

Glossary of Exchange Network Related Groups

CDX – Central Data Exchange

EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX) is the point of entry on the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (Exchange Network) for environmental data submissions to the Agency. Through CDX and the Exchange Network, EPA is working with reporting entities, including industry, States and local and Tribal agencies to enable streamlined, electronic submission of data via the Internet. The Central Data Exchange Team is responsible for: developing the technical capabilities to receive and process electronic reports, developing an appropriate policy and legal framework to ensure that electronic submissions are legally acceptable, and working with States, Tribes and reporting entities on facilitating data submissions.

DMWG – Data Management Workgroup

The Data Management Workgroup is the state component of the State/EPA IMWG formed in 1998 to address issues related to information management in the States and to find innovative solutions for common problems. Currently there are 28 official State members, with over 35 States active on various projects.

EDSC – Environmental Data Standards Council

The Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC) develops environmental data standards to promote the exchange of information among States, Native American Tribes, and EPA. The Council identifies those areas of information for which having standards will render the most value in achieving environmental results, prioritizes the areas, and pursues the development of data standards.

IMWG - Information Management Workgroup

State/EPA Information Management Workgroup (IMWG) is composed of senior leaders from EPA and state environmental agencies. The IMWG was formed in 1998 to work on information management issues of joint concern to States and EPA.

NAAS – Network Authentication and Authorization Services

Network Authentication and Authorization Services (NAAS) provides centralized security services. Security tokens and assertions issued by NAAS are trusted and accepted by all Network Nodes. All operations defined in NAAS must be conducted over a secure SSL channel using 128 bit encryption.

NSB – Network Steering Board

The Network Steering Board is the administrative body which governs the implementation, operation, and ongoing maintenance of the Network. The NSB's primary functions are to oversee and steer implementation of the Network, maintain and operate a Network Registry/Repository and develop guidance and best practice recommendations.

TRG - Technical Resources Group

The TRG's primary responsibility is to provide specific technical advice and assistance to the NSB on issues relating to the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the Network. The TRG is comprised of four subgroups, the Core Reference Model subgroup (CRM), the Data Exchange Template (DET) subgroup, the Network Registry/Repository subgroup, and the Schema Review subgroup..

TRG (CRM) - Technical Resources Group (Core Reference Model)

The CRM subgroup's major responsibility is to create the Network Core Reference Model. The CRM is a high-level description or roadmap of Network data flows that shows the relationships among major data groups, data standards, and data flows. The CRM is a tool used to identify opportunities for data standardization that will improve data flows and data flows that might benefit from data standards & harmonization.

TRG (DET) - Technical Resources Group (Data Exchange Template)

The primary responsibility of the DET subgroup is to provide technical guidance on creation, use, and harmonization of Network DETs. The DET subgroup will or has created several documents which address; Network XML Schema Design Rules, Conventions and Guidance; Handling Code Lists and Enumerations in XML Schema; Managing Nillable Values in XML Schema; and Network Namespace Management.

TRG (Registry) - Technical Resources Group Registry

The Network Registry/Repository subgroup is responsible for scoping, selecting, and building the Network Registry/Repository.

TRG (Schema Review) - Technical Resources Group Schema Review

The Schema Review Workgroup is a new effort intended to further ensure the harmonization and compliance of existing and future Schema. The workgroup will establish a pilot to review 3 existing Schema and to establish the process and procedures for reviewing all other Schema.

Glossary of Terms/Acronyms

Address: a part of a WSDL file describing information for locating the specified service.

Binding: a part of a WSDL file describing information about the transport protocol to be used.

Client: any user having access to the information from the Network, typically a Node, utilizing a browser based tool for the retrieval and display of a Service Provider / Partner's information.

Data Type: a part of a WSDL file describing information for all message requests and message responses.

FRS – Facility Registry System: FRS provides Internet access to a single source of comprehensive information on facilities subject to environmental regulations or of particular environmental interest. Currently CDX and FRS are working with 6 state partners engaged in the exchange of FRS data.

HTTP – Hyper Text Transfer Protocol: the underlying protocol used by the World Wide Web. HTTP defines how messages are formatted and transmitted, and what actions Web servers and browsers should take in response to various commands.

HTTPS - Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure: A secure version of HTTP. Simply it is SSL underneath HTTP.

Interface: a part of a WSDL file describing information describing all available functions/methods.

NEI – National Emissions Inventory: a Clean Air Act (CAA) collection of point, area, mobile and biogenic emissions data periodically submitted to EPA's Office of Air and Radiation by State and local air programs.

Network WSDL: the first version of a WSDL file to be used by all Exchange Network partners in building a first generation Node or a Node 1.0 product.

Operation: a logical grouping of messages that can be defined as either “input” to the web service, “output” from the web service, or a “fault” or error returned by the web service. This is the basic information needed to generate the operational primitives that are the foundation of the Network service interactions.

Partner - one of the two entities in a Trading Partner exchange. The Partner can either be the information provider or the information requester (client/consumer).

Registry: the title of the repository of schema being utilized for Network exchanges. The registry is the official record of Schema, during different phases of development, for the use of all Network Exchange Partners.

Service Consumer: a partner or client using the Network to obtain information from a service provider.

Service Provider: the provider of the web service. The service provider implements the service, publishes its availability, makes it available on the Internet, and processes requests for services.

Service Requester: any consumer of the web service. The service requester discovers an existing web service, retrieves its description, and then utilizes the web service by opening a network connection and sending an Extensible Markup Language (XML) request conforming to its interface description.

SOAP - Simple Object Access Protocol: SOAP is an XML-based protocol for exchanging information between computers.

SSL - Secure Sockets Layer: Secure Sockets Layer, a protocol developed by Netscape for transmitting private documents via the Internet. SSL works by using a public key to encrypt data that's transferred over the SSL connection. By convention, URLs that require an SSL connection start with https: instead of http:.

Stack: The basic protocol of a web service can be visualized as a stack of several layers of capability with various standards applicable to each layer. Each layer is independent from the layers above and below it. Each has its own job that provides greater flexibility allowing the connection of all forms of disparate systems and network technologies to support distributed processing over the Internet.

TPA - Trading Partner Agreements: written agreements that define the partners, information, stewardship, security, and other items essential for the exchange of information between two or more trading partners on the Network. In short, TPAs establish formal processes for managing the flow of information across the Network. TPAs may apply to exchanges initiated by the sender or those initiated at the request of the receiver. If exchanges are intended to meet mandatory reporting requirement, TPAs are necessary when automated exchanges are to take place without operator intervention.

Trading Partners: the two parties involved in an exchange of information over the Network and will, at some point in time, establish a TPA to formalize their exchange process.

UDDI - Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration: A Web-based distributed directory that enables Partners to list themselves on the Internet and discover each other, similar to a traditional phone book's yellow and white pages.

URI - Uniform Resource Identifier: The generic term for all types of names and addresses that refer to objects on the World Wide Web. A URL is one kind of URI.

WSDL -Web Services Description Language: An XML-based language specification defining how to describe a web service in computer readable form.

XML - Extensible Markup Language: XML is a mark-up language designed especially for Web documents. It allows designers to create their own customized tags, enabling the definition, transmission, validation, and interpretation of data between applications and between partners.

XML Schema: XML Schemas express shared vocabularies and allow machines to carry out rules made by people. They provide a means for defining the structure, content and semantics of XML documents.