

Digital Twin Consortium Capabilities Toolkit User Guide

2025-xx-xx

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Part I: Updates To Version 1.1

Since its initial release in March 2022, the Digital Twin Consortium's Capabilities Periodic Table (CPT) has become an essential resource widely utilized across various industries for the

development and implementation of Digital Twins. Reflecting our commitment to continuous improvement and responsiveness to user feedback, we introduce Version 1.1 of the CPT.

This latest iteration incorporates valuable insights gathered from a diverse range of organizations that have applied the CPT framework in practice. As part of our update, we've streamlined the framework from 62 to 60 elements, combining similar capabilities into more comprehensive capability groups. This refinement includes the introduction of critical capabilities such as "Search" and "Responsibility," among other adjustments detailed in the subsequent sections.

A significant enhancement in Version 1.1 is the transition to structured abbreviations for each capability, moving away from sequential numbering. This adjustment aims to make the CPT not only quicker to reference but also more intuitive and user-friendly, aligning with our goal to enhance accessibility and ease of use.

Another noteworthy update is the redefinition of the "Temporal Data Store" to "Domain Specific Data Management." This change broadens the scope to encompass a variety of data types, including geo-location, image, sound, and temporal or time series data, offering extended support for geo-spatial and other domain-specific data types tailored to organizational needs.

Looking ahead, we are actively working on Version 2 of the CPT, focusing on advancing the frontiers of digital twin technology. Our future updates aim to enhance interoperability with AI technologies, integrate geospatial and spatial computing more effectively, and provide clearer guidance on aligning data fidelity with specific use cases. The evolution of the CPT will emphasize the creation of intelligent digital twins that prioritize user experience and enable faster development, ensuring the framework remains at the forefront of digital twin innovation.

1. CHANGE LOG

1. Change numbering to descriptive abbreviations.
 - Example: 2. Data Streaming to DS.ST Data Streaming
2. Consolidated "23. Edge AI & Intelligence", "31. Artificial intelligence", and "30. Machine Learning" into IC.AI Artificial Intelligence.
3. Consolidated "43. Augmented Reality (AR)" and "44. Virtual Reality (VR)" into "UX.XR Extended Reality (XR)".
4. Introduced "IC.SR Search" in the Intelligence category.
5. Introduced "TW.RP Responsibility" into the Trustworthiness category.
6. Replaced "13. Temporal Data Store" with "DS.DS Domain Specific Data Store" to include lower level data types such as temporal data, geo-location and geospatial data, images, sounds, and other domain-specific data types.
7. Annex A removed from User Guide – Refer to Excel spreadsheet for detailed descriptions.

2. THE INTRODUCTION OF DOMAIN-SPECIFIC DATA TYPES

A key change to the Digital Twin Capabilities Periodic Table includes the expansion of the “Temporal Data Store” into a more encompassing “Domain Specific Data Management” capability. This strategic update not only maintains the essential functionality of managing time-series data but also widens the framework’s utility by integrating additional data types such as geo-location, images, and audio. By doing so, it offers a versatile foundation for handling specialized data types, particularly geo-spatial data, which is crucial for organizations needing precise location-based analysis. This shift gears the capability towards a more tailored approach, allowing organizations to leverage specific data types that are critical to their operational context and strategic objectives. Here are two examples of Domain-Specific Data Types that describe the intent of the overall capability.

2.1 GEOSPATIAL DATA INCLUDING GEO-LOCATION

Core to all digital twins is a virtual representation of the real world — a digital representation of the real-world objects, entities, facilities, and conditions being modeled in the twin. For many digital twin use cases this includes understanding the location of the assets being represented. The question “where” is at the heart of many digital twins: Where are the rooms in the building? Where are individual buildings related to the larger site and context? Where are the buildings, roads, and other assets in the city, and how do they connect and relate to each other?

Geo-Location is therefore essential to understand the layout and context of the real-world entities being represented. Location intelligence — the insight gained from visualizing and analyzing data in a locational context — is an essential capability needed to realize value from digital twin investments.

Key characteristics of geospatial data that organizations should define with respect to their digital twins include the following:

1. Spatial extent
2. Fidelity and level of development (LOD)
3. Locational reference (coordinate) systems
4. Spatial units
5. Map scale and measurement units
6. File types and data storage
7. Content organization (standards and schema)
8. License and access restrictions
9. Privacy and security

By selecting the locational model(s) and describing the corresponding key attributes of those locational models, organizations will then be able to describe their digital twin locational capabilities in a detailed and structured fashion, in turn supporting digital twin design and solution development.

Regardless of the scope and scale of a digital twin or what lifecycle phase(s) the twin is focused on — planning, design, construction, or operations — location matters. Most digital twins are not possible, or are certainly less capable, without location. As a “mirror of the real world”, there is no twin without location.

2.2 TEMPORAL DATA

Temporal (time-series) data plays a critical role in the operation of real-time operational digital twins by capturing and analyzing data points over time. This kind of data is essential for monitoring, controlling, and optimizing the performance and health of complex systems in real-time. A temporal data store, therefore, becomes a key capability, ensuring that this time-sensitive information is systematically stored and accessed. This capability allows digital twins to provide actionable insights and value, particularly in environments where timing and historical context are crucial for decision-making.

For example, consider a wind farm utilizing digital twins for both operational efficiency and predictive maintenance. The digital twin collects real-time telemetry data such as wind speed, yaw, and power generated. This operational data is crucial for adjusting settings in real-time to maximize power generation efficiency. Concurrently, the digital twin also gathers asset performance data, including gearbox speed, temperature, and vibration. This information is vital for identifying patterns or anomalies that may indicate potential failures or maintenance needs before they escalate into more significant issues.

This scenario describes the use of a temporal (time-series) data store as a “Sub-Capability” under the broader “Domain Specific Data Store” capability. However, it’s particularly relevant for users focused on real-time performance data. By capturing and analyzing both operational metrics and asset condition over time, stakeholders can optimize performance and pre-emptively address maintenance issues, leading to improved efficiency and reduced downtime. This targeted application of the temporal data store capability demonstrates how domain-specific data management strategies can be tailored to meet the unique needs of different users and use cases for digital twins.

3. TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASES

The Digital Twin Consortium’s Technology Showcases delve into the core technologies, methodologies, and strategies essential to the development and application of digital twins. These showcases not only present the practical benefits digital twins offer across a range of industries but also underscore their adaptability and transformative potential.

Each showcase is mandated to illustrate its alignment with the Capabilities Periodic Table, ensuring a comprehensive demonstration of its utility and integration. The complete range of showcases is available at <https://www.digitaltwinconsortium.org/initiatives/technology-showcase/>.

Part II: Core

4. INTRODUCTION

The Digital Twin Capabilities Periodic Table (CPT) is an architecture and technology agnostic requirements definition framework. It is aimed at organizations who want to design, develop, deploy and operate Digital Twins based on use case capability requirements versus the features of technology solutions.

The Digital Twin Capabilities Periodic Table framework facilitates collaboration in multidisciplinary or fusion teams that need to create Digital Twins requirements specifications in large scale complex environments. The framework keeps the focus on the capability requirements of individual use cases, which can then be aggregated to determine the overall capability requirements, digital twin platforms and other technology solutions that are required to address the specific business needs.

It follows a periodic table approach with capabilities grouped or “clustered” around common characteristics. It is easy to interpret at both the boardroom when explaining the business case to get funding for a Digital Twin project, and the shopfloor when gathering requirements for a Digital Twin application. It provides visual guidance for collaboration, brainstorming and making capability requirements explicit.

End users that are investigating Digital Twin technology to address business transformation and other digitalization needs often ask these three questions:

- What is a digital twin?
- Why should I care?
- How do I get started?

Digital Twin Consortium’s definition of a digital twin provides a comprehensive answer to the first question.

A digital twin is a virtual representation of real-world entities and processes, synchronized at a specified frequency and fidelity.

- Digital twin systems transform business by accelerating holistic understanding, optimal decision-making, and effective action.
- Digital twins use real-time and historical data to represent the past and present and simulate predicted futures.
- Digital twins are motivated by outcomes, tailored to use cases, powered by integration, built on data, guided by domain knowledge, and implemented in IT/OT systems.

The second question is addressed by the use case reference library that is being developed by the Digital Twin Consortium (DTC). It describes the problem, the impact and the way that a Digital Twin addresses the specific business challenge. It highlights the benefits and impact of Digital Twins in various use cases and industries.

The purpose of this guide is to assist with the third question on how to get started with Digital Twins. It provides a framework for organizations that are just starting on the journey, and it provides a consistent approach as organizations scale out and increase their Digital Twin maturity.

4.1 CAPABILITY VS TECHNOLOGY

Capability is the ability to perform or achieve certain actions/outcomes. The ability to drill a hole is a very simple example of a capability. There are multiple use cases that require holes and each of them will have unique requirements in terms of the size, the depth or the substance

that is drilled. This may be one of many capabilities required to successfully complete a project where the hole is part of the solution.

Digital Twins provide unique capabilities as described in the DTC definition, but a Digital Twin, in itself, is composed from a number of technical capabilities to provide an overall solution.

The Digital Twin Capabilities Periodic Table is focused on these technology-based capabilities, but it is agnostic to specific technology or product solutions. For example, machine learning capability can be provided by several technology providers, each with different products. During the assessment of vendor capabilities, it is important to clarify that the technology solution can fulfill the technological capability requirement of the business use case.

The approach used in the Digital Twins Capabilities Periodic Table to describe these capabilities follows a simple structure:

- What it is (capability name)
- What it does (capability description)
- What it means or purpose (what does it enable)

The Digital Twins Capabilities Periodic Table is not a reference architecture, but it supports multiple architectural approaches. It highlights the capability building blocks for composable Digital Twins. The Digital Twin Consortium reference architecture provides recommended structures and integrations of Internet of Things (IoT), Information Technology (IT), Operational Technology (OT), and Engineering Technology (ET) products and services to form a Digital Twin solution. In addition to the DTC reference architecture for Digital Twins, the Capabilities Periodic Table supports other reference architectures that end-users may already have developed using their own corporate standards.

4.2 ENABLE COMPOSABLE DIGITAL TWINS

Composable Digital Twins (CDT) is an application development approach for Digital Twins that is based on the composable enterprise architectural pattern. Composable applications, such as CDTs, focus on faster time to value, service-based orchestration and reusing packaged business capabilities to develop and adapt applications as business requirements evolve.

Packaged Business Capabilities (PBC) are modular combinations of technical capabilities that are presented as bundled services. These PBCs are orchestrated together through an application composition platform to deliver unique Digital Twin applications for specific use cases.

The Digital Twin Capabilities Periodic Table provides a consistent framework to identify the capabilities that can be grouped together to create these PBCs. Figure 1 shows a composable Digital Twin reference model that outlines the different data types and data sources that are leveraged by PBCs to create reusable and agile Digital Twin compositions.

4.3 ECOSYSTEM VS SINGLE VENDOR

The smorgasbord of capabilities that are all captured in the Digital Twin Capabilities Periodic Table are beyond the scope of any single vendor. It requires an ecosystem of interoperable technical capabilities to address large scale, complex Digital Twin use cases. The Digital Twin Capabilities Periodic Table provides a common framework for multiple vendors to identify and present key capabilities that they provide for a Digital Twins solution.

This common framework is a major benefit of the Digital Twin Capabilities Periodic Table for an end user organization that is clarifying requirements for a Digital Twin. It removes the focus from vendor specific technologies and places it on the key capabilities that are required to successfully deliver a Digital Twin solution. It is useful in analyzing a vendor solution to see if it is complete or not in aligning with the use case needs. It provides the opportunity to light up the capabilities in the requirements and then overlay the capabilities in the solution to see how well they align.

4.4 FITS ACROSS THE DIGITAL TWINS LIFECYCLE

The Digital Twin Capabilities Periodic table is applicable across the full life cycle of the Digital Twin. The capabilities may differ during the different phases, but the approach to identify the key capabilities for each phase remains the same throughout the overall life cycle.

Some capabilities may transfer between lifecycle phases, while others may become obsolete and new capabilities are introduced for new use cases. Capabilities during the design and construction phase may not all transfer to the operations and maintenance phase of an entity like a production plant. This helps facilitate the development of the Digital Thread as it transitions through the different lifecycle phases. The Digital Twin supports the Digital Thread through these capabilities. The Digital Twin Capabilities Periodic Table can also be used to identify capabilities for the Digital Thread.

5. THE DIGITAL TWIN CAPABILITY PERIODIC TABLE (CPT)

5.1 THE DIGITAL TWIN CPT CATEGORIES

The Digital Twin CPT is organized into six logical groupings, matching capabilities that have similar characteristics and application.

Category	
No Name	Category Description
DS Data Services	Enables data access, ingestion and data management across the platform from the edge to the cloud. It establishes the physical to virtual connection and receives data directly from equipment sensors or control systems, performs localized processing and distributes to other tiers.
IR Integration	Enables data access to existing internal and external enterprise systems and applications. Enables communication across different digital twins.
IC Intelligence	Provides an environment for the development and deployment of industrial Digital Twin solutions. It provides the services for data integration, basic and advanced analytics, AI, orchestration and other Digital Twin process capabilities.
UX User Experience	Provides the user with the ability to interact with Digital Twins and visualize its data.
MN Management	System and ecosystem management capabilities.
TW Trustworthy	Capabilities, privacy, safety, reliability and resilience capabilities.

5.2 THE DIGITAL TWIN CPT LEVEL 1

Level 1 represents 60 high-level capabilities that are grouped based on the categories. Each of these capabilities may be decomposed into level 2 sub-capabilities to provide more granular elements if the Digital Twin use case requires clarification.

5.3 THE DIGITAL TWIN CPT LEVEL 2

Future versions of the Digital Twin CPT may provide specific level 2 capabilities, but it is suggested that the level 2 capability requirements are defined on a case-by-case basis in the short term. The machine learning capability may, for example, be decomposed into specific sub-capabilities. In certain instances, it may require a third-level breakdown to describe the specific capability that will address the needs of a specific Digital Twin use case.

5.4 CAPABILITY DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The requirements of a specific use case will determine the deployment environment for the different capabilities that address the use case. Some use cases may require the Digital Twin capabilities at the IoT edge or fog nodes, while others may require cloud processing, and in some instances hybrid deployment models may be needed. It is important to consider the various deployment requirements as part of the Digital Twin capability specification. The Industry IoT Consortium (IIC) provides technical guidance on the characteristics of edge, fog and cloud computing in the Industrial Internet Vocabulary Technical Report.

6. HOW TO USE THE DIGITAL TWIN CAPABILITY PERIODIC TABLE

The Digital Twin CPT Toolkit is an Excel template that accompanies this user guide and is aimed at assisting in requirements gathering and capability specification for a specific Digital Twin use case. The Digital Twin CPT Toolkit contains the template periodic table number, capability description, ability requirements and purpose. The ability and purpose descriptions for each capability may be edited at an organizational level, but it is suggested to use this as a template. The specific use case capability requirements, attributes and use case application environment is then completed for each use case.

6.1 WIND FARM USE CASE EXAMPLES

In this example, the data acquisition and ingestion capability requirement is for real-time sensor readings with high frequency and low latency. The specific requirement is 50 tags at a 5-second frequency with a 10-kilobyte payload per message, for 10,000 wind turbines.

6.2 DIGITAL TWIN CPT WORKFLOW SUMMARY

The Digital Twin CPT provides an overall workflow process to communicate requirements from internal stakeholders as well as outside stakeholders such as technology solution providers. The output of the Toolkit describes all the capability requirements to successfully deliver a

Digital Twin use case. This can be provided to Digital Twin technology solution providers to propose products and services, either in isolation, or as part of a broader ecosystem. Vendor solutions can be ranked and scored against the Digital Twins CPT Toolkit.

7. FUTURE WORK

This user guide provides an introduction to a capability-based approach to composing Digital Twins. Future work will include level 2 descriptions for each of the capability elements in the Digital Twins CPT, and potentially a capability maturity model with an index that organizations can use to score progress towards more mature Digital Twins.

Part III: Annexes

Annex A: The detailed descriptions of each capability are removed in version 1.1 and available in the companion Excel spreadsheet.

AUTHORS AND LEGAL NOTICE

This document is a work product of the Composability Framework Subgroup, co-chaired by Pieter van Schalkwyk (XMPro) and Sean Whiteley (AxoMem).

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Technical Editor: Dan Isaacs (DTC)

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