

Exchange Network Document Metadata

Title: Core Reference Model, Version 2.0, for the Environmental Information Exchange Network (also referred to as “Core Reference Model Phase II”)

Subject: Describes the Core Reference Model, which contains major groupings of environmental data and their relationships in order to assist the development of Data Exchange Templates (such as XML schema), data standard development, and the creation of Shared Schema Components.

Abstract:

The Core Reference Model (CRM) is a high-level depiction of major groupings of environmental data and their relationships. It was created to provide federal, state, and tribal environmental agencies with guidance for consistently building and sharing environmental data on the Exchange Network. By providing a high-level environmental data model that accommodates a variety of environmental topics, the CRM facilitates the creation of XML schema for any variety of environmental data exchanges that share common components. By providing a complete model of environmental information, the CRM also provides the Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC) with opportunities to identify new data standards as well as guidance on the structuring of data standards. In conjunction with data standards developed by the EDSC, the CRM facilitates the creation of Shared XML Schema Components (SSC), which are basic XML building blocks that can be used by those designing, revising, or expanding environmental information exchanges via XML schema creation.

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Version: 2.0

Version history: CRM Version 2.0 replaces CRM Version 1.0 (published in March 2003) as the most up-to-date description of the Core Reference Model. Changes include an update to reflect recent changes to the data standards, closer ties between data standards and the Core Reference Model, updated references, and a more streamlined representation of the model.

Revision date: September 11, 2005

Commission date: April 2004

Relations:

Two companion documents have been created along with the Core Reference Model II:

- **SSC Usage Guide:** introduces the Exchange Network Shared Schema Components (SSC), illustrates the benefits of using sharable schema components based on approved EDSC data standards as an alternative to XML schema developed without such standards, and provides detailed guidance to XML schema developers on how they can incorporate the SSC into their data flow XML schema.
- **SSC Technical Reference:** provides a detailed technical representation of the Shared Schema Components (SSC). For each SSC, the elements that are referenced and their details (namespace, type, attributes, facet restrictions, and annotations) are provided.

In addition, the CRM is related to the Design Rules and Conventions document, which provides guidance for developing schema for the Exchange Network.

Review Process: Document reviewed at various draft stages.

Reviewers: Reviewed by CRM lead (Mike Beaulac) and the NTG.

Follow-up Actions:

The document describes the following recommended follow-up activities:

- Resolve Inconsistencies Between CRM and EDSC Data Standards
- Define CRM's role in the Exchange Network
- Launch CRM Phase III Development (based on item above)

The document lists the potential groups who could be assigned to lead each activity, the estimated duration, and an approximately one page description of what the activity involves.

In addition, the Design Rules and Conventions document must be updated to be consistent with this document (an RFP that includes this activity was approved by the NOB in September 2005).

Pros and Cons: This document provides the most up-to-date information on major groupings of environmental data and their relationships for the Exchange Network.

Actions Required: The NTG, on behalf of the former TRG, recommends that the NOB accept this document and provide it to the Network community.