

OGC Name Type Specification - definitions - part 1 – basic name

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i. Abstract

The mission of the OGC Naming Authority (OGC-NA) is to provide the means through which OGC resources such as OGC documents, namespaces and ontologies can be controlled and managed such that they can provide clear and well-defined names and definitions. In the terminology defined in ISO 19135, OGC-NA is the Control Body for the register of OGC Names. This document specifies a rule for constructing OGC names that may be used for identifying definitions, as well as rules for formally representing the meanings of the definitions.

ii. Keywords

The following are keywords to be used by search engines and document catalogues.

ogcdoc, OGC document, policy, naming authority, definitions

iii. Preface

This document specifies a rule for constructing OGC names that may be used for identifying definitions.

iv. Submitting organizations

The following organizations submitted this Document to the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC):

Organization name(s)

v. Submitters

All questions regarding this submission should be directed to the editor or the submitters:

Table 1. Contacts

| Name | Affiliation |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Gobe Hobona | OGC |
| Simon Cox | CSIRO |

Chapter 1. Scope

An OGC name may be provided for a definition of a type of object broadly classified as a "concept" or system parameter, including:

- Coordinate Reference Systems (CRSs) and related objects.
- Data types
- Feature and property types
- Functions
- Nil values
- Units of measure

The precise scope of definitions that may be identified with OGC Names is provided by the set of items in the register at <http://www.opengis.net/register/ogc-na/def-type>

NOTE

"Definitions" may be contrasted with "instances", which shall use names constructed following rules provided in other OGC Name Type Specifications.

Chapter 2. Conformance

This policy defines part 1 of the OGC name-type specification for definitions.

Conformance with this policy shall be checked using the naming rule and naming assignment policy defined in this document.

Chapter 3. References

IETF: RFC 2141 URN Syntax, <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2141> (1997)

IETF: RFC 2616 Hypertext Transfer Protocol — HTTP/1.1, <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2616> (1999)

IETF: RFC 3986 Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax, <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3986> (2005)

IETF: RFC 4395 Guidelines and Registration Procedures for New URI Schemes, <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4395> (2006)

IETF: RFC 5141 A Uniform Resource Name (URN) Namespace for the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5141> (2008)

IETF: RFC 5165 A Uniform Resource Name (URN) Namespace for the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5165> (2008)

IETF: RFC 5234 Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF, <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5234> (2008)

ISO: ISO 1087-1:2000 Terminology work — Vocabulary — Part 1: Theory and application, <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:1087:-1:ed-1:v1:en>

OGC: OGC 05-020r25, Technical Committee Policies and Procedures, <http://docs.opengeospatial.org/pol/05-020r25/05-020r25.html> (2017)

OGC: OGC 09-046r5, OGC Naming Authority – Procedures, <http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/na> (2018)

Chapter 4. Terms and Definitions

This document uses the terms defined in Sub-clause 5.3 of [OGC 06-121r8], which is based on the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards. In particular, the word “shall” (not “must”) is the verb form used to indicate a requirement to be strictly followed to conform to this standard.

For the purposes of this document, the following additional terms and definitions apply.

4.1. Concept

unit of knowledge created by a unique combination of characteristics (source: ISO 1087-1:2000)

4.2. control body

group of technical experts that makes decisions regarding the content of a register (source: ISO 19135)

4.3. register

set of files containing identifiers assigned to items with descriptions of the associated items (source: ISO 19135)

Chapter 5. Conventions

This document uses the normative terms (SHALL, SHOULD, etc) defined in Subclause 5.3 of [OGC 06-121r3], which is based on the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2: Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards. In particular, the word 'shall' (not 'must') is the verb form used to indicate a requirement to be strictly followed to comply with this specification.

Name production rules in this document are expressed using ABNF (IETF RFC 5324).

Chapter 6. Naming Rule

This section describes the naming rule.

6.1. OGC name schemes

Two URI schemes [IETF RFC 3986] are defined by OGC to provide persistent names for resources of interest in geographic information infrastructures. The generic syntax for OGC names is described in [OGC Naming Authority – Procedures].

The generic syntax for OGC http URIs is

```
URI = "http://www.opengis.net/" OGCResource "/" ResourceSpecificPath
```

The generic syntax for OGC URNs is [IETF RFC 5165]

```
URN = "urn:ogc:" OGCResource ":" ResourceSpecificString
```

The following ABNF adapted from [IETF RFC 3986] provides some basic definitions required in the rest of this document.

```
segment      = *pchar
segment-nc   = *pchar-nc
segment-nz   = 1*pchar
segment-nz-nc = 1*pchar-nc
pchar        = unreserved / pct-encoded / sub-delims / ":" / "@"
pchar-nc     = unreserved / pct-encoded / sub-delims / "@"
pct-encoded  = "%" HEXDIG HEXDIG
unreserved   = ALPHA / DIGIT / "-" / "." / "_" / "~"
reserved     = gen-delims / sub-delims
gen-delims   = ":" / "/" / "?" / "#" / "[" / "]" / "@"
sub-delims   = "!" / "$" / "&" / "'" / "(" / ")"
              / "*" / "+" / "," / ";" / "="
```

6.2. Production rule for specification element names

The basic form for an OGC name that identifies a definition shall be produced using the following rule:

```

OGCResource    = "def"
ResourceSpecificPath = definition-type "/" authority "/" version "/" code
ResourceSpecificString = definition-type ":" authority ":" versionURN ":" codeURN
definition-type = segment-nz-nc ; a token from the register of OGC definition types1
authority       = segment-nz-nc ; a token from the register of OGC authorities2
version         = segment-nz-nc / "0" ; use 0 for un-versioned names
code            = segment-nz-nc *( "/" segment-nz-nc )
versionURN      = segment-nc ; this may be a zero-length string
codeURN         = segment-nz-nc *( ":" segment-nz-nc )

```

"version" or "versionURN" is a required field. For un-versioned definitions:

- within the http URI form the version field shall be "0"
- within the URN form versionURN shall be a zero-length string—so an un-versioned definition can be detected by a pair of colons "::".

The actual code may be composed of a sequence of fields delimited by "/" in the http URI form, or ":" in the URN form.

Note that the register of definition types (<http://www.opengis.net/register/ogc-na/def-type>) was previously presented as Table 2 in the OGC Best Practice Definition identifier URNs in OGC namespace OGC 07-092r1.

Note that the register of authorities (<http://www.opengis.net/register/ogc-na/authority>) was previously presented as Table 1 in the OGC Best Practice Definition identifier URNs in OGC namespace OGC 07-092r1

6.3. Shortened Names of Coordinate Reference Systems

A shortened form of the URI of a registered Coordinate Reference System (CRS) may be used as an alternative to the full URI by following the syntax below:

{authority}:{identifier} == <http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/{authority}/0/{identifier}>

For example, EPSG:4326 may be used to represent <http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/EPSSG/0/4326>

When a shortened form of an identifier is used, the following shall apply:

- a. The version segment of the URI is assumed to be equal to 0
- b. The definition-type segment shall be assumed to be equal to **crs**.

Chapter 7. Name Assignment Policy

This section describes the name assignment policy.

7.1. Definition types

The register of definition types <http://www.opengis.net/register/ogc-na/def-type> is controlled by OGC-NA. Changes to this register (additions, deletions, and supersession) shall be initiated by a submission to the OGC Naming Authority names@opengeospatial.org.

7.2. Authorities

The register of authorities <http://www.opengis.net/register/ogc-na/authority> is controlled by OGC-NA. Changes to this register (additions, deletions, and supersession) shall be initiated by a submission to the OGC Naming Authority names@opengeospatial.org.

7.3. Names

The register of names <http://www.opengis.net/def/> is controlled by OGC-NA. Changes to this register (addition, deletion, and supersession) shall be initiated by a submission to the OGC Naming Authority names@opengeospatial.org.

7.4. Names for EPSG definitions

http URI form:

<http://www.opengis.net/def/objectType/EPSPG/0/code>

URN form:

urn:ogc:def:objectType:EPSPG::code

In this case, the 'authority' part of the URI is 'EPSPG'. The 'code' part of the URI is the EPSG 'code' unique identifier of the referenced definition. Alternately, the 'code' part of the URI can be the EPSG 'name' unique identifier. In this case, omission of the version number is recommended, as this is not required to identify a referenced record in the EPSG dataset and may even lead to confusion if a version number is provided.

The policy of the Survey and Positioning Committee of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP) is to not delete any entities. However, if a record is found to be incorrect, that record is deprecated and replaced. When this is done, the deprecation field of the deprecated record is changed from "false" to "true". (In some implementations, "false" may be "0" or "no", and "true" may be "1" or "yes"). Deprecated records are also termed 'invalid records'. When retrieving any geodetic parameters from the EPSG dataset a user therefore needs to verify whether the record(s) is / are valid or invalid. The user then has two options: (1) follow the links provided and use the valid replacing record(s), a course typically followed when spatially referencing a new dataset, or (2) retrieve the invalid, deprecated record(s) in order to undo the effects of this error in

an existing spatial dataset that had been spatially referenced using the incorrect records. Note that spatial referencing using (an) invalid EPSG entities will only generate errors if the data is subsequently subjected to coordinate conversions and/or transformations.

Example 1 The http URI value for EPSG CRS 3163 is:

<http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/EPSC/0/3163>

Example 2 The http URI value for the "WGS 84 longitude-latitude" CRS specified in Subclause B.3 of WMS 1.3 (previously referenced as CRS:84) is:

<http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/OGC/1.3/CRS84>

Example 3 The URN value for EPSG CRS 3163 is:

urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSC::3163

Example 4 The URN value for the "WGS 84 longitude-latitude" CRS specified in Subclause B.3 of WMS 1.3 (previously referenced as "CRS:84") is:

urn:ogc:def:crs:OGC:1.3:CRS84

7.5. Description

Each definition shall be described using the Simple Knowledge Organization System (SKOS) vocabulary of the World Wide Web (W3C) consortium. Other vocabularies may also be used **in addition** to SKOS.

The following predicates are mandatory for resources:

- **skos:prefLabel** for providing a human-readable version of a resource's name
- **dcterms:created** for stating the date the resource was created in the register
- **dcterms:modified** for stating the date the resource was modified in the register (mandatory if the resource has been modified)
- **policy:status** for indicating whether the resource is valid, retired, superseded, or under consideration
- **skos:definition** for providing a human-readable description of the resource
- **rdfs:label** for providing a human-readable version of a resource's name (used for compatibility with non-SKOS systems)

An example of a definition described in SKOS is shown below.

```

@prefix dcterms: <http://purl.org/dc/terms/> .
@prefix owl: <http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#> .
@prefix policy: <http://www.opengis.net/def/metamodel/ogc-na/> .
@prefix status: <http://www.opengis.net/def/status/> .
@prefix rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> .
@prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#> .
@prefix skos: <http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#> .
@prefix xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#> .

<http://www.opengis.net/def/serviceType/ogc/wcs/2.0>
  rdf:type skos:Concept ;
  dcterms:created "2018-03-13"^^xsd:date ;
  dcterms:modified "2018-04-16"^^xsd:date ;
  policy:status status:valid ;
  skos:broader <http://www.opengis.net/def/serviceType/ogc/wcs>;
  rdfs:label "OGC Web Coverage Service 2.0"^^xsd:string ;
  rdfs:seeAlso <http://www.opengis.net/spec/wcs/2.0> ;
  skos:prefLabel "OGC Web Coverage Service 2.0"@en ;
  skos:definition "A Web Coverage Service (WCS) offers multi-dimensional coverage data
for access over the Internet" .

```

Annex A: Background (Informative)

A.1. Introduction

This annex includes useful information from the previous document OGC 07-092r3

A.2. URNs for Coordinate Reference Systems

One frequent use of URNs is referencing the CRS for an OGC Web Service input or output; another use is referencing the CRS for a feature geometry or a bounding box. These URNs are used to identify the referenced CRS, not to transfer a definition of that CRS. Most of this material is also applicable to referencing CRS components and Coordinate Operations and their components, often referred to as objects.

NOTE 1: Subclause D.14 of [OGC 06-121r3] summarizes many of the requirements considered when specifying how to reference CRSs.

Document [OGC 06-121r3] specifies that each specific OWS shall always reference a CRS by using an XML attribute or element with the type anyURI. Such an anyURI value can be used to reference a CRS whether the definition of that CRS is included in the same data transfer, is NOT included in the same data transfer, cannot be electronically accessed, or can be electronically accessed.

NOTE 2: In XML Schemas, the anyURI data type is the standard way to briefly reference (or cite) a value specified elsewhere. XML attributes with the type anyURI include the GML defined attributes named gml:srsName, gml:uom, xlink:href, and gml:codeSpace.

When using an XML attribute or element with the type anyURI to reference a CRS, CRS-related, or other object, that URI shall have a value which uses one of two alternative URI formats:

- a) Universal Resource Locator (URL), with standard form. The URL format should be used whenever the referenced definition is known to be electronically available using this standard URL.
- b) Universal Resource Name (URN), with a specified form. The URN format shall be used whenever the referenced definition is not, or might not be, available using a URL. This URN shall reference data that is specified by some 'authority' and is 'well-known' to both client and server software, including multiple clients and multiple servers.

NOTE 3: Two widely-used forms of URI are URL and URN. We are specifying using URNs as the way of citing CRS-related definitions that are "well-known" but are not adequately electronically available using a URL.

Subclause 10.3.2 of the OWS Common specification [OGC 06-121r3] specifies when and how to use URLs to reference a CRS or CRS-related object. Use of URNs is expected to be more common than use of URLs, and specific OWS Implementation Specifications are expected to use many standard URN values.

A.3. URNs and URLs

URNs [IETF RFC 2141] are a kind of URI [IETF RFC 2396], and may be used as the value of references where a URI is required. This is often the case in GML-based encodings (e.g., the standard XML attributes `xlink:href`, `xlink:role`, `xlink:arcrole`, `srsName`, `uom`, `codeSpace`) and in OGC Web Services (OWS) operation requests and responses.

A URN serves as a persistent identifier of a resource or concept. A detailed description of the resource may also be available online, with a resource locator (URL) providing an access point. In general, there is no direct mapping or algorithm to obtain a URL for the resource designated by a URN. URNs are intended to be more persistent than URLs, so that they remain valid even if a resource description is relocated. However, a resolution service or resolver is expected to provide a URL corresponding to a URN.

A.4. URN and schema component designators

In a few places in OWS interfaces, an identifier for an XML component is required. In these cases, it is important that the identifier reference the actual schema definition, which may then be used as the template for an OWS request or response.

A number of options are available for identification of schema components. The W3C XML Schema recommendation provides QName (qualified name – see XML Schema Part 2, clause 3.2.18). A QName has the lexical form `ns:name` where 'ns' is an XML namespace prefix for which a namespace declaration is in scope. The QName thus corresponds with an identifier tuple {namespace, local name} where 'namespace' is the fully scoped identifier for the XML namespace. In contrast, a URN identifier is complete, and does not depend on context for resolution of the namespace prefix.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| NOTE | The W3C XML activity is currently considering a more complete scheme for identification of schema components, documented in the working draft XML Schema: Component Designators http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-ref/ . |
|-------------|---|

In OWS interfaces, XML components are generally identified using a QName.

While there is some overlap of the meaning of schema component designators with the OGC URN scheme used for `dataTypes` and `featureTypes`, it should be understood that a URN identifies the concept, and not just its XML and XML Schema implementation. Of course, the concepts denoted by identifiers from the `featureType` branch generally have XML Schema implementations, so direct mappings are implied. Note that the mapping may be one-to-many, for example to manage versioning of the XML schema implementation independent of versioning of the concept.

Annex B: Revision History

| Date | Release | Editor | Primary clauses modified | Description |
|------------|---------|------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 2008-12-04 | 0.1 | Simon Cox | N/A | Initial draft document |
| 2008-12-11 | 0.1 | Arliss Whiteside | Cover, i, ii, iii, 2, 3, 5, A | Corrected format, inserted comments, and extended |
| 2009-04-01 | 0.1 | Simon Cox | all | Minor tweaks and corrections for consistency with the other OGC-NA documents. |
| 2009-05-15 | 0.2 | David Burggraf | all | Moved all references to parameterized and compound name form of URN definitions with the intention of specifying these forms in the separate documents OGC 09-054 and OGC 09-055, respectively. |
| 2009-05-21 | 0.2 | Simon Cox | 2, 3 | Additional normative references; Replace EBNF with ABNF |
| 2010-01-31 | 1.1.0 | Simon Cox | all | ABNF revised to match RFC 3986; http URI syntax made explicit |

| Date | Release | Editor | Primary clauses modified | Description |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 2010-02-28 | 1.1.1 | Simon Cox | 3.2 | Specific token "0" to be used for un-versioned http URIs. |
| 2010-03-31 | 1.1.2 | Simon Cox | 3.2 | Amend ABNF to allow an unlimited set of fields separated by either : or / . |
| 2018-05-16 | 1.2 | Gobe Hobona | all | Conversion to asciidoc. Updated URL of def-type list. Added the Description section and SKOS example. |
| 2021-06-25 | 1.3 | Gobe Hobona | 6.3 | Added clause on Shortened Names of CRS's |