

Generic AEC/FM View Description

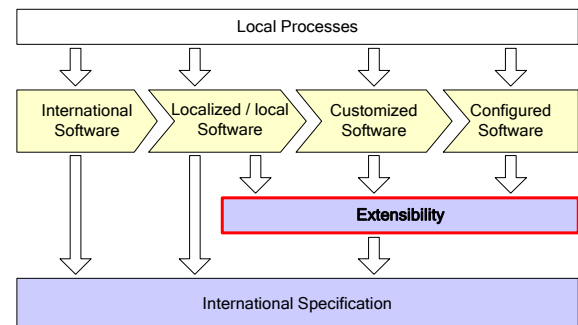
Extensibility

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Description

This view defines how the internationally applicable specification (IFC) is used for supporting national or project specific exchange requirements without losing compatibility with the international specification and international model view definitions.

This view defines the extensibility systems that are available to the national or project specific view definitions. Software certified for this view is certified for being in general capable of supporting such national and project specific views. Actual support for such views is reached through software localization (software vendors), customization (3rd party developers) or configuration (software users).



In general data exchange should be able to maintain as much semantic meaning as possible because this allows software to apply more meaningful logic to the exchanged data. Software can for example apply more meaningful logic to a wall object than a generic block of geometry. This principle should be respected in the use of extensibility whenever the exchanged data is not intended exclusively for human interpretation. Semantic meaning can be maintained by the following extensibility systems:

- Classification references
- Document references
- Quantities
- Grouping, including systems and zones.

The generic fallback position is the Property Set system, which can be used for exchanging any property data. In general Property Sets should not be used if the same data can be exchanged using a semantically more meaningful system.

However, this view defines all extensibility systems in a neutral way and certification for this view only verifies that software is capable of supporting these systems in a generic way.

This view covers only the most straight forward extensibility systems. Some more advanced systems are left out because current software can not be expected to support them in a generic way. Some systems that were left out are:

- Combinations of the supported systems (e.g. assigning property sets to groups)
- Assignment to actors, processes, products and resources (e.g. space occupancy)
- User defined aggregation and nesting structures (e.g. 'furniture sets' through nesting)

Note that such more advanced systems may be used in view definitions but this happens through a 'hard coded' way and not through the generic extensibility systems defined by this view.

For export this view only requires support for 'instance properties', i.e. each object may have its own copy of properties even in cases where 'shared properties' would be semantically more correct. For import support for both 'instance properties' and 'shared properties' is required, but the software may simplify 'shared properties' to 'instance properties' during import. No round trip scenarios are defined.

This document uses the official IFC Model View Definition Format version 1.1.0. of the IAI (www.iai-international.org)
The content of this document has to be certified by the IAI before becoming part of an official IFC Model View Definition.