

Platform Specific Parameter

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Discussion

A Platform Specific Parameter supplies a value required to realize a platform-independent specification on a particular implementation platform.

The parameter identifies implementation information that varies according to the selection:

- Cloud provider
- Operating system
- Virtualization platform
- Container platform
- Hardware architecture
- Network implementation
- Storage implementation
- Security service
- Deployment tool
- Runtime technology

A Platform Specific Parameter may provide values such as:

- Machine type
- Processor architecture
- Operating-system image identifier
- Region or availability zone
- Network identifier
- Storage class
- Service endpoint
- Resource-provider identifier
- Package name
- Runtime version
- Platform-specific security setting

Platform Specific Parameters allow a common [Infrastructure Blueprint](#) or [Infrastructure Configuration](#) to remain independent of a particular implementation platform while supplying the values required for a specific deployment.

A Platform Specific Parameter differs from a platform-independent configuration value:

- A platform-independent configuration value expresses infrastructure intent without dependence on a particular implementation technology
- A Platform Specific Parameter supplies implementation information required by the selected platform

A Platform Specific Parameter also differs from an environment-specific parameter:

- A Platform Specific Parameter varies because of the selected implementation platform
- An environment-specific parameter varies because of the operational or development context, such as development, test, staging, or production

A parameter may be both platform-specific and environment-specific when its value depends on both characteristics.

Definition

parameter whose value depends on the implementation platform selected to realize a platform-independent specification

Source

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Note

A Platform Specific Parameter should identify:

- The parameter name
- The expected value type
- The implementation platform to which it applies
- The specification element that consumes the value
- Any applicable constraints
- Any permitted or prohibited values

Platform Specific Parameters should remain separate from reusable platform-independent content when practical.

Separating the values allows the same Infrastructure Blueprint or Infrastructure Configuration to be mapped to different implementation platforms without embedding provider-specific information in the common specification.

The term does not require a particular parameter format, configuration language, deployment tool, cloud provider, operating system, or implementation technology.

Example

An Infrastructure Blueprint specifies a compute resource without naming a cloud-provider machine type. A Platform Specific Parameter supplies the machine-type identifier required by the selected cloud platform during deployment.

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