



# **Information Map**

Based on best practice Enterprise Modelling & Architecture principles





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## Introduction

Information (can be shortened as 'info') is that which informs, i.e. an answer to a question, as well as that from which knowledge and data can be derived (as data represents values attributed to parameters, and knowledge signifies understanding of real things or abstract concepts).

As it regards data, the information's existence is not necessarily coupled to an observer (it exists beyond an event horizon, for example), while in the case of knowledge, the information requires a cognitive observer. Data as information is data that is;

- 1. accurate and timely,
- specific and organized for a purpose,
- 3. presented within a context that gives it meaning and relevance, and
- 4. can lead to an increase in understanding and decrease in uncertainty.

Because of the apparent complexity of capturing and documenting all the different aspects of information, the Information is built as a map. The Information Map is an accurate list and representation of decomposed and/or composed objects. A map is often represented in the form of a simple list or a chart laid out in columns in either a document or a spreadsheet. It's appearance ranges from that of a single list of one object or that of multiple objects across multiple rows within one or more (specific) columns.

The purpose of constructing an Information Map is to build an inventory or indexed list of objects that are to be either decomposed or composed for later usage within the business layer, information layer and/or technology layer of an enterprise. It is a powerful yet simple to use tool that allows the practitioner to document large amounts of information in a structured and coherent way.

## Information Map

The Information Map provides you with a detailed overview of identified informations (identified with a unique name and ID number), information objects, business objects, data objects, and data entities.

## How to use the Information Map

Identify and capture the informations (identified with a unique name and ID number), information objects, business objects, data objects, and data entities.

#### For example:

- 1. An information [component] may have multiple yet specific associations with information objects, business objects, data objects, and data entities.
- 2. Multiple information [components] may have an association with any single specific information object, business object, data object, and data entity.





Information #	What				
mormation #	Information Object	Business Object	Data Object	Data Entity	
#					
#					
#					
#					
#					
#					
#					
#					
#					

Table 1: The Information Map.

Please note that the objects we have listed here are the most typical objects that are commonly used within an Information Map, but there may be more (or fewer) relevant objects that are used within your organization. If that is the case, feel free to either add new ones, or remove any objects that are not relevant, or are otherwise unimportant, for this particular map.

Also note that the objects might have a different name in your organization, so make sure to adapt the objects of this artefact so that it fits to the taxonomy of your organization.





The objects involved with an Information Map is shown in Table 2.

Objects used with an Information Map				
Notation	Name	Description		
(i)	Information Object	Information about real world objects that can be in any medium or form.		
<b>©</b>	Business Object	A real world thing which relate to the enterprise's means to act.		
	Data Object	A logical cluster of all sets of related data representing the data object view of a business or information object.		
	Data Entity	An encapsulation of data where logical data entities are a specification of the organization of information to store data as a physical persistence structure e.g. data tied to applications, repositories, and services.		

Table 2: Objects typically associated with the Information Map.





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