

Interpretive Authority

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Discussion

Interpretive Authority is the recognized [Authority](#) to determine or clarify the meaning, applicability, or intended effect of governed information within a defined scope.

Governed information may include:

- [Data](#)
- [Structures](#)
- [Semantic](#) definitions
- [Vocabulary](#) entries
- Models
- [Policies](#)
- Requirements
- Rules
- Standards
- Contracts
- Evidence
- Validation criteria

Interpretive Authority derives from an applicable legal, contractual, organizational, regulatory, or [Governance](#) arrangement. It does not arise merely because a person or System possesses relevant information, performs an [Interpretation](#), implements a rule, or has subject-matter expertise.

An Interpretive Authority may be assigned to:

- A person serving in an authorized Role
- An organization
- A Governance Body
- A regulator
- A standards organization
- A court or other legal Authority
- A [Community of Interest \(Col\)](#)
- Another designated decision-making body

The scope of Interpretive Authority identifies the matters, participants, jurisdictions, information, and conditions to which an authoritative Interpretation applies. An entity may possess Interpretive Authority for one Domain or purpose without possessing Authority over another.

In a distributed environment, multiple Interpretive Authorities may apply to the same exchange or operational activity. Each may govern a different Domain, Jurisdiction, Policy, Structure, semantic definition, or participating System. When their determinations conflict, the conflict is recorded and referred to the Community of Interest or other Authority authorized to resolve it. A System does not silently select one Interpretation, invent precedence, or resolve the conflict without a governing

Authority.

An automated System may execute Interpretation rules issued or approved by an Interpretive Authority. Automation does not independently confer Interpretive Authority on the System. The resulting Interpretation remains traceable to the governing Authority, applicable rules, source information, and version conditions.

Definition

authority recognized by an applicable Governance arrangement to determine or clarify the meaning, applicability, or intended effect of governed information within a defined scope

Source

Derived from SIP-RA and FDIS-RA treatment of governed semantic Interpretation and from DIDO-TE Governance principles for preserving Authority, provenance, conflict information, and authoritative decisions in distributed environments.

Note

Interpretive Authority is distinct from subject-matter expertise. An expert may advise an Interpretive Authority without possessing the Authority to issue a binding determination.

Interpretive Authority is also distinct from Interpretation logic. Interpretation logic specifies how information is evaluated. Interpretive Authority determines which meaning, rule, or Interpretation is authoritative within the applicable Governance scope.

Example

Two coalition partners assign different meanings to the same readiness-status code. Each partner retains Interpretive Authority over its internal Vocabulary and operational use lambda. The governing coalition Community of Interest determines the authoritative meaning for the shared exchange or issues an approved mapping, exception, or qualification. The exchange System records that decision and its provenance rather than silently selecting one partner's meaning.

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Last update: **2026/09/13 18:16**

