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OData Common Schema Definition Language (CSDL) JSON Representation Version 4.01

Committee Specification Draft 01 /  
Public Review Draft 01

08 June 2017

Specification URIs

This version:

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-csdl-json/v4.01/csprd01/odata-csdl-json-v4.01-csprd01.docx> (Authoritative)

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-csdl-json/v4.01/csprd01/odata-csdl-json-v4.01-csprd01.html>

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-csdl-json/v4.01/csprd01/odata-csdl-json-v4.01-csprd01.pdf>

Previous version:

N/A

Latest version:

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-csdl-json/v4.01/odata-csdl-json-v4.01.docx> (Authoritative)

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-csdl-json/v4.01/odata-csdl-json-v4.01.html>

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Technical Committee:

[OASIS Open Data Protocol (OData) TC](https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/odata/)

Chairs:

Ralf Handl ([ralf.handl@sap.com](mailto:ralf.handl@sap.com)), [SAP SE](http://www.sap.com)

Michael Pizzo ([mikep@microsoft.com](mailto:mikep@microsoft.com)), [Microsoft](http://www.microsoft.com)

Editors:

Michael Pizzo ([mikep@microsoft.com](mailto:mikep@microsoft.com)), [Microsoft](http://www.microsoft.com)

Ralf Handl ([ralf.handl@sap.com](mailto:ralf.handl@sap.com)), [SAP SE](http://www.sap.com)

Martin Zurmuehl ([martin.zurmuehl@sap.com](mailto:martin.zurmuehl@sap.com)), [SAP SE](http://www.sap.com)

Additional artifacts:

This prose specification is one component of a Work Product that also includes:

* JSON schemas; OData CSDL JSON schema. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-csdl-json/v4.01/csprd01/schemas/>.

Related work:

This specification is related to:

* *OData Version 4.01*. Edited by Michael Pizzo, Ralf Handl, and Martin Zurmuehl. A multi-part Work Product which includes:
  + *OData Version 4.01. Part 1: Protocol*. Latest version: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata/v4.01/odata-v4.01-part1-protocol.html>.
  + *OData Version 4.01. Part 2: URL Conventions*. Latest version: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata/v4.01/odata-v4.01-part2-url-conventions.html>.
  + *ABNF components: OData ABNF Construction Rules Version 4.01 and OData ABNF Test Cases*. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata/v4.01/csprd02/abnf/>.
* *OData Common Schema Definition Language (CSDL) XML Representation Version 4.01.* Edited by Michael Pizzo, Ralf Handl, and Martin Zurmuehl. Latest version: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-csdl-xml/v4.01/odata-csdl-xml-v4.01.html>.
* *OData Vocabularies Version 4.0.* Edited by Michael Pizzo, Ralf Handl, and Ram Jeyaraman. Latest version: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-vocabularies/v4.0/odata-vocabularies-v4.0.html>.
* *OData JSON Format Version 4.01*. Edited by Ralf Handl, Michael Pizzo, and Mark Biamonte. Latest version: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-json-format/v4.01/odata-json-format-v4.01.html>.

Abstract:

OData services are described by an Entity Model (EDM). The Common Schema Definition Language (CSDL) defines specific representations of the entity data model exposed by an OData service, using XML, JSON, and other formats. This document (OData CSDL JSON Representation) specifically defines the JSON representation of CSDL.

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. 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=odata#technical>.

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Note that any machine-readable content (aka Computer Language Definitions) declared Normative for this Work Product is provided in separate plain text files. In the event of a discrepancy between any such plain text file and display content in the Work Product's prose narrative document(s), the content in the separate plain text file prevails.

Citation format:

When referencing this specification the following citation format should be used:

[**OData-CSDL-JSON -v4.01**]

*OData Common Schema Definition Language (CSDL) JSON Representation Version 4.01*. Edited by Michael Pizzo, Ralf Handl, and Martin Zurmuehl. 08 June 2017. OASIS Committee Specification Draft 01 / Public Review Draft 01. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-csdl-json/v4.01/csprd01/odata-csdl-json-v4.01-csprd01.html>. Latest version: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-csdl-json/v4.01/odata-csdl-json-v4.01.html>.

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# [Introduction](#sec_Introduction)

OData services are described in terms of an [Entity Model](#sec_EntityModel). The Common Schema Definition Language (CSDL) defines a representation of the entity model exposed by an OData service using the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON), see **[**[**RFC7159**](#RFC7159)**]**.

This format is based on the OpenUI5 OData V4 Metadata JSON Format, see **[**[**OpenUI5**](#OpenUI5)**]**, with some extensions and modifications made necessary to fully cover OData CSDL Version 4.01.

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## [Terminology](#sec_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**](#RFC2119)**]**.

## [Normative References](#sec_NormativeReferences)

[ECMAScript] *ECMAScript 2016 Language Specification, 7th Edition,* June 2016. Standard ECMA-262. <http://www.ecma-international.org/publications/standards/Ecma-262.htm>.

[EPSG] European Petroleum Survey Group (EPSG). <http://www.epsg.org/>.

[OData-ABNF] *OData ABNF Construction Rules Version 4.01*.   
See link in “Additional artifacts” section on cover page.

**[****OData-CSDL-Schema]** *OData CSDL JSON Schema.*   
See link in “Additional artifacts” section on cover page.

**[****OData-CSDLXML]** OData Common Schema Definition Language (CSDL) XML Representation Version 4.01.   
See link in “Related work” section on cover page.

**[****OData-JSON]** *OData JSON Format Version 4.01.*   
See link in “Related work” section on cover page.

[OData-Protocol] *OData Version 4.01 Part 1: Protocol*.   
See link in “Related work” section on cover page.

**[****OData-URL]** *OData Version 4.01 Part 2: URL Conventions*.   
See link in “Related work” section on cover page.

**[****OData-VocCore]** *OData Vocabularies Version 4.0: Core Vocabulary.*   
See link in “Related work” section on cover page.

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

**[****RFC6570]** Gregorio, J., Fielding, R., Hadley, M., Nottingham, M., and D. Orchard, “URI Template”, RFC 6570, March 2012. <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6570>.

[RFC7159] Bray, T., Ed., “The JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) Data Interchange Format”, RFC 7159, March 2014. <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7159>.

[RFC7493] Bray, T., Ed., "The I-JSON Message Format", RFC7493, March 2015. <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7493>.

[XML-Schema-2] W3C XML Schema Definition Language (XSD) 1.1 Part 2: DatatypesW3C XML Schema Definition Language (XSD) 1.1 Part 2: Datatypes, D. Peterson, S. Gao, C. M. Sperberg-McQueen, H. S. Thompson, P. V. Biron, A. Malhotra, Editors, W3C Recommendation, 5 April 2012, <http://www.w3.org/TR/2012/REC-xmlschema11-2-20120405/>.  
Latest version available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema11-2/>.

## [Non-Normative References](#sec_NonNormativeReferences)

[OpenUI5] OpenUI5 Version 1.40.10 – OData V4 Metadata JSON Format, <https://openui5.hana.ondemand.com/1.40.10/#docs/guide/87aac894a40640f89920d7b2a414499b.html>

## [Typographical Conventions](#sec_TypographicalConventions)

Keywords defined by this specification use this monospaced font.

Normative source code uses this paragraph style.

Some sections of this specification are illustrated with non-normative examples.

Example 1: text describing an example uses this paragraph style

Non-normative examples use this paragraph style.

All examples in this document are non-normative and informative only.

Representation-specific text is indented and marked with vertical lines.

Representation-Specific Headline

Normative representation-specific text

All other text is normative unless otherwise labeled.

# [JSON Representation](#sec_JSONRepresentation)

OData CSDL JSON is a full representation of the OData Common Schema Definition Language in the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) defined in **[**[**RFC7159**](#RFC7159)**]**. It additionally follows the rules for “Internet JSON” (I-JSON) defined in **[**[**RFC7493**](#RFC7493)**]** for e.g. objects, numbers, date values, and duration values.

It is an alternative to the CSDL XML representation defined in **[**[**OData-CSDLXML**](#CSDLxml)**]** and neither adds nor removes features.

## [Requesting the JSON Representation](#sec_RequestingtheJSONRepresentation)

The OData CSDL JSON representation can be requested using the $format query option in the request URL with the media type application/json, optionally followed by media type parameters, or the case-insensitive abbreviation json which MUST NOT be followed by media type parameters.

Alternatively, this representation can be requested using the Accept header with the media type application/json, optionally followed by media type parameters.

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

The response MUST contain the Content-Type header with a value of application/xml, optionally followed by media type parameters.

Possible media type parameters are:

* [IEEE754Compatible](#sec_ControllingtheRepresentationofNumber)

The names and values of these parameters are case-insensitive.

### [Controlling the Representation of Numbers](#sec_ControllingtheRepresentationofNumber)

The IEEE754Compatible=true parameter indicates that the service MUST serialize Edm.Int64 and Edm.Decimal numbers as strings. This is in conformance with [**[**RFC7493**]**](#RFC7493). If not specified, or specified as IEEE754Compatible=false, all numbers MUST be serialized as JSON numbers.

This enables support for JavaScript numbers that are defined to be 64-bit binary format IEEE 754 values [**[ECMAScript]**](#ECMAScript) (see [section 4.3.1.9](http://www.ecma-international.org/ecma-262/5.1/#sec-4.3.19)) resulting in integers losing precision past 15 digits, and decimals losing precision due to the conversion from base 10 to base 2.

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

## [Design Considerations](#sec_DesignConsiderations)

CSDL JSON documents are designed for easy and efficient lookup of model constructs by their name without having to know or guess what kind of model element it is. Thus all primary model elements (entity types, complex types, type definitions, enumeration types, terms, actions, functions, and the entity container) are direct members of their schema, using the schema-unique name as the member name. Similarly, child elements of primary model elements (properties, navigation properties, enumeration type members, entity sets, singletons, action imports, and function imports) are direct members of the objects describing their parent model element, using their locally unique name as the member name.

To avoid name collisions, all fixed member names are prefixed with a dollar ($) sign and otherwise have the same name and capitalization as their counterparts in the CSDL XML representation **[**[**OData-CSDLXML**](#CSDLxml)**]** (with one exception: the counterpart of the EntitySet element’s EntityType attribute is [$Type](#sec_EntitySet), to harmonize it with all other type references).

Additional fixed members introduced by this specification and without counterpart in **[**[**OData-CSDLXML**](#CSDLxml)**]** are also prefixed with a dollar ($) sign and use upper-camel-case names. One of these is $Kind which represents the kind of model element. Its value is the upper-camel-case local name of the XML element representing this kind of model element in **[**[**OData-CSDLXML**](#CSDLxml)**]**, e.g. EntityType or NavigationProperty.

While the XML representation of CSDL allows referencing model elements with alias-qualified names as well as with namespace-qualified names, this JSON representation requires the use of alias-qualified names if an alias is specified for an included or document-defined schema.

## [JSON Schema Definition](#sec_JSONSchemaDefinition)

The structure of CSDL JSON documents can be verified with the JSON Schema **[**[**OData-CSDL-Schema**](#CSDLschema)**]** provided as an additional artifact of this prose specification. This schema only defines the shape of a well-formed CSDL JSON document but is not descriptive enough to define what a correct CSDL JSON document MUST be in every imaginable use case. This specification document defines additional rules that correct CSDL JSON documents MUST fulfill. In case of doubt on what makes a CSDL JSON document correct the rules defined in this specification document take precedence.

# [Entity Model](#sec_EntityModel)

An OData service exposes a single entity model. This model may be distributed over several [schemas](#sec_Schema), and these schemas may be distributed over several documents.

A service is defined by a single CSDL document which can be accessed by sending a GET request to <serviceRoot>/$metadata. This document is called the metadata document. It MAY [reference](#sec_Reference) other CSDL documents.

The metadata document contains a single [entity container](#sec_EntityContainer) that defines the resources exposed by this service. This entity container MAY [extend](#sec_ExtendinganEntityContainer) an entity container defined in a [referenced document](#sec_Reference).

The *model* of the service consists of all CSDL constructs used in its entity containers.

The *scope* of a CSDL document is the document itself and all schemas [included](#sec_IncludedSchema) from directly [referenced documents](#sec_Reference). All entity types, complex types and other named model elements *in scope* (that is, defined in the document itself or a schema of a directly referenced document) can be accessed from a referencing document by their qualified names. This includes the [built-in primitive](#sec_PrimitiveTypes) and [abstract types](#sec_BuiltInAbstractTypes).

Referencing another document may alter the model defined by the referencing document. For instance, if a referenced document defines an entity type derived from an entity type in the referencing document, then an [entity set](#sec_EntitySet) of the service defined by the referencing document may return entities of the derived type. This is identical to the behavior if the derived type had been defined directly in the referencing document.

Note: referencing documents is not recursive. Only named model elements defined in directly referenced documents can be used within the schema. However, those elements may in turn include or reference model elements defined in schemas referenced by their defining schema.

## [Nominal Types](#sec_NominalTypes)

A nominal type has a name that MUST be a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier). Nominal types are referenced using their [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName). The qualified type name MUST be unique within a model as it facilitates references to the element from other parts of the model.

## [Structured Types](#sec_StructuredTypes)

Structured types are composed of other model elements. Structured types are common in entity models as the means of representing entities and structured properties in an OData service. [Entity types](#sec_EntityType) and [complex types](#sec_ComplexType) are both structured types.

Structured Types are composed of zero or more [structural properties](#sec_StructuralProperty) and [navigation properties](#sec_NavigationProperty).

[Open entity types](#sec_OpenEntityType) and [open complex types](#sec_OpenComplexType) allow properties to be added dynamically to instances of the open type.

## [Primitive Types](#sec_PrimitiveTypes)

Structured types are composed of other structured types and primitive types. OData defines the following primitive types:

| **Type** | **Meaning** |
| --- | --- |
| Edm.Binary | Binary data |
| Edm.Boolean | Binary-valued logic |
| Edm.Byte | Unsigned 8-bit integer |
| Edm.Date | Date without a time-zone offset |
| Edm.DateTimeOffset | Date and time with a time-zone offset, no leap seconds |
| Edm.Decimal | Numeric values with decimal representation |
| Edm.Double | IEEE 754 binary64 floating-point number (15-17 decimal digits) |
| Edm.Duration | Signed duration in days, hours, minutes, and (sub)seconds |
| Edm.Guid | 16-byte (128-bit) unique identifier |
| Edm.Int16 | Signed 16-bit integer |
| Edm.Int32 | Signed 32-bit integer |
| Edm.Int64 | Signed 64-bit integer |
| Edm.SByte | Signed 8-bit integer |
| Edm.Single | IEEE 754 binary32 floating-point number (6-9 decimal digits) |
| Edm.Stream | Binary data stream |
| Edm.String | Sequence of UTF-8 characters |
| Edm.TimeOfDay | Clock time 00:00-23:59:59.999999999999 |
| Edm.Geography | Abstract base type for all Geography types |
| Edm.GeographyPoint | A point in a round-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeographyLineString | Line string in a round-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeographyPolygon | Polygon in a round-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeographyMultiPoint | Collection of points in a round-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeographyMultiLineString | Collection of line strings in a round-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeographyMultiPolygon | Collection of polygons in a round-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeographyCollection | Collection of arbitrary Geography values |
| Edm.Geometry | Abstract base type for all Geometry types |
| Edm.GeometryPoint | Point in a flat-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeometryLineString | Line string in a flat-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeometryPolygon | Polygon in a flat-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeometryMultiPoint | Collection of points in a flat-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeometryMultiLineString | Collection of line strings in a flat-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeometryMultiPolygon | Collection of polygons in a flat-earth coordinate system |
| Edm.GeometryCollection | Collection of arbitrary Geometry values |

Edm.Date and Edm.DateTimeOffset follow [**[XML‑Schema‑2]**](#BMXMLSchema2)and use the proleptic Gregorian calendar, allowing the year 0000 and negative years.

All numeric types allow the special numeric values ‑INF, INF, and NaN, and Edm.Date and Edm.DateTimeOffset allow the special values ‑INF and INF.

Edm.Stream is a primitive type that can be used as a property of an [entity type](#sec_EntityType) or [complex type](#sec_ComplexType), the underlying type for a [type definition](#sec_TypeDefinition), or the binding parameter or return type of an [action](#sec_Action) or [function](#sec_Function). Edm.Stream, or a type definition whose underlying type is Edm.Stream, cannot be used in collections or for non-binding parameters to functions or actions.

Some of these types allow [facets](#sec_TypeFacets), defined in section “[Type Facets](#sec_TypeFacets)”.

See rule primitiveLiteral in [**[OData‑ABNF]**](#BMABNF) for the representation of primitive type values in URLs and [**[OData‑JSON]**](#odataJSON) for the representation in requests and responses.

## [Built-In Abstract Types](#sec_BuiltInAbstractTypes)

The following built-in abstract types can be used within a model:

* Edm.PrimitiveType
* Edm.ComplexType
* Edm.EntityType
* Edm.Untyped

Conceptually, these are the abstract base types for primitive types (including type definitions and enumeration types), complex types, entity types, or any type or collection of types, respectively, and can be used anywhere a corresponding concrete type can be used, except:

* Edm.EntityType
  + cannot be used as the type of a singleton in an entity container because it doesn’t define a structure, which defeats the purpose of a singleton.
  + cannot be used as the type of an entity set because all entities in an entity set must have the same key fields to uniquely identify them within the set.
  + cannot be the base type of an entity type or complex type.
* Edm.ComplexType
  + cannot be the base type of an entity type or complex type.
* Edm.PrimitiveType
  + cannot be used as the type of a key property of an entity type.
  + cannot be used as the underlying type of a type definition or enumeration type.
* Edm.Untyped
  + cannot be returned in a payload with an OData-Version header of 4.0. Services should treat untyped properties as dynamic properties in 4.0 payloads.
  + cannot be used as the type of a key property of an entity type.
  + cannot be the base type of an entity type or complex type.
  + cannot be used as the underlying type of a type definition or enumeration type.
* Collection(Edm.PrimitiveType)
  + cannot be used as the type of a property.
  + cannot be used as the return type of a function.
* Collection(Edm.Untyped)
  + cannot be returned in a payload with an OData-Version header of 4.0. Services should treat untyped properties as dynamic properties in 4.0 payloads.

## [Built-In Types for defining Vocabulary Terms](#sec_BuiltInTypesfordefiningVocabularyTer)

[Vocabulary terms](#sec_VocabularyandAnnotation) can, in addition, use

* Edm.AnnotationPath
* Edm.PropertyPath
* Edm.NavigationPropertyPath
* Edm.AnyPropertyPath (Edm.PropertyPath or Edm.NavigationPropertyPath)
* Edm.ModelElementPath (any model element, including Edm.AnnotationPath, Edm.NavigationPropertyPath, and Edm.PropertyPath)

as the type of a primitive term, or the type of a property of a complex type (recursively) that is exclusively used as the type of a term. See section “[Path Expressions](#sec_PathExpressions)” for details.

## [Annotations](#sec_Annotations)

Many parts of the model can be decorated with additional information using [annotations](#sec_Annotation). Annotations are identified by their term name and an optional qualifier that allows applying the same term multiple times to the same model element.

A model element MUST NOT specify more than one annotation for a given combination of term and qualifier.

# [CSDL JSON Document](#sec_CSDLJSONDocument)

Document Object

A CSDL JSON document consists of a single JSON object. This document object MUST contain the member $Version.

The document object MAY contain the member [$Reference](#sec_Reference) to reference other CSDL documents.

It also MAY contain members for [schemas](#sec_Schema).

If the CSDL JSON document is the metadata document of an OData service, the document object MUST contain the member $EntityContainer.

$Version

The value of $Version is a string containing either 4.0 or 4.01.

$EntityContainer

The value of $EntityContainer is value is the namespace-qualified name of the entity container of that service. This is the only place where a model element MUST be referenced with its namespace-qualified name and use of the alias-qualified name is not allowed.

Example 2:

{

"$Version": "4.01",

"$EntityContainer": "ODataDemo.DemoService",

"$Reference": …,

"ODataDemo.DemoService": …,

…

}

## [Reference](#sec_Reference)

A reference to an external CSDL document allows to bring part of the referenced document’s content into the scope of the referencing document.

A reference MUST specify a URI that uniquely identifies the referenced document, so two references MUST NOT specify the same URI. The URI SHOULD be a URL that locates the referenced document. If the URI is not dereferencable it SHOULD identify a well-known schema. The URI MAY be absolute or relative URI; relative URLs are relative to the URL of the document containing the reference, or relative to a base URL specified in a format-specific way.

A reference MAY be annotated.

The Core.SchemaVersion annotation, defined in [**[OData-VocCore]**](#BMVocCore), MAY be used to indicate a particular version of the referenced document. If the Core.SchemaVersion annotation is present, the SchemaVersion header, defined [**[OData‑Protocol]**](#odataProtocol), SHOULD be used when retrieving the referenced schema document.

$Reference

The value of $Reference is an object that contains one member per referenced CSDL document. The name of the pair is a URI for the referenced document. The URI MAY be relative to the document containing the $Reference. The value of each member is a reference object.

Reference Object

The reference object MAY contain the members [$Include](#sec_IncludedSchema) and [$IncludeAnnotations](#sec_IncludedAnnotations) as well as [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 3: references to other CSDL documents

{

"$Version": "4.0",

"$Reference": {

"http://vocabs.odata.org/capabilities/v1": {

…

},

"http://vocabs.odata.org/core/v1": {

…

},

"http://example.org/display/v1": {

…

}

},

…

}

## [Included Schema](#sec_IncludedSchema)

A reference MAY include zero or more schemas from the referenced document.

The included schemas are identified via their [namespace](#sec_Namespace). The same namespace MUST NOT be included more than once, even if it is declared in more than one referenced document.

When including a schema, a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) value MAY be specified as an alias for the schema that is used in qualified names instead of the namespace. For example, an alias of display might be assigned to the namespace org.example.vocabularies.display. An alias-qualified name is resolved to a fully qualified name by examining aliases for included schemas and schemas defined within the document.

If an included schema specifies an alias, the alias MUST be used in qualified names throughout the document to identify model elements of the included schema. A mixed use of namespace-qualified names and alias-qualified names is not allowed.

Aliases are document-global, so all schemas defined within or included into a document MUST have different aliases.

The alias MUST NOT be one of the reserved values Edm, odata, System, or Transient.

An alias is only valid within the document in which it is declared; a referencing document may define its own aliases for included schemas.

$Include

The value of $Include is an array. Array items are objects that MUST contain the members $Namespace and $Alias.

The item objects MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

$Namespace

The value of $Namespace is a string containing the namespace of the included schema.

$Alias

The value of $Alias is a string containing the alias for the included schema.

Example 4: references to entity models containing definitions of vocabulary terms

{

"$Version": "4.0",

"$Reference": {

"http://vocabs.odata.org/capabilities/v1": {

"$Include": [

{

"$Namespace": "Org.OData.Capabilities.V1",

"$Alias": "Capabilities"

}

]

},

"http://vocabs.odata.org/core/v1": {

"$Include": [

{

"$Namespace": "Org.OData.Core.V1",

"$Alias": "Core",

"@Core.DefaultNamespace": true

}

]

},

"http://example.org/display/v1": {

"$Include": [

{

"$Namespace": "org.example.display",

"$Alias": "UI"

}

]

}

},

…

}

## [Included Annotations](#sec_IncludedAnnotations)

In addition to including whole schemas with all model constructs defined within that schema, annotations can be included with more flexibility.

Annotations are selectively included by specifying the [namespace](#sec_Namespace) of the annotations’ term. Consumers can opt not to inspect the referenced document if none of the term namespaces is of interest for the consumer.

In addition, the [qualifier](#sec_Qualifier) of annotations to be included MAY be specified. For instance, a service author might want to supply a different set of annotations for various device form factors. If a qualifier is specified, only those annotations from the specified term namespace with the specified qualifier (applied to a model element of the target namespace, if present) SHOULD be included. If no qualifier is specified, all annotations within the referenced document from the specified term namespace (taking into account the target namespace, if present) SHOULD be included.

The qualifier also provides consumers insight about what qualifiers are present in the referenced document. If the consumer is not interested in that particular qualifier, the consumer can opt not to inspect the referenced document.

In addition, the namespace of the annotations’ [target](#sec_Target) MAY be specified. If a target namespace is specified, only those annotations which apply a term form the specified term namespace to a model element of the target namespace (with the specified qualifier, if present) SHOULD be included. If no target namespace is specified, all annotations within the referenced document from the specified term namespace (taking into account the qualifier, if present) SHOULD be included.

The target namespace also provides consumers insight about what namespaces are present in the referenced document. If the consumer is not interested in that particular target namespace, the consumer can opt not to inspect the referenced document.

$IncludeAnnotations

The value of $IncludeAnnotations is an array. Array items are objects that MUST contain the member $TermNamespace and MAY contain the members $Qualifier and $TargetNamespace.

$Termnamespace

The value of $TermNamespace is a namespace.

$Qualifier

The value of $Qualifier is a simple identifier.

$TargetNamespace

The value of $TargetNamespace is a namespace.

Example 5: reference documents that contain annotations

{

"$Version": "4.01",

"$Reference": {

"http://odata.org/ann/b": {

"$IncludeAnnotations": [

{

"$TermNamespace": "org.example.validation"

},

{

"$TermNamespace": "org.example.display",

"$Qualifier": "Tablet"

},

{

"$TermNamespace": "org.example.hcm",

"$TargetNamespace": "com.example.Sales"

},

{

"$TermNamespace": "org.example.hcm",

"$Qualifier": "Tablet",

"$TargetNamespace": "com.example.Person"

}

]

}

},

…

}

The following annotations from http://odata.org/ann/b are included:

* Annotations that use a term from the org.example.validation namespace, and
* Annotations that use a term from the org.example.display namespace and specify a Tablet qualifier and
* Annotations that apply a term from the org.example.hcm namespace to an element of the com.example.Sales namespace and
* Annotations that apply a term from the org.example.hcm namespace to an element of the com.example.Person namespace and specify a Tablet qualifier.

# [Schema](#sec_Schema)

One or more schemas describe the entity model exposed by an OData service. The schema acts as a namespace for elements of the entity model such as entity types, complex types, enumerations and terms.

A schema is identified by a [namespace](#sec_Namespace). Schema namespaces MUST be unique within the scope of a document, and SHOULD be globally unique. A schema cannot span more than one document.

The schema’s namespace is combined with the name of elements in the schema to create unique [qualified names](#sec_QualifiedName), so identifiers that are used to name types MUST be unique within a namespace to prevent ambiguity. See [Nominal Types](#sec_NominalTypes) for more details.

The namespace MUST NOT be one of the reserved values Edm, odata, System, or Transient.

Schema Object

A schema is represented as a member of the document object whose name is the schema namespace. Its value is an object that MUST contain a member [$Alias](#sec_Alias) and MAY contain a member [$Annotations](#sec_AnnotationswithExternalTargeting).

The schema object MAY contain members representing [entity types](#sec_EntityType), [complex types](#sec_ComplexType), [enumeration types](#sec_EnumerationType), [type definitions](#sec_TypeDefinition), [actions](#sec_Action), [functions](#sec_Function), [terms](#sec_Term), and an [entity container](#sec_EntityContainer).

The schema object MAY also contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation) that apply to the schema itself.

## [Alias](#sec_Alias)

A schema MAY specify an alias which MUST be a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier).

If a schema specifies an alias, the alias MUST be used instead of the namespace within qualified names throughout the document to identify model elements of that schema. A mixed use of namespace-qualified names and alias-qualified names is not allowed.

Aliases are document-global, so all schemas defined within or included into a document MUST have different aliases. Aliases defined by a schema can be used throughout the containing document and are not restricted to the schema that defines them.

The alias MUST NOT be one of the reserved values Edm, odata, System, or Transient.

$Alias

The value of $Alias is a string containing the alias for the schema.

Example 6: document defining a schema org.example with an alias and a description for the schema

{

"$Version": "4.01",

"org.example": {

"$Alias": "self",

"@Core.Description": "Example schema",

…

},

…

}

## [Annotations with External Targeting](#sec_AnnotationswithExternalTargeting)

$Annotations

The value of $Annotations is an object with one member per [annotation target](#sec_Target). The member name is a path identifying the [annotation target](#sec_Target), the member value is an object containing [annotations](#sec_Annotation) for that target.

Example 7: annotations targeting the Person type with qualifier Tablet

"org.example": {

"$Annotations": {

"org.example.Person#Tablet": {

…

}

}

},

# [Entity Type](#sec_EntityType)

Entity types are [nominal](#sec_NominalTypes) [structured types](#sec_StructuredTypes) with a key that consists of one or more references to [structural properties](#sec_StructuralProperty). An entity type is the template for an entity: any uniquely identifiable record such as a customer or order.

The entity type’s name is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its schema.

An entity type can define two types of properties. A [structural property](#sec_StructuralProperty) is a named reference to a primitive, complex, or enumeration type, or a collection of primitive, complex, or enumeration types. A [navigation property](#sec_NavigationProperty) is a named reference to another entity type or collection of entity types.

All properties MUST have a unique name within an entity type. Properties MUST NOT have the same name as the declaring entity type. They MAY have the same name as one of the direct or indirect base types or derived types.

Entity Type Object

An entity type is represented as a member of the schema object whose name is the unqualified name of the entity type and whose value is an object.

The entity type object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of EntityType.

It MAY contain the members [$BaseType](#sec_DerivedEntityType), [$Abstract](#sec_AbstractEntityType), [$OpenType](#sec_OpenEntityType), [$HasStream](#sec_MediaEntityType), and [$Key](#sec_Key).

It also MAY contain members representing [structural properties](#sec_StructuralProperty) and [navigation properties](#sec_NavigationProperty) as well as [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 8: a simple entity type

"Employee": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$Key": [

"ID"

],

"ID": {

"$Nullable": false

},

"FirstName": {

"$Nullable": false

},

"LastName": {

"$Nullable": false

},

"Manager": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Type": "self.Manager"

}

}

## [Derived Entity Type](#sec_DerivedEntityType)

An entity type can inherit from another entity type by specifying it as its base type.

An entity type inherits the [key](#sec_Key) as well as structural and navigation properties of its base type.

An entity type MUST NOT introduce an inheritance cycle by specifying a base type.

$BaseType

The value of $BaseType is the qualified name of the base type.

Example 9: a derived entity type based on the previous example

"Manager": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$BaseType": "self.Employee",

"AnnualBudget": {

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal"

},

"Employees": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Collection": true,

"$Type": "self.Employee"

}

}

Note: the derived type has the same name as one of the properties of its base type.

## [Abstract Entity Type](#sec_AbstractEntityType)

An entity type MAY indicate that it is abstract and cannot have instances.

For OData 4.0 responses a non-abstract entity type MUST define a [key](#sec_Key) or derive from a [base type](#sec_DerivedEntityType) with a defined key.

An abstract entity type MUST NOT inherit from a non-abstract entity type.

$Abstract

The value of $Abstract is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

## [Open Entity Type](#sec_OpenEntityType)

An entity type MAY indicate that it is open and allows clients to add properties dynamically to instances of the type by specifying uniquely named property values in the payload used to insert or update an instance of the type.

An entity type derived from an open entity type MUST indicate that it is also open.

Note: structural and navigation properties MAY be returned by the service on instances of any structured type, whether or not the type is marked as open. Clients MUST always be prepared to deal with additional properties on instances of any structured type, see [**[OData‑Protocol]**](#OdataProtocol).

$OpenType

The value of $OpenType is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

## [Media Entity Type](#sec_MediaEntityType)

An entity type that does not specify a base type MAY indicate that it is a media entity type. *Media entities* are entities that represent a media stream, such as a photo. For more information on media entities see[**[OData‑Protocol]**](#OdataProtocol).

An entity type derived from a media entity type MUST indicate that it is also a media entity type.

Media entity types MAY specify a list of acceptable media types using an annotation with term Core.AcceptableMediaTypes, see [**[OData-VocCore]**](#BMVocCore).

$HasStream

The value of $HasStream is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

## [Key](#sec_Key)

An entity is uniquely identified within an entity set by its key. A key MAY be specified if the entity type does not specify a [base type](#sec_DerivedEntityType) that already has a key declared.

In order to be specified as the type of an [entity set](#sec_EntitySet) or a collection-valued [containment navigation property](#sec_ContainmentNavigationProperty), the entity type MUST either specify a key or inherit its key from its [base type](#sec_DerivedEntityType).

In OData 4.01 responses entity types used for [singletons](#sec_Singleton) or single-valued [navigation properties](#sec_NavigationProperty) do not require a key. In OData 4.0 responses entity types used for [singletons](#sec_Singleton) or single-valued [navigation properties](#sec_NavigationProperty) MUST have a key defined.

An entity type (whether or not it is marked as abstract) MAY define a key only if it doesn’t inherit one.

An entity type’s key refers to the set of properties whose values uniquely identify an instance of the entity type within an entity set. The key MUST consist of at least one property.

Key properties MUST NOT be nullable and MUST be typed with an [enumeration type](#sec_EnumerationType), one of the following [primitive types](#sec_PrimitiveTypes), or a [type definition](#sec_TypeDefinition) based on one of these primitive types:

* Edm.Boolean
* Edm.Byte
* Edm.Date
* Edm.DateTimeOffset
* Edm.Decimal
* Edm.Duration
* Edm.Guid
* Edm.Int16
* Edm.Int32
* Edm.Int64
* Edm.SByte
* Edm.String
* Edm.TimeOfDay

Key property values MAY be language-dependent, but their values MUST be unique across all languages and the entity ids (defined in [**[OData‑Protocol]**](#OdataProtocol)) MUST be language independent.

A key property MUST be a non-nullable primitive property of the entity type itself or a non-nullable primitive property of a single-valued, non-nullable complex or navigation property (recursively) of the entity type. Navigation properties MAY only be used in OData 4.01 responses.

If the key property is a property of a complex or navigation property (recursively), the key MUST specify an alias for that property that MUST be a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) and MUST be unique within the set of aliases, structural and navigation properties of the declaring entity type and any of its base types.

An alias MUST NOT be defined if the key property is a primitive property of the entity type itself.

For key properties that are a property of a complex or navigation property, the alias MUST be used in the key predicate of URLs instead of the path to the property because the required percent-encoding of the forward slash separating segments of the path to the property would make URL construction and parsing rather complicated. The alias MUST NOT be used in the query part of URLs, where paths to properties don’t require special encoding and are a standard constituent of expressions anyway.

$Key

The value of $Key is an array with one item per key property.

Key properties without a key alias are represented as strings containing the property name.

Key properties with a key alias are represented as objects with one member whose name is the key alias and whose value is a string containing the path to the property.

Example 10: entity type with a simple key

"Category": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$Key": [

"ID"

],

"ID": {

"$Type": "Edm.Int32",

"$Nullable": false

},

"Name": {

"@Core.IsLanguageDependent": true

}

}

Example 11: entity type with a simple key referencing a property of a [complex type](#sec_ComplexType)

"Category": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$Key": [

{

"EntityInfoID": "Info/ID"

}

],

"Info": {

"$Type": "self.EntityInfo",

"$Nullable": false

},

"Name": {}

},

"EntityInfo": {

"$Kind": "ComplexType",

"ID": {

"$Type": "Edm.Int32",

"$Nullable": false

},

"Created": {

"$Type": "Edm.DateTimeOffset"

}

}

Example 12: entity type with a composite key

"OrderLine": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$Key": [

"OrderID",

"LineNumber"

],

"OrderID": {

"$Type": "Edm.Int32",

"$Nullable": false

},

"LineNumber": {

"$Type": "Edm.Int32",

"$Nullable": false

}

}

Example 13 (based on example 11): requests to an entity set Categories of type Category must use the alias

GET http://host/service/Categories(EntityInfoID=1)

Example 14 (based on example 11): in a query part the value assigned to the name attribute must be used

GET http://example.org/OData.svc/Categories?$filter=Info/ID le 100

# [Structural Property](#sec_StructuralProperty)

A structural property is a property of a structured type that has one of the following types:

* [Primitive type](#sec_PrimitiveTypes)
* [Complex type](#sec_ComplexType)
* [Enumeration type](#sec_EnumerationType)
* A collection of one of the above

A structural property MUST specify a unique name as well as a [type](#sec_Type).

The property’s name MUST be a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier). It is used when referencing, serializing or deserializing the property. It MUST be unique within the set of structural and navigation properties of the declaring [structured type](#sec_StructuredTypes), and MUST NOT match the name of any navigation property in any of its base types. If a structural property with the same name is defined in any of this type’s base types, then the property’s type MUST be a type derived from the type specified for the property of the base type, and constrains this property to be of the specified subtype for instances of this structured type. The name MUST NOT match the name of any structural or navigation property of any of this type’s base types for OData 4.0 responses.

Property Object

Structural properties are represented as members of the object representing a structured type. The member name is the property name, the member value is an object.

The property object MAY contain the member $Kind with a string value of Property.

It MAY contain the member [$Type](#sec_Type), [$Collection](#sec_Type), [$Nullable](#sec_Nullable), [$MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength), [$Unicode](#sec_Unicode), [$Precision](#sec_Precision), [$Scale](#sec_Scale), [$SRID](#sec_SRID), and [$DefaultValue](#sec_DefaultValue).

It also MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 15: complex type with two properties Dimension and Length

"Measurement": {

"$Kind": "ComplexType",

"Dimension": {

"$Nullable": false,

"$MaxLength": 50,

"$DefaultValue": "Unspecified"

},

"Length": {

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal",

"$Nullable": false,

"$Precision": 18,

"$Scale": 2

}

}

## [Type](#sec_Type)

The property’s type MUST be a [primitive type](#sec_PrimitiveTypes), [complex type](#sec_ComplexType), or [enumeration type](#sec_EnumerationType) in scope, or a collection of one of these types.

A collection-valued property MAY be annotated with the Core.Ordered term, defined in   
[**[OData-VocCore]**](#BMVocCore)**)**, to specify that it supports a stable ordering.

A collection-valued property MAY be annotated with the Core.PositionalInsert term, defined in [**[OData-VocCore]**](#BMVocCore)**)**, to specify that it supports inserting items into a specific ordinal position.

$Type and $Collection

For single-valued properties the value of $Type is the qualified name of the property’s type.

For collection-valued properties the value of $Type is the qualified name of the property’s item type, and the member $Collection MUST be present with the literal value true.

Absence of the $Type member means the type is Edm.String.

Example 16: property Units that can have zero or more strings as its value

"Units": {

"$Collection": true

}

## [Type Facets](#sec_TypeFacets)

Facets modify or constrain the acceptable values of a property.

For single-valued properties facets apply to the type of the property. For collection-valued properties the facets apply to the type of the items in the collection.

### [Nullable](#sec_Nullable)

A Boolean value specifying whether a value is required for the property.

$Nullable

The value of $Nullable is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

### [MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength)

A positive integer value specifying the maximum length of a binary, stream or string value. For binary or stream values this is the octet length of the binary data, for string values it is the character length.

If no maximum length is specified, clients SHOULD expect arbitrary length.

$MaxLength

The value of $MaxLength is a positive integer.

Note: **[**[**OData-CSDLXML**](#CSDLxml)**]** defines a symbolic value max that is only allowed in OData 4.0 responses. This symbolic value is not allowed in CDSL JSON documents at all. Services MAY instead specify the concrete maximum length supported for the type by the service, or omit the member entirely.

### [Precision](#sec_Precision)

For a decimal value: the maximum number of significant decimal digits of the property’s value; it MUST be a positive integer. If no value is specified, the decimal property has arbitrary precision.

For a temporal value (datetime-with-timezone-offset, duration, or time-of-day): the number of decimal places allowed in the seconds portion of the value; it MUST be a non-negative integer between zero and twelve. If no value is specified, the temporal property has a precision of zero.

Note: service designers SHOULD be aware that some clients are unable to support a precision greater than 28 for decimal properties and 7 for temporal properties. Client developers MUST be aware of the potential for data loss when round-tripping values of greater precision. Updating via PATCH and exclusively specifying modified properties will reduce the risk for unintended data loss.

$Precision

The value of $Precision is a number.

Example 17: Precision facet applied to the DateTimeOffset type

"SuggestedTimes": {

"$Type": Edm.DateTimeOffset",

"$Collection": true,

"$Precision": 6

}

### [Scale](#sec_Scale)

A non-negative integer value specifying the maximum number of digits allowed to the right of the decimal point, or one of the symbolic values floating or variable.

The value floating means that the decimal property represents a decimal floating-point number whose number of significant digits is the value of the [Precision](#sec_Precision) facet. OData 4.0 responses MUST NOT specify the value floating.

The value variable means that the number of digits to the right of the decimal point can vary from zero to the value of the [Precision](#sec_Precision) facet.

An integer value means that the number of digits to the right of the decimal point may vary from zero to the value of the Scale facet, and the number of digits to the left of the decimal point may vary from one to the value of the Precision facet minus the value of the Scale facet. If Precision is equal to Scale, a single zero MUST precede the decimal point.

The value of Scale MUST be less than or equal to the value of [Precision](#sec_Precision). If no value is specified, the Scale facet defaults to zero.

Note: if the underlying data store allows negative scale, services may use a [Precision](#sec_Precision) with the absolute value of the negative scale added to the actual number of significant decimal digits, and client-provided values may have to be rounded before being stored.

$Scale

The value of $Scale is a number or a string with one of the symbolic values floating or variable.

Example 18: [Precision](#sec_Precision)=3 and Scale=2.   
Allowed values: 1.23, 0.23, 3.14 and 0.7, not allowed values: 123, 12.3

"Amount32": {

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal",

"$Precision": 3,

"$Scale": 2

}

Example 19: Precision=2 equals Scale.  
Allowed values: 0.23, 0.7, not allowed values: 1.23, 1.2

"Amount22": {

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal",

"$Precision": 2,

"$Scale": 2

}

Example 20: Precision=3 and a variable Scale.  
Allowed values: 0.123, 1.23, 0.23, 0.7, 123 and 12.3, not allowed would be: 12.34, 1234 and 123.4 due to the limited precision.

"Amount3v": {

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal",

"$Precision": 3,

"$Scale": "variable"

}

Example 21: Precision=7 and a floating Scale.  
Allowed values: -1.234567e3, 1e-101, 9.999999e96, not allowed would be: 1e-102 and 1e97 due to the limited precision.

"Amount7f": {

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal",

"$Precision": 3,

"$Scale": "floating"

}

### [Unicode](#sec_Unicode)

For a string property the Unicode facet indicates whether the property might contain and accept string values with Unicode characters beyond the ASCII character set. The value false indicates that the property will only contain and accept string values with characters limited to the ASCII character set.

If no value is specified, the Unicode facet defaults to true.

$Unicode

The value of $Unicode is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means true.

### [SRID](#sec_SRID)

For a geometry or geography property the SRID facet identifies which spatial reference system is applied to values of the property on type instances.

The value of the SRID facet MUST be a non-negative integer or the special value variable. If no value is specified, the facet defaults to 0 for Geometry types or 4326 for Geography types.

The valid values of the SRID facet and their meanings are as defined by the European Petroleum Survey Group [**[EPSG]**](#BMEPSG)**.**

$SRID

The value of $SRID is a string containing a number or the symbolic value variable.

### [Default Value](#sec_DefaultValue)

A primitive or enumeration property MAY define a default value that is used if the property is not explicitly represented in an annotation or the body of a request or response.

If no value is specified, the client SHOULD NOT assume a default value.

$DefaultValue

The value of $DefaultValue is the type-specific JSON representation of the default value of the property, see **[**[**OData-JSON**](#odataJSON)**]**. For properties of type Edm.Decimal and Edm.Int64 the representation depends on the media type parameter [IEEE754Compatible](#sec_ControllingtheRepresentationofNumber).

# [Navigation Property](#sec_NavigationProperty)

A navigation property allows navigation to related entities. It MUST specify a unique name as well as a type.

The navigation property’s name MUST be a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier). It is used when referencing, serializing or deserializing the navigation property. It MUST be unique within the set of structural and navigation properties of the declaring [structured type](#sec_StructuredTypes), and MUST NOT match the name of any structural property in any of its base types. If a navigation property with the same name is defined in any of this type’s base types, then the navigation property’s type MUST be a type derived from the type specified for the navigation property of the base type, and constrains this navigation property to be of the specified subtype for instances of this structured type. The name MUST NOT match the name of any structural or navigation property of any of this type’s base types for OData 4.0 responses.

Navigation Property Object

Navigation properties are represented as members of the object representing a structured type. The member name is the property name, the member value is an object.

The navigation property object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of NavigationProperty.

It MUST contain the member [$Type](#sec_NavigationPropertyType), and it MAY contain the members [$Collection](#sec_NavigationPropertyType), [$Nullable](#sec_NullableNavigationProperty), [$Partner](#sec_PartnerNavigationProperty), [$ContainsTarget](#sec_ContainmentNavigationProperty), [$ReferentialConstraint](#sec_ReferentialConstraint), and [$OnDelete](#sec_OnDeleteAction).

It also MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 22: the Product entity type has a navigation property to a Category, which has a navigation link back to one or more products

"Product": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

…

"Category": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Type": "self.Category",

"$Nullable": false,

"$Partner": "Products",

"$ReferentialConstraint": {

"CategoryID": "ID"

}

},

"Supplier": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Type": "self.Supplier"

}

},

"Category": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

…

"Products": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Collection": true,

"$Type": "self.Product",

"$Partner": "Category",

"$OnDelete": "Cascade",

"$OnDelete@Core.Description": "Delete all related entities"

}

}

## [Navigation Property Type](#sec_NavigationPropertyType)

The navigation property’s type MUST be an [entity type](#sec_EntityType) in scope, the [abstract type](#sec_BuiltInAbstractTypes) Edm.EntityType, or a collection of one of these types.

If the type is a collection, an arbitrary number of entities can be related. Otherwise there is at most one related entity.

The related entities MUST be of the specified entity type or one of its subtypes.

For a collection-valued containment navigation property the specified entity type MUST have a [key](#sec_Key) defined.

A collection-valued navigation property MAY be annotated with the Core.Ordered term, defined in [**[OData-VocCore]**](#BMVocCore)**)**, to specify that it supports a stable ordering.

A collection-valued navigation property MAY be annotated with the Core.PositionalInsert term, defined in [**[OData-VocCore]**](#BMVocCore)**)**, to specify that it supports inserting items into a specific ordinal position.

$Type and $Collection

For single-valued navigation properties the value of $Type is the qualified name of the navigation property’s type.

For collection-valued navigation properties the value of $Type is the qualified name of the navigation property’s item type, and the member $Collection MUST be present with the literal value true.

## [Nullable Navigation Property](#sec_NullableNavigationProperty)

A Boolean value specifying whether the declaring type MAY have no related entity. If false, instances of the declaring structured type MUST always have a related entity.

Nullable MUST NOT be specified for a collection-valued navigation property, a collection is allowed to have zero items.

$Nullable

The value of $Nullable is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means true.

## [Partner Navigation Property](#sec_PartnerNavigationProperty)

A navigation property of an [entity type](#sec_EntityType) MAY specify a partner navigation property. Navigation properties of complex types MUST NOT specify a partner.

If specified, the partner navigation property is identified by a path relative to the entity type specified as the type of the navigation property. This path MUST lead to a navigation property defined on that type or a derived type. The path MAY traverse complex types, including derived complex types, but MUST NOT traverse any navigation properties. The type of the partner navigation property MUST be the declaring entity type of the current navigation property or one of its parent entity types.

If the partner navigation property is single-valued, it MUST lead back to the source entity from all related entities. If the partner navigation property is collection-valued, the source entity MUST be part of that collection.

If no partner navigation property is specified, no assumptions can be made as to whether one of the navigation properties on the target type will lead back to the source entity.

If a partner navigation property is specified, this partner navigation property MUST either specify the current navigation property as its partner to define a bi-directional relationship or it MUST NOT specify a partner navigation property. The latter can occur if the partner navigation property is defined on a complex type, or if the current navigation property is defined on a type derived from the type of the partner navigation property.

$Partner

The value of $Partner is a string containing the path to the partner navigation property.

## [Containment Navigation Property](#sec_ContainmentNavigationProperty)

A navigation property MAY indicate that instances of its declaring structured type contain the targets of the navigation property, in which case the navigation property is called a *containment navigation property*.

Containment navigation properties define an implicit entity set for each instance of its declaring structured type. This implicit entity set is identified by the read URL of the navigation property for that structured type instance.

Instances of the structured type that declares the navigation property, either directly or indirectly via a property of complex type, contain the entities referenced by the containment navigation property. The canonical URL for contained entities is the canonical URL of the containing instance, followed by the path segment of the navigation property and the key of the contained entity, see [**[OData‑URL]**](#ODATAURL).

Entity types used in collection-valued containment navigation properties MUST have a [key](#sec_Key) defined.

For items of an ordered collection of complex types (those annotated with the Core.Ordered term defined in [**[OData-VocCore]**](#BMVocCore)**)**, the canonical URL of the item is the canonical URL of the collection appended with a segment containing the zero-based ordinal of the item. Items within in an unordered collection of complex types do not have a canonical URL. Services that support unordered collections of complex types declaring a containment navigation property, either directly or indirectly via a property of complex type, MUST specify the URL for the navigation link within a payload representing that item, according to format-specific rules.

OData 4.0 responses MUST NOT specify a complex type declaring a containment navigation property as the type of a collection-valued property.

An entity cannot be referenced by more than one containment relationship, and cannot both belong to an entity set declared within the entity container and be referenced by a containment relationship.

Containment navigation properties MUST NOT be specified as the last path segment in the path of a [navigation property binding](#sec_NavigationPropertyBinding). When a containment navigation property navigates between entity types in the same inheritance hierarchy, the containment is called *recursive*.

Containment navigation properties MAY specify a partner navigation property. If the containment is recursive, the relationship defines a tree, thus the partner navigation property MUST be [nullable](#sec_NullableNavigationProperty) (for the root of the tree) and single-valued (for the parent of a non-root entity). If the containment is not recursive, the partner navigation property MUST NOT be nullable.

An entity type inheritance chain MUST NOT contain more than one navigation property with a partner navigation property that is a containment navigation property.

Note: without a partner navigation property, there is no reliable way for a client to determine which entity contains a given contained entity. This may lead to problems for clients if the contained entity can also be reached via a non-containment navigation path.

$ContainsTarget

The value of $ContainsTarget is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

## [Referential Constraint](#sec_ReferentialConstraint)

A single-valued navigation property MAY define one or more referential constraints. A referential constraint asserts that the *dependent property* (the property defined on the *dependent entity* declaring the navigation property) MUST have the same value as the *principal property* (the referenced property declared on the *principal entity* that is the target of the navigation).

The type of the dependent property MUST match the type of the principal property, or both types MUST be complex types.

If the principle property is an entity type, then the dependent property must reference the same entity.

If the principle property is a complex type, then the dependent property must reference a complex type with the same properties, each with the same values.

If the navigation property on which the referential constraint is defined is nullable, or the principal property is nullable, then the dependent property MUST also be nullable. If both the navigation property and the principal property are not nullable, then the dependent property MUST NOT be nullable.

$ReferentialConstraint

The value of $ReferentialConstraint is an object with one member per referential constraint. The member name is the path to the dependent property, the member value is a string containing the path to the principal property.

It also MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation). These are prefixed with the path of the dependent property of the annotated referential constraint.

Example 23: the category must exist for a product in that category to exist. The CategoryID of the product is identical to the ID of the category, and the CategoryKind property of the product is identical to the Kind property of the category.

"Product": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

…

"CategoryID": {

"$Nullable": false

},

"CategoryKind": {},

"Category": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Type": "self.Category",

"$Nullable": false,

"$Partner": "Products",

"$ReferentialConstraint": {

"CategoryID": "ID",

"CategoryKind": "Kind"

"CategoryKind@Core.Description": "Referential Constraint to non-key property"

}

}

},

"Category": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$Key": [

"ID"

],

"ID": {

"$Nullable": false

},

"Kind": {},

…

}

## [On-Delete Action](#sec_OnDeleteAction)

A navigation property MAY define an on-delete action that describes the action the service will take on related entities when the entity on which the navigation property is defined is deleted.

The action can have one of the following values:

* Cascade, meaning the related entities will be deleted if the source entity is deleted,
* None, meaning a DELETE request on a source entity with related entities will fail,
* SetNull, meaning all properties of related entities that are tied to properties of the source entity via a referential constraint and that do not participate in other referential constraints will be set to null,
* SetDefault, meaning all properties of related entities that are tied to properties of the source entity via a referential constraint and that do not participate in other referential constraints will be set to their default value.

If no on-delete action is specified, the action taken by the service is not predictable by the client and could vary per entity.

$OnDelete

The value of $OnDelete is a string with one of the values Cascade, None, SetNull, or SetDefault.

[Annotations](#sec_Annotation) for $OnDelete are prefixed with $OnDelete.

Example 24: deletion of a category implies deletion of the related products in that category

"Category": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

…

"Products": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Collection": true,

"$Type": "self.Product",

"$Partner": "Category",

"$OnDelete": "Cascade",

"$OnDelete@Core.Description": "Delete all products in this category"

}

}

# [Complex Type](#sec_ComplexType)

Complex types are keyless [nominal](#sec_NominalTypes) [structured types](#sec_StructuredTypes). The lack of a key means that instances of complex types cannot be referenced, created, updated or deleted independently of an entity type. Complex types allow entity models to group properties into common structures.

The complex type’s name is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its schema.

A complex type can define two types of properties. A [structural property](#sec_StructuralProperty) is a named reference to a primitive, complex, or enumeration type, or a collection of primitive, complex, or enumeration types. A [navigation property](#sec_NavigationProperty) is a named reference to an entity type or a collection of entity types.

All properties MUST have a unique name within a complex type. Properties MUST NOT have the same name as the declaring complex type. They MAY have the same name as one of the direct or indirect base types or derived types.

Complex Type Object

A complex type is represented as a member of the schema object whose name is the unqualified name of the complex type and whose value is an object.

The complex type object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of ComplexType. It MAY contain the members [$BaseType](#sec_DerivedComplexType), [$Abstract](#sec_AbstractComplexType), and [$OpenType](#sec_OpenComplexType). It also MAY contain members representing [structural properties](#sec_StructuralProperty) and [navigation properties](#sec_NavigationProperty) as well as [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 25: a complex type used by two entity types

"Dimensions": {

"$Kind": "ComplexType",

"Height": {

"$Nullable": false,

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal"

},

"Weight": {

"$Nullable": false,

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal"

},

"Length": {

"$Nullable": false,

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal"

}

},

"Product": {

…

"ProductDimensions": {

"$Type": "self.Dimensions"

},

"ShippingDimensions": {

"$Type": "self.Dimensions"

}

},

"ShipmentBox": {

…

"Dimensions": {

"$Type": "self.Dimensions"

}

}

## [Derived Complex Type](#sec_DerivedComplexType)

A complex type can inherit from another complex type by specifying it as its base type.

A complex type inherits the structural and navigation properties of its base type.

A complex type MUST NOT introduce an inheritance cycle by specifying a base type.

$BaseType

The value of $BaseType is the qualified name of the base type.

## [Abstract Complex Type](#sec_AbstractComplexType)

A complex type MAY indicate that it is abstract and cannot have instances.

$Abstract

The value of $Abstract is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

## [Open Complex Type](#sec_OpenComplexType)

A complex type MAY indicate that it is open and allows clients to add properties dynamically to instances of the type by specifying uniquely named property values in the payload used to insert or update an instance of the type.

A complex type derived from an open complex type MUST indicate that it is also open.

Note: structural and navigation properties MAY be returned by the service on instances of any structured type, whether or not the type is marked as open. Clients MUST always be prepared to deal with additional properties on instances of any structured type, see [**[OData‑Protocol]**](#OdataProtocol).

$OpenType

The value of $OpenType is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

# [Enumeration Type](#sec_EnumerationType)

Enumeration types are [nominal](#sec_NominalTypes) types that represent a series of related values. Enumeration types expose these related values as members of the enumeration.

The enumeration type’s name is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its schema.

Although enumeration types have an underlying numeric value, the preferred representation for an enumeration value is the member name. Discrete sets of numeric values should be represented as numeric values annotated with the AllowedValues annotation defined in [**[OData-VocCore]**](#BMVocCore).

Enumeration types marked as flags allow values that consist of more than one enumeration member at a time.

Enumeration Type Object

An enumeration type is represented as a member of the schema object whose name is the unqualified name of the enumeration type and whose value is an object.

The enumeration type object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of EnumType.

It MAY contain the members [$UnderlyingType](#sec_UnderlyingIntegerType) and [$IsFlags](#sec_FlagsEnumerationType).

The enumeration type object MUST contain members representing [the enumeration type members](#sec_EnumerationTypeMember).

The enumeration type object MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 26: a simple flags-enabled enumeration

"FileAccess": {

"$Kind": "EnumType",

"$UnderlyingType": "Edm.Int32",

"$IsFlags": true,

"Read": 1,

"Write": 2,

"Create": 4,

"Delete": 8

}

## [Underlying Integer Type](#sec_UnderlyingIntegerType)

An enumeration type MAY specify one of Edm.Byte, Edm.SByte, Edm.Int16, Edm.Int32, or Edm.Int64 as its underlying type.

If not explicitly specified, Edm.Int32 is used as the underlying type.

$UnderlyingType

The value of $UnderlyingType is the qualified name of the underlying type.

## [Flags Enumeration Type](#sec_FlagsEnumerationType)

An enumeration type MAY indicate that the enumeration type allows multiple members to be selected simultaneously.

If not explicitly specified, only one enumeration type member MAY be selected simultaneously.

$IsFlags

The value of $IsFlags is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

Example 27: pattern values can be combined, and some combined values have explicit names

"Pattern": {

"$Kind": "EnumType",

"$UnderlyingType": "Edm.Int32",

"$IsFlags": true,

"Plain": 0,

"Red": 1,

"Blue": 2,

"Yellow": 4,

"Solid": 8,

"Striped": 16,

"SolidRed": 9,

"SolidBlue": 10,

"SolidYellow": 12,

"RedBlueStriped": 19,

"RedYellowStriped": 21,

"BlueYellowStriped": 22

}

## [Enumeration Type Member](#sec_EnumerationTypeMember)

Enumeration type values consist of discrete members.

Each member is identified by its name, a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within the enumeration type.

Each member MUST specify an associated numeric value that MUST be a valid value for the underlying type of the enumeration type.

Enumeration types can have multiple members with the same value. Members with the same numeric value compare as equal, and members with the same numeric value can be used interchangeably.

Enumeration members are sorted by their numeric value.

For flag enumeration types the combined numeric value of simultaneously selected members is the bitwise OR of the discrete numeric member values.

Enumeration Member Object

Enumeration type members are represented as JSON object members, where the object member name is the enumeration member name and the object member value is the enumeration member value.

For members of [flags enumeration types](#sec_FlagsEnumerationType) a combined enumeration member value is equivalent to the bitwise OR of the discrete values.

Annotations for enumeration members are prefixed with the enumeration member name.

Example 28: FirstClass has a value of 0, TwoDay a value of 1, and Overnight a value of 2.

"ShippingMethod": {

"$Kind": "EnumType",

"FirstClass": 0,

"FirstClass@Core.Description": "Shipped with highest priority",

"TwoDay": 1,

"TwoDay@Core.Description": "Shipped within two days",

"Overnight": 2,

"Overnight@Core.Description": "Shipped overnight",

"@Core.Description": "Method of shipping"

}

# [Type Definition](#sec_TypeDefinition)

A type definition defines a specialization of one of the [primitive types](#sec_PrimitiveTypes).

The type definition’s name is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its schema.

Type definitions can be used wherever a primitive type is used (other than as the underlying type in a new type definition), and are type-comparable with their underlying types and any type definitions defined using the same underlying type.

It is up to the definition of a term to specify whether and how annotations with this term propagate to places where the annotated type definition is used, and whether they can be overridden.

Type Definition Object

A type definition is represented as a member of the schema object whose name is the unqualified name of the type definition and whose value is an object.

The type definition object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of TypeDefinition and the member [$UnderlyingType](#sec_UnderlyingPrimitiveType). It MAY contain the members [$MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength), [$Unicode](#sec_Unicode), [$Precision](#sec_Precision), [$Scale](#sec_Scale), and [$SRID](#sec_SRID), and it MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 29:

"Length": {

"$Kind": "TypeDefinition",

"$UnderlyingType": "Edm.Int32",

"@Measures.Unit": "Centimeters"

},

"Weight": {

"$Kind": "TypeDefinition",

"$UnderlyingType": "Edm.Int32",

"@Measures.Unit": "Kilograms"

},

"Size": {

"$Kind": "ComplexType",

"Height": {

"$Type": "self.Length"

},

"Weight": {

"$Type": "self.Weight"

}

}

## [Underlying Primitive Type](#sec_UnderlyingPrimitiveType)

The underlying type of a type definition MUST be a primitive type that MUST NOT be another type definition.

$UnderlyingType

The value of $UnderlyingType is the qualified name of the underlying type.

The type definition MAY specify facets applicable to the underlying type. Possible facets are: [$MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength), $[Unicode](#sec_Unicode), $[Precision](#sec_Precision), $[Scale](#sec_Scale), or $[SRID](#sec_SRID).

Additional facets appropriate for the underlying type MAY be specified when the type definition is used but the facets specified in the type definition MUST NOT be re-specified.

Where type definitions are used, the type definition is returned in place of the primitive type wherever the type is specified in a response.

# [Action and Function](#sec_ActionandFunction)

## [Action](#sec_Action)

Actions are service-defined operations that MAY have observable side effects and MAY return a single instance or a collection of instances of any type.

The action’s name is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its schema.

Actions cannot be composed with additional path segments.

An action MAY specify a [return type](#sec_ReturnType) that MUST be a primitive, entity or complex type, or a collection of primitive, entity or complex types in scope.

An action MAY define [parameters](#sec_Parameter) used during the execution of the action.

## [Action Overloads](#sec_ActionOverloads)

[Bound](#sec_BoundorUnboundActionorFunctionOverlo) actions support overloading (multiple actions having the same name within the same schema) by binding parameter type. The combination of action name and the binding parameter type MUST be unique within a schema.

[Unbound](#sec_BoundorUnboundActionorFunctionOverlo) actions do not support overloads. The names of all unbound actions MUST be unique within a schema.

An unbound action MAY have the same name as a bound action.

Action Overload Object

An action is represented as a member of the schema object whose name is the unqualified name of the action and whose value is an array. The array contains one object per action overload.

The action overload object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of Action.

It MAY contain the members [$IsBound](#sec_BoundorUnboundActionorFunctionOverlo), [$EntitySetPath](#sec_EntitySetPath), [$Parameter](#sec_Parameter), and [$ReturnType](#sec_ReturnType), and it MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

## [Function](#sec_Function)

Functions are service-defined operations that MUST NOT have observable side effects and MUST return a single instance or a collection of instances of any type.

The function’s name is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its schema.

Functions MAY be [composable](#sec_ComposableFunction).

The function MUST specify a [return type](#sec_ReturnType) which MUST be a primitive, entity or complex type, or a collection of primitive, entity or complex types in scope.

A function MAY define [parameters](#sec_Parameter) used during the execution of the function.

## [Function Overloads](#sec_FunctionOverloads)

[Bound](#sec_BoundorUnboundActionorFunctionOverlo) functions support overloading (multiple functions having the same name within the same schema) subject to the following rules:

* The combination of function name, binding parameter type, and unordered set of non-binding parameter names MUST be unique within a schema.
* The combination of function name, binding parameter type, and ordered set of parameter types MUST be unique within a schema.
* All bound functions with the same function name and binding parameter type within a schema MUST specify the same return type.

[Unbound](#sec_BoundorUnboundActionorFunctionOverlo) functions support overloading subject to the following rules:

* The combination of function name and unordered set of parameter names MUST be unique within a schema.
* The combination of function name and ordered set of parameter types MUST be unique within a schema.
* All unbound functions with the same function name within a schema MUST specify the same return type.

An unbound function MAY have the same name as a bound function.

Note that [type definitions](#sec_TypeDefinition) can be used to disambiguate overloads for both bound and unbound functions, even if they specify the same underlying type.

Function Overload Object

A function is represented as a member of the schema object whose name is the unqualified name of the function and whose value is an array. The array contains one object per function overload.

The function overload object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of Function.

It MUST contain the member [$ReturnType](#sec_ReturnType), and it MAY contain the members [$IsBound](#sec_BoundorUnboundActionorFunctionOverlo), [$EntitySetPath](#sec_EntitySetPath), and [$Parameter](#sec_Parameter), and it MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

## [Bound or Unbound Action or Function Overloads](#sec_BoundorUnboundActionorFunctionOverlo)

An action or function overload MAY indicate that it is bound. If not explicitly indicated, it is unbound.

Bound actions or functions are invoked on resources matching the type of the binding parameter. The binding parameter can be of any type, and it MAY be [nullable](#sec_Nullable).

Unbound actions are invoked from the entity container through an [action import](#sec_ActionImport).

Unbound functions are invoked as static functions within a filter or orderby expression, or from the entity container through a [function import](#sec_FunctionImport).

$IsBound

The value of $IsBound is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

## [Entity Set Path](#sec_EntitySetPath)

Bound actions and functions that return an entity or a collection of entities MAY specify an entity set path if the entity set of the returned entities depends on the entity set of the binding parameter value.

The entity set path consists of a series of segments joined together with forward slashes.

The first segment of the entity set path MUST be the name of the binding parameter. The remaining segments of the entity set path MUST represent navigation segments or type casts.

A navigation segment names the [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) of the [navigation property](#sec_NavigationProperty) to be traversed. A type-cast segment names the [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of the entity type that should be returned from the type cast.

$EntitySetPath

The value of $EntitySetPath is a string containing the entity set path.

## [Composable Function](#sec_ComposableFunction)

A function MAY indicate that it is composable. If not explicitly indicated, it is not composable.

A composable function can be invoked with additional path segments or key predicates appended to the resource path that identifies the composable function, and with system query options as appropriate for the type returned by the composable function.

$IsComposable

The value of $IsComposable is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

## [Return Type](#sec_ReturnType)

The return type of an action or function overload MAY be any type in scope, or a collection of any type in scope.

The facets [Nullable](#sec_Nullable), [MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength), [Precision](#sec_Precision), [Scale](#sec_Scale), and [SRID](#sec_SRID) can be used as appropriate to specify value restrictions of the return type, as well as the [Unicode](#sec_Unicode) facet for 4.01 and greater payloads.

$ReturnType

The value of $ReturnType is an object. It MAY contain the members $Type, $Collection, $Nullable, [$MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength), [$Unicode](#sec_Unicode), [$Precision](#sec_Precision), [$Scale](#sec_Scale), and [$SRID](#sec_SRID).

It also MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

$Type and $Collection

For single-valued return types the value of $Type is the qualified name of the returned type.

For collection-valued return types the value of $Type is the qualified name of the returned item type, and the member $Collection MUST be present with the literal value true.

Absence of the $Type member means the type is Edm.String.

$Nullable

The value of $Nullable is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means true.

For single-valued return types the value true means that the action or function MAY return a single null value. The value false means that the action or function will never return a null value and instead will fail with an error response if it cannot compute a result.

For collection-valued return types the result will always be a collection that MAY be empty. In this case the Nullable attribute applies to items of the collection and specifies whether the collection MAY contain null values.

## [Parameter](#sec_Parameter)

An action or function overload MAY specify parameters.

A bound action or function overload MUST specify at least one parameter; the first parameter is its binding parameter.

Each parameter MUST have a name that is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier). The parameter name MUST be unique within the action or function overload.

The parameter MUST specify a type. It MAY be any type in scope, or a collection of any type in scope.

The facets [MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength), [Precision](#sec_Precision), [Scale](#sec_Scale), or [SRID](#sec_SRID) can be used as appropriate to specify value restrictions of the parameter, as well as the [Unicode](#sec_Unicode) facet for 4.01 and greater payloads.

$Parameter

The value of $Parameter is an array. The array contains one object per parameter.

Parameter Object

A parameter object MUST contain the member $Name, and it MAY contain the members $Type, $Collection, $Nullable, [$MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength), [$Unicode](#sec_Unicode), [$Precision](#sec_Precision), [$Scale](#sec_Scale), and [$SRID](#sec_SRID).

Parameter objects MAY also contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

$Name

The value of $Name is a string containing the parameter name.

$Type and $Collection

For single-valued parameters the value of $Type is the qualified name of the accepted type.

For collection-valued parameters the value of $Type is the qualified name of the accepted item type, and the member $Collection MUST be present with the literal value true.

Absence of the $Type member means the type is Edm.String.

$Nullable

The value of $Nullable is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means true.

The value true means that the parameter accepts a null value.

Example 30: a function returning the top-selling products for a given year. In this case the year must be specified as a parameter of the function with the edm:Parameter element.

"TopSellingProducts": [

{

"$Kind": "Function",

"$Parameter": [

{

"$Name": "Year",

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal",

"$Precision": 4,

"$Scale": 0

}

],

"$ReturnType": {

"$Collection": true,

"$Type": "self.Product"

}

}

]

# [Entity Container](#sec_EntityContainer)

Each metadata document used to describe an OData service MUST define exactly one entity container.

The entity container’s name is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its schema.

Entity containers define the entity sets, singletons, function and action imports exposed by the service.

Entity set, singleton, action import, and function import names MUST be unique within an entity container.

An [*entity set*](#sec_EntitySet) allows access to entity type instances. Simple entity models frequently have one entity set per entity type.

Example 31: one entity set per entity type

"Products": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Product"

},

"Categories": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Category"

}

Other entity models may expose multiple entity sets per type.

Example 32: three entity sets referring to the two entity types

"StandardCustomers": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Customer",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Orders": "Orders"

}

},

"PreferredCustomers": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Customer",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Orders": "Orders"

}

},

"Orders": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Order"

}

There are separate entity sets for standard customers and preferred customers, but only one entity set for orders. The entity sets for standard customers and preferred customers both have [navigation property bindings](#sec_NavigationPropertyBinding) to the orders entity set, but the orders entity set does not have a navigation property binding for the Customer navigation property, since it could lead to either set of customers.

An entity set can expose instances of the specified entity type as well as any entity type inherited from the specified entity type.

A [*singleton*](#sec_Singleton) allows addressing a single entity directly from the entity container without having to know its key, and without requiring an entity set.

A [*function import*](#sec_FunctionImport) or an [*action import*](#sec_ActionImport) is used to expose a function or action defined in an entity model as a top level resource.

Entity Container Object

An entity container is represented as a member of the schema object whose name is the unqualified name of the entity container and whose value is an object.

The entity container object MAY contain the member [$Extends](#sec_ExtendinganEntityContainer), members representing [entity sets](#sec_EntitySet), [singletons](#sec_Singleton), [action imports](#sec_ActionImport), and [function imports](#sec_FunctionImport), as well as [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 33: An entity container aggregates entity sets, singletons, action imports, and function imports.

"DemoService": {

"$Kind": "EntityContainer",

"Products": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Product",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Category": "Categories",

"Supplier": "Suppliers"

},

"@UI.DisplayName": "Product Catalog"

},

"Categories": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Category",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Products": "Products"

}

},

"Suppliers": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Supplier",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Products": "self.DemoService"

},

"@UI.DisplayName": "Supplier Directory"

},

"MainSupplier": {

"$Kind": "Singleton",

"$Type": "self.Supplier"

},

"LeaveRequestApproval": {

"$Kind": "ActionImport",

"$Action": "self.Approval"

},

"ProductsByRating": {

"$Kind": "FunctionImport",

"$EntitySet": "Products",

"$Function": "self.ProductsByRating"

}

}

## [Extending an Entity Container](#sec_ExtendinganEntityContainer)

An entity container MAY specify that it extends another entity container in scope. All children of the “base” entity container are added to the “extending” entity container.

Note: services should not introduce cycles by extending entity containers. Clients should be prepared to process cycles introduced by extending entity containers.

$Extends

The value of $Extends is the qualified name of the entity container to be extended.

Example 34: the entity container Extending will contain all child elements that it defines itself, plus all child elements of the Base entity container located in SomeOtherSchema

"Extending": {

"$Kind": "EntityContainer",

"$Extends": "SomeOtherSchema.Base",

…

}

## [Entity Set](#sec_EntitySet)

Entity sets are top-level collection-valued resources.

An entity set is identified by its name, a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its entity container.

An entity set MUST specify a type that MUST be an entity type in scope.

An entity set MUST contain only instances of its specified entity type or its subtypes. The entity type MAY be [abstract](#sec_AbstractEntityType) but MUST have a [key](#sec_Key) defined.

An entity set MAY indicate whether it is included in the service document. If not explicitly indicated, it is included.

Entity sets that cannot be queried without specifying additional query options SHOULD NOT be included in the service document.

Entity Set Object

An entity set is represented as a member of the entity container object whose name is the name of the entity set and whose value is an object.

The entity set object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of EntitySet, and the member $Type whose string value is the qualified name of an entity type.

It MAY contain the members $IncludeInServiceDocument and [$NavigationPropertyBinding](#sec_NavigationPropertyBinding) as well as [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

$IncludeInServiceDocument

The value of $IncludeInServiceDocument is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means true.

## [Singleton](#sec_Singleton)

Singletons are top-level single-valued resources.

A singleton is identified by its name, a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its entity container.

A singleton MUST specify a type that MUST be an entity type in scope.

A singleton MUST reference an instance its entity type.

Singleton Object

A singleton is represented as a member of the entity container object whose name is the name of the singleton and whose value is an object.

The singleton object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of Singleton, and the member $Type whose string value is the qualified name of an entity type.

It MAY contain the member [$NavigationPropertyBinding](#sec_NavigationPropertyBinding) as well as [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

## [Navigation Property Binding](#sec_NavigationPropertyBinding)

If the entity type of an entity set or singleton declares navigation properties, a navigation property binding allows describing which entity set or singleton will contain the related entities.

An [entity set](#sec_EntitySet) or a [singleton](#sec_Singleton) SHOULD specify a navigation property binding for each [navigation property](#sec_NavigationProperty) of its entity type, including navigation properties defined on complex typed properties or derived types.

If omitted, clients MUST assume that the target entity set or singleton can vary per related entity.

### [Binding Path](#sec_BindingPath)

A navigation property binding MUST specify a path to a navigation property of the entity set’s or singleton's declared entity type, or a navigation property reached through a chain of type casts, complex properties, or containment navigation properties. If the navigation property is defined on a subtype, the path MUST contain the [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of the subtype, followed by a forward slash, followed by the navigation property name. If the navigation property is defined on a complex type used in the definition of the entity set’s entity type, the path MUST contain a forward-slash separated list of complex property names and qualified type names that describe the path leading to the navigation property.

The path can traverse one or more containment navigation properties but the last navigation property segment MUST be a non-containment navigation property and there MUST NOT be any non-containment navigation properties prior to the final navigation property segment.

OData 4.01 services MAY have a type-cast segment as the last path segment, allowing to bind instances of different sub-types to different targets.

The same navigation property path MUST NOT be specified in more than one navigation property binding; navigation property bindings are only used when all related entities are known to come from a single entity set. Note that it is possible to have navigation property bindings for paths that differ only in a type-cast segment, allowing to bind instances of different sub-types to different targets. If paths differ only in type-cast segments, the most specific path applies.

### [Binding Target](#sec_BindingTarget)

A navigation property binding MUST specify a target via a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) or [target path](#sec_TargetPath). It specifies the entity set, singleton, or containment navigation property that contains the related entities.

If the target is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier), it MUST resolve to an entity set or singleton defined in the same entity container.

If the target is a [target path](#sec_TargetPath), it MUST resolve to an entity set, singleton, or containment navigation property in scope. The path can traverse single-valued containment navigation properties or single-valued complex properties before ending in a containment navigation property, and there MUST NOT be any non-containment navigation properties prior to the final segment.

$NavigationPropertyBinding

The value of $NavigationPropertyBinding is an object. It consists of members whose name is the navigation property binding path and whose value is a string containing the navigation property binding target. If the target is in the same entity container, the target MUST NOT be prefixed with the qualified entity container name.

Example 35: for an entity set in the same container as the enclosing entity set Categories

"Categories": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Category",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Products": "SomeSet"

}

}

Example 36: for an entity set in any container in scope

"Categories": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Category",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Products": "SomeModel.SomeContainer/SomeSet"

}

}

Example 37: binding Suppliers on Products contained within Categories

"Categories": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Category",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Products/Supplier": "Suppliers"

}

}

## [Action Import](#sec_ActionImport)

Action imports sets are top-level resources that are never included in the service document.

An action import is identified by its name, a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its entity container.

An action import MUST specify the name of an unbound action in scope.

If the imported action returns an entity or a collection of entities, a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) or [target path](#sec_TargetPath) value MAY be specified to identify the entity set that contains the returned entities. If a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) is specified, it MUST resolve to an entity set defined in the same entity container. If a [target path](#sec_TargetPath) is specified, it MUST resolve to an entity set in scope.

Action Import Object

An action import is represented as a member of the entity container object whose name is the name of the action import and whose value is an object.

The action import object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of ActionImport, and the member $Action.

It MAY contain the member $EntitySet.

It MAY also contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

$Action

The value of $Action is a string containing the qualified name of an unbound action.

$EntitySet

The value of $EntitySet is a string containing either the unqualified name of an entity set in the same entity container or a path to an entity set in a different entity container.

## [Function Import](#sec_FunctionImport)

Function imports sets are top-level resources.

A function import is identified by its name, a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its entity container.

A function import MUST specify the name of an unbound function in scope. All [unbound overloads](#sec_BoundorUnboundActionorFunctionOverlo) of the imported function can be invoked from the entity container.

If the imported function returns an entity or a collection of entities, a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) or [target path](#sec_TargetPath) value MAY be specified to identify the entity set that contains the returned entities. If a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) is specified, it MUST resolve to an entity set defined in the same entity container. If a [target path](#sec_TargetPath) is specified, it MUST resolve to an entity set in scope.

A function import for a parameterless function MAY indicate whether it is included in the service document. If not explicitly indicated, it is not included.

Function Import Object

A function import is represented as a member of the entity container object whose name is the name of the function import and whose value is an object.

The function import object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of FunctionImport, and the member $Function.

It MAY contain the members $EntitySet and $IncludeInServiceDocument.

It MAY also contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

$Function

The value of $Function is a string containing the qualified name of an unbound function.

$EntitySet

The value of $EntitySet is a string containing either the unqualified name of an entity set in the same entity container or a path to an entity set in a different entity container.

$IncludeInServiceDocument

The value of $IncludeInServiceDocument is one of the Boolean literals true or false. Absence of the member means false.

# [Vocabulary and Annotation](#sec_VocabularyandAnnotation)

Vocabularies and annotations provide the ability to annotate metadata as well as instance data, and define a powerful extensibility point for OData. An [*annotation*](#sec_Annotation) applies a [*term*](#sec_Term) to a model element and defines how to calculate a value for the applied term.

*Metadata annotations* can be used to define additional characteristics or capabilities of a metadata element, such as a service, entity type, property, function, action, or parameter. For example, a metadata annotation may define ranges of valid values for a particular property. Metadata annotations are applied in CSDL documents describing or referencing an entity model.

*Instance annotations* can be used to define additional information associated with a particular result, entity, property, or error; for example, whether a property is read-only for a particular instance. Where the same annotation is defined at both the metadata and instance level, the instance-level annotation overrides the annotation specified at the metadata level. Instance annotations appear in the actual payload as described in [**[OData‑JSON]**](#ODATAJSON). Annotations that apply across instances should be specified as metadata annotations.

A *vocabulary* is a schema containing a set of terms where each [term](#sec_Term) is a named metadata extension. Anyone can define a vocabulary (a set of terms) that is scenario-specific or company-specific; more commonly used terms can be published as shared vocabularies such as the OData Core vocabulary [**[OData-VocCore]**](#BMVocCore).

A [term](#sec_Term) can be used to:

* Extend model elements and type instances with additional information.
* Map instances of annotated structured types to an interface defined by the term type; i.e. annotations allow viewing instances of a structured type as instances of a differently structured type specified by the applied term.

A service SHOULD NOT require a client to interpret annotations. Clients SHOULD ignore unknown terms and silently treat unexpected or invalid values (including invalid type, invalid literal expression, etc.) as an unknown value for the term.

Example 38: the Product entity type is extended with a DisplayName by a metadata annotation that binds the term DisplayName to the value of the property Name. The Product entity type also includes an annotation that allows its instances to be viewed as instances of the type specified by the term SearchResult

"Product": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$Key": [

"ID"

],

"ID": {

"$Nullable": false,

"$Type": "Edm.Int32"

},

"Name": {},

"Description": {},

"@UI.DisplayName": {

"$Path": "Name"

},

"@SearchVocabulary.SearchResult": {

"Title": {

"$Path": "Name"

},

"Abstract": {

"$Path": "Description"

},

"Url": {

"$Apply": [

"Products(",

{

"$Path": "ID"

},

")"

],

"$Function": "odata.concat"

}

}

}

## [Term](#sec_Term)

A term allows annotating a model element or OData resource representation with additional data.

The term’s name is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) that MUST be unique within its schema.

The term’s type MUST be a type in scope, or a collection of a type in scope.

Term Object

A term is represented as a member of the schema object whose name is the unqualified name of the term and whose value is an object.

The term object MUST contain the member $Kind with a string value of Term.

It MAY contain the members $Type, $Collection, [$AppliesTo](#sec_Applicability), [$Nullable](#sec_Nullable), [$MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength), [$Precision](#sec_Precision), [$Scale](#sec_Scale), [$SRID](#sec_SRID), and $DefaultValue, as well as [$Unicode](#sec_Unicode) for 4.01 and greater payloads.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

$Type and $Collection

For single-valued terms the value of $Type is the qualified name of the term’s type.

For collection-valued terms the value of $Type is the qualified name of the term’s item type, and the member $Collection MUST be present with the literal value true.

Absence of the $Type member means the type is Edm.String.

$DefaultValue

The value of $DefaultValue is the type-specific JSON representation of the default value of the term, see **[**[**OData-JSON**](#odataJSON)**]**.

Note: the $DefaultValue member is purely for documentation. Annotations in CSDL JSON documents MUST always specify an explicit value.

### [Specialized Term](#sec_SpecializedTerm)

A term MAY specialize another term in scope by specifying it as its base term.

When applying a specialized term, the base term MUST also be applied with the same qualifier, and so on until a term without a base term is reached.

$BaseTerm

The value of $BaseTerm is the qualified name of the base term.

### [Applicability](#sec_Applicability)

A term MAY specify a list of model elements it is intended to be applied to. If no list is supplied, the term is not intended to be restricted in its application. As the intended usage may evolve over time, clients SHOULD be prepared for any term to be applied to any model element and SHOULD be prepared to handle unknown values within the list of model constructs. Applicability is expressed using the following symbolic values:

| **Symbolic Value** | **Model Element** |
| --- | --- |
| Action | Action |
| ActionImport | Action Import |
| Annotation | Annotation |
| Apply | Application of a client-side function in an annotation |
| Cast | Type Cast annotation expression |
| Collection | Entity Set or collection-valued Property or Navigation Property |
| ComplexType | Complex Type |
| EntityContainer | Entity Container |
| EntitySet | Entity Set |
| EntityType | Entity Type |
| EnumType | Enumeration Type |
| Function | Function |
| FunctionImport | Function Import |
| If | Conditional annotation expression |
| Include | Reference to an Included Schema |
| IsOf | Type Check annotation expression |
| LabeledElement | Labeled Element expression |
| Member | Enumeration Member |
| NavigationProperty | Navigation Property |
| Null | Null annotation expression |
| OnDelete | On-Delete Action of a navigation property |
| Parameter | Action of Function Parameter |
| Property | Property of a structured type |
| PropertyValue | Property value of a Record annotation expression |
| Record | Record annotation expression |
| Reference | Reference to another CSDL document |
| ReferentialConstraint | Referential Constraint of a navigation property |
| ReturnType | Return Type of an Action or Function |
| Schema | Schema |
| Singleton | Singleton |
| Term | Term |
| TypeDefinition | Type Definition |
| UrlRef | UrlRef annotation expression |

$AppliesTo

The value of $AppliesTo is an array whose items are strings containing symbolic values from the table above that identify model elements the term is intended to be applied to.

Example 39: the IsURL term can be applied to properties and terms that are of type Edm.String (the Core.Tag type and the two Core terms are defined in [**[OData‑VocCore]**](#BMVocCore))

"IsURL": {

"$Kind": "Term",

"$Type": "Core.Tag",

"$DefaultValue": true,

"$AppliesTo": [

"Property"

],

"@Core.Description": "Properties and terms annotated with this term MUST contain a valid URL",

"@Core.RequiresType": "Edm.String"

}

## [Annotation](#sec_Annotation)

An annotation applies a [term](#sec_Term) to a model element and defines how to calculate a value for the term application. Both term and model element MUST be in scope. Section 14.1.2 specifies which model elements MAY be annotated with a term.

The value of an annotation is specified as an *annotation expression*, which is either a [constant expression](#sec_ConstantExpression) representing a constant value, or a [dynamic expression](#sec_DynamicExpression). The most common construct for assigning an annotation value is a [path expression](#sec_ValuePath) that refers to a property of the same or a related structured type.

Example 40: term Measures.ISOCurrency, once applied with a constant value, once with a path value

"AmountInReportingCurrency": {

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal",

"@Measures.ISOCurrency": "USD"

},

"AmountInTransactionCurrency": {

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal",

"@Measures.ISOCurrency": {

"$Path": "Currency"

}

},

"Currency": {

"$MaxLength": 3

}

If an entity type or complex type is annotated with a term that itself has a structured type, an instance of the annotated type may be viewed as an “instance” of the term, and the qualified term name may be used as a [term-cast segment](#ref_TermCast) in path expressions.

Structured types “inherit” annotations from their direct or indirect base types. If both the type and one of its base types is annotated with the same term and qualifier, the annotation on the type completely replaces the annotation on the base type; structured or collection-valued annotation values are not merged. Similarly, properties of a structured type inherit annotations from identically named properties of a base type.

It is up to the definition of a term to specify whether and how annotations with this term propagate to places where the annotated model element is used, and whether they can be overridden. E.g. a "Label" annotation for a UI can propagate from a type definition to all properties using that type definition and may be overridden at each property with a more specific label, whereas an annotation marking a type definition as containing a phone number will propagate to all using properties but may not be overridden.

### [Qualifier](#sec_Qualifier)

A term can be applied multiple times to the same model element by providing a qualifier to distinguish the annotations. The qualifier is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier).

The combination of target model element, term, and qualifier uniquely identifies an annotation.

Annotation Member

An annotation is represented as a member whose name consists of an at (@) character, followed by the qualified name of a term, optionally followed by a hash (#) and a qualifier.

The value of the annotation MUST be a [constant expression](#sec_ConstantExpression) or [dynamic expression](#sec_DynamicExpression).

The annotation can be a member of the object representing the model element it annotates, or a second-level member of the [$Annotations](#sec_AnnotationswithExternalTargeting) member of a schema object.

Example 41: annotation should only be applied to tablet devices

"@UI.DisplayName#Tablet": {

"$Path": "FirstName"

}

### [Target](#sec_Target)

The target of an annotation is the model element the term is applied to.

The target of an annotation MAY be specified indirectly by “nesting” the annotation within the model element. Whether and how this is possible is described per model element in this specification.

The target of an annotation MAY also be specified directly; this allows defining an annotation in a different schema than the targeted model element.

This external targeting is only possible for model elements that are uniquely identified within their parent, and all their ancestor elements are uniquely identified within their parent:

* [Action](#sec_Action) (applies to all overloads)
* [Action Import](#sec_ActionImport)
* [Complex Type](#sec_ComplexType)
* [Entity Container](#sec_EntityContainer)
* [Entity Set](#sec_EntitySet)
* [Entity Type](#sec_EntityType)
* [Enumeration Type](#sec_EnumerationType)
* [Enumeration Type Member](#sec_EnumerationTypeMember)
* [Function](#sec_Function) (applies to all overloads)
* [Function Import](#sec_FunctionImport)
* [Navigation Property](#sec_NavigationProperty) (via type, entity set, or singleton)
* [Parameter](#sec_Parameter) of an action or function (applies to all overloads defining the parameter)
* [Property](#sec_StructuralProperty) (via type, entity set, or singleton)
* [Return Type](#sec_ReturnType) of an action or function (applies to all overloads)
* [Singleton](#sec_Singleton)
* [Type Definition](#sec_TypeDefinition)

These are the direct children of a schema with a unique name (i.e. except actions and functions whose overloads to not possess a natural identifier), and all direct children of an entity container.

External targeting is possible for actions, functions, their parameters, and their return type, in which case the annotation applies to all overloads of the action or function or all parameters of that name across all overloads. External targeting of individual action or function overloads is not possible.

External targeting is also possible for properties and navigation properties of singletons or entities in a particular entity set. These annotations override annotations on the properties or navigation properties targeted via the declaring structured type.

The allowed path expressions are:

* [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of schema child
* [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of schema child followed by a forward slash and name of child element
* [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of structured type followed by zero or more property, navigation property, or type-cast segments, each segment starting with a forward slash
* [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of an entity container followed by a segment containing a singleton or entity set name and zero or more property, navigation property, or type-cast segments
* [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of an action or function followed by a forward slash and $ReturnType
* [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of an entity container followed by a segment containing an action or function import name, optionally followed by a forward slash and either a parameter name or $ReturnType
* One of the preceding, followed by a forward slash, an at (@), the [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of a term, and optionally a hash (#) and the qualifier of an annotation

Example 42: Target expressions

MySchema.MyEntityType

MySchema.MyEntityType/MyProperty

MySchema.MyEntityType/MyNavigationProperty

MySchema.MyComplexType

MySchema.MyComplexType/MyProperty

MySchema.MyComplexType/MyNavigationProperty

MySchema.MyEnumType

MySchema.MyEnumType/MyMember

MySchema.MyTypeDefinition

MySchema.MyTerm

MySchema.MyEntityContainer

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MySingleton

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyActionImport

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyFunctionImport

MySchema.MyAction

MySchema.MyFunction

MySchema.MyFunction/MyParameter

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet/MyProperty

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet/MyNavigationProperty

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet/MySchema.MyEntityType/MyProperty

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet/MySchema.MyEntityType/MyNavProperty

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet/MyComplexProperty/MyProperty

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet/MyComplexProperty/MyNavigationProperty

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MySingleton/MyComplexProperty/MyNavigationProperty

## [Constant Expression](#sec_ConstantExpression)

Constant expressions allow assigning a constant value to an applied term.

### [Binary](#sec_Binary)

$Binary

Binary expressions are represented as an object with a single member $Binary whose value is a string containing the base64url-encoded binary value.

Example 43: base64url-encoded binary value (OData)

"@UI.Thumbnail": {

"$Binary": "T0RhdGE"

}

### [Boolean](#sec_Boolean)

Boolean expressions are represented as the literals true or false.

Example 44:

"@UI.ReadOnly": true

### [Date](#sec_Date)

$Date

Date expressions are represented as an object with a single member $Date whose value is a string containing the date value. The value MUST conform to type xs:date, see [**[XML‑Schema‑2]**](#BMXMLSchema2), [section 3.3.9](http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema11-2/#date). The value MUST also conform to rule dateValue in [**[OData‑ABNF]**](#BMABNF), i.e. it MUST NOT contain a time-zone offset.

Example 45:

"@vCard.birthDay": {

"$Date": "2000-01-01"

}

### [DateTimeOffset](#sec_DateTimeOffset)

$DateTimeOffset

Datetimestamp expressions are represented as an object with a single member $DateTimeOffset whose value is a string containing the timestamp value. The value MUST conform to type xs:dateTimeStamp, see [**[XML‑Schema‑2]**](#BMXMLSchema2), [section 3.4.28](http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema11-2/#dateTimeStamp). The value MUST also conform to rule dateTimeOffsetValue in [**[OData‑ABNF]**](#BMABNF), i.e. it MUST NOT contain an end-of-day fragment (24:00:00).

Example 46:

"@UI.LastUpdated": {

"$DateTimeOffset": "2000-01-01T16:00:00.000Z"

}

### [Decimal](#sec_Decimal)

$Decimal

Decimal expressions are represented as an object with a single member $Decimal whose value is either a number or a string. The special values INF, -INF, or NaN are represented as strings. Numeric values are represented as numbers or strings depending on the media type parameter [IEEE754Compatible](#sec_ControllingtheRepresentationofNumber).

Example 47: default representation as a number

"@UI.Width": {

"$Decimal": 3.14

}

Example 48: “safe” representation as a string

"@UI.Width": {

"$Decimal": "3.14"

}

### [Duration](#sec_Duration)

$Duration

Duration expressions are represented as an object with a single member $Duration whose value is a string containing the duration value. The value MUST conform to type xs:dayTimeDuration, see [**[XML‑Schema‑2]**](#BMXMLSchema2), [section 3.4.27](http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema11-2/#dayTimeDuration).

Example 49:

"@task.duration": {

"$Duration": "P7D"

}

### [Enumeration Member](#sec_EnumerationMember)

$EnumMember

Enumeration member expressions are represented as an object with a single member $EnumMember whose value is a string containing the numeric or symbolic enumeration value.

Example 50: single value Red with numeric value and symbolic value

"@self.HasPattern": {

"$EnumMember": "1"

}

"@self.HasPattern": {

"$EnumMember": "Red"

}

Example 51: combined value Red,Striped with numeric value 1 + 16 and symbolic value

"@self.HasPattern": {

"$EnumMember": "17"

}

"@self.HasPattern": {

"$EnumMember": "Red,Striped"

}

### [Floating-Point Number](#sec_FloatingPointNumber)

$Float

Floating-point expressions are represented as a number or as an object with a single member $Float whose value is a string containing one of the special values INF, -INF, or NaN.

Example 52:

"@UI.FloatWidth": 3.14,

"@UI.FloatWidth": {

"$Float": "INF"

}

### [Guid](#sec_Guid)

$Guid

Guid expressions are represented as an object with a single member $Guid whose value is a string containing the guid value. The value MUST conform to the rule int64Value in [**[OData‑ABNF]**](#BMABNF).

Example 53:

"@UI.Id": {

"$Guid": "21EC2020-3AEA-1069-A2DD-08002B30309D"

}

### [Integer](#sec_Integer)

$Int

Integer expressions are represented as an object with a single member $Int whose value is a either a number or a string. The special values INF, -INF, or NaN are represented as strings. Numeric values are represented as numbers or strings depending on the media type parameter [IEEE754Compatible](#sec_ControllingtheRepresentationofNumber).

Example 54: default representation as a number

"@An.Int": {

"$Int": 42

}

Example 55: “safe” representation as a string

"@A.Very.Long.Int": {

"$Int": "9007199254740992"

}

### [String](#sec_String)

String expressions are represented as a JSON string.

Example 56:

"@UI.DisplayName": "Product Catalog"

### [Time of Day](#sec_TimeofDay)

$TimeOfDay

Time-of-day expressions are represented as an object with a single member $TimeOfDay whose value is a string containing the time-of-day value. The value MUST conform to the rule timeOfDayValue in [**[OData‑ABNF]**](#BMABNF).

Example 57:

"@UI.EndTime": {

"$TimeOfDay": "21:45:00"

}

## [Dynamic Expression](#sec_DynamicExpression)

Dynamic expressions allow assigning a calculated value to an applied term.

### [Path Expressions](#sec_PathExpressions)

Path expressions allow assigning a value to an applied term or term component. There are two kinds of path expressions:

* A *model path* is used within [Annotation Path](#sec_AnnotationPath), [Model Element Path](#sec_ModelElementPath), [Navigation Property Path](#sec_NavigationPropertyPath), and [Property Path](#sec_PropertyPath) expressions to traverse the model of a service and resolves to the model element identified by the path. It allows assigning values to terms or term properties of the [built-in types](#sec_BuiltInTypesfordefiningVocabularyTer) Edm.AnnotationPath, Edm.NavigationPropertyPath, Edm.PropertyPath, and their base types Edm.AnyPropertyPath and Edm.ModelElementPath.
* An *instance path* is used within a [Value Path](#sec_ValuePath) expression to traverse a graph of type instances and resolves to the value identified by the path. It allows assigning values to terms or term properties of built-in types other than the Edm.\*Path types, or of any model-defined type.

#### [Path Syntax](#sec_PathSyntax)

Model paths and instance paths share a common syntax which is derived from the path expression syntax of URLs, see [**[OData‑URL]**](#odataURL).

A path MUST be composed of zero or more path segments joined together by forward slashes (/).

Paths starting with a forward slash (/) are absolute paths, and the first path segment MUST be the qualified name of a model element, e.g. an entity container. The remaining path after the second forward slash is interpreted relative to that model element.

Example 58: absolute path to an entity set

/My.Schema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet

Paths not starting with a forward slash are interpreted relative to the annotation target, following the rules specified in section “[Path Evaluation](#sec_PathEvaluation)”.

Example 59: relative path to a property

Address/City

If a path segment is a [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName), it represents a *type cast*, and the segment MUST be the name of a type in scope. If the type or instance identified by the preceding path part cannot be cast to the specified type, the path expression evaluates to the null value.

Example 60: type-cast segment

…/self.Manager/…

If a path segment starts with an at (@) character, it represents a *term cast*. The at (@) character MUST be followed by a [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) that MAY be followed by a hash (#) character and a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier). The [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) preceding the hash character MUST resolve to a term that is in scope, the [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) following the hash sign is interpreted as a [qualifier](#sec_Qualifier) for the term. If the model element or instance identified by the preceding path part has not been annotated with that term (and if present, with that qualifier), the term cast evaluates to the null value. Three special terms are implicitly “annotated” for media entities and stream properties:

* odata.mediaEditLink
* odata.mediaReadLink
* odata.mediaContentType

Example 61: term-cast segments

…/@Capabilities.SortRestrictions/…

If a path segment is a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier), it MUST be the name of a child model element of the model element identified by the preceding path part, or a structural or navigation property of the instance identified by the preceding path part.

A model path MAY contain any number of segments representing collection-valued structural or navigation properties. The result of the expression is the model element reached via this path.

Example 62: property segments in model path

…/Orders/Items/Product/…

An instance path MUST NOT contain more than one segment representing a collection-valued construct, e.g. an entity set or a collection-valued structural or navigation property. The result of the expression is the collection of instances resulting from applying any remaining path segments that operate on a single-valued expression to each instance in the collection-valued segment.

An instance path MAY terminate in a $count segment if the previous segment is collection-valued, in which case the path evaluates to the number of items in the collection identified by the preceding segment.

Example 63: property segments in instance path

…/Addresses/Street

…/Addresses/$count

A model path MAY contain path segments starting with a navigation property, then followed by an at (@) character, then followed by the [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of a term in scope, and optionally followed by a hash (#) character and a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) which is interpreted as a [qualifier](#sec_Qualifier) for the term. If the navigation property has not been annotated with that term (and if present, with that qualifier), the path segment evaluates to the null value. This allows addressing annotations on the navigation property itself; annotations on the entity type specified by the navigation property are addressed via a [term-cast segment](#ref_TermCast).

Example 64: model path addressing an annotation on a navigation property

…/Items@Capabilities.InsertRestrictions/Insertable

An instance path MAY contain path segments starting with an entity set or a collection-valued navigation property, then followed by a key predicate using parentheses-style convention, see [**[OData‑URL]**](#odataURL). The key values are either primitive literals or instance paths. If the key value is a relative instance path, it is interpreted according to the same rule below as the instance path it is part of, *not* relative to the instance identified by the preceding path part.

Example 65: instance path with entity set and key segment

/self.container/SettingsCollection('FeatureXxx')/IsAvailable

/self.container/Products(ID=ProductID)/Name

#### [Path Evaluation](#sec_PathEvaluation)

Annotations MAY be embedded within their target, or specified separately, e.g. as part of a different schema, and specify a path to their target model element. The latter situation is referred to as *targeting* in the remainder of this section.

For annotations embedded within or targeting an entity container, the path is evaluated starting at the entity container, i.e. an empty path resolves to the entity container, and non-empty paths MUST start with a segment identifying a container child (entity set, function import, action import, or singleton). The subsequent segments follow the rules for paths targeting the corresponding child element.

For annotations embedded within or targeting an entity set or a singleton, the path is evaluated starting at the entity set or singleton, i.e. an empty path resolves to the entity set or singleton, and non-empty paths MUST follow the rules for annotations targeting the declared entity type of the entity set or singleton.

For annotations embedded within or targeting an entity type or complex type, the path is evaluated starting at the type, i.e. an empty path resolves to the type, and the first segment of a non-empty path MUST be a structural or navigation property of the type, a [type cast](#ref_TypeCast), or a [term cast](#ref_TermCast).

For annotations embedded within a structural or navigation property of an entity type or complex type, the path is evaluated starting at the directly enclosing type. This allows e.g. specifying the value of an annotation on one property to be calculated from values of other properties of the same type. An empty path resolves to the enclosing type, and non-empty paths MUST follow the rules for annotations targeting the directly enclosing type.

For annotations targeting a structural or navigation property of an entity type or complex type, the path is evaluated starting at the *outermost* entity type or complex type named in the target of the annotation, i.e. an empty path resolves to the outermost type, and the first segment of a non-empty path MUST be a structural or navigation property of the outermost type, a [type cast](#ref_TypeCast), or a [term cast](#ref_TermCast).

For annotations embedded within or targeting an action, action import, function, or function import, the first segment of the path MUST be a parameter name or $ReturnType.

#### [Annotation Path](#sec_AnnotationPath)

The annotation path expression provides a value for terms or term properties that specify the [built-in types](#sec_BuiltInTypesfordefiningVocabularyTer) Edm.AnnotationPath or Edm.ModelElementPath. Its argument is a [model path](#sec_PathExpressions) with the following restriction:

* The last path segment MUST be a term cast with optional qualifier.

The value of the annotation path expression is the path itself, not the value of the annotation identified by the path. This is useful for terms that reuse or refer to other terms.

$AnnotationPath

Annotation path expressions are represented as an object with a single member $AnnotationPath whose value is a string containing a path.

Example 66:

"@UI.ReferenceFacet": {

"$AnnotationPath": "Product/Supplier/@UI.LineItem"

},

"@UI.CollectionFacet#Contacts": [

{

"$AnnotationPath": "Supplier/@Communication.Contact"

},

{

"$AnnotationPath": "Customer/@Communication.Contact"

}

]

#### [Model Element Path](#sec_ModelElementPath)

The model element path expression provides a value for terms or term properties that specify the [built-in type](#sec_BuiltInTypesfordefiningVocabularyTer) Edm.ModelElementPath. Its argument is a [model path](#sec_PathExpressions).

The value of the model element path expression is the path itself, not the instance(s) identified by the path.

$ModelElementPath

Model element path expressions are represented as an object with a single member $ModelElementPath whose value is a string containing a path.

Example 67:

"@org.example.MyFavoriteModelElement": {

"$ModelElementPath": "/org.example.someAction"

}

#### [Navigation Property Path](#sec_NavigationPropertyPath)

The navigation property path expression provides a value for terms or term properties that specify the [built-in types](#sec_BuiltInTypesfordefiningVocabularyTer) Edm.NavigationPropertyPath, Edm.AnyPropertyPath, or Edm.ModelElementPath. Its argument is a [model path](#sec_PathExpressions) with the following restriction:

* The last path segment MUST resolve to either a [navigation property](#sec_NavigationProperty), or to a [term cast](#ref_TermCast) where the term MUST be of type Edm.EntityType, a concrete entity type or a collection of Edm.EntityType or concrete entity type.

The value of the navigation property path expression is the path itself, not the entitiy or collection of entities identified by the path.

$NavigationPropertyPath

Navigation property path expressions are represented as an object with a single member $NavigationPropertyPath whose value is a string containing a path.

Example 68:

"@UI.HyperLink": {

"$NavigationPropertyPath": "Supplier"

},

"@Capabilities.UpdateRestrictions": {

"NonUpdatableNavigationProperties": [

{

"$NavigationPropertyPath": "Supplier"

},

{

"$NavigationPropertyPath": "Category"

}

]

}

#### [Property Path](#sec_PropertyPath)

The property path expression provides a value for terms or term properties that specify one of the [built-in types](#sec_BuiltInTypesfordefiningVocabularyTer) Edm.PropertyPath, Edm.AnyPropertyPath, or Edm.ModelElementPath. Its argument is a [model path](#sec_PathExpressions) with the following restriction:

* The last path segment MUST resolve either to a structural property, or to a [term cast](#ref_TermCast) where the term MUST be of type Edm.ComplexType, Edm.PrimitiveType, a complex type, an enumeration type, a concrete primitive type, a type definition, or a collection of one of these types.

The value of the property path expression is the path itself, not the value of the structural property or the value of the term cast identified by the path.

$PropertyPath

Property path expressions are represented as an object with a single member $PropertyPath whose value is a string containing a path.

Example 69:

"@UI.RefreshOnChangeOf": {

"$PropertyPath": "ChangedAt"

},

"@Capabilities.UpdateRestrictions": {

"NonUpdatableProperties": [

{

"$PropertyPath": "CreatedAt"

},

{

"$PropertyPath": "ChangedAt"

}

]

}

#### [Value Path](#sec_ValuePath)

The value path expression allows assigning a value by traversing an object graph. It can be used in annotations that target entity containers, entity sets, entity types, complex types, navigation properties of structured types, and structural properties of structured types. Its argument is an [instance path](#sec_PathExpressions).

The value of the path expression is the instance or collection of instances identified by the path.

$Path

Path expressions are represented as an object with a single member $Path whose value is a string containing a path.

Example 70:

"@UI.DisplayName": {

"$Path": "FirstName"

},

"@UI.DisplayName#second": {

"$Path": "@vCard.Address#work/FullName"

}

### [Comparison and Logical Operators](#sec_ComparisonandLogicalOperators)

Annotations MAY use the following logical and comparison expressions which evaluate to a Boolean value. These expressions MAY be combined and they MAY be used anywhere instead of a Boolean expression.

| Operator | Description |
| --- | --- |
| **Logical Operators** | |
| And | Logical and |
| Or | Logical or |
| Not | Logical negation |
| **Comparison Operators** | |
| Eq | Equal |
| Ne | Not equal |
| Gt | Greater than |
| Ge | Greater than or equal |
| Lt | Less than |
| Le | Less than or equal |
| Has | Has enumeration flag(s) set |
| In | Is in collection |

The And and Or operators require two operand expressions that evaluate to Boolean values. The Not operator requires a single operand expression that evaluates to a Boolean value. For details on null handling for comparison operators see [**[OData‑URL]**](#ODATAURL).

The other comparison operators require two operand expressions that evaluate to comparable values.

$And and $Or

The And and Or logical expressions are represented as an object with a single member whose value is an array with two annotation expressions. The member name is one of $And, or $Or.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

$Not

Negation expressions are represented as an object with a single member $Not whose value is an annotation expression.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

$Eq, $Ne, $Gt, $Ge, $Lt, $Le, $Has, and $In

All comparison expressions are represented as an object with a single member whose value is an array with two annotation expressions. The member name is one of $Eq, $Ne, $Gt, $Ge, $Lt, $Le, $Has, or $In.

They MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 71:

{

"$And": [

{

"$Path": "IsMale"

},

{

"$Path": "IsMarried"

}

]

},

{

"$Or": [

{

"$Path": "IsMale"

},

{

"$Path": "IsMarried"

}

]

},

{

"$Not": {

"$Path": "IsMale"

}

},

{

"$Eq": [

null,

{

"$Path": "IsMale"

}

]

},

{

"$Ne": [

null,

{

"$Path": "IsMale"

}

]

},

{

"$Gt": [

{

"$Path": "Price"

},

{

"$Int": 20

}

]

},

{

"$Ge": [

{

"$Path": "Price"

},

{

"$Int": 10

}

]

},

{

"$Lt": [

{

"$Path": "Price"

},

{

"$Int": 20

}

]

},

{

"$Le": [

{

"$Path": "Price"

},

{

"$Int": 100

}

]

},

{

"$Has": [

{

"$Path": "Fabric"

},

{

"$EnumMember": "Red"

}

]

},

{

"$In": [

{

"$Path": "Size"

},

[

"XS",

"S"

]

]

}

### [Arithmetic Operators](#sec_ArithmeticOperators)

Annotations MAY use the following arithmetic expressions which evaluate to a numeric value. These expressions MAY be combined and they MAY be used anywhere instead of a numeric expression of the appropriate type. The semantics and evaluation rules for each arithmetic expression is identical to the corresponding arithmetic operator defined in [**[OData‑URL]**](#ODataURL).

| Operator | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Add | Addition |
| Sub | Subtraction |
| Neg | Negation |
| Mul | Multiplication |
| Div | Division (with integer result for integer operands) |
| DivBy | Division (with fractional result also for integer operands) |
| Mod | Modulo |

The Neg operator requires a single operand expression that evaluates to a numeric value. The other arithmetic operators require two operand expressions that evaluate to numeric values.

$Neg

Negation expressions are represented as an object with a single member $Neg whose value is an annotation expression.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

$Add, $Sub, $Mul, $Div, $DivBy, and $Mod

These arithmetic expressions are represented as an object with as single member whose value is an array with two annotation expressions. The member name is one of $Add, $Sub, $Neg, $Mul, $Div, $DivBy, or $Mod.

They MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 72:

{

"$Add": [

{

"$Path": "StartDate"

},

{

"$Path": "Duration"

}

]

},

{

"$Sub": [

{

"$Path": "Revenue"

},

{

"$Path": "Cost"

}

]

},

{

"$Neg": {

"$Path": "Height"

}

},

{

"$Mul": [

{

"$Path": "NetPrice"

},

{

"$Path": "TaxRate"

}

]

},

{

"$Div": [

{

"$Path": "Quantity"

},

{

"$Path": "QuantityPerParcel"

}

]

},

{

"$DivBy": [

{

"$Path": "Quantity"

},

{

"$Path": "QuantityPerParcel"

}

]

},

{

"$Mod": [

{

"$Path": "Quantity"

},

{

"$Path": "QuantityPerParcel"

}

]

}

### [Apply Client-Side Functions](#sec_ApplyClientSideFunctions)

The apply expression enables a value to be obtained by applying a client-side function. The apply expression MUST have at least one operand expression. The operand expressions are used as parameters to the client-side function.

$Apply

Apply expressions are represented as an object with a member $Apply whose value is an array of annotation expressions, and a member $Function whose value is a string containing the name of the client-side function to be applied.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

OData defines the following canonical functions. Services MAY support additional functions that MUST be qualified with a namespace or alias other than odata. Function names qualified with odata are reserved for this specification and its future versions.

#### [Function odata.concat](#sec_Functionodataconcat)

The odata.concat standard client-side function takes two or more expressions as arguments. Each argument MUST evaluate to a primitive or enumeration type. It returns a value of type Edm.String that is the concatenation of the literal representations of the results of the argument expressions. Values of primitive types other than Edm.String are represented according to the appropriate alternative in the primitiveValue rule of [**[OData‑ABNF]**](#BMABNF), i.e. Edm.Binary as binaryValue, Edm.Boolean as booleanValue etc.

Example 73:

"@UI.DisplayName": {

"$Apply": [

"Product: ",

{

"$Path": "ProductName"

},

" (",

{

"$Path": "Available/Quantity"

},

" ",

{

"$Path": "Available/Unit"

},

" available)"

],

"$Function": "odata.concat"

}

ProductName is of type String, Quantity in complex type Available is of type Decimal, and Unit in Available is of type enumeration, so the result of the Path expression is represented as the member name of the enumeration value.

#### [Function odata.fillUriTemplate](#sec_FunctionodatafillUriTemplate)

The odata.fillUriTemplate standard client-side function takes two or more expressions as arguments and returns a value of type Edm.String.

The first argument MUST be of type Edm.String and specifies a URI template according to [**[RFC6570]**](#BMRFC6570), the other arguments MUST be [labeled element expressions](#sec_LabeledElement). Each [labeled element expression](#sec_LabeledElement) specifies the template parameter name as its name and evaluates to the template parameter value.

[**[RFC6570]**](#BMRFC6570) defines three kinds of template parameters: simple values, lists of values, and key-value maps.

Simple values are represented as [labeled element expressions](#sec_LabeledElement) that evaluate to a single primitive value. The literal representation of this value according to [**[OData‑ABNF]**](#BMABNF)is used to fill the corresponding template parameter.

Lists of values are represented as [labeled element expressions](#sec_LabeledElement) that evaluate to a collection of primitive values.

Key-value maps are represented as [labeled element expressions](#sec_LabeledElement) that evaluate to a collection of complex types with two properties that are used in lexicographic order. The first property is used as key, the second property as value.

Example 74: assuming there are no special characters in values of the Name property of the Actor entity

{

"$Apply": [

"http://host/someAPI/Actors/{actorName}/CV",

{

"$LabeledElement": {

"$Path": "Actor/Name"

},

"$Name": "self.actorName"

}

],

"$Function": "odata.fillUriTemplate"

}

#### [Function odata.matchesPattern](#sec_FunctionodatamatchesPattern)

The odata.matchesPattern standard client-side function takes two string expressions as arguments and returns a Boolean value.

The function returns true if the second expression evaluates to an [**[ECMAScript]**](#ECMAScript) (JavaScript) regular expression and the result of the first argument expression matches that regular expression, using syntax and semantics of [**[ECMAScript]**](#ECMAScript) regular expressions.

Example 75: all non-empty FirstName values not containing the letters b, c, or d evaluate to true

{

"$Apply": [

{

"$Path": "FirstName"

},

"^[^b-d]+$"

],

"$Function": "odata.matchesPattern"

}

#### [Function odata.uriEncode](#sec_FunctionodatauriEncode)

The odata.uriEncode standard client-side function takes one argument of primitive type and returns the URL-encoded OData literal that can be used as a key value in OData URLs or in the query part of OData URLs.

Note: string literals are surrounded by single quotes as required by the paren-style key syntax.

Example 76:

{

"$Apply": [

"http://host/service/Genres({genreName})",

{

"$LabeledElement": {

"$Apply": [

{

"$Path": "NameOfMovieGenre"

}

],

"$Function": "odata.uriEncode"

},

"$Name": "self.genreName"

}

],

"$Function": "odata.fillUriTemplate"

}

### [Cast](#sec_Cast)

The cast expression casts the value obtained from its single child expression to the specified type. The cast expression follows the same rules as the cast canonical function defined in [**[OData‑URL]**](#ODATAURL).

$Cast

Cast expressions are represented as an object with a member $Cast whose value is an annotation expression, a member $Type whose value is a string containing the qualified type name, and optionally a member $Collection with a value of true.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

If the specified type is a primitive type or a collection of primitive types, the facet members [$MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength), [$Unicode](#sec_Unicode), [$Precision](#sec_Precision), [$Scale](#sec_Scale), and [$SRID](#sec_SRID) MAY be specified if applicable to the specified primitive type. If the facet members are not specified, their values are considered unspecified.

Example 77:

"@UI.Threshold": {

"$Cast": {

"$Path": "Average"

},

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal"

}

### [Collection](#sec_Collection)

The collection expression enables a value to be obtained from zero or more item expressions. The value calculated by the collection expression is the collection of the values calculated by each of the item expressions. The values of the child expressions MUST all be type compatible.

Collection expressions are represented as arrays with one array item per item expression within the collection expression.

Example 78:

"@seo.SeoTerms": [

"Product",

"Supplier",

"Customer"

]

### [If-Then-Else](#sec_IfThenElse)

The if-then-else expression enables a value to be obtained by evaluating a *condition expression*. It MUST contain exactly three child expressions. There is one exception to this rule: if and only if the if-then-else expression is an item of a collection expression, the third child expression MAY be omitted, reducing it to an if-then expression. This can be used to conditionally add an element to a collection.

The first child expression is the condition and MUST evaluate to a Boolean result, e.g. the [comparison and logical operators](#sec_ComparisonandLogicalOperators) can be used.

The second and third child expressions are evaluated conditionally. The result MUST be type compatible with the type expected by the surrounding expression.

If the first expression evaluates to true, the second expression MUST be evaluated and its value MUST be returned as the result of the if-then-else expression. If the first expression evaluates to false and a third child element is present, it MUST be evaluated and its value MUST be returned as the result of the if-then-else expression. If no third expression is present, nothing is added to the surrounding collection.

$If

Conditional expressions are represented as an object with a member $If whose value is an array of two or three annotation expressions.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 79:

"@person.Gender": {

"$If": [

{

"$Path": "IsFemale"

},

"Female",

"Male"

]

}

### [Is-Of](#sec_IsOf)

The is-of expression checks whether the value obtained from its single child expression is compatible with the specified type. It returns true if the child expression returns a type that is compatible with the specified type, and false otherwise.

$IsOf

Is-of expressions are represented as an object with a member $IsOf whose value is an annotation expression, a member $Type whose value is a string containing an qualified type name, and optionally a member $Collection with a value of true.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

If the specified type is a primitive type or a collection of primitive types, the facet members [$MaxLength](#sec_MaxLength), [$Unicode](#sec_Unicode), [$Precision](#sec_Precision), [$Scale](#sec_Scale), and [$SRID](#sec_SRID) MAY be specified if applicable to the specified primitive type. If the facet members are not specified, their values are considered unspecified.

Example 80:

"@Self.IsPreferredCustomer": {

"$IsOf": {

"$Path": "Customer"

},

"$Type": "self.PreferredCustomer"

}

### [Labeled Element](#sec_LabeledElement)

The labeled element expression assigns a name to its single child expression. The value of the child expression can then be reused elsewhere with a [labeled element reference expression](#sec_LabeledElementReference).

A labeled element expression MUST contain exactly one child expression. The value of the child expression is also the value of the labeled element expression.

A labeled element expression MUST provide a [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier) value as its name that MUST be unique within the schema containing the expression.

$LabeledElement

Labeled element expressions are represented as an object with a member $LabeledElement whose value is an annotation expression, and a member $Name whose value is a string containing the labeled element’s name.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 81:

"@UI.DisplayName": {

"$LabeledElement": {

"$Path": "FirstName"

},

"$Name": "CustomerFirstName"

}

### [Labeled Element Reference](#sec_LabeledElementReference)

The labeled element reference expression MUST specify the [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of a [labeled element expression](#sec_LabeledElement) in scope and returns the value of the identified labeled element expression as its value.

$LabeledElementReference

Labeled element reference expressions are represented as an object with a member $LabeledElementReference whose value is a string containing an qualified name.

Example 82:

"@UI.DisplayName": {

"$LabeledElementReference": "self.CustomerFirstName"

}

### [Null](#sec_Null)

The null expression returns an untyped null value. The null expression MAY be annotated.

Null expressions that do not contain annotations are represented as the literal null.

Example 83:

"@UI.DisplayName": null,

$Null

Null expression containing [annotations](#sec_Annotations) are represented as an object with a member $Null whose value is the literal null.

Example 84:

"@UI.Address": {

"$Null": null,

"@self.Reason": "Private"

}

### [Record](#sec_Record)

The record expression enables a new entity type or complex type instance to be constructed.

A record expression MAY specify the structured type of its result, which MUST be an entity type or complex type in scope. If not explicitly specified, the type is derived from the expression’s context.

A record expression contains zero or more property value expressions. For each single-valued structural or navigation property of the record expression’s type that is neither nullable nor specifies a default value a property value expression MUST be provided. The only exception is if the record expression is the value of an annotation for a term that has a [base term](#sec_SpecializedTerm) whose type is structured and directly or indirectly inherits from the type of its base term. In this case, property values that already have been specified in the annotation for the base term or its base term etc. need not be specified again.

For collection-valued properties the absence of a property value expression is equivalent to specifying an empty collection as its value.

Record expressions are represented as objects with one member per property value expression. The member name is the property name, and the member value is the property value expression.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation) for itself and its members. Annotations for record members are prefixed with the member name.

Example 85: record with two structural and two navigation properties

"@person.Employee": {

"@Core.Description": "Annotation on record",

"GivenName": {

"$Path": "FirstName"

},

"GivenName@Core.Description": "Annotation on record member",

"Surname": {

"$Path": "LastName"

},

"Manager": {

"$Path": "DirectSupervisor"

},

"CostCenter": {

"$UrlRef": {

"$Apply": [

"http://host/anotherservice/CostCenters('{ccid}')",

{

"$LabeledElement": {

"$Path": "CostCenterID"

},

"$Name": "self.ccid"

}

],

"$Function": "odata.fillUriTemplate"

}

}

}

### [URL Reference](#sec_URLReference)

The URL reference expression enables a value to be obtained by sending a GET request.

The URL reference expression MUST contain exactly one expression of type Edm.String. Its value is treated as a URL that MAY be relative or absolute; relative URLs are relative to the URL of the document containing the URL reference expression, or relative to a base URL specified in a format-specific way.

The response body of the GET request MUST be returned as the result of the URL reference expression. The result of the URL reference expression MUST be type compatible with the type expected by the surrounding expression.

$UrlRef

URL reference expressions are represented as an object with a single member $UrlRef whose value is an annotation expression.

It MAY contain [annotations](#sec_Annotation).

Example 86:

"@org.example.person.Supplier": {

"$UrlRef": {

"$Apply": [

"http://host/service/Suppliers({suppID})",

{

"$LabeledElement": {

"$Apply": [

{

"$Path": "SupplierId"

}

],

"$Function": "odata.uriEncode"

},

"$Name": "self.suppID"

}

],

"$Function": "odata.fillUriTemplate"

}

},

"@Core.LongDescription#element": {

"$UrlRef": "http://host/wiki/HowToUse"

}

# [Identifier and Path Values](#sec_IdentifierandPathValues)

## [Namespace](#sec_Namespace)

A namespace is a dot-separated sequence of [simple identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier)s with a maximum length of 511 Unicode characters.

## [Simple Identifier](#sec_SimpleIdentifier)

A simple identifier is a Unicode character sequence with the following restrictions:

* It consists of at least one and at most 128 Unicode characters.
* The first character MUST be the underscore character (U+005F) or any character in the Unicode category “Letter (L)” or “Letter number (Nl)”.
* The remaining characters MUST be the underscore character (U+005F) or any character in the Unicode category “Letter (L)”, “Letter number (Nl)”, “Decimal number (Nd)”, “Non-spacing mark (Mn)”, “Combining spacing mark (Mc)”, “Connector punctuation (Pc)”, and “Other, format (Cf)”.

Non-normatively speaking it starts with a letter or underscore, followed by at most 127 letters, underscores or digits.

## [Qualified Name](#sec_QualifiedName)

For model elements that are direct children of a schema: the namespace or alias of the schema that defines the model element, followed by a dot and the name of the model element, see rule qualifiedTypeName in [**[OData‑ABNF]**](#BMABNF).

For built-in [primitive types](#sec_PrimitiveTypes): the name of the type, prefixed with Edm followed by a dot.

## [Target Path](#sec_TargetPath)

Target paths are used to refer to other model elements.

The allowed path expressions are:

* The [qualified name](#sec_QualifiedName) of an entity container, followed by a forward slash and the name of a container child element
* The target path of a container child followed by a forward slash and one or more forward-slash separated property, navigation property, or type-cast segments

Example 87: Target expressions

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MySingleton

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet/MyContainmentNavigationProperty

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MyEntitySet/My.EntityType/MyContainmentNavProperty

MySchema.MyEntityContainer/MySingleton/MyComplexProperty/MyContainmentNavProp

# [CSDL Examples](#sec_CSDLExamples)

Following are two basic examples of valid EDM models as represented in CSDL JSON. These examples demonstrate many of the topics covered above.

## [Products and Categories Example](#sec_ProductsandCategoriesExample)

Example 88:

{

"$Version": "4.01",

"$EntityContainer": "ODataDemo.DemoService",

"$Reference": {

"http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-vocabularies/v4.0/vocabularies/Org.OData.Core.V1.json": {

"$Include": [

{

"$Namespace": "Org.OData.Core.V1",

"$Alias": "Core",

"@Core.DefaultNamespace": true

}

]

},

"http://docs.oasis-open.org/odata/odata-vocabularies/v4.0/vocabularies/Org.OData.Measures.V1.json": {

"$Include": [

{

"$Namespace": "Org.OData.Measures.V1",

"$Alias": "Measures"

}

]

}

},

"ODataDemo": {

"$Kind": "Schema",

"$Alias": "self",

"@Core.DefaultNamespace": true,

"Product": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$HasStream": true,

"$Key": [

"ID"

],

"ID": {

"$Nullable": false

},

"Description": {

"@Core.IsLanguageDependent": true

},

"ReleaseDate": {

"$Type": "Edm.Date"

},

"DiscontinuedDate": {

"$Type": "Edm.Date"

},

"Rating": {

"$Type": "Edm.Int32"

},

"Price": {

"$Type": "Edm.Decimal",

"@Measures.ISOCurrency": {

"$Path": "Currency"

}

},

"Currency": {

"$MaxLength": 3

},

"Category": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Type": "self.Category",

"$Nullable": false,

"$Partner": "Products"

},

"Supplier": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Type": "self.Supplier",

"$Partner": "Products"

}

},

"Category": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$Key": [

"ID"

],

"ID": {

"$Type": "Edm.Int32",

"$Nullable": false

},

"Name": {

"$Nullable": false,

"@Core.IsLanguageDependent": true

},

"Products": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Partner": "Category",

"$Collection": true,

"$Type": "self.Product",

"$OnDelete": "Cascade"

}

},

"Supplier": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$Key": [

"ID"

],

"ID": {

"$Nullable": false

},

"Name": {},

"Address": {

"$Type": "self.Address",

"$Nullable": false

},

"Concurrency": {

"$Type": "Edm.Int32",

"$Nullable": false

},

"Products": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Partner": "Supplier",

"$Collection": true,

"$Type": "self.Product"

}

},

"Country": {

"$Kind": "EntityType",

"$Key": [

"Code"

],

"Code": {

"$MaxLength": 2,

"$Nullable": false

},

"Name": {}

},

"Address": {

"$Kind": "ComplexType",

"Street": {},

"City": {},

"State": {},

"ZipCode": {},

"CountryName": {},

"Country": {

"$Kind": "NavigationProperty",

"$Type": "self.Country",

"$ReferentialConstraint": {

"CountryName": "Name"

}

}

},

"ProductsByRating": [

{

"$Kind": "Function",

"$Parameter": [

{

"$Name": "Rating",

"$Type": "Edm.Int32"

}

],

"$ReturnType": {

"$Collection": true,

"$Type": "self.Product"

}

}

],

"DemoService": {

"$Kind": "EntityContainer",

"Products": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Product",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Category": "Categories"

}

},

"Categories": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Category",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Products": "Products"

},

"@Core.Description": "Product Categories"

},

"Suppliers": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Supplier",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Products": "Products",

"Address/Country": "Countries"

},

"@Core.OptimisticConcurrency": [

{

"$PropertyPath": "Concurrency"

}

]

},

"Countries": {

"$Kind": "EntitySet",

"$Type": "self.Country"

},

"MainSupplier": {

"$Kind": "Singleton",

"$Type": "self.Supplier",

"$NavigationPropertyBinding": {

"Products": "Products"

},

"@Core.Description": "Primary Supplier"

},

"ProductsByRating": {

"$Kind": "FunctionImport",

"$EntitySet": "Products",

"$Function": "self.ProductsByRating"

}

}

}

}

## [Annotations for Products and Categories Example](#sec_AnnotationsforProductsandCategoriesE)

Example 89:

{

"$Version": "4.01",

"$Reference": {

"http://host/service/$metadata": {

"$Include": [

{

"$Namespace": "ODataDemo",

"$Alias": "target"

}

]

},

"http://somewhere/Vocabulary/V1": {

"$Include": [

{

"$Namespace": "Some.Vocabulary.V1",

"$Alias": "Vocabulary1"

}

]

}

},

"External.Annotations": {

"$Kind": "Schema",

"$Alias": "self",

"$Annotations": {

"target.Supplier": {

"@Vocabulary1.EMail": null,

"@Vocabulary1.AccountID": {

"$Path": "ID"

},

"@Vocabulary1.Title": "Supplier Info",

"@Vocabulary1.DisplayName": {

"$Apply": [

{

"$Path": "Name"

},

" in ",

{

"$Path": "Address/CountryName"

}

],

"$Function": "odata.concat"

}

},

"ODataDemo.Product": {

"@Vocabulary1.Tags": [

"MasterData"

]

}

}

}

}

# [Conformance](#sec_Conformance)

Conforming services MUST follow all rules of this specification document for the types, sets, functions, actions, containers and annotations they expose.

In addition, conforming services MUST NOT return 4.01 CSDL constructs for requests made with OData-MaxVersion:4.0.

Specifically, they

1. MUST NOT include properties in derived types that overwrite a property defined in the base type
2. MUST NOT include Edm.Untyped
3. MUST NOT use [path syntax](#sec_PathSyntax) added with 4.01
4. MUST NOT use Edm.ModelElementPath and Edm.AnyPropertyPath
5. MUST NOT specify [referential constraints](#sec_ReferentialConstraint) to complex types and navigation properties
6. MUST NOT include a non-abstract entity type with no inherited or defined [entity key](#sec_Key)
7. MUST NOT include the Core.DefaultNamespace annotation on [included schemas](#sec_IncludedSchema)
8. MUST NOT return the Unicode facet for terms, parameters, and return types
9. MUST NOT include collections of Edm.ComplexType or Edm.Untyped
10. MUST NOT specify a key as a property of a related entity
11. SHOULD NOT include new/unknown values for [$AppliesTo](#sec_Applicability)
12. SHOULD specify the [Nullable](#sec_Nullable) facet for collections
13. MAY include new CSDL annotations

In addition, to comply with OData 4.01, services:

1. MUST specify the [Nullable](#sec_Nullable) facet for collections

Conforming clients MUST be prepared to consume a model that uses any or all constructs defined in this specification, including custom annotations, and MUST ignore any elements or attributes not defined in this version of the specification.

1. [Acknowledgments](#sec_Acknowledgments)

The work of the OpenUI5 team on the OData V4 Metadata JSON Format, see **[**[**OpenUI5**](#OpenUI5)**]**, is gratefully acknowledged, especially the contributions of

* Thomas Chadzelek (SAP SE)
* Jens Ittel (SAP SE)
* Patric Ksinsik (SAP SE)

The contributions of the OASIS OData Technical Committee members, enumerated in [**[ODataProtocol]**](#OdataProtocol), are gratefully acknowledged.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Revision** | **Date** | **Editor** | **Changes Made** |
| Working Draft 01 | 2016-11-16 | Ralf Handl | Initial version |
| Committee Specification Draft 01 | 2017-06-08 | Michael Pizzo  Ralf Handl | Integrated 4.01 features |