

Schema

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Discussion

A schema defines the structure, permitted content, relationships, values, and constraints for information in a defined representation context. Schemas organise 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](#), [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 modelling, schema language, software architecture, and information modelling usage; specialised 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.

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