



OpenLCB Standard	
Configuration Description Information	
March 30, 2023	Draft

1 Introduction (Informative)

This document defines a standard for the format of static information that describes the configuration options available on an OpenLCB node, called “Configuration Description Information (CDI)”. “Configuration Description Information” in this context refers to *fixed* information available from an OpenLCB device, via OpenLCB, so that other devices can properly and correctly configure it.

This Standard does not address how the CDI is stored, retrieved, or used.

2 Intended Use (Informative)

CDI is intended to be used by a configurable, self-contained OpenLCB node to tell a Configuration Tool (CT) how to configure the node. The configuration tool will use the CDI information to help the user configure all aspects of the node's capabilities.

The configurable values are expressed as yVariables, with each yVariable having a specific type, a size in bytes, a value for its memory sSpace and aAddress (to locate the yvariable), and nName and dDescription as user-readable strings so that users understand the use of the particular setting.

Variables can be grouped together, groups can be repeated (for example if a nNode has multiple outputs) and nested to express complex configuration setups with concise description.

3 References and Context (Informative)

For more information on format and presentation, see:

- OpenLCB Common Information Technical Note

For information on OpenLCB message transport and OpenLCB communications, see:

- OpenLCB Message Network Standard

For information on how to fetch the CDI information from a node, and how to read and write the configuration information, see:

- OpenLCB Memory Configuration Protocol Standard

For information on XML encoding and XML Schema, see:

- World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) “Extensible Markup Language (XML)”¹
- World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) “XML Schema”²

4 Content (Normative)

30 The configuration description information for a node is invariant while the node has any OpenLCB connections in the Initialized state.

The CDI has three parts:

- Identification: Provides specific information about the type of the node.
- ACDI: Indicates that certain configuration information in the node has a standardized simplified
35 format.
- Segments: The configuration information in the node is organized in zero or more segments, each of which contains zero or more configurable **y**variables. A **y**variable is the basic unit of configuration. The segment definition specifies the organization of each segment. A segment consists of zero or more bytes within a linear address space.

40 5 Format (Normative)

The CDI is provided as a zero-terminated string of bytes. The bytes encode UTF-8 characters. There is no byte-order mark (BOM) at the start of the string. Lines in the string are delimited with 0x0A Newline (NL) characters.

45 The content defines the configuration description information in XML 1.0 format using a specific XML vocabulary defined by an XML Schema. No extensions to XML 1.0 are permitted.

This version of this Standard specifies version **1.31.1** of the schema. That version of the schema is defined at <http://openlcb.org/schema/cdi/1/31/cdi.xsd> and in Appendix A of this document. The CDI content shall pass validation against its referenced schema. Nodes are not required to do the validation.

50 The version number of an OpenLCB CDI schema contains two numbers: The major version first, and the minor version second.

The first line of the CDI is:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
```

to define the XML version of the content.

The root element of the CDI XML is:

```
55 <cdi xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
    xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="http://openlcb.org/schema/cdi/1/31/cdi.xsd">
```

to define the OpenLCB CDI version of the content.

¹ <http://www.w3.org/XML/>

² <http://www.w3.org/XML/Schema>

The schema contents are normative.

Numerical values in attributes and element text shall be specified as decimal numbers. OpenLCB nodes are not required to parse any other numeric format.

5.1 XML Elements

5.1.1 <identification> Element

The <identification> element, if present, specifies manufacturer-provided identification information about the node. This information is not user-editable. If this element is provided and the node also supports the OpenLCB Simple Node Information Protocol (SNIP), the contents of the SNIP Reply shall match the respective tags in the <identification> element. If this element is provided, and the node also provides the <acdi> element, the contents provided by the ACDI spaces shall match the respective tags in the <identification> element.

5.1.2 <acdi> Element

The <acdi> element, if specified without the attribute 'fixed', or with the attribute 'fixed="4"' or higher, specifies that the following information is available for read:

Space	Address	Size (bytes)	Type	Description
252	0	1	int	Version
252	1	41	string	Manufacturer
252	42	41	string	Model
252	83	21	string	Hardware version
252	104	21	string	Software version

The value at the [yVersion](#) variable shall be the same as the value of the attribute 'fixed'.

The <acdi> element, if specified without the attribute 'var', or with the attribute 'var="2"' or higher, specifies that the following information is available for read and write:

Space	Address	Size (bytes)	Type	Description
251	0	1	int	Version
251	1	63	string	User-supplied name
251	64	64	string	User-supplied description

The value at the [yVersion](#) variable shall be the same as the value of the attribute 'var'.

The <acdi> element shall be specified if and only if the Protocol Support Reply message carries the 'ACDI' bit set. See the OpenLCB Message Network Standard for the Protocol Support Reply message.

If the <acdi> element is specified, and the [nNode](#) also supports the OpenLCB Simple Node Information Protocol (SNIP), then the information provided by the SNIP Reply shall match the respective values provided in the ACDI space.

A node may, but is not required to, express the same configuration options as specific segments and [dData eElements](#) therein.

5.1.3 <segment> Element

85 A <segment> element defines the value of [the memory sSpace](#) in the attribute 'space', which shall apply to all [dData eElements](#) within, and the value of 'origin', which shall be considered as the [aAddress](#) of a [dData eElement](#) of size 0 (zero) at the beginning of the <segment>³.

A [cConfiguration tTool](#) may, but is not required to, perform visual separation of the contents of different segments by appropriate UI elements, such as tabs, boxes or horizontal bars.

90 A <segment> element shall contain an optional user-readable name and optional description tags, and a sequence of zero or more [dData eElements](#). [The user-readable name and description are intended as hints for optional UI display by configuration tools.](#)

5.1.4 Data Elements

The following elements are considered [dData eElements](#): <group>, <int>, <string>, <eventid>, [<float>](#).

95 The value of the address within the segment is accumulated during a depth-first traversal of the contents of the segment definition element. [The aAddress](#) is initialized with the value of the attribute 'origin' on the <segment> element. Each time an offset attribute is encountered, the value of the address is incremented by the offset (which may be negative) before any other processing of the element is done. If the element defines a variable, the variable is located at the current address, and the address is then incremented by the size of that variable before advancing to the next element. This is
100 formalized as follows.

For each [dData eElement](#) the following values are defined:

- Space, which is defined by the enclosing <segment> element.
- Address, which is defined as the [eEnd aAddress](#) of the previous [dData eElement](#) plus the value of the attribute 'offset' on the [dData eElement](#).
- 105 • Size (in bytes)
- [End aAddress](#), which is defined as [aAddress](#) + [sSize](#), unless otherwise specified.

[The data element's <name> and <description> elements and the <group> element's <repname> element are intended as hints for optional UI display by configuration tools.](#)

5.1.4.1 <group> Element

110 The <group> element allows logical grouping of [yVariables](#), providing common documentation for them, and making multiple copies of the contained [yVariables](#). CDI implementors may, but are not required to, use this feature to express configuration of repeated hardware or software components (such as multiple input ports, output ports etc).

115 A <group> element shall contain an optional user-readable name, optional description and a sequence of zero or more [dData eElements](#). This sequence is considered to contain a [dData eElement](#) of size 0 (zero) before the specified [dData eElements](#)³.

If the 'replication' attribute is present with the value of N, then the group shall be considered as if the entire sequence of [dData eElements](#) were repeated N times.

³This is required to make "previous element" an unambiguous reference for the first element in the contained sequence.

- 120 | The **eEnd aAddress** of a <group> element is defined as the **eEnd aAddress** of the last **dData eElement** in the contained sequence (after replication). The **sSize** of a <group> element is defined as the **eEnd aAddress** minus the **aAddress** of the <group> element.

Configuration Tools shall not render a <group> element with no child elements⁴ on their UI.

5.1.4.2 <int> Element

- | The <int> element defines a **vVariable** of integer value.
- 125 | The **sSize** of the <int> element is defined as the value of the 'size' attribute in bytes.

The integer value shall be written to the bytes pointed to in big-endian byte order. All bytes shall be written. Values smaller than defined by the <min> or larger than defined by the <max> sub-element, if present, are invalid and shall not be written. If the <map> enumeration is present, then values not present in the list of <property> entries of the enumeration are invalid and shall not be written.

130 5.1.4.3 <string> Element

The <string> element defines a variable holding a UTF-8 string that is user-readable.

- | The **sSize** of the <string> element is defined as the value of the 'size' attribute in bytes.
- | The string value shall be written to the bytes pointed to, starting at the **aAddress** of the <string> element, with at least one trailing 0 (null) byte. When writing a shorter string, any unused bytes shall be set to 0 (null).
- 135

If the <map> enumeration is present, then values not present in the list of <property> entries of the enumeration are invalid and shall not be written.

5.1.4.4 <eventid> Element

- | The <eventid> element defines a variable holding an 8-byte value representing an **eEvent ID**.
- 140 | The **sSize** of the <eventid> element is defined as 8 bytes.
- | The **eEvent ID** shall be written to the bytes pointed to in big-endian byte order (most significant byte first).
- If the <map> enumeration is present, then values not present in the list of <property> entries of the enumeration are invalid and shall not be written.

145 5.1.4.5 <float> Element

The <float> element defines a variable of floating point value.

The size of the <float> element is defined as the value of the 'size' attribute in bytes. Valid values are 2, 4, and 8 bytes. The format of the bits within the element shall follow the IEEE format of the corresponding size.

⁴No name, no description and no Data Elements contained.

150 | The floating point value shall be written to the bytes pointed to in big-endian byte order. All bytes shall be written. Values smaller than defined by the <min> or larger than defined by the <max> sub-element, if present, are invalid and shall not be written. If the <map> enumeration is present, then values not present in the list of <property> entries of the enumeration are invalid and shall not be written.

155 | The optional “floatFormat” attribute defines a preferred, but not mandatory, printf-style format for displaying the data to the user.

6 Future Extension (Normative)

Configuration **tTools** implementing a future version of this Standard must be able to process CDI content defined according to any earlier version of the Standard, including this version.

160 | Configuration **tTools** implementing major version 1 of this Standard may assume the following about future minor versions of this Standard:

- No existing tags will change the interpretation or default value of the `offset' and `size' attribute, and accordingly the **aAddress** and **sSize** value, the data type and encoding of the value in the memory space. The <group> tag will not change the interpretation of the `offset' attribute and `replication' attribute.
- All unknown tags that occur within the element <segment> or <group> and have an attribute `size' shall be considered to be **dData eElements** with **aAddress** defined as the **eEnd eAddress** of the previous **dData eElement** plus the value of the `offset' attribute, and **sSize** defined as the value of the `size' attribute in bytes. The `size' attribute of all future **dData eElements** shall be required.

170 | No assumptions may be made about major version 2 and up of this Standard.

A Appendix: Schema

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<?xml-stylesheet href="schema2xhtml.xsl" type="text/xsl"?>
<!-- XML Schema for OpenLCB Configuration Description Information (CDI) -->
175 | <xs:schema version="CDI 1.34" xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
      xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">

    <xs:complexType name="mapType">
      <xs:annotation>
180 |       <xs:documentation>
          A map relates one or more property elements (keys)
          to specific values.
        </xs:documentation>
      </xs:annotation>
185 |     <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="name" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
        <xs:element name="description" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
        <xs:element name="relation" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
190 |         <xs:complexType>
            <xs:sequence>
              <xs:element name="property" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1" />
              <xs:element name="value" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1" />
            </xs:sequence>
          </xs:complexType>
195 |        </xs:element>
      </xs:sequence>
    </xs:complexType>

    <xs:complexType name="groupType">
200 |     <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="name" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
        <xs:element name="description" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
        <xs:element name="repname" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded1" />
        <xs:choice minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
205 |         <xs:annotation>
            <xs:documentation>
              Allows any sequence of the contained element types
            </xs:documentation>
          </xs:annotation>
210 |         <xs:element name="group" type="groupType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
          <xs:element name="string" type="stringType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
          <xs:element name="int" type="intType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
          <xs:element name="eventid" type="eventidType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
          <xs:element name="float" type="floatType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
215 |        </xs:choice>
      </xs:sequence>
      <xs:attribute name="offset" type="xs:int" default="0">
        <xs:annotation>
220 |          <xs:documentation>
              Positive or negative offset between the address of
              the end of previous element and the start of
              this group's contents.
              Offset of zero means that this element starts
              immediately after the previous one.
            </xs:documentation>
          </xs:annotation>
        </xs:attribute>
        <xs:attribute name="replication" type="xs:int" default="1" />
      </xs:complexType>
230 |

    <xs:complexType name="eventidType">
      <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="name" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
        <xs:element name="description" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
235 |        <xs:element name="map" type="mapType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
      </xs:sequence>
      <xs:attribute name="offset" type="xs:int" default="0">
        <xs:annotation>

```

```

240     <xs:documentation>
        Positive or negative offset between the address of
        the end of previous element and the start of
        this elements's contents.
        Offset of zero means that this element starts
        immediately after the previous one.
245     </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
  </xs:attribute>
</xs:complexType>

250 <xs:complexType name="intType">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="name" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
    <xs:element name="description" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
    <xs:element name="min" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
255    <xs:element name="max" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
    <xs:element name="default" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
    <xs:element name="map" type="mapType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1">
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:documentation>
260          The 'value' of each entry is displayed, and
          the 'property' content (number) is sent
          to/from the node
        </xs:documentation>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:element>
  </xs:sequence>
  <xs:attribute name="size" type="xs:int" default="1">
    <xs:annotation>
      <xs:documentation>
270        Storage size of this variable in bytes.
      </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
  </xs:attribute>
  <xs:attribute name="offset" type="xs:int" default="0">
275    <xs:annotation>
      <xs:documentation>
        Positive or negative offset between the
        address of the end of previous element and the
        start of this elements's contents.
        Offset of zero means that this element starts
280        immediately after the previous one.
      </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
  </xs:attribute>
</xs:complexType>
285

  <xs:simpleType name="floatFormat">
    <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
      <!-- This is a somewhat limiting regex, as it does not allow all possible -->
290      <!-- printf formats. It will allow the most common formats that have -->
      <!-- been seen and used before, however -->
      <xs:pattern value="%[0-9]*(\.([0-9]*)?)?f"/>
    </xs:restriction>
  </xs:simpleType>
295

  <xs:complexType name="floatType">
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:element name="name" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
      <xs:element name="description" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
300      <xs:element name="min" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
      <xs:element name="max" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
      <xs:element name="default" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
      <xs:element name="map" type="mapType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1">
        <xs:annotation>
          <xs:documentation>
305            The 'value' of each entry is displayed, and
            the 'property' content (number) is sent
            to/from the node
          </xs:documentation>
        </xs:annotation>
      </xs:element>
    </xs:sequence>
    <xs:attribute name="size" type="xs:int" default="1">
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:documentation>
          Storage size of this variable in bytes.
        </xs:documentation>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:attribute>
    <xs:attribute name="offset" type="xs:int" default="0">
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:documentation>
          Positive or negative offset between the
          address of the end of previous element and the
          start of this elements's contents.
          Offset of zero means that this element starts
          immediately after the previous one.
        </xs:documentation>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:attribute>
  </xs:complexType>

```



```

310 |         </xs:annotation>
        </xs:element>
        </xs:sequence>
        <xs:attribute name="size" type="xs:int" use="required">
315 |         <xs:annotation>
        <xs:documentation>
            Storage size of this variable in bytes.
        </xs:documentation>
        </xs:annotation>
        </xs:attribute>
320 |     <xs:attribute name="offset" type="xs:int" default="0">
        <xs:annotation>
        <xs:documentation>
            Positive or negative offset between the
325 |            address of the end of previous element and the
            start of this elements's contents.
            Offset of zero means that this element starts
            immediately after the previous one.
        </xs:documentation>
        </xs:annotation>
        </xs:attribute>
330 |     <xs:attribute name="formatting" type="floatFormat" >
        <xs:annotation>
        <xs:documentation>
            printf-style format string for displaying data to the user, like %3.1f
335 |        </xs:documentation>
        </xs:annotation>
        </xs:attribute>
    </xs:complexType>
340 | <xs:complexType name="stringType">
    <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="name" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
        <xs:element name="description" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
        <xs:element name="map" type="mapType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
345 |    </xs:sequence>
    <xs:attribute name="size" type="xs:int" use="required">
    <xs:annotation>
        <xs:documentation>
            Storage size of this variable in bytes.
350 |            This includes the trailing null byte that
            terminates the string content.
        </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
    </xs:attribute>
355 |    <xs:attribute name="offset" type="xs:int" default="0">
    <xs:annotation>
        <xs:documentation>
            Positive or negative offset between the
360 |            address of the end of previous element and the
            start of this elements's contents.
            Offset of zero means that this element starts
            immediately after the previous one.
        </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
    </xs:attribute>
365 |    </xs:complexType>

    <xs:element name="cdi">
    <xs:annotation>
370 |    <xs:documentation>
        This is the schema for Configuration
        Description Information (cdi)
    </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
    </xs:complexType>
375 |    <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="identification" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1">
        <xs:annotation>
        <xs:documentation>
380 |            Common first element to identify the decoder

```

```

    </xs:documentation>
  </xs:annotation>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:sequence>
385     <xs:element name="manufacturer" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
    <xs:element name="model" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
    <xs:element name="hardwareVersion" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
    <xs:element name="softwareVersion" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
    <xs:element name="map" type="mapType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1">
390     <xs:annotation>
      <xs:documentation>
        This map can be used to add arbitrary key/value
        descriptions of the node.
      </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
395   </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
400 <xs:element name="acdi" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1">
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:documentation>
      Element that identifies that memory information is available
      as defined by the Abbreviated Common Description Information
405    (ACDI) standard.
    </xs:documentation>
  </xs:annotation>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:attribute name="fixed" type="xs:int" default="4">
410    <xs:annotation>
      <xs:documentation>
        The decimal version number of the format for the fixed
        information block.
      </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
    <xs:attribute name="var" type="xs:int" default="2">
    <xs:annotation>
420    <xs:documentation>
      The decimal version number of the format for
      the variable information block.
    </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
    </xs:attribute>
425  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
  <xs:element name="segment" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
    <xs:annotation>
      <xs:documentation>
430      Define the contents of a memory space
    </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:sequence>
435      <xs:element name="name" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
      <xs:element name="description" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" />
      <xs:choice minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
        <xs:annotation>
          <xs:documentation>
440          Allows any sequence of the contained element types
        </xs:documentation>
        </xs:annotation>
        <xs:element name="group" type="groupType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1">
          <xs:annotation>
445          <xs:documentation>
            Allows grouping and replication of multiple locations.
          </xs:documentation>
          </xs:annotation>
        </xs:element>
450      <xs:element name="string" type="stringType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1">
        <xs:annotation>

```

```

    <xs:documentation>
      Describes a human-readable UTF-8 string in the data.
    </xs:documentation>
  </xs:annotation>
455 </xs:element>
  <xs:element name="int" type="intType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1">
    <xs:annotation>
      <xs:documentation>
460       Describes an integer value in the data.
         The field can be considered either a number,
         or a set of specific coded values via a map.
      </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
465 </xs:element>
  <xs:element name="eventid" type="eventidType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1">
    <xs:annotation>
      <xs:documentation>
470       Describes an 8-byte Event ID in the data.
      </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
  </xs:element>

<!--
475 XML Schema 1.1 construct expressing extensibility promise
  <xs:assert test="every $x in * satisfies (exists($x/@size) and $x/@size castable to
xs:integer)"/>
  <xs:assert test="every $x in * satisfies (exists($x/@offset) and $x/@offset castable to
xs:integer)"/>
480 <xs:any minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" processContents="lax">
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:documentation>
      Extension point for future schema
    </xs:documentation>
485 </xs:annotation>
  </xs:any>
-->

  </xs:choice>
490 </xs:sequence>
  <xs:attribute name="space" type="xs:int" use="required">
    <xs:annotation>
      <xs:documentation>
495       The decimal number of the address space where the information is found.
    </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
  </xs:attribute>
  <xs:attribute name="origin" type="xs:int" default="0">
    <xs:annotation>
500     <xs:documentation>
        Starting address of the segment's contents
        within the memory space.
      </xs:documentation>
    </xs:annotation>
505 </xs:attribute>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
</xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
510 </xs:element>
</xs:schema>

```

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