

Federation

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Discussion

A Federation enables independently governed participants to cooperate for an agreed purpose while retaining control over their own [Systems](#), [Resources](#), policies, information, and internal operations.

Participants in a Federation may include organizations, [Domains](#), Systems, services, repositories, registries, or other independently managed entities. Each participant joins the Federation under defined agreements that identify the applicable responsibilities, [Authority](#), constraints, and conditions of participation.

A Federation may establish shared:

- Purposes and operational objectives
- Governance agreements
- Participation criteria
- [Interfaces](#) and interaction protocols
- Information-exchange structures
- Semantic mappings
- Identity and trust relationships
- Security and access-control policies
- Conformance and validation criteria
- Conflict-resolution and escalation processes
- Evidence and traceability requirements

Federation does not require every participant to use the same implementation, Data Model, [Vocabulary](#), policy, or internal process. Instead, participants establish the agreements, mappings, and interfaces needed to achieve the required degree of [Interoperability](#).

The [Governance](#) of a Federation remains distinct from the Governance exercised internally by each participant. Federated Governance addresses matters that cross participant boundaries. It does not silently replace or override a participant's internal Authority.

When requirements, policies, semantic definitions, or other governed constraints conflict, the Federation identifies and records the conflict, preserves its provenance, and refers it to the authority designated by the applicable Governance agreements. The Federation does not invent precedence or silently resolve the conflict.

Definition

an arrangement in which independently governed participants cooperate under agreed relationships while retaining authority over their own Systems, Resources, policies, and internal operations

Source

Generalized from federated architecture and systems-of-systems usage and specialized for the SIP-RA separation of independently governed Data, Structure, semantics, Interpretation, and Governance.

Note

A Federation differs from a centrally controlled System. A central authority may provide shared services or coordinate particular activities without acquiring unrestricted Authority over every participating entity.

A federation also differs from simple connectivity. Participants form a Federation only when defined relationships, responsibilities, authorities, and conditions of participation govern their cooperation.

Example

Military services, coalition partners, and sovereign nations may form a logistics Federation. Each participant retains authority over its own logistics Systems, Data, Vocabularies, security policies, and operational decisions while using agreed Interfaces, mappings, trust relationships, and Governance procedures to exchange readiness and sustainment information.

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