

SIP-004 — Separation of Architectural Concerns

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Statement

The architectural [Model](#) SHALL represent [Data](#), [Structure](#), [Semantics](#), and [Interpretation](#) as separable but coordinated architectural concerns.

Rationale

Data, Structure, Semantics, and Interpretation serve different purposes and have different authorities, dependencies, and lifecycles. Treating them as separate architectural concerns lets you identify, govern, version, reuse, and change each one without silently changing the others.

These concerns must remain coordinated because the Structure organizes the Data, Semantics establishes its meaning, and Interpretation applies rules or reasoning within that context. Explicit relationships among the concerns support consistent processing, controlled evolution, and reproducible outcomes.

Evaluation Criteria

The Submission satisfies this requirement when the architectural Model:

1. Represents Data, Structure, Semantics, and Interpretation as distinguishable architectural concerns
2. Defines the purpose and responsibilities associated with each concern
3. Defines the relationships and dependencies among the four concerns
4. Identifies how each concern applies to structured information processing
5. Allows each concern to be governed and versioned independently
6. Identifies the applicable versions of the concerns used for an Interpretation
7. Avoids requiring all four concerns to be embedded in one implementation component or technology

Referenced By

- [6.2.1 In Scope](#)
- [6.4.3 Data, Structure, Semantics, and Interpretation](#)
- [SIP-049 — Architectural Concern and Lifecycle Description](#)

Notes for Editors

Separable does not mean unrelated or operationally isolated. The architectural Model must define how the four concerns work together while preserving their distinct responsibilities and lifecycles.

[SIP-023 — Governance Evolution and Operational Execution](#) addresses the related separation between Governance Artifact evolution and operational execution.

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