

Conceptual Semantics

[Go up to Terms and Definitions](#)

Discussion

Conceptual semantics defines meaning at the level of domain concepts, relationships, distinctions, and constraints before an architecture selects implementation technology.

Conceptual semantics establishes domain meaning independently of [schemas](#), databases, programming languages, [RDF graphs](#), [OWL ontologies](#), message formats, [APIs](#), [reports](#), or runtime logic. A [conceptual model](#) expresses conceptual semantics when it identifies the things in a domain, the relationships among those things, the distinctions that matter, and the constraints that govern interpretation.

Conceptual semantic content includes:

- Domain concepts
- Business terms
- Relationships among concepts
- Roles played by participants
- Classifications and distinctions
- Constraints on valid meaning
- Lifecycle states
- Events and state transitions
- Business rules
- Reporting facts and dimensions
- Policies and governance concepts
- Domain assumptions

A governed architecture preserves [traceability](#) from conceptual semantics to downstream artefacts. Traceability prevents implementation artefacts from replacing the intended domain meaning.

Definition

meaning defined through domain concepts, relationships, distinctions, and constraints before selection of implementation technology

Source

DIDO Solutions usage, informed by conceptual modelling, terminology practice, semantic modelling practice, and model-driven architecture principles.

Note

Conceptual semantics is not equivalent to [OWL](#), [RDF](#), [RDF graph](#) structure, [schema](#) structure, [datatype](#) structure, or implementation logic. Those artefacts express selected conceptual meaning after the architecture establishes the underlying domain meaning.

Example

An FX conceptual model defines concepts such as Trade, Counterparty, Currency Pair, Notional Amount, Trade Date, Settlement Date, and Settlement Obligation. These concepts establish conceptual semantics before the architecture represents selected content in schemas, reports, RDF graphs, OWL ontologies, DDS topics, databases, or executable validation logic.

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