

# Test Argument

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## Discussion

A Test Argument identifies an input or output variable associated with a [Sequenced Test Object](#).

A Test Argument specifies the variable independently of the value assigned during a particular occurrence of the Sequenced Test Object.

A Test Argument can identify:

- Its identity
- Its name
- Its description
- Its data type
- Its direction
- Whether a value is required
- The permitted number of values
- A default [Test Argument Value](#)
- Permitted values
- Applicable value constraints
- Its [Provenance](#)
- Its [Traceability](#)

The direction of a Test Argument can identify the variable as:

- An input
- An output
- Both an input and an output
- Unspecified

A Test Argument can be associated with a:

- [Test Set](#)
- [Test Case](#)
- [Test Step](#)
- [Test Executable](#)

A [Sequence Step](#) can assign a Test Argument Value to a Test Argument for a particular occurrence of the Sequenced Test Object within a [Test Sequence](#).

## Definition

*identified input or output variable associated with a [Sequenced Test Object](#)*

## Source

Adapted from:

- [OMG Test Information Interchange Format \(TestIF\), Version 1.0 Beta 3, Section 7.2.1, Argument Sequenced Test Object](#)
- [Sequence Step](#)
- [Test Argument Value](#)
- DIDO Reference Implementation Conceptual Model
- DIDO-TE draft Requirements Register

OMG TestIF uses Argument to specify an input or output parameter relevant to performing a step. The DIDO Solutions glossary uses **Test Argument** to distinguish the TestIF concept from the general-language meaning of argument.

## Note

A Test Argument defines a variable. A [Test Argument Value](#) assigns a value to that variable.

A Test Argument differs from an Attribute:

- A Test Argument explicitly identifies an input or output associated with a Sequenced Test Object
- An Attribute provides descriptive or extensible information about a Test Object

A Test Argument can define a default Test Argument Value. A [Sequence Step](#) can supply a different Test Argument Value when the applicable [Test Definition](#) permits the substitution.

A Test Argument can identify multiple values when its permitted multiplicity allows them.

A Test Argument does not prescribe a particular programming-language parameter, command-line option, message field, or serialization representation.

## Example

A [Test Step](#) submits a proposed DIDO transaction.

The Test Step defines the following Test Arguments:

- transaction as a required input
- targetNode as a required input
- submissionIdentifier as an output
- submissionStatus as an output

A [Sequence Step](#) assigns the proposed transaction and target [Node](#) as Test Argument Values for one occurrence of the Test Step.

During [Test Execution](#), the resulting [Test Run](#) records the input and output Test Argument Values associated with the executed Sequence Step.

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