FgdcMetaEditor is program to create metadata for geographic data.

It helps ensure that the metadata complies with the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

The left part of the program is a tree control containing the possible elements in a metadata file.

Composite items have a small arrow next to them that can be clicked to show or hide sub-items beneath it.

Each item has a check box or radio button next to it.

Checked items will be included in the metadata file.

When you select an element, the area to the right will display a description of the item along with controls you can use to specify the item.

However, for compound items, there is only a description; you have to specify the sub-items individually.

A useful reference is the “[Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata Workbook](https://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/documents/workbook_0501_bmk.pdf)” which is available on the fgdc.gov web page. <https://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/metadata-publications-list>.

One of the useful parts of the workbook is the color coding it uses for mandatory items, optional items, and items that are mandatory if applicable.

Yellow is mandatory.

Green is mandatory if applicable.

Blue is optional.

FgdcMetaEditor uses the same color coding scheme.

When you select an item, the background color of the description is used to indicate whether the item is mandatory, mandatory if applicable, or optional.

The descriptions for the items come from the workbook and are supplemented with information from other sources.

Color is used in the tree control to indicate items that need attention.

Blue indicates a required item for which no value has been specified.

Yellow indicates that a choice must be made among several required items but no choice has been made.

Red indicates that an invalid value has been specified for an item.

There can be multiple copies of some items.

Such items have a blue plus sign in front of them.

You can click on the blue plus sign to create another copy of the item.

You can also select an item and click the “Duplicate” button at the bottom of the program.

Other buttons at the bottom of the page allow you to collapse or expand all the node in the tree control or to expand just the nodes that are used.

You can also search the metadata

or use the Geospatial metadata validation service.