

Custom Metadata Types in Salesforce

October 3, 2017 [Amit Singh](#)

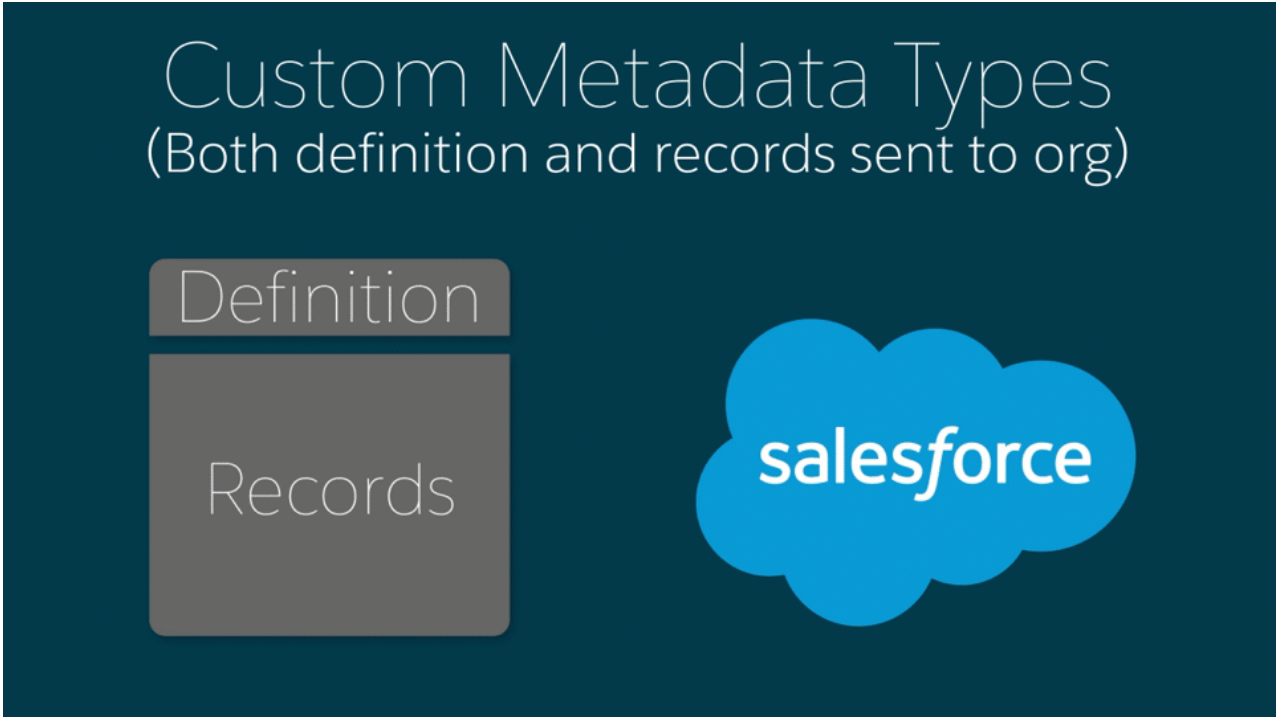
What are Custom Metadata Types: –

Custom metadata types generally were known as **metadata of metadata**. The main advantage to using the custom metadata types is **you can add both definition and records in the package or changeset**. These are same as the custom object and custom setting that resides in Application Cache instead of Org Data Storage.

Unlike custom setting metadata use **__mdt** in its API name.

Advantages to Custom Metadata:

- 1. **Metadata are deployable!** No more annoying configuration after deployment, which you have to do with Custom Settings. You don't need to create Apex classes to generate your default Custom Setting records.
- 2. They have WAY more options than Custom Settings: picklist fields, long text areas (in Spring '17), page layouts, and validation rules.
- 3. The beauty that is **Metadata Relationships!** You can create lookups between Custom Metadata objects. Additionally, you can create an Object Definition lookup.
- 4. Custom Settings have the same permission to edit the records and to edit the configuration. Both can be done with the **"Configure Application" permission**. With Custom Metadata, you can edit the records with "Configure Application" but you require "Author Apex" to edit the configuration.



The reasons why you would use custom settings instead:

- 1. **Hierarchies** – Custom metadata types do not purport to replace hierarchy custom settings which allow you to vary values based on users and profiles across the Org. These custom settings can also be referenced in formulas, so can be used in formula fields, validation rules, workflow rules, and visualforce.
- 2. **Web service credentials** – If you're using test credentials in a sandbox, you don't have any reason to deploy them to production. More importantly, if you create a sandbox, you don't want the config for the production versions of your Web Services being created automatically and used by default. However, it is usually best to use Named Credentials for this.
- 3. Custom setting records' values can be edited in code, while custom metadata cannot. If you will need to modify your configuration programmatically for any reason (say you're creating a config console for the user), custom metadata will not work.

