

Comparability

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Discussion

Comparability concerns the ability to examine information, observations, interpretations, or results together under declared conditions and to meaningfully determine their similarities, differences, and relationships.

In regulated data interpretation environments, comparable information shares a sufficiently consistent basis of meaning, scope, time, classification, calculation, provenance, and interpretive context. Common syntax or use of the same reporting format does not, by itself, establish comparability.

Comparability depends on explicit knowledge of the conditions governing each item being compared, including:

- Applicable definitions
- Semantic version
- Reporting period
- Jurisdiction
- Classification rules
- Calculation methods
- Parameters
- Provenance
- Interpretive context

Comparability may exist fully, partially, or conditionally. An architecture should therefore preserve the basis for comparison rather than treat comparability as an assumed property of data.

Definition

Quality of information or results that permits meaningful comparison under declared semantic, contextual, temporal, and interpretive conditions.

Source

- Federated Data Interpretation Systems Reference Architecture (FDIS-RA)
- ISO/IEC 25010, Systems and Software Quality Requirements and Evaluation
- Standard Business Report Model (SBRM)

Note

Comparability differs from equality. Two values may be unequal yet comparable when their meanings, contexts, and derivations support a valid comparison.

Comparability also differs from interoperability. Interoperability concerns the ability of systems to exchange and use information. Comparability concerns whether the exchanged information supports a meaningful comparison.

Example

Two capital adequacy ratios are comparable when both use the same regulatory definition, reporting period, calculation basis, currency treatment, semantic version, and interpretive context.

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