

# Structural Artifact

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## Discussion

A structural artifact identifies a governed construct that defines the organization and constraints of [structured information](#).

Structural artifacts support consistent processing by defining how information is organized, constrained, validated, exchanged, and interpreted within the [Reference Architecture \(RA\)](#).

A structural artifact differs from a [Semantic Artifact](#). A structural artifact defines organization and constraints. A semantic artifact defines the meaning associated with structural elements or [data](#) values.

## Definition

*governed construct defining the organization and constraints of [structured information](#)*

## Source

Structured Information Processing [Reference Architecture \(RA\)](#)

## Note

A structural artifact provides a controlled basis for validation, exchange, traceability, and evaluation of conformance.

## Example

A schema, message structure, information model, interface structure, or constraint set is a structural artifact when the [Reference Architecture \(RA\)](#) governs its definition, versioning, authority, and use during structured information processing.

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