

# Identifier

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## Discussion

An Identifier distinguishes or refers to an entity within a defined scope.

An Identifier consists of a value, symbol, name, code, number, address, or other representation assigned according to an identification scheme. The applicable scheme defines the Identifier's syntax, scope, assignment authority, uniqueness constraints, persistence rules, and interpretation.

An Identifier remains distinct from an [Identity](#). An Identity comprises attributes associated with an entity within a defined context. An Identifier distinguishes or refers to the entity or its Identity within a defined scope.

The same entity has different Identifiers in different identification schemes. Different entities also have the same Identifier value when the Identifiers belong to different scopes. Interpretation therefore requires both the Identifier value and its applicable scope or scheme.

## Definition

*representation assigned to distinguish or refer to an entity within a defined scope*

## Source

DIDO Solutions project definition informed by ISO/IEC identification and identity-management terminology.

## Note

An Identifier includes sufficient contextual information to determine the identification scheme and scope in which it applies.

An Identifier does not independently establish the Identity, authenticity, authority, ownership, or existence of the identified entity.

A persistent Identifier retains its association with the same entity throughout its specified period of validity.

A globally unique Identifier remains unique within the global scope defined by its identification scheme. A locally unique Identifier remains unique only within its defined local scope.

## Example

The value `node-042`, assigned within a Test Environment's Node identification scheme, constitutes an Identifier for a particular [Node](#) instance.

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