

# Schema

[Go up to Terms and Definitions](#)

## Discussion

A schema defines the structure, permitted content, relationships, values, and constraints for information in a defined representation context. Schemas organize information so that systems, tools, and people interpret information consistently.

Schemas support [Semantic](#) when their elements, names, value types, relationships, constraints, and documentation preserve traceability to defined domain meaning. A schema constrains representation, but domain meaning comes from the associated vocabulary, [Conceptual Model \(CM\)](#), [Ontology](#), rules, or other authoritative semantic source.

A schema differs from an ontology. A schema focuses on representation structure, permitted content, and validation constraints. An ontology focuses on concepts, relationships, distinctions, and semantic commitments within a defined domain.

Schemas appear in many forms, including XML Schema, JSON Schema, [RDF Schema](#), SQL DDL, OpenAPI schemas, Avro schemas, Protobuf schemas, DDS IDL, and message specifications.

## Definition

*structured specification of information elements, permitted values, relationships, and constraints for a defined representation context*

## Source

Generalised from data modeling, schema language, software architecture, and information modeling usage; specialized for use in the FX Demo Reference Architecture.

## Note

A schema expresses selected semantic commitments when its information elements, constraints, values, relationships, and documentation preserve traceability to defined domain meaning. A schema does not by itself establish the full meaning of a domain.

## Example

An FX trade schema defines information elements such as `tradeIdentifier`, `counterpartyLEI`, `currencyPair`, `notionalAmount`, `tradeDate`, and `settlementDate`. The schema constrains representation, while the associated conceptual model and vocabulary define the business meaning of those information elements.

---

© 2026 Dido Solutions, Inc. and Jackrabbit Consulting, Inc.

From:  
<https://wiki.didosolutions.com/> - **Dido Solutions, Inc Wiki**

Permanent link:  
[https://wiki.didosolutions.com/dido/99\\_annexes/annex-b-terms-and-definitions/s/schema](https://wiki.didosolutions.com/dido/99_annexes/annex-b-terms-and-definitions/s/schema)

Last update: **2026/07/18 12:33**

