elements

- You want a reject element to be
  - well-formed
  - always invalid
  
- XSD Trick

```
<element name="unknown">
  <simpleType>
    <restriction base="xs:hexBinary"
      <maxLength value="0"/> <!-- always invalid -->
    </restriction>
  </simpleType>
</element>
```

# Reject Elements: Use them or not?

- You can put them into the DFDL Schema
- Leave it up to the application whether to use
- Use a DFDL variable with `external="true"` to control whether DFDL schema parse will create them or not.
  - A `dfdl:assert` can test that the variable is true. If not parse fails.