

CybOX™ Version 2.1.1. Part 06: UML Model

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Technical Committee:

[OASIS Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) TC](https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/cti/)

Chair:

Richard Struse (Richard.Struse@HQ.DHS.GOV), [DHS Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C)](http://www.dhs.gov/office-cybersecurity-and-communications)

Editors:

Desiree Beck (dbeck@mitre.org), [MITRE Corporation](http://www.mitre.org/)

Trey Darley (trey@kingfisherops.com), Individual member

Ivan Kirillov (ikirillov@mitre.org), [MITRE Corporation](http://www.mitre.org/)

Rich Piazza (rpiazza@mitre.org), [MITRE Corporation](http://www.mitre.org/)

Additional artifacts:

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Related work:

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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 document describes the use of UML to create a data model for CybOX.

Status:

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Table of Contents

[1 Introduction 6](#_Toc458095418)

[1.1 CybOX™ Specification Documents 6](#_Toc458095419)

[1.2 Document Conventions 6](#_Toc458095420)

[1.2.1 Fonts 6](#_Toc458095421)

[1.3 Terminology 7](#_Toc458095422)

[1.4 Normative References 7](#_Toc458095423)

[1.5 Non-Normative References 7](#_Toc458095424)

[2 UML Model Artifact 8](#_Toc458095425)

[3 Data Model Conventions 9](#_Toc458095426)

[3.1 UML Packages 9](#_Toc458095427)

[3.2 Naming Conventions 10](#_Toc458095428)

[3.3 UML Stereotypes 10](#_Toc458095429)

[3.4 UML Diagrams 10](#_Toc458095430)

[3.4.1 Class Properties 11](#_Toc458095431)

[3.4.2 Diagram Icons and Arrow Types 11](#_Toc458095432)

[4 Conformance 13](#_Toc458095433)

[Appendix A. Acknowledgments 14](#_Toc458095434)

[Appendix B. Revision History 18](#_Toc458095435)

# Introduction

[All text is normative unless otherwise labeled.]

The Cyber Observable Expression (CybOXTM) 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 specification document provides brief summary information on the form and use of the CybOX Language UML model. In addition to this textual specification document, [*CybOX Version 2.2.1 Part 6: UML Model*](#Additional_Artifacts) consists of an actual digital serialization of the UML model and a set of relevant UML diagrams extracted from the UML model and used throughout the CybOX Language specification.

In Section **1.1** we discuss the additional specification documents, in Section **1.2** we provide document conventions, and in Section **0** we provide terminology. References are given in Sections **1.4** and **1.5**. In Section **2**, we give summary information on the form of the digitally serialized UML model artifact, and in Section **3** we provide general information and conventions for how the UML model is used to define the individual data models. Conformance information is provided in Section **4**.

## CybOX™ 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 the eighty-eight Object data models, includes 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*

## 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>.

## Non-Normative References

**[****GitHub-IO]** CybOX – Cyber Observable eXpression | CybOX Project Documentation. (n.d.). The MITRE Corporation. [Online]. Available: <http://cyboxproject.github.io/>. Accessed Dec 15, 2015.

**[****UML-2.4.1**] Documents associated with Unified Modeling Language (UML), V2.4.1. (Aug. 2011). The Object Management Group (OMG). [Online]. Available: <http://www.omg.org/spec/UML/2.4.1/>.

**[XMI**] Documents associated with XMI Version 2.1. (September 2005). The Object Management Group (OMG). [Online]. Available: <http://www.omg.org/spec/XMI/2.1/>.

**[PNG]** Portable Network Graphics (PNG) Specification (November 2003). The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). [Online]. Available: <http://www.w3.org/TR/PNG/>.

# UML Model Artifact

The CybOX UML model is formally represented in the form of a digital serialization using the XML Metadata Interchange (XMI) language. The XMI language is intended to be an open standardized form supporting the expression of UML models in a non-proprietary manner. In reality, many UML modeling tools tend to include some proprietary elements in their XMI output. The CybOX UML model was produced using Rational Software Architect (RSA) version 9.1, a product of the IBM Corporation. Effort has been made to minimize the level of proprietary content (from the RSA tool) in the XMI serialization, but it should be noted that some portion may still remain.

For the broadest possible interoperability between UML tools the model is provided as an XMI serialization using UML2.2/XMI2.1 [[XMI]](#XMI) containing only the model and not the diagrams. A set of relevant UML diagrams, extracted from the UML model and leveraged throughout the CybOX Language specification documents, is also provided in a rastered (portable network graphics [[PNG]](#PNG)) form.

In addition, for those with tools that can import the more complete RSA tool native .EMX format, the model with embedded diagrams is also provided in this form.

# Data Model Conventions

The following general information and conventions are used to define the individual data models in UML.

## UML Packages

Each CybOX data model is captured in a different UML package (e.g., Core package, FileObj package, etc.). 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. **Table 3‑1** lists some of the key packages used throughout the CybOX data model specification documents, along with the prefix notation and an example. Each of the eighty-eight CybOX Objects are defined within their own UML package, to support modularity. They are too numerous to mentioned here, but are described in each of the separate specifications documents, [parts 7 through 94](#AdditionalArtifacts).

Table ‑. Package prefixes used by the CybOX Language

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Package | CybOX Core |
| **Prefix** | **cybox** |
| Description | The CybOX Core data model defines the main classes of the CybOX data model, such as ActionType, EventType, ObservableType, and ObjectType. |
| Example | cybox:ObservableType |
|  |
| Package | CybOX Common |
| **Prefix** | **cyboxCommon** |
| Description | The CybOX Common data model defines classes that are shared across the various CybOX data models. |
| Example | cyboxCommon:ConfidenceType |
|  |  |
| Package | CybOX Default Vocabularies |
| **Prefix** | **cyboxVocabs** |
| Description | The CybOX default vocabularies define the classes for default controlled vocabularies used within CybOX. |
| Example | cyboxVocabs:ActionTypeVocab |
|  |
| Package | CybOX Basic Data Types |
| **Prefix** | **basicDataTypes** |
| Description | The CybOX Basic Data Types data model defines the types used within CybOX. |
| Example | basicDataTypes:URI |
|  |  |

## Naming Conventions

The UML classes, enumerations, and properties defined in CybOX follow the particular naming conventions outlined in **Table 3‑2**.

Table ‑. Naming formats of different object types

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Object Type** | **Format** | **Example** |
| Class | CamelCase ending with “Type” | ActionType |
| Property (simple) | Lowercase with underscores between words | scale |
| Property (complex) | Capitalized with underscores between words | Discovery\_Method |
| Enumeration | CamelCase ending with “Enum” or “Type | DateTimePrecisionEnum; EffectTypeEnum |
| Enumeration value | *varies* | Flash drive; Public Disclosure; Externally-Located |
| Data type | CamelCase, or if the words are acronyms, all capitalized with underscores between words | PositiveInteger; URI |

## UML Stereotypes

Certain UML classes are associated with the UML stereotype <<choice>>. The <<choice>> stereotype specifies that only one of the available properties of the class can be populated at any time. The CybOX UML models utilize Has\_Choice as the role/property name for associations to <<choice>> stereotyped classes. This property is a modeling convention rather than a native element of the underlying data model and acts as a placeholder for one of the available properties of the <<choice>> stereotyped class.

NOTE: Importing the UML models into a tool other than Rational Software Architect (RSA) version 9.1 (using the files with the uml file extensions) might not apply the stereotype correctly. If not, the classes that contain the word “Choice” are the ones that the stereotype should have been applied to.

## UML Diagrams

This document indicates how UML diagrams are used to visually depict relationships between CybOX Language constructs in the rest of the specification. Note that the example diagrams have been extracted directly from the full UML model for CybOX; they have not been constructed purely for inclusion in this or the other specification documents. Typically, diagrams are included where the visualization of their relationships between classes is useful for illustration purposes. 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. All component data models include a top-level diagram (see **Figure 3‑1**).



Figure ‑. Top-level package diagram (ObjectType data model)

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 (see **Figure 3‑2**).



Figure ‑. Different presentations of class attributes

### 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, especially in the main top-level component diagrams. In particular, we will always capture properties of UML data types as attributes. For example, properties of a class that are identifiers, titles, and timestamps will be represented 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 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 3‑3**.

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.  |

# 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.

# Acknowledgments

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
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# Revision History

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| **Revision** | **Date** | **Editor** | **Changes Made** |
| wd01 | 15 December 2015 | Desiree Beck Trey Darley Ivan Kirillov Rich Piazza | Initial transfer to OASIS template |