

ARCHIMATE® MODEL EXCHANGE FILE FORMAT

ArchiMate®

Overview

The Open Group ArchiMate® Model Exchange File Format Standard defines a file format that can be used to exchange ArchiMate models between tools that create or interpret ArchiMate models. ArchiMate exchange files enable exporting content from one ArchiMate modeling tool to another while retaining information describing the model in the file and how it is structured, such as a list of model elements and relationships. The Standard focuses on the packaging and transport of ArchiMate models.

The Exchange File Format contains basic model information including:

- All ArchiMate types with basic attributes
- Relationship details between objects
- Diagrammatic information

The deliverables included with this Standard are as follows:

- The Open Group ArchiMate® Model Exchange File Format Standard, Version 3.1
- Schema Definition File: Model Exchange
- Schema Definition File: View Exchange
- Schema Definition File: Diagram Exchange
- A zip file containing the XSD Schema Definitions and example models

An online resource site for implementors is available at www.opengroup.org/xsd/archimate.

About The Open Group

The Open Group is an international vendor and technology-neutral consortium upon which organizations rely to lead the development of technology standards and certifications, and to provide them with access to key industry peers, suppliers, and best practices. The Open Group provides guidance and an open environment in order to ensure interoperability and vendor-neutrality.

Further information on The Open Group can be found at www.opengroup.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the ArchiMate Model Exchange File Format?

A: It is a specification for a standard file format for the exchange of ArchiMate models between different tools. All ArchiMate Certified tools support the exchange file format.

Q: What is addressed in the ArchiMate Model Exchange File Format?

A: The format includes a core exchange format and, in addition, the visual layout.

Q: Is the format intended as a persistent file format for an ArchiMate model?

A: The exchange file format is not intended as a persistent file format for the model itself; it is a mechanism to convey instance data from one tool to another (a simple analogy would be the csv file format for exchange of spreadsheet information). The data contained in the exchange file format is meant to be processed by an “ArchiMate aware” tool, thus ruling out standalone semantic inference. Once the instance data has been imported into an ArchiMate tool, that tool will probably save it in its own proprietary file format.

Q: Where can I obtain a copy?

A: The Standard can be obtained from The Open Group Library at www.opengroup.org/library/c19c. You will be required to register for a free web ID if you do not already have one..

Q: I am a tool provider – how can I get involved?

A: By joining The Open Group ArchiMate Forum; email: archimate-forum@opengroup.org.

Q: Where do I send suggestions for improvement?

A: Please send comments by email to ogspeccs@opengroup.org.

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