
**Information technology — CDIF semantic
metamodel —**

**Part 4:
Data models**

*Technologies de l'information — Métamodèle sémantique CDIF —
Partie 4: Modèles de données*

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Contents

1	Scope	1
2	Conformance	2
2.1	General	2
2.2	Input conformance	2
2.3	Output conformance	2
2.4	Round-trip conformance	3
3	Normative references	3
4	Terms and definitions	3
4.1	From other International Standards	3
4.1.1	ISO/IEC 15474-1	3
4.1.2	ISO/IEC 13238-1	4
4.1.3	For this International Standard	4
5	Symbols (and abbreviated terms)	4
5.1	Naming, diagramming and definition conventions	4
5.2	Abbreviations	4
5.3	Notation for this subject area	4
6	Data models subject area overview	5
6.1	Introduction	5
6.2	Diagrams	6
6.3	Entities	11
6.4	Relationships	11
6.4.1	Binary relationship	12
6.4.2	N-ary relationship	12
6.4.3	Simple relationship	12
6.4.4	Complex relationship	12
6.5	Roles	14
6.6	Cardinalities	15
6.6.1	Outer cardinalities	16
6.6.2	Inner cardinalities	17
6.7	Multi-player roles	18
6.8	Role constraints	20
6.9	Attributes	22
6.10	Keys and access paths	23
6.11	Referential integrity	27
6.12	Supertypes and subtypes	29
6.12.1	Coverage	30
6.12.2	Exclusivity	31
6.12.3	Orthogonality	32
6.12.4	Inheritance	33
6.13	Refinement of inherited characteristics	34
6.13.1	Refinement of attribute characteristics	34
6.13.2	Refinement of relationship characteristics	35
6.14	Subsets	36
6.15	Clusters	37
6.16	Projections	38
6.17	Computable languages	41
7	Data models subject area summary	43
7.1	AttributableMetaObject hierarchy	43
7.2	MetaEntity summary	45

7.3	MetaRelationship summary.....	50
8	Data models subject area specification	54
8.1	Introduction	54
8.2	Subject area definition.....	54
8.3	Meta-entity definitions	55
8.3.1	AccessPath.....	55
8.3.2	Attribute	56
8.3.3	CandidateKey	58
8.3.4	Cluster	59
8.3.5	ComponentObject.....	59
8.3.6	DataModel.....	59
8.3.7	DataModelObject.....	60
8.3.8	DataModelSubset.....	61
8.3.9	DefinitionObject	61
8.3.10	Entity.....	62
8.3.11	ForeignKey	68
8.3.12	InheritableDataModelObject.....	68
8.3.13	Key	69
8.3.14	ProjectedAttribute.....	70
8.3.15	ProjectionComponent.....	71
8.3.16	Relationship	73
8.3.17	Role.....	74
8.3.18	RoleConstraint	75
8.3.19	RolePlayer	77
8.3.20	SemanticInformationObject	90
8.3.21	SubtypeSet	91
8.3.22	SubtypeSetMembershipCriterion.....	92
8.4	Meta-relationship definitions	94
8.4.1	AccessPath.Incorporates.Attribute	94
8.4.2	AccessPath.Instantiates.Key	95
8.4.3	Attribute.IsDiscriminatorFor.SubtypeSetMembershipCriterion	96
8.4.4	Attribute.IsInheritedFrom.Attribute	96
8.4.5	CandidateKey.Incorporates.ForeignKey	97
8.4.6	Cluster.Collects.DataModelObject.....	97
8.4.7	ComponentObject.References.DefinitionObject	97
8.4.8	DataModel.Collects.DataModelObject	98
8.4.9	DataModelObject.ActsAs.RolePlayer	98
8.4.10	DataModelObject.IsMemberOf.DataModelSubset.....	99
8.4.11	DataModelSubset.Excludes.Attribute.....	99
8.4.12	DataModelSubset.IsSubsetOf.DataModel	100
8.4.13	DefinitionObject.Contains.ComponentObject	100
8.4.14	DefinitionObject.IsConstructedWith.ProjectionComponent.....	100
8.4.15	Entity.IsAccessedUsing.AccessPath	101
8.4.16	Entity.IsIdentifiedBy.CandidateKey	101
8.4.17	ForeignKey.Incorporates.RolePlayer	102
8.4.18	ForeignKey.References.CandidateKey	102
8.4.19	InheritableDataModelObject.IsSubtypeIn.SubtypeSet	103
8.4.20	InheritableDataModelObject.IsSupertypeFor.SubtypeSet	104
8.4.21	Key.Incorporates.Attribute	105
8.4.22	Key.Incorporates.SemanticInformationObject	106
8.4.23	ProjectedAttribute.IsProjectionOf.Attribute.....	107
8.4.24	ProjectionComponent.IsFullProjectionOf.DefinitionObject.....	107
8.4.25	ProjectionComponent.IsProjectionOf.Attribute.....	108
8.4.26	Role.BelongsTo.Relationship	109
8.4.27	RoleConstraint.Incorporates.RoleConstraint	109
8.4.28	RoleConstraint.Incorporates.RolePlayer	110
8.4.29	RoleConstraint.Incorporates.SemanticInformationObject.....	110
8.4.30	RolePlayer.IsSupportedBy.Key.....	111
8.4.31	RolePlayer.Plays.Role	111

8.4.32	RolePlayer.Refines.RolePlayer	112
8.4.33	RolePlayer.RefinesForSubtype.DataModelObject	112
8.4.34	SubtypeSet.Specifies.SubtypeSetMembershipCriterion	113
8.4.35	SubtypeSetMembershipCriterion.Selects.InheritableDataModelObject	113

Table of Illustrations

Figure 1 – CDIF family of International Standards	1
Figure 2 – Diagrammatic Conventions - Keys	5
Figure 3 – Data Models subject area overview	6
Figure 4 – Partitioning/View mechanisms	7
Figure 5 – Keys and Access Path	8
Figure 6 – Roles, RolePlayers and RoleConstraints	9
Figure 7 – Connection between Data Models and Common subject areas	10
Figure 8 – Connection between Data Models and Data Definition subject areas	11
Figure 9 – Binary Relationship	12
Figure 10 – Ternary Relationship	12
Figure 11 – Complex Binary Relationship	13
Figure 12 – Instance Diagram showing a Complex Relationship	14
Figure 13 – Roles	14
Figure 14 – Reflexive or Recursive Relationship	15
Figure 15 – Examples of Types of Binary Relationships	16
Figure 16 – Outer Cardinalities	16
Figure 17 – Inner Cardinalities	17
Figure 18 – Inner Cardinalities and Attributed Binary Relationships	18
Figure 19 – Multi-player Roles and Heterogeneous Collections	19
Figure 20 – Multi-player Roles and Common Outer Cardinality	20
Figure 21 – Role Constraint Network	21
Figure 22 – Constraints on Role Participation	21
Figure 23 – Instance Diagram showing Role Constraints	22
Figure 24 – Attributed Relationships, Roles and RolePlayers	23
Figure 25 – Foreign Keys	24

Figure 26 – <i>RolePlayer</i> as a component of a <i>ForeignKey</i>	25
Figure 27 – Key support of <i>RolePlayer</i>	26
Figure 28 – Key support for <i>RolePlayer</i> in a Reflexive <i>Relationship</i>	27
Figure 29 – Subtype Set Discriminator.....	30
Figure 30 – Abstract Supertype	31
Figure 31 – Concrete Supertype.....	31
Figure 32 – Non-exclusive Subtype Set.....	32
Figure 33 – Orthogonal Subtype Sets	32
Figure 34 – Instance Diagram showing Orthogonal Subtype Sets	33
Figure 35 – Overlapping Subtype Sets	33
Figure 36 – Inheritance	34
Figure 37 – Refinement of Cardinalities	35
Figure 38 – Instance Diagram showing refinement of Cardinalities.....	36
Figure 39 – Subsets.....	37
Figure 40 – <i>Clusters</i>	38
Figure 41 – Instance Diagram showing Simple Projection	39
Figure 42 – Instance Diagram showing Complex Projection	40
Figure 43 – Instance Diagram showing <i>Attribute</i> Renaming	41

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 15476-4 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Software and system engineering*.

ISO/IEC 15476 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — CDIF semantic metamodel*:

- *Part 1: Foundation*
- *Part 2: Common*
- *Part 3: Data definitions*
- *Part 4: Data models*
- *Part 5: Data flow models*
- *Part 6: State/event models*

Introduction

This International Standard will assist the vendors and users of modelling tools and meta-data repositories in developing mechanisms for interchanging information. This International Standard specifies an element of a family of related International Standards. When used together, these International Standards specify a mechanism for transferring information between tools.

ISO/IEC 15474-1:2002, *Information technology - CDIF framework - Part 1: Overview* and ISO/IEC 15474-2:2002, *Information technology - CDIF framework - Part 2: Modelling and extensibility* should be read first when initially exploring CDIF. The first explains the overall CDIF architecture and how the family of standards fits together. The second explains the scope, and modelling approach in CDIF. The CDIF meta-metamodel and extensibility mechanism are also defined in that document.

This International Standard explains the Data models subject area. The CDIF semantic metamodel is used to ensure that the information held by tools communicating using CDIF is transferred with an agreed meaning. It covers the information required to express Entity-Relationship-Attribute Modelling and Logical Database Design concepts.

This International Standard has been developed with the wide support and participation of vendors, users, academia and government involved in or familiar with the CASE industry, its products and the general requirements associated with interchanging information between these products.

This document is organized into the following Clauses.

— Clause 1 to 5 are prescribed ISO/IEC Clauses;

— Clause 6: Subject area overview:

This Clause gives an overview of the coverage of this subject area.

— Clause 7: Subject area summary:

This Clause gives an overview of the content of this subject area.

— Clause 8: Subject area specification:

This Clause gives the formal specification of all the objects defined in the subject area, and the formal reference to those used, but not defined in the subject area.

This document is intended to be used by anyone wishing to understand and/or use CDIF. This document provides a definition of a single subject area of the CDIF semantic metamodel. It is suitable for:

- Those evaluating CDIF;
- Those who wish to understand the principles and concepts of a CDIF transfer; and
- Those developing importers and exporters.

This document, ISO/IEC 15474-1:2002, *Information technology - CDIF framework - Part 1: Overview*, and the framework document ISO/IEC 15474-2:2002, *Information technology - CDIF framework - Part 2: Modelling and extensibility*, should be read first when initially exploring CDIF and before attempting to read other documents in the CDIF family of standards.

While there are no specific prerequisites for reading this document, it will be helpful for the reader to have familiarity with the following:

- Entity-Relationship-Attribute modelling;
- Modelling (CASE) tools;
- Information repositories;
- Data dictionaries;
- Multiple meta-layer modelling.

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Information technology — CDIF semantic metamodel —

Part 4: Data models

1 Scope

The CDIF family of International Standards is primarily designed to be used as a description of a mechanism for transferring information between modelling tools. It facilitates a successful transfer when the authors of the importing and exporting tools have nothing in common except an agreement to conform to CDIF. The language that is defined for the transfer format also has applicability as a general language for import/export from repositories. The CDIF semantic metamodel defined for CASE also has applicability as the basis of standard definitions for use in repositories.

The International Standards which form the complete family of CDIF standards are documented in ISO/IEC 15474-1. These International Standards cover the overall framework, the transfer format and the CDIF semantic metamodel.

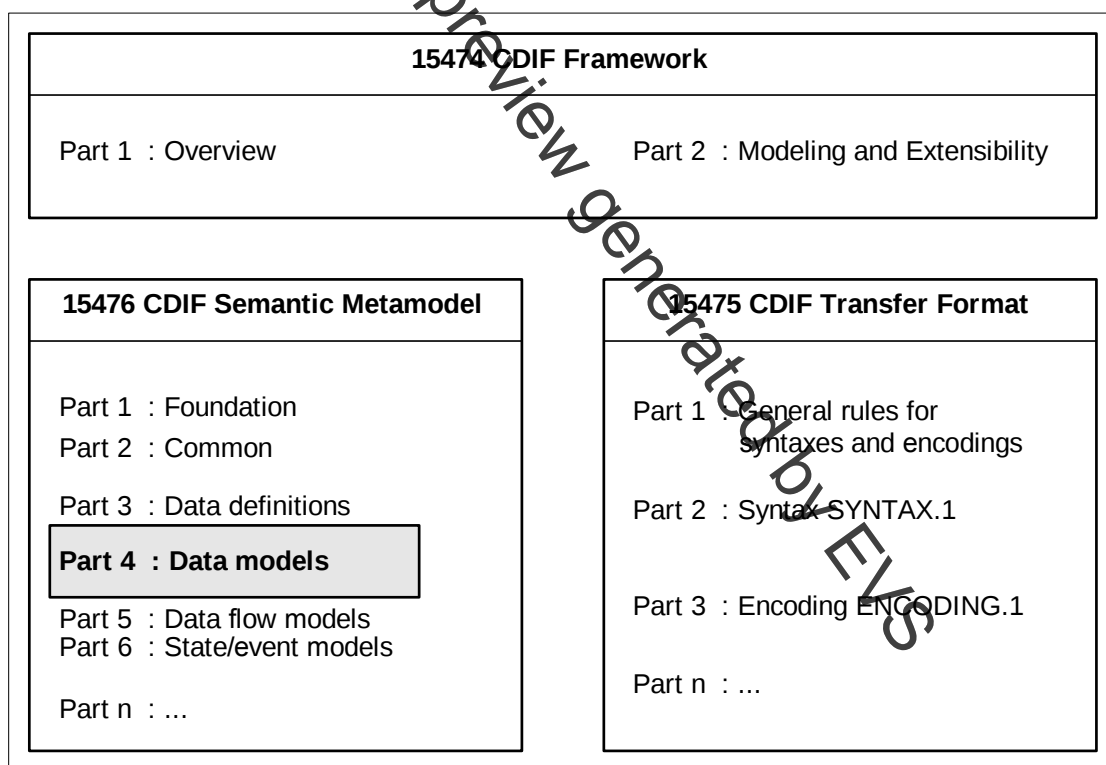


Figure 1 – CDIF family of International Standards

The diagram in Figure 1 depicts the various International Standards that comprise the CDIF family of standards. The shaded box depicts this Standard and its position in the CDIF family of standards.

This International Standard defines the portion of the CDIF semantic metamodel that supports general Data Modelling. This includes Entity-Relationship-Attribute Modelling as well as Logical Database Design.

2 Conformance

2.1 General

A product is fully standards conformant to a CDIF subject area standard if and only if it is input-conformant, output-conformant and round-trip conformant to each and every *MetaEntity*, *MetaRelationship*, *MetaAttribute*, and *AttributableMetaObject* which is defined and/or used in that standard, and it is also CDIF architecture conformant. A product may be partially input-conformant, and/or partially output-conformant, and/or partially round-trip conformant to a CDIF subject area standard.

2.2 Input conformance

Input conformance for a specific *MetaEntity*, *MetaRelationship*, *MetaAttribute*, or *AttributableMetaObject* (short: *CollectableMetaObject*) is determined by applying the following test:

A set of meta-data containing all meanings and structures standardized by a CDIF subject area is imported by the product under test. Then the meta-data which has arrived in the product is examined. The following options exist for the relation between the input (CDIF) meta-data and the imported (product) meta-data:

For a specific *CollectableMetaObject*:

- 1 The product is input conformant if each instance of the specific *CollectableMetaObject* has arrived in the product without change of meaning or structure. If the *CollectableMetaObject* is a meta-entity or meta-relationship, its structural relationships to other *CollectableMetaObjects* have been preserved. If the *CollectableMetaObject* is a meta-attribute, the value of the meta-attribute has been preserved.
- 2 The product is input morphing conformant if each instance of the specific *CollectableMetaObject* has arrived in the product, but with some changes in meaning or structure. If the *CollectableMetaObject* is a meta-attribute, the value(s) for some instances of the meta-attribute have changed.
- 3 The product is not input conformant for that *CollectableMetaObject* if neither of the previous tests is satisfied.

2.3 Output conformance

Output conformance for a specific *CollectableMetaObject* is determined by applying the following test:

For the product being tested, a set of meta-data that includes all possible meanings and structures representable in that product is exported. Then the meta-data that has been exported is examined. The following options exist for the relation between the product's meta-data and the exported (CDIF) meta-data:

For a specific *CollectableMetaObject*:

- 1 The product is output conformant if all of the meaning and structure for the specific *CollectableMetaObject* has been represented as meta-data in the product and has been exported as one or more instances of that *CollectableMetaObject*. If the *CollectableMetaObject* is a meta-attribute, the correct value of the meta-attribute has been exported.
- 2 The product is output morphing conformant if each instance of meta-data in the product that has the same meaning and structure as the *CollectableMetaObject* has been exported, but some instances have been exported as a different *CollectableMetaObject* or some of the meaning and structure has been changed.
- 3 If the product does not represent the meaning and structure associated with the *CollectableMetaObject*, output conformance for that *CollectableMetaObject* is not applicable to the product.