

# OData JSON Format Version 4.0

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#### Technical Committee:

OASIS Open Data Protocol (OData) TC

#### Chairs:

Barbara Hartel ([barbara.hartel@sap.com](mailto:barbara.hartel@sap.com)), SAP AG  
Ram Jeyaraman ([Ram.Jeyaraman@microsoft.com](mailto:Ram.Jeyaraman@microsoft.com)), Microsoft

#### Editors:

Ralf Handl ([ralf.handl@sap.com](mailto:ralf.handl@sap.com)), SAP AG  
Mike Pizzo ([mikep@microsoft.com](mailto:mikep@microsoft.com)), Microsoft  
Mark Biamonte ([mark.biamonte@progress.com](mailto:mark.biamonte@progress.com)), Progress Software

#### Related work:

This specification is related to:

- *OData Version 4.0*, a multi-part Work Product which includes:
  - *OData Version 4.0 Part 1: Protocol*. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata/v4.0/odata-v4.0-part1-protocol.html>
  - *OData Version 4.0 Part 2: URL Conventions*. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata/v4.0/odata-v4.0-part2-url-conventions.html>
  - *OData Version 4.0 Part 3: Common Schema Definition Language (CSDL)*. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata/v4.0/odata-v4.0-part3-csdl.html>
  - ABNF components: *OData ABNF Construction Rules Version 4.0* and *OData ABNF Test Cases*. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata/v4.0/csprd01/abnf/>
- *OData Atom Format Version 4.0*. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-atom-format/v4.0/odata-atom-format-v4.0.html>

#### Abstract:

The Open Data Protocol (OData) is a set of specifications for representing and interacting with structured content. This document extends the core OData Protocol specification by defining representations for OData requests and responses using a JSON format.

**Status:**

This document was last revised or approved by the OASIS Open Data Protocol (OData) 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.

Technical Committee members should send comments on this specification to the Technical Committee’s email list. Others should send comments to the Technical Committee by using the “Send A Comment” button on the Technical Committee’s web page at <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/odata/>.

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# 1 Introduction

The OData protocol is comprised of a set of specifications for representing and interacting with structured content. The core specification for the protocol is in **[OData-Protocol]**; this document is an extension of the core protocol. This document defines representations for the OData requests and responses using the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON), see **[RFC4627]**.

An OData JSON payload may represent:

- a [single primitive value](#)
- a [sequence of primitive values](#)
- a [single complex type value](#)
- a [sequence of complex type values](#)
- a [single entity](#) or [entity reference](#)
- a [sequence of entities](#) or [entity references](#)
- a [sequence of changes](#)
- a [service document](#) describing the top-level resources exposed by the service
- an [error](#)

This document contains many example JSON payloads or partial JSON payloads. These examples are non-normative and informative only.

## 1.1 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]**.

## 1.2 Normative References

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>[GeoJSON]</b>        | Butler, H., Daly, M., Doyle, A., Gillies, S., Schaub, T., Schmidt, C., "The GeoJSON Format Specification", Revision 1.0, June 2008. <a href="http://geojson.org/geojson-spec.html">http://geojson.org/geojson-spec.html</a> . |
| <b>[OData-ABNF]</b>     | <i>OData ABNF Construction Rules Version 4.0</i> .<br>See link in “Related work” section on cover page.   |
| <b>[OData-CSDL]</b>     | <i>OData Version 4.0 Part 3: Common Schema Definition Language (CSDL)</i> .<br>See link in “Related work” section on cover page.  |
| <b>[OData-Protocol]</b> | <i>OData Version 4.0 Part 1: Protocol</i> .<br>See link in “Related work” section on cover page.  |
| <b>[OData-URL]</b>      | <i>OData Version 4.0 Part 2: URL Conventions</i> .<br>See link in "Related work" section on cover page.   |
| <b>[RFC2119]</b>        | Bradner, S., “Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels”, BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997. <a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt</a> .                                |
| <b>[RFC3986]</b>        | Berners-Lee, T., Fielding, R., and L. Masinter, “Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax”, IETF RFC3986, January 2005. <a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3986.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3986.txt</a> .      |
| <b>[RFC3987]</b>        | Duerst, M. and, M. Suignard, “Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRIs)”, RFC 3987, January 2005. <a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3987.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3987.txt</a> .                                 |
| <b>[RFC4627]</b>        | Crockford, D., “The application/json Media Type for JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)”, RFC 4627, July 2006. <a href="http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4627">http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4627</a> .                            |
| <b>[RFC5646]</b>        | Phillips, A., Ed., and M. Davis, Ed., “Tags for Identifying Languages”, BCP 47, RFC 5646, September 2009. <a href="http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5646">http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5646</a> .                               |

## 1.3 Non-Normative References

[ECMAScript] *ECMAScript Language Specification Edition 5,1*. June 2011. Standard ECMA-262. <http://www.ecma-international.org/publications/standards/Ecma-262.htm>.

---

## 2 JSON Format Design

JSON, as described in [\[RFC4627\]](#), defines a text format for serializing structured data. Objects are serialized as an unordered collection of name-value pairs.

JSON does not define any semantics around the name/value pairs that make up an object, nor does it define an extensibility mechanism for adding control information to a payload.

OData's JSON format extends JSON by defining general conventions for name-value pairs that annotate a JSON object, property or array. OData defines a set of canonical annotations for control information such as ids, types, and links, and custom annotations MAY be used to add domain-specific information to the payload.

A key feature of OData's JSON format is to allow omitting predictable parts of the wire format from the actual payload. To reconstitute this data on the receiving end, expressions are used to compute missing links, type information, and other control data. These expressions (together with the data on the wire) can be used by the client to compute predictable payload pieces as if they had been included on the wire directly.

Annotations are used in JSON to capture control information that cannot be predicted (e.g., the next link of a collection of entities) as well as a mechanism to provide values where a computed value would be wrong (e.g., if the media read link of one particular entity does not follow the standard URL conventions). Computing values from metadata expressions is compute intensive and some clients might opt for a larger payload size to avoid computational complexity; to accommodate for this the `Accept` header allows the client to control the amount of control information added to the response.

To optimize streaming scenarios, there are a few restrictions that MAY be imposed on the sequence in which name/value pairs appear within JSON objects. For details on the ordering requirements see [Payload Ordering Constraints](#).



---

## 3 Requesting the JSON Format

The OData JSON format MAY be requested using the `$format` query option in the request URL with the MIME type `application/json`, optionally followed by format parameters, or the case-insensitive abbreviation `json`.

Alternatively, this format MAY be requested using the `Accept` header with the MIME type `application/json`, optionally followed by format parameters.

If specified, `$format` overrides any value specified in the `Accept` header.

### 3.1 Controlling the Amount of Control Information in Responses

The amount of [control information](#) needed (or desired) in the payload depends on the client application and device. The `odata.metadata` parameter can be applied to the `Accept` header of an OData request to influence how much control information will be included in the response. For the purpose of this section, we will take the following two assumptions:

- The media-range for the `Accept` header is set to `application/json`.
- Other `Accept` header parameters (e.g., `odata.streaming`) are orthogonal to the `odata.metadata` parameter and are therefore not mentioned in this section.

If a client prefers a very small wire size and is intelligent enough to compute data using metadata expressions, the `Accept` header should include `odata.metadata=minimal`. If compute is more expensive than wire size or the client is incapable of computing control information, `odata.metadata=full` directs the server to inline the control information that normally would be computed from metadata expressions in the payload. `odata.metadata=none` is an option for clients that have out-of-band knowledge or don't require control information.

#### 3.1.1 `odata.metadata=minimal`

The client MAY specify `odata.metadata=minimal` to indicate that the server SHOULD remove computable control information from the payload wherever possible. This is the default value for the `odata` parameter and will be assumed if no other value is specified in the `Accept` header or `$format` query option. The response payload MUST contain at least the following common [annotations](#):

- `odata.metadata`: the metadata URL of the payload.
- `odata.etag`: the ETag of the entity.
- `odata.count`: the inline count of a set of entities or collection of entity references, if requested.
- `odata.nextLink`: the next link of a set of entities or collection of entity references.
- `odata.deltaLink`: the delta link for obtaining changes to the result, if requested.

In addition, `odata.*` annotations MUST appear in the payload for cases where actual values are not the same as the computed values and MAY appear otherwise. When `odata.*` annotations appear in the payload, they MUST be treated as exceptions to the computed values.

Media entities and named stream properties MAY in addition contain the following annotations:

- `odata.mediaEtag`: the ETag of the stream.
- `odata.mediaContentType`: the content type of the stream.

#### 3.1.2 `odata.metadata=full`

The client MAY specify `odata.metadata=full` to include all control information explicitly in the payload. The service MUST return all metadata in this case.

The full list of annotations that may appear in an `odata.metadata=full` response are as follows:

- `odata.metadata`: the metadata URL for a collection, entity, primitive value, or service document.
- `odata.count`: the inline count of a set of entities or collection of entity references, if requested.
- `odata.nextLink`: the next link of a set of entities or collection of entity references.
- `odata.deltaLink`: the delta link for obtaining changes to the result, if requested.
- `odata.id`: the ID of the entity.
- `odata.etag`: the ETag of the entity.
- `odata.kind`: the kind of object (entry, deleted-entry, link, or deleted-link) represented by the entry. If omitted, the entry represents an entity.
- `odata.readLink`: the link used to read the entity, if the `odata.id` does not represent a URL that can be used to read the entity.
- `odata.editLink`: the link used to edit/update the entry, if the entity is updatable and the `odata.id` does not represent a URL that can be used to edit the entity.
- `odata.navigationLink`: the link used to retrieve the values of a navigation property.
- `odata.associationLink`: the link used to describe the relationship between this entity and related entities.
- `odata.type`: the type name of the containing object or targeted property. The type annotation is only present if the type of the object or targeted property cannot be heuristically determined.

Media entities and named stream properties may in addition contain the following annotations:

- `odata.mediaReadLink`: the link used to read the stream.
- `odata.mediaEditLink`: the link used to edit/update the stream.
- `odata.mediaEtag`: the ETag of the stream.
- `odata.mediaContentType`: the content type of the stream.

### 3.1.3 `odata.metadata=none`

The client MAY specify `odata.metadata=none` in order to request that the service omit control information. In this case, the service MAY omit `odata.*` annotations other than `odata.nextLink`, `odata.count` and `odata.deltaLink`. These annotations MUST continue to be included, as applicable, even in the `odata.metadata=none` case.

## 3.2 Controlling the Representation of Numbers

The client MAY specify the format parameter `IEEE754Compatible` for the `application/json` format. If specified the producer MUST serialize `Edm.Int64` and `Edm.Decimal` numbers as strings.

This is due to the fact that JavaScript numbers are 64-bit binary format IEEE 754 values [ECMAScript] (see section 4.3.1.9), so integers lose precision past 15 digits, and decimals lose precision due to the conversion from base 10 to base 2.

OData JSON payloads that format `Edm.Int64` and `Edm.Decimal` values as strings MUST specify this format parameter in the media type returned in the `Content-Type` header.

---

## 4 Common Characteristics

This section describes common characteristics of the representation for OData values in JSON. A request or response body consists of several parts. It contains OData values as part of a larger document. Requests and responses are structured almost identical; the few existing differences will be explicitly called out in the respective subsections.

### 4.1 Header Content-Type

Requests and responses in JSON **MUST** have a `Content-Type` header value of `application/json`.

Requests **MAY** add the `charset` parameter to the content type. Allowed values are `UTF-8`, `UTF-16`, and `UTF-32`. If no `charset` parameter is present, `UTF-8` **MUST** be assumed.

Responses **MUST** add the `odata.metadata` parameter with the same value that was specified in the `Accept` header of the request. If no value was specified in the `Accept` header, `odata.metadata=minimal` **MUST** be used.

Requests and responses **MAY** add the `odata.streaming` parameter with a value of `true` or `false`, see section Payload Ordering Constraints.

### 4.2 Message Body

Each message body **MUST** be represented as a single JSON object. This object is either the representation of an [entity](#), an [entity reference](#) or a [complex type instance](#), or it contains a name/value pair whose name **MUST** be `value` and whose value **MUST** be the correct representation for a [primitive value](#), a [collection of primitive values](#), a [collection of complex values](#), a [collection of entities](#), or a collection of entries that represent [changes to a previous result](#).

### 4.3 Relative URLs

URLs present in a payload (whether request or response) **MAY** be represented as relative URLs to the [metadata URL](#). Processors expanding the URLs **MUST** use normal URL expansion rules and use the metadata URL as a base. The reference resolution rules defined in [\[RFC3986\]](#) imply that the part starting with `$metadata#` is ignored when resolving the relative URL.

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers/@Element",
  ...
  "odata.editLink": "Customers('ALFKI')",
  ...
  "Orders@odata.navigationLink": "Customers('ALFKI')/Orders",
  ...
}
```

The resulting absolute URLs are `http://host/service/Customers('ALFKI')` and `http://host/service/Customers('ALFKI')/Orders`.

### 4.4 Payload Ordering Constraints

Ordering constraints **MAY** be imposed on the JSON payload in order to support streaming scenarios. These ordering constraints **MUST** only be assumed if explicitly specified as some clients (and servers) might not be able to control, or might not care about, the order of the JSON properties in the payload.

Clients can request that a JSON response conform to these ordering constraints by specifying a media type of `application/json` with the `odata.streaming=true` parameter in the `Accept` header or

`$format` query option. Services MUST return 406 Not Acceptable if the client only requests streaming and the service does not support it.

Processors MUST only assume streaming support if it is explicitly indicated in the `Content-Type` header via the `odata.streaming=true` parameter. A payload with

```
Content-Type: application/json;odata.metadata=minimal;odata.streaming=true
```

can thus be assumed to support streaming whereas a payload with

```
Content-Type: application/json;odata.metadata=minimal
```

cannot be assumed to support streaming.

JSON producers are encouraged to follow the payload ordering constraints whenever possible (and include the `odata.streaming=true` content type parameter) to support the maximum set of client scenarios.

To support streaming scenarios the following payload ordering constraints have to be met:

- If present, the `odata.metadata` annotation MUST be the first property in the JSON object.
- The `odata.type` annotation, if present, MUST appear next in the JSON object.
- The `odata.id` and `odata.etag` annotations MUST appear before any property or property annotation.
- All property annotations for property MUST appear as a group immediately before the property they annotate. The one exception is the `odata.nextlink` annotation of an expanded collection which MAY appear after the navigation property it annotates.
- All other `odata.*` annotations MAY appear anywhere in the payload (as long as they are not violating any of the above rules).
- Annotations for navigation properties MUST appear after all structural properties.

## 4.5 Control Information

In addition to the “pure data” a message body MAY contain control information that is represented as [annotations](#) whose names start with `odata` followed by a dot.

Clients that encounter unknown annotations in any namespace, including the `odata` namespace, MUST NOT stop processing and MUST NOT signal an error.

### 4.5.1 Annotation `odata.metadata`

The `odata.metadata` annotation returns the metadata URL (see [\[OData-Protocol\]](#)) for the payload. The `odata.metadata` annotation MUST be the first property of any JSON response that does not specify `odata.metadata=none`.

The `odata.metadata` annotation MUST also be included for entities whose entity set cannot be determined from the [metadata URL of the collection](#). This URL MAY be absolute or relative to the metadata URL of the collection.

The `odata.metadata` annotation MUST also be applied to navigation links for navigation properties not described in the metadata of the containing type. In this case the metadata URL MAY be relative to the metadata URL describing the parent entity and becomes the root metadata URL for the related entity or collection.

For more information on the format of the metadata URL, see [\[OData-Protocol\]](#).

Request payloads in JSON do not require metadata URLs. However, if the request does include the metadata URL, [relative URLs](#) MAY be used in the request payload.

Response payloads MUST NOT contain the metadata URL if `odata.metadata=none` is requested.

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers/@Element",
  "odata.metadataEtag": "A1FF3E230954908F",
  ...
}
```

## 4.5.2 Annotation `odata.metadataEtag`

The `odata.metadataEtag` annotation MAY appear in a response in order to specify the entity tag (ETag) that can be used to determine the version of the metadata of the response.

For details on how ETags are used, see [\[OData-Protocol\]](#).

## 4.5.3 Annotation `odata.type`

The annotation `odata.type` MUST appear if the type cannot be heuristically determined, as described below, and one of the following is true:

- The type is derived from the type specified for the (set of) entities or (collection of) complex type instances, or
- The type is for a property whose type is not declared in `$metadata`.

The following heuristics are used to determine the primitive type of a dynamic property in the absence of the `odata.type` annotation:

- Boolean values have a first-class representation in JSON and do not need any additional annotations.
- Numeric values have a first-class representation in JSON and do not need any additional annotations. If the value of a property is represented as a number without a dot (`.`), `e` or `E` embedded, the type should be interpreted as an integer value.
- Similarly, decimal, double, and single values use the same representation and do not need any additional annotations. If the value of a property is represented as a number with a single dot (`.`), and/or a single `e` or `E` embedded, the type should be interpreted as a decimal, double, or single value. The values `NaN`, `INF`, and `-INF` are serialized as strings and MUST have an `odata.type` annotation to specify the numeric type.
- String values do have a first class representation in JSON, but there is an obvious collision: OData also encodes a number of other primitive types as strings, e.g. `DateTimeOffset`, `Int64`, in the presence of the [IEEE754Compatible](#) format parameter etc. If a property appears in JSON string format, it should be treated as a string value unless the property is known (from the metadata document) to have a different type.

If the `odata.type` annotation is present, its value MUST be the namespace- or alias-qualified name of the instance's type, in which case the type MUST be defined by the root of the current metadata URL, otherwise it MUST be a full URL to a metadata document with the namespace- or alias-qualified name of the instance's type appended as a URL fragment.

For more information on namespace- and alias-qualified names, see **Error! Reference source not found.**

For example, the following represents an entity whose type is `Model.VipCustomer`, defined within the `http://host/service/$metadata` document:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers/@Element",
  "odata.type": "Model.VipCustomer",
  "ID": 2,
  ...
}
```

The following represents an entity whose type is `Model.VipCustomer`, defined within the `http://host/alternate/$metadata` document:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers/@Element",
  "odata.type": "http://host/alternate/$metadata#Model.VipCustomer",
  "ID": 2,
  ...
}
```

#### 4.5.4 Annotation `odata.count`

The `odata.count` annotation contains the inlinecount of a [set of entities](#) or a [collection of entity references](#), see **[OData-Protocol, section 10.2.3.7 The \$inlinecount System Query Option]**. Its value MUST be an `Edm.Int64` value corresponding to the total count of members in the collection represented by the request.

#### 4.5.5 Annotation `odata.nextLink`

The `odata.nextLink` annotation indicates that a response is only a subset of the requested set of entities or collection of entity references. It contains a URL that allows retrieving the next subset of the requested set or collection.

[Expanded to-many navigation properties](#) MAY be also annotated with this annotation.

#### 4.5.6 Annotation `odata.deltaLink`

The `odata.deltaLink` annotation contains a URL that can be used to retrieve changes to the current set of results. The `odata.deltaLink` annotation MUST only appear on the last page of results. A page of results MUST NOT have both an `odata.deltaLink` annotation and an `odata.nextLink` annotation.

#### 4.5.7 Annotation `odata.id`

The `odata.id` annotation contains a durable, opaque, globally unique identifier for an entity or set of entities. Its content MUST be an IRI as defined in **[RFC3987]**. Services are encouraged to use a dereferenceable URL for the id, but consumers MUST NOT assume this IRI can be de-referenced, nor assume any semantics from its structure.

By convention its value is identical to the canonical URL of the entity, as defined in **[OData-URL]**. The annotation `odata.id` will only appear in [minimal metadata](#) and [no metadata](#) cases if its value deviates from the canonical URL of the entity.

#### 4.5.8 Annotation `odata.editLink` and `odata.readLink`

The `odata.editLink` annotation contains a URL that can be used to read, update, or delete the entity. It MUST appear for updatable entities if `odata.metadata=full` is requested or if its value differs from the value of the `odata.id`.

The `odata.readLink` annotation contains a URL that can be used to read the entity. It MUST appear if `odata.metadata=full` is requested and its value differs from the value of the `odata.id` and the `odata.editlink` is not present.

#### 4.5.9 Annotation `odata.kind`

The `odata.kind` annotation is used to differentiate the kind of entry represented by the JSON object according to the table below. Where the object represents an entity, or entity reference, the `odata.kind` annotation is optional and generally not included.

| <code>odata.kind</code> value | Entry type   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Entry                         | The JSON object represents an <a href="#">entity</a> or <a href="#">entity reference</a> . |
| linkEntry                     | The JSON object represents a <a href="#">link</a> .  |
| deletedEntry                  | The JSON object represents a <a href="#">deleted entity</a> .                              |
| deletedLink                   | The JSON object represents a <a href="#">deleted link</a> .                                |

#### 4.5.10 Annotation `odata.etag`

The `odata.etag` annotation MAY be applied to an [entity](#). The value of the annotation is an entity tag (ETag) which is an opaque string value that can be used in a subsequent request to determine if the value of the entity has changed.

For details on how ETags are used, see [\[OData-Protocol\]](#).

#### 4.5.11 Annotation `odata.navigationLink` and `odata.associationLink`

The `odata.navigationLink` annotation contains a URL that can be used to retrieve an entity or collection of entities related to the current entity via a [navigation property](#).

The `odata.associationLink`: annotation contains a URL that can be used to retrieve a reference to an entity or a collection of references to entities related to the current entity via a navigation property.

#### 4.5.12 Annotation `odata.media*`

For [media entities](#) and [named stream properties](#) that don't follow standard URL conventions as defined in [\[OData-URL\]](#), at least one of the annotations `odata.mediaEditLink` and `odata.mediaReadLink` MUST be included.

The `odata.mediaEditLink` annotation contains a URL that can be used to update the binary stream associated with the media entity or named stream property. It MUST be included for updatable media entries if it differs from the value of the `odata.id`, and for updatable named stream properties if it differs from standard URL conventions.

The `odata.mediaReadLink` annotation contains a URL that can be used to read the binary stream associated with the media entity or named stream property. It MUST be included if its value differs from the value of the associated `odata.mediaEditLink`, if present, or the value of the `odata.id` for media entities if the associated `odata.mediaEditLink` is not present.

The `odata.mediaContentType` annotation MAY be included; its value SHOULD match the content type of the binary stream represented by the `odata.mediaReadLink` URL. This is only a hint; the actual content type will be included in a header when the resource is requested.

The `odata.mediaEtag` annotation MAY be included; its value MUST be the ETag of the binary stream represented by this media entity or named stream property.

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Employees/@Element",
  "odata.mediaReadLink": "Employees(1)/$value",
  "odata.mediaContentType": "image/jpeg",
  "EmployeeID": 1,
  ...
}
```

---

## 5 Service Document

A service document in JSON is represented as a single JSON object with at least two properties; `odata.metadata` and `odata.value`.

The value of the `odata.metadata` property MUST be the URL of the metadata document, without any fragment part.

The value of the `value` property MUST be a JSON Array containing one element for each entity set and function import with an explicit or default value of `true` for the attribute `IncludeInServiceDocument` and each named entity exposed by the service, see [OData-CSDL].

Each element MUST be a JSON object with at least two name/value pairs, one with name `name` containing the name of the entity set, function import, or named entity, and one with name `url` containing the URL of the entity set, which may be absolute or relative to the metadata URL. It MAY contain a name/value pair with name `title` containing a human-readable, language-dependent title for the object.

JSON objects representing an entity set MAY contain an additional name/value pair with name `kind` and a value of `EntitySet`.

JSON objects representing a function or action import MUST contain this name/value pair with a value of `FunctionImport` or `ActionImport`, respectively.

JSON objects representing a named entity MUST contain this name/value pair with a value of `Entity`.

JSON objects representing a related service document MUST contain this name/value pair with a value of `ServiceDocument`.

Clients that encounter unknown values of the `kind` name/value pair not defined in this version of the specification MUST NOT stop processing and MUST NOT signal an error.

Service documents MAY contain [annotations](#).

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata",
  "value": [
    {
      "name": "Orders",
      "kind": "EntitySet",
      "url": "Orders"
    },
    {
      "name": "OrderDetails",
      "title": "Order Details",
      "url": "OrderDetails"
    },
    {
      "name": "TopProducts",
      "title": "Best-Selling Products",
      "kind": "FunctionImport",
      "kind": "FunctionImport",
      "url": "TopOrders"
    },
    {
      "name": "Contoso",
      "title": "Contoso Ltd.",
      "kind": "Entity",
      "url": "Contoso"
    },
    {
      "name": "Human Resources",
```



```
    "kind": "ServiceDocument",  
    "url": "http://host/HR/"  
  }  
]  
}
```

---

## 6 Entity

An entity MUST be serialized as a JSON object.

Each **property** to be transmitted MUST be represented as a name/value pair within the object. The order properties appear within the object MUST be considered insignificant.

An entity in a payload MAY be a complete entity, a projected entity (see **[OData-Protocol, section 10.2.3.2 The \$select System Query Option]**), or a partial entity update (see **[OData-Protocol, section 10.3.1.2. Differential Update]**). A complete entity MUST transmit every property, with the exception of unexpanded navigation properties. A projected entity MUST transmit the requested properties and MAY transmit other properties. A partial entity MUST transmit the properties that it intends to change; it MUST NOT transmit any other properties.

An entity representation can be (modified and) round-tripped to the server directly. The metadata URL can but does not have to be removed; the server will ignore it if it is present.

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers/@Element",
  "CustomerID": "ALFKI",
  "CompanyName": "Alfreds Futterkiste",
  "ContactName": "Maria Anders",
  "ContactTitle": "Sales Representative",
  "Phone": "030-0074321",
  "Fax": "030-0076545",
  "Address": {
    "Street": "Obere Str. 57",
    "City": "Berlin",
    "Region": null,
    "PostalCode": "12209",
    "Country": "Germany"
  }
}
```

---

## 7 Property

A property within an entity or complex type instance is represented as a name/value pair. The name **MUST** be the name of the property, the value is represented depending on its type as a [primitive value](#), a [complex value](#), a [collection of primitive values](#), or a [collection of complex values](#).

### 7.1 Primitive Value

Primitive values are represented following the rules of [\[RFC4627\]](#).

Null values are represented as the JSON literal `null`.

Values of type `Edm.Boolean` are represented as the JSON literals `true` and `false`

Values of types `Edm.Byte`, `Edm.SByte`, `Edm.Int16`, `Edm.Int32`, `Edm.Int64`, `Edm.Single`, `Edm.Double`, and `Edm.Decimal` are represented as JSON numbers, except for `NaN`, `INF`, and `-INF` which are represented as strings.

Values of type `Edm.String` are represented as JSON strings, using the JSON string escaping rules.

Values of type `Edm.Binary`, `Edm.Date`, `Edm.DateTimeOffset`, `Edm.Duration`, `Edm.Guid`, and `Edm.TimeOfDay` as well as enumeration values are represented as JSON strings whose content satisfies the rules `binaryValue`, `dateValue`, `dateTimeOffsetValue`, `durationValue`, `guidValue`, `timeOfDayValue`, and `enumValue`, respectively, in [\[OData-ABNF\]](#).

Geography and geometry values are represented as defined in [\[GeoJSON\]](#).

Example:

```
{
  "NullValue": null,
  "TrueValue": true,
  "FalseValue": false,
  "IntegerValue": -128,
  "DoubleValue": 3.1415926535897931,
  "SingleValue": "INF",
  "DecimalValue": "34.95",
  "StringValue": "Say \"Hello\", \nthen go",
  "DateValue": "2012-12-03",
  "DateTimeOffsetValue": "2012-12-03T07:16:23Z",
  "DurationValue": "P12DT23H59M59.9999999999999S",
  "TimeOfDayValue": "07:59:59.999",
  "GuidValue": "01234567-89ab-cdef-0123-456789abcdef",
  "Int64Value": "0",
  "ColorEnumValue": "Yellow",
  "GeographyPoint": {"type": "point", "coordinates": [142.1, 64.1]}
}
```

### 7.2 Complex Value

A complex value **MUST** be represented as a single JSON object. It **MUST** have one name/value pair for each property that makes up the complex type. Each property **MUST** be formatted as appropriate for the type of the property.

It **MAY** have name/value pairs for instance annotations, including `odata.*` annotations.

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers/@Element",
  ...
  "Address": {
```

```
"Street": "Obere Str. 57",
"City": "Berlin",
"Region": null,
"PostalCode": "12209",
"Country": "Germany"
}
}
Collection of Primitive Values
```

### 7.3 Collection of Primitive Values

A collection of primitive values MUST be represented as a JSON array, and each element in the array MUST be the representation of a [primitive value](#).

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers/@Element",
  ...
  "EmailAddresses": [
    "Julie@Swansworth.com",
    "Julie.Swansworth@work.com"
  ]
}
```

### 7.4 Collection of Complex Values

A collection of complex values MUST be represented as a JSON array, and each element in the array MUST be the representation of a [complex value](#).

Example:

```
{
  "PhoneNumbers": [
    {
      <data:Number>425-555-1212</data:Number>
      <data:PhoneType>Home</data:PhoneType>
    },
    {
      <metadata:element metadata:type="Person.CellPhoneNumber">
      <data:Number>425-555-0178</data:Number>
      <data:PhoneType>Cell</data:PhoneType>
      <data:CellCarrier>Sprint</data:CellCarrier>
    }
  ]
}
```

---

## 8 Navigation Property

A navigation property represents a reference from a source entity to zero or more related entities.

### 8.1 Navigation Link

The navigation link for a navigation property is represented as a name/value pair. The name **MUST** be the name of the property, followed by `@odata.navigationLink`. The value **MUST** be a URL that allows retrieving the related entity or collection of entities. It **MAY** be relative to the `odata.metadata` URL.

The navigation link for a navigation property is only represented if the client requests `odata.metadata=full` or if the client explicitly selects the navigation property in `$select`.

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers/@Element",
  ...
  "Orders@odata.navigationLink": "Customers('ALFKI')/Orders",
  ...
}
```

### 8.2 Association Link

The association link for a navigation property is represented as a name/value pair. The name **MUST** be the name of the property, followed by `@odata.associationLink`. The value **MUST** be a URL that can be used to retrieve the reference or collection of references to the related entity or entities. It **MAY** be relative to the `odata.metadata` URL.

The association link for a navigation property is only represented if the client requests `odata.metadata=full` or if the client explicitly selects the navigation property in `$select`.

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers/@Element",
  ...
  "Orders@odata.associationLink": "Customers('ALFKI')/Orders/$ref",
  ...
}
```

### 8.3 Expanded Navigation Property

An expanded navigation property is represented as a name/value pair. The name **MUST** be the name of the navigation property, the value **MUST** be the correct representation of the related entity or collection of entities.

If at most one entity can be related, the value **MUST** be the representation of the related entity, or `null` if no entity is currently related.

If a collection of entities can be related, it **MUST** be represented as a JSON array. Each element **MUST** be the [representation of an entity](#) or the [representation of an entity reference](#). An empty set of entities (one that contains no entities) **MUST** be represented as an empty JSON array. The navigation property **MAY** be annotated with `odata.count` or `odata.nextlink`.

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers/@Element",
```

```
...
"Orders@odata.count": "42",
"Orders": [ ... ],
"Orders@odata.nextLink": "...",
...
"CustomerDemographics": { ... },
...
}
```

### 8.4 Deep Inserts

When inserting a new entity with a POST request, related new entities MAY be specified using the same representation as for an expanded navigation property.

Deep inserts are not allowed in update operations using PUT or PATCH requests.

Example for inserting a new order with order details and a new customer:

```
{
  "Customer": {
    "CustomerID": "ANEWONE",
    ...
  },
  "Details": [
    {
      "ProductID": 28,
      "ProductID": 28,
      ...
    },
    {
      "ProductID": 39,
      "ProductID": 39,
      ...
    }
  ],
  "OrderID": 11643,
  "CustomerID": "ANEWONE",
  "EmployeeID": 6,
  ...
}
```

### 8.5 Bind Operations

When inserting or updating an entity, relationships of navigation properties MAY be inserted or updated via bind operations. A bind operation is encoded as a property annotation odata.bind on the navigation property it belongs to and has a single value for singleton navigation properties or an array of values for collection navigation properties.

The values MUST be the ids of the related entities. They MAY be relative URLs.

For insert operations collection navigation property bind operations and deep insert operations MAY be combined. In this case, the bind operations MUST appear before the deep insert operations in the payload.

For update operations a bind operation on a collection navigation property adds additional relationships, it does not replace existing relationships, while bind operations on an entity navigation property update the relationship.

Example for assigning an existing product to an existing category with a partial update request:

```
PATCH http://host/service/Products(42) HTTP/1.1

{
  "Category@odata.bind": "Categories(6)"
  "Category@odata.bind": "Categories(6)"
}
```

}

---

## 9 Stream Property

An entity MAY have one or more named stream properties. The actual stream data is not contained in the entity. Instead stream property data is read and edited via URLs. The value for a named stream property contains the URLs for reading and editing the stream data along with other metadata for the stream.

The value of a named stream property is represented as a set of `odata.media*` annotations like in the following example.

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://server/HR/$metadata#Employees/@Element",
  ...
  "Thumbnail@odata.mediaReadLink": "http://server/Thumbnail1546.jpg",
  "Thumbnail@odata.mediaEditLink": "http://server/uploads/Thumbnail1546.jpg",
  "Thumbnail@odata.mediaContentType": "image/jpeg",
  "Thumbnail@odata.mediaEtag": "####",
  ...
}
```



---

## 10 Media Entity

Media entities are entities that describe a media resource, for example a photo. They are represented as other entities and in addition contain `odata.media*` annotations.

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Employees/@Element",
  "odata.mediaReadLink": "Employees(1)/$value",
  "odata.mediaContentType": "image/jpeg",
  "EmployeeID": 1,
  ...
}
```

---

## 11 Individual Property

If the message represents an individual property, it is represented as a JSON object,

A property that is of a primitive type is represented as an object with a single name/value pair whose name is `value` and whose value is a [primitive value](#),

A property that is of a collection type is represented similarly as an object with a single name/value pair whose name is `value`. Its value is the JSON [representation of a collection of complex type or primitive values](#).

A property that is of complex type are represented as a [complex value](#). A complex value is a JSON object, so no “wrapper object” is required,

Examples:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Edm.String",
  "value": "Pilar Ackerman"
}
```

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Collection(Edm.String)",
  "value": ["gazpacho", "tomato", "vegetarian"]
}
```

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Model.BillingAddress",
  "Line1": "12345 Grant Street",
  "Line2": null,
  "City": "Taft",
  "State": "Ohio",
  "ZipCode": "98052"
}
```

Note that in requests the metadata URL is optional.

---

## 12 Collections of Entities

A collection of entities **MUST** be represented as a JSON object. This object **MUST** contain a `value` name/value pair. It **MAY** contain `odata.metadata`, `odata.count`, `odata.nextLink`, or `odata.deltaLink` annotations.

If present, the `odata.metadata` annotation **MUST** be the first name/value pair in the response.

The `odata.count` name/value pair represents the inlinecount. If present, it **MUST** come before the `value` name/value pair.

The `value` value **MUST** be a JSON array. Each element **MUST** be a correctly formatted [representation of an entity or a representation of an entity reference](#). An empty collection **MUST** be represented as an empty JSON array.

The `odata.nextLink` annotation **MUST** be included if the response represents a partial response. If provided, it **MUST** be the last name/value pair in the response.

Functions or actions that are bindable to this set of entities are advertised in the “wrapper object” in the same way as [functions or actions are advertised](#) in the object representing a single entity.

Example:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "...",
  "odata.count": 37,
  "value": [
    { ... },
    { ... },
    { ... }
  ],
  "odata.nextLink": "...?$skiptoken=342r89",
}
```

---

## 13 Resource Reference

A resource reference is a reference to an entity or a property of an entity. Resource references referring to an entity are called entity references.

An entity reference MAY take the place of an entity instance in a JSON payload, based on the client request.

A resource reference MUST be serialized as a JSON object.

The first name/value pair of the JSON object MUST be named `odata.ref` and MUST contain the [id](#) of the referenced entity.

The following example shows an entity reference to order 10643:

```
{
  "odata.ref": "http://host/service/Orders(10643)"
}
```

---

## 14 Delta Response

Responses from a delta request are returned as a JSON object. The JSON object MUST contain an array-valued property named "value" containing all [added](#), [changed](#), or [deleted](#) entities, as well as [added](#) or [deleted](#) links between entities, and MAY contain additional, unchanged entities.

If the delta response contains a partial list of changes, it MUST include a [next link](#) for the client to retrieve the next set of changes.

Changes are generally ordered by the service according to when the last change occurred to an entity, but MUST be ordered such that applying all changes across all pages, in order, to the initial set yields a consistent result.

The last page of a delta response SHOULD contain a [delta link](#) for retrieving subsequent changes once the current set of changes has been applied to the initial set.

If the response from the delta link contains an [inlinecount](#), the returned count is the count of added, changed, or deleted entities. `$count` and `$inlinecount` returned from a delta link do not include added or deleted links.

The following example shows the following ordered changes:

1. ContactName for customer 'BOTTM' was changed to "Susan Halvenstern"
2. Order 10643 was removed from customer 'ALFKI'
3. Order 10645 was added to customer 'BOTTM'
4. The shipping information for order 10643 was updated
5. Customer 'ANTON' was deleted

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://DeltaService.svc/$metadata#Customers/@Delta ",
  "value":
  [
    {
      "odata.id": "http://DeltaService.svc/Customers('BOTTM')'",
      "ContactName": "Susan Halvenstern"
    },
    {
      "odata.kind" : "deletedLinkEntry",
      "source": "http://DeltaService.svc/Customers(ALKFI)'",
      "relationship": "Orders",
      "target": "http://DeltaService.svc/Orders(10643)",
      "when": "2012-11-07T15:38"
    },
    {
      "odata.kind" : "linkEntry",
      "source": "http://DeltaService.svc/Customers('BOTTM')'",
      "relationship": "Orders",
      "target": "http://DeltaService.svc/Orders(10645)",
      "when": "2012-11-07T15:38"
    },
    {
      "odata.type" : "Northwind.Order",
      "odata.id": "http://DeltaService.svc/Orders(10645)",
      "odata.metadata": "#Orders",
      "ShipName": "Bottom-Dollar Markets",
      "ShipAddress": "23 Tsawassen Blvd.",
      "ShipRegion": "BC",
      "ShipPostalCode": "T2F 8M4",
      "ShipCountry": "Canada"
    },
    {
      "odata.kind": "deletedEntry",
```

```

        "id": "http://DeltaService.svc/Customers('ANTON')",
        "when": "2012-11-07T15:38",
        "reason": "deleted"
    }
],
"odata.deltaLink":
    "http://DeltaService.svc/Customers?$expand=orders&$deltatoken=8015"
}

```

## 14.1 Added/Changed Entity

Added or changed entities within a delta response are represented as [entities](#).

Added entities MUST include all selected properties and MAY include additional, unselected properties. Collection-valued properties are treated as atomic values; any collection-valued properties returned from a delta request MUST contain all current values for that collection.

Changed entities MUST include all selected properties that have changed and MAY include additional properties.

Entities that are not part of the set specified by the Metadata URL MUST include the [odata.metadata](#) attribute to specify the set of the entity.

Entities MUST include annotations for selected navigation links but MUST NOT include expanded navigation properties inline.

## 14.2 Deleted Entity

Deleted Entries in JSON are returned as deleted-entry objects. Delta responses MUST contain a deleted-entry for each deleted entity.

The deleted-entry object has the following properties:

- `odata.kind` – The [odata.kind](#) property MUST be the first property and MUST be "deletedEntry"
- `id` – The id of the deleted entity (same as the [odata.id](#) returned or computed when calling GET on resource)
- `reason` – An optional string value; either "deleted", if the entity was deleted (destroyed), or "changed" if the entity was removed from membership in the result (i.e., due to a data change).
- `when` – An optional Datetime value indicating when the element was deleted.

## 14.3 Link

Links within a delta response are represented as link-entry objects.

Delta responses MUST contain a link-entry for each added link that corresponds to a `$expand` path in the initial request.

The link-entry object has the following properties:

- `odata.kind` – The [odata.kind](#) property MUST be the first property and MUST be "linkEntry"
- `source` – The id of the entity from which the relationship is defined
- `relationship` – the name of the relationship property on the parent object
- `target` – The id of the related entity
- `when` – An optional datetime value indicating when the link was created

The link-entry MUST contain a `source` property specifying the [odata.id](#) of the entity from which the link exists, a `relationship` property specifying the name of the navigation property for which the link

was specified, and a `target` attribute containing the `odata.id` of the related resource. The link-entry MAY include an optional `when` attribute specifying when the link was created.

## 14.4 Deleted Link

Deleted links within a delta response are represented as deleted-link-entry objects.

Delta responses MUST contain a deleted-link-entry for each deleted link that corresponds to a `$expand` path in the initial request, unless either of the following is true:

- The `source` or `target` entity has been deleted
- The maximum cardinality of the related entity is one and there is a subsequent `link-entry` that specifies the same `source` and `relationship`.

The deleted-link-entry has the following properties:

`odata.kind` – The `odata.kind` property MUST be the first property and MUST be "deletedLinkEntry"

`source` – The id of the entity from which the relationship is defined

`relationship` - the name of the relationship property on the parent object

`target` – The id of the related entity

`when` – An optional datetime value indicating when the link was created

The deleted-link-entry MUST contain a `source` property specifying the `odata.id` of the entity from which the link was deleted, a `relationship` property specifying the name of the navigation property for which the link was specified, and a `target` attribute containing the `odata.id` of the related resource. The deleted-link-entry MAY include an optional `when` attribute specifying when the link was created.

---

## 15 Function

A function that is bindable to the current entity is advertised via a name/value pair. The name **MUST** be a hash (#) character followed by the namespace- or alias-qualified name of the function. The value **MUST** be a JSON object.

Functions that are bindable to a set of entities are advertised in representations of a collection of entities.

If function overloads exist that cannot be bound to the current entity type, the name **SHOULD** address a specific function overload by appending a parentheses-enclosed, comma-separated list of parameter names, each name followed by a colon and its namespace- or alias-qualified type, see rule `qualifiedFunctionName` in **[OData-ABNF]**.

If `odata.metadata=full` is requested, each value object **MUST** have at least the two name/value pairs `title` and `target`. It **MAY** contain `annotations`. The order of the name/value pairs **MUST** be considered insignificant.

The `target` name/value pair **MUST** contain a bound function or action URL.

The `title` name/value pair **MUST** contain the function or action title as a string.

If `odata.metadata=minimal` is requested, the `target` name/value pair **MUST** be included if its value differs from the canonical function or action URL.

Example for a minimal representation of a function where all overloads are applicable:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Employees/@Element",
  "#Model.RemainingVacation": {},
  ...
}
```

Example for a full representation of a specific overload

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#LeaveRequests/@Element",
  ...
  "#Model.RemainingVacation(year:Edm.Int32)": {
    "title": "Remaining Vacation",
    "target": "Employees(2)/RemainingVacation"
  },
  ...
}
```



---

## 16 Action

An action that is bindable to the current entity is advertised via a name/value pair. The name **MUST** be a hash (#) character followed by the namespace- or alias-qualified name of the action. The value **MUST** be a JSON object.

Actions that are bindable to a set of entities are advertised in representations of a collection of entities.

If `odata.metadata=full` is requested, each value object **MUST** have at least the two name/value pairs `title` and `target`. It **MAY** contain [annotations](#). The order of these name/value pairs **MUST** be considered insignificant.

The `target` name/value pair **MUST** contain a bound function or action URL.

The `title` name/value pair **MUST** contain the function or action title as a string.

If `odata.metadata=minimal` is requested, the `target` name/value pair **MUST** be included if its value differs from the canonical function or action URL.

Examples:

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#LeaveRequests/@Element",
  "#Model.Approval": {},
  ...
}
```

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#LeaveRequests/@Element",
  ...
  "#Model.Approval": {
    "title": "Approve Leave Request",
    "target": "LeaveRequests(2)/Approval"
  },
  ...
}
```

---

## 17 Action Parameters

Action parameter values **MUST** be encoded in a single JSON object in the request body.

Each non-binding parameter value specified **MUST** be encoded as a separate name/value pair in this JSON object. The name is the name of the parameter. The value is the parameter value in the JSON representation appropriate for its type.

Any parameter values not specified in the JSON object **MUST** be assumed to have the default value specified in the service metadata, see **[OData-CSDL]**.

Example:

```
{
  "param1": 42,
  "param2": {
    "Street": "One Microsoft Way",
    "Zip": 98052
  },
  "param3": [ 1, 42, 99 ],
  "param4": null
}
```

---

## 18 Instance Annotations

Annotations are an extensibility mechanism that allows servers and clients to include information other than the raw data in the request or response. Annotations are used to include control information in many payloads.

Annotations are easily identifiable as name/value pairs that have a dot (.) as part of the name. All annotations that start with `odata` are reserved for future extensions of the protocol and format. Custom annotations are annotations that have a non-empty prefix that is different from `odata`.

Annotations MAY be applied to any name/value pair in a JSON payload that represents a value of any type from the entity data model (see [OData-CSDL]).

The following example shows annotations applied to many different constructs.

```
{
  "odata.metadata": "http://host/service/$metadata#Customers",
  "com.contoso.customer.setkind" : "VIPs",
  "value": [
    {
      "com.contoso.customer.kind": "VIP",
      "com.contoso.display.order": 1,
      "CustomerID": "ALFKI",
      "CompanyName@com.contoso.display" : { "title" : true, "order" : 1 },
      "CompanyName": "Alfreds Futterkiste",
      "Orders@com.contoso.purchaseorder.priority" : 1
    }
  ]
}
```

Annotations are always expressed as name/value pairs. For entity data model constructs represented as JSON objects the annotation name/value pairs are placed within the object; for constructs represented as JSON arrays or primitives they are placed next to the annotated model construct.

### 18.1 Annotate a JSON Object

When annotating a name/value pair for which the value is represented as a JSON object, each annotation MUST be placed within the object and MUST be represented as a single name/value pair.

The name MUST be the namespace- or alias-qualified name of the annotation. This name MUST include namespace and name, separated by a period (.).

The value MUST be the appropriate value for the annotation.

### 18.2 Annotate a JSON Array or Primitive

When annotating a name/value pair for which the value is represented as a JSON array or primitive value, each annotation that applies to this name/value pair MUST be placed next to the annotated name/value pair and MUST be represented as a single name/value pair.

The name MUST be the same as the name of the name/value pair being annotated, followed by the “at” sign (@), followed by the namespace- or alias-qualified name of the annotation. This name MUST include namespace and name, separated by a period (.).

The value MUST be the appropriate value for the annotation.

---

## 19 Error Response

The error response MUST be a single JSON object. This object MUST have a single name/value pair. The name MUST be `error`. The value must be a JSON object.

This object MUST contain name/value pairs with the names `code` and `message`, and it MAY contain name/value pairs with the names `target`, `details` and `innererror`.

The value for the `code` name/value pair MUST be a language-independent string. Its value MUST be a service-defined error code. This code serves as a sub-status for the HTTP error code specified in the response.

The value for the `message` name/value pair MUST be a human-readable, language-dependent representation of the error. The `Content-Language` header MUST contain the language code from **[RFC4627]** Crockford, D., "The application/json Media Type for JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)", RFC 4627, July 2006. <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4627>.

**[RFC5646]** corresponding to the language in which the value for `message` is written.

The value for the `target` name/value pair is the target of the particular error (for example, the name of the property in error).

The value for the `details` name/value pair MUST be an array of JSON objects that MUST contain name/value pairs for `code` and `message`, and MAY contain a name/value pair for `target`, as described above.

The value for the `innererror` name/value pair MUST be an object. The contents of this object are service-defined. Usually this object contains information that will help debug the service. The `innererror` name/value pair SHOULD only be used in development environments in order to guard against potential security concerns around information disclosure.

Error responses MAY contain [annotations](#) in any of its JSON objects.

Example:

```
{
  "error": {
    "code": "501",
    "message": "Not supported Functionality",
    "details": [
      {
        "code": "301",
        "target": "$search",
        "message": "$search query option not supported",
      }
    ]
  },
  "innererror": {
    "trace": [...],
    "context": {...}
  }
}
```

---

## 20 Extensibility

Implementations MAY add custom content anywhere allowed by **Error! Reference source not found.**, Section 6, “Extending Atom”, and **Error! Reference source not found.**, Section 6.2 “Document Extensibility”. However, custom elements and attributes MUST NOT be defined in the [OData Data Namespace](#) nor the [OData Metadata Namespace](#), and SHOULD not be required to be understood by the receiving party in order to correctly interpret the rest of the payload as the receiving party MUST ignore unknown foreign markup according to **Error! Reference source not found.**.

---

## 21 Conformance

A conforming OData service MUST comply with one of the conformance levels defined in [\[OData-Protocol\]](#).

The exception to this are the constructs defined in [Delta Response](#), which are only required for clients that request changes

In order to conform to the OData JSON format, a service:

- MUST support the `application/json` media type in the `Accept` header
- SHOULD support the `$format` system query option
- MAY support the `odata.streaming=true` parameter in the `Accept` header
- MUST return well-formed JSON payloads
- MUST support `odata.metadata=full`
- MAY return full metadata regardless of `odata.metadata`
- MUST include the `odata.nextLink` annotation in the feed for partial results
- MUST NOT violate any other aspects of this OData JSON specification

In order to be a conforming consumer of the OData JSON format, a client or service:

- MUST understand `odata.metadata=minimal` OR explicitly specify `odata.metadata=none` or `odata.metadata=full` in request
- MUST be prepared to consume a response with full metadata
- MUST NOT require `odata.streaming=true` in the `Content-Type` header
- MUST be prepared to receive all data types
  - defined in this specification (client)
  - exposed by the service (service)
- MUST support entities returned as entity references
- MUST interpret all `odata` annotations defined according to the version of the response
- MUST be prepared to receive any annotations, including [custom annotations](#) and `odata` not defined in the OData version of the response

---

## Appendix A. Acknowledgments

The contributions of the OASIS OData Technical Committee members, enumerated in [\[OData-Protocol\]](#), are gratefully acknowledged.

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## Appendix B. Revision History

| Revision                         | Date       | Editor                      | Changes Made  |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Working Draft 01                 | 2012-08-22 | Michael Pizzo               | Translated Contribution to OASIS format/template  |
| Working Draft 01.1               | 2013-1-31  | Ralf Handl                  | Adopted new, more concise JSON format   |
| Committee Specification Draft 01 | 2013-04-26 | Ralf Handl<br>Michael Pizzo | Expanded error information<br>Added enumerations<br>Fleshed out descriptions and examples and addressed numerous editorial and technical issues through processed through the TC<br>Added Conformance section |