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Related work:

This specification is related to:

* *STIX™**Version 1.2.1*. Edited by Sean Barnum, Desiree Beck, Aharon Chernin, and Rich Piazza. 05 May 2016. OASIS Committee Specification 01. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/cti/stix/v1.2.1/cs01/part1-overview/stix-v1.2.1-cs01-part1-overview.html>.

Abstract:

The Cyber Observable Expression (CybOX™) is a standardized language for encoding and communicating high-fidelity information about cyber observables, whether dynamic events or stateful measures that are observable in the operational cyber domain. By specifying a common structured schematic mechanism for these cyber observables, the intent is to enable the potential for detailed automatable sharing, mapping, detection, and analysis heuristics. This specification document defines the default extensions, data model, which enables external data models to be included in CybOX content.

Status:

This document was last revised or approved by the OASIS Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) TC on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the “Latest version” location noted above for possible later revisions of this document. Any other numbered Versions and other technical work produced by the Technical Committee (TC) are listed at <https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=cti#technical>.

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# Introduction

[All text is normative unless otherwise labeled.]

The Cyber Observable Expression (CybOX™) Language provides a common structure for representing cyber observables across and among the operational areas of enterprise cyber security. CybOX improves the consistency, efficiency, and interoperability of deployed tools and processes, and it increases overall situational awareness by enabling the potential for detailed automatable sharing, mapping, detection, and analysis heuristics.

This document serves as the specification for the CybOX Default Extensions Version 2.1.1 data model, which enables external data models to be included in CybOX content.

In Section **1.1,** we discuss additional specification documents, in Section **1.2,** we provide document conventions, and in Section **1.3,** we provide terminology. References are given in Sections **1.4**. In Section **2**, we give background information necessary to fully understand the Default Extensions data model. We present the Default Extensions data model specification details in Section **3** and conformance information in Section **4**.

## CybOXTM Specification Documents

The CybOX specification consists of a formal UML model and a set of textual specification documents that explain the UML model. Specification documents have been written for each of the individual data models that compose the full CybOX UML model.

CybOX has a modular design comprising two fundamental data models and a collection of Object data models. The fundamental data models – CybOX Core and CybOX Common – provide essential CybOX structure and functionality. The CybOX Objects, defined in individual data models, are precise characterizations of particular types of observable cyber entities (e.g., HTTP session, Windows registry key, DNS query).

Use of the CybOX Core and Common data models is required; however, use of the CybOX Object data models is purely optional: users select and use only those Objects and corresponding data models that are needed. Importing the entire [CybOX suite of data models](#AdditionalArtifacts) is not necessary.

The [*CybOX™ Version 2.1.1 Part 1: Overview*](#AdditionalArtifacts) document provides a comprehensive overview of the full set of CybOX data models, which in addition to the Core, Common, and numerous Object data models, includes various extension data models and a vocabularies data model, which contains a set of default controlled vocabularies. [*CybOX™ Version 2.1.1 Part 1: Overview*](#AdditionalArtifacts) also summarizes the relationship of CybOX to other externally defined data models, and outlines general CybOX data model conventions.

## Document Conventions

The following conventions are used in this document.

### Fonts

The following font and font style conventions are used in the document:

* Capitalization is used for CybOX high-level concepts, which are defined in [*CybOX™ Version 2.1.1 Part 1: Overview*](#AdditionalArtifacts).

Examples: Action, Object, Event, Property

* The Courier New font is used for writing UML objects.

Examples: ActionType, cyboxCommon:BaseObjectPropertyType

Note that all high-level concepts have a corresponding UML object. For example, the Action high-level concept is associated with a UML class named, ActionType.

* The ‘*italic’* font (withsingle quotes) is used for noting actual, explicit values for CybOX Language properties. The *italic* font (without quotes) is used for noting example values.

 Example:  *‘HashNameVocab-1.0,’ high, medium, low*

### UML Package References

Each CybOX data model is captured in a different UML package (e.g., Core package) where the packages together compose the full [CybOX UML model](#AdditionalArtifacts). To refer to a particular class of a specific package, we use the format package\_prefix:class, where package\_prefix corresponds to the appropriate UML package.

### UML Diagrams

This specification makes use of UML diagrams to visually depict relationships between CybOX Language constructs. Note that the diagrams have been extracted directly from the full UML model for CybOX; they have not been constructed purely for inclusion in the specification documents. Typically, diagrams are included for the primary class of a data model, and for any other class where the visualization of its relationships between other classes would be useful. This implies that there will be very few diagrams for classes whose only properties are either a data type or a class from the CybOX Common data model. Other diagrams that are included correspond to classes that specialize a superclass and abstract or generalized classes that are extended by one or more subclasses.

In UML diagrams, classes are often presented with their attributes elided, to avoid clutter. The fully described class can usually be found in a related diagram. A class presented with an empty section at the bottom of the icon indicates that there are no attributes other than those that are visualized using associations.

#### Class Properties

Generally, a class property can be shown in a UML diagram as either an attribute or an association (i.e., the distinction between attributes and associations is somewhat subjective). In order to make the size of UML diagrams in the specifications manageable, we have chosen to capture most properties as attributes and to capture only higher-level properties as associations. In particular, we will always capture properties of UML data types as attributes.

#### Diagram Icons and Arrow Types

Diagram icons are used in a UML diagram to indicate whether a shape is a class, enumeration, or a data type, and decorative icons are used to indicate whether an element is an attribute of a class or an enumeration literal. In addition, two different arrow styles indicate either a directed association relationship (regular arrowhead) or a generalization relationship (triangle-shaped arrowhead). The icons and arrow styles we use are shown and described in **Table 1‑1**.

Table ‑. UML diagram icons

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Icon** | **Description** |
|  | This diagram icon indicates a class. If the name is in italics, it is an abstract class. |
|  | This diagram icon indicates an enumeration. |
|  | This diagram icon indicates a data type.  |
|  | This decorator icon indicates an attribute of a class. The green circle means its visibility is public. If the circle is red or yellow, it means its visibility is private or protected. |
|  | This decorator icon indicates an enumeration literal. |
|  | This arrow type indicates a directed association relationship. |
|  | This arrow type indicates a generalization relationship.  |

### Property Table Notation

Throughout Section **3,** tables are used to describe the properties of each data model class. Each property table consists of a column of names to identify the property, a type column to reflect the datatype of the property, a multiplicity column to reflect the allowed number of occurrences of the property, and a description column that describes the property. Package prefixes are provided for classes outside of the Default Extensions data model (see Section **1.2.2**).

Note that if a class is a specialization of a superclass, only the properties that constitute the specialization are shown in the property table (i.e., properties of the superclass will not be shown). However, details of the superclass may be shown in the UML diagram.

### Property and Class Descriptions

Each class and property defined in CybOX is described using the format, “The X property verbY.” For example, in the specification for the CybOX Core data model, we write, “The id property specifies a globally unique identifier for the Action.” In fact, the verb “specifies” could have been replaced by any number of alternatives: “defines,” “describes,” “contains,” “references,” etc.

However, we thought that using a wide variety of verb phrases might confuse a reader of a specification document because the meaning of each verb could be interpreted slightly differently. On the other hand, we didn’t want to use a single, generic verb, such as “describes,” because although the different verb choices may or may not be meaningful from an implementation standpoint, a distinction could be useful to those interested in the modeling aspect of CybOX.

Consequently, we have preferred to use the three verbs, defined as follows, in class and property descriptions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Verb** | **CybOX Definition** |
| captures | Used to record and preserve information without implying anything about the structure of a class or property. Often used for properties that encompass general content. This is the least precise of the three verbs.  |
|  | *Examples*:The Observable\_Source property characterizes the source of the Observable information. Examples of details captured include identifying characteristics, time-related attributes, and a list of the tools used to collect the information.The Description property captures a textual description of the Action.  |
| characterizes | Describes the distinctive nature or features of a class or property. Often used to describe classes and properties that themselves comprise one or more other properties. |
|  | *Examples*:The Action property characterizes a cyber observable Action.The Obfuscation\_Technique property characterizes a technique an attacker could potentially leverage to obfuscate the Observable.  |
| specifies | Used to clearly and precisely identify particular instances or values associated with a property. Often used for properties that are defined by a controlled vocabulary or enumeration; typically used for properties that take on only a single value. |
|  | *Example*:The cybox\_major\_version property specifies the major version of the CybOX language used for the set of Observables. |

## Terminology

The key words “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

## Normative References

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., “Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels”, BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997. <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>.

[CPE] Common Platform Enumeration (CPE). (2014, Nov. 28). The MITRE Corporation. [Online]. Available: <http://cpe.mitre.org>.

**[CIQ]** *Customer Information Quality (CIQ) Specifications Version 3.0*. Edited by Ram Kumar. 8 April 2008. OASIS Public Review Draft 03. Available: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/ciq/v3.0/specs/ciq-specs-v3.html>.

# Background Information

In this section, we provide high-level information that is necessary to fully understand the Default Extension data models specification details given in Section **3**.

## Extending CybOX

In any UML model, an arbitrary class can usually be extended, but in general, extending a data model is antithetical to the concept behind a standardized data model used for sharing information. However, some of the concepts that need to be represented in CybOX already are defined in established data models outside of CybOX. To support the inclusion of those data models into CybOX, a number of extension point classes have been identified. The number of extension points is not fixed, and others might be added in the future, if the need arises.

This document defines the default extension data models and their associated classes, which are specializations of the extension point classes. These default extension classes compose the currently available extension data models. The extensions defined in this document are defaults; others can be used. Note that some extension point classes do not have a corresponding default data model externally defined. Additionally, some extension point classes have no corresponding extension class defined in the CybOX Default Extension data models (see the extension point class definitions for more details).

**Table 2‑1** shows the relationship between the extension point classes and the default extension classes.

Table ‑. Extension points classes

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Extension Point Class** | **Abstract?** | **Contains Properties?** | **Externally Defined Data Model?** | **Default Extension Classes** |
| cyboxCore: DomainSpecificObjectPropertiesType | Y | N | N | *None* |
| cyboxCommon:LocationType | N | Y | Y | ciq\_address\_3.0:CIQAddress3.0InstanceType |
| cyboxCommon:PlatformSpecificationType | N | Y | Y | cpe\_2.3:CPE23PlatformSpecificationType |
| cyboxCommon:ToolSpecificDataType | Y | N | N | *None* |

From a UML package perspective, **Table 2‑2** shows the relationships between the various UML packages that exist to support a modular approach to creating extensions to the CybOX data models. Each extension data model has its own package. The primary class of each of those packages specializes an extension point class that is contained in one of the other packages of the CybOX model. The extension classes generally have one or more properties to support the connection between the CybOX and the externally defined data models. Those properties are either associated with a class from the corresponding external package or contain a text specification in the native format of the external data model. In the former case, we provide the name of the external defined package in the table. If a text specification is used, then the package name is not applicable, because there is no formally defined UML package.

Table ‑. Packages Associated with the Default Extension Data Models

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Extension Class Package** | **Extension Point Class Package** | **External Data Model Package** |
| ciq\_address\_3.0 | cyboxCommon | a |
| cpe2.3 | cyboxCommon | cpe |

#

# CybOX Default Extension Data Models

Each CybOX extension data model contains a primary class, called the extension class that extends a class in one or more other CybOX data models. In sections **3.1** and **3.2** we define the classes of each extension data model. Externally defined data models are contained in a UML package named external. The names of the packages used in this document for the external data models are often aliases (e.g., the package a is an alias for urn:oasis:names:tc:ciq:xal from the external data model).

## Addresses: Location Data Model

The default extension class for expressing geographic address information in CybOX 2.2.1 is the CIQAddress3.0InstanceType class. The underlying data model being referenced is the structured characterization of addresses of the OASIS Customer Information Quality (CIQ) Specification as defined in [**[CIQ]**](#ciq).

### CIQAddress3.0InstanceType Class

The CIQAddress3.0InstanceType class is defined as a subclass to extend the cybox\_common:LocationType superclass and belongs to the ciq\_address\_3.0 package. As shown in **Figure 3‑1**, the CIQAddress3.0InstanceType class imports and leverages version 3.0 of the OASIS CIQ-PIL schema for structured characterization of addresses.

 

Figure ‑. UML diagram of the CIQAddress3.0InstanceType class

The property table for the CIQAddress3.0InstanceType class is given in **Table 3‑1**.

Table ‑. Properties of the CIQAddress3.0InstanceType class

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Type** | **Multiplicity** | **Description** |
| **Specification** | a:AddressType | 1 | The Specification property specifies a potentially long set of address-related information including address type (e.g., business, rural)*,* country, administrative area, locality, postcode, and geolocation. |

## Platform Data Model

### CPE23PlatformSpecificationType Class

The CPE23PlatformSpecificationType class is defined as a subclass to extend the cybox\_common:PlatformSpecificationType superclass and belongs to the cpe\_2.3 package. As shown in **Figure 3‑2**, the CPE23PlatformSpecificationType class imports and leverages version 2.3 of the Common Platform Enumeration (CPE) [**[CPE]**](#CPE) schema for structured characterization of platforms.

 

Figure ‑. UML diagram for the CPE23PlatformSpecificationType class

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Type** | **Multiplicity** | **Description** |
| **platform-specification** | cpe:platformSpecificationType | 0..1 | The platform-specification property, defined in the CPE 2.3 Applicability Language schema, supports a structured characterization of a platform or combination of platforms. |

# Conformance

Implementations have discretion over which parts (components, properties, extensions, controlled vocabularies, etc.) of CybOX they implement (e.g., Observable/Object).

[1] Conformant implementations must conform to all normative structural specifications of the UML model or additional normative statements within this document that apply to the portions of CybOX they implement (e.g., implementers of the entire Observable class must conform to all normative structural specifications of the UML model regarding the Observable class, and to additional normative statements contained in the document that describes the Observable class).

[2] Conformant implementations are free to ignore normative structural specifications of the UML model or additional normative statements within this document that do not apply to the portions of CybOX they implement (e.g., non-implementers of any particular properties of the Observable class are free to ignore all normative structural specifications of the UML model regarding those properties of the Observable class, and any additional normative statements contained in the document that describes the Observable class).

The conformance section of this document is intentionally broad and attempts to reiterate what already exists in this document.

1. Acknowledgments

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1. Revision History

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