

2008 National Emissions Inventory

Emissions Inventory System Implementation Plan

Appendix 1 Glossary

December 31, 2008

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Appendix 1 Glossary

**Figure A1-1
Terms**

| Term | Description |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Activity | A quantifiable action or function used to calculate emissions for a process. Replaces the narrower term "throughput" used in NIF. Examples include material produced, fuel burned, number of persons or animals, and acreage. Appears as "CalculationParameterValue" in the ReportingPeriod schema component. |
| Agency identifiers | Unique identifiers assigned by S/L/Ts to facility sites, emissions units, release points, and emissions processes. |
| Agricultural fire | Fire ignited to meet specific management objectives on agricultural lands. |
| Alternative identifiers | Secondary identifiers from either a legacy system or other program outside the EIS stored by the EIS. These are used to maintain data links to these programs and historical data, and to assist in identifying S/L/T data when an EIS identifier is not provided (e.g., TRI). |
| Regulation | Regulatory programs that are applied to an emissions unit or emissions process for the purpose of limiting or reducing the amount of air pollution. |
| Biogenic emissions | Emissions from natural sources, including plants and forests. |
| Calculation methodology | The method used to measure, estimate, or calculate emissions. |
| Central Data Exchange (CDX) | The Central Data Exchange (CDX) serves as the EPA node on the Exchange Network and is the gateway for receiving environmental information through the Web. |
| Component | A group of related elements reported together within the XML document. (Within the XML schema, this is also known as a complex type.) |
| Content type | Denotes the particular form of content. For the purposes of this document, the content types referenced in the EIS schema are elements, attributes, complex types, and attachments. |
| Control approach | The overall characteristics of the control system or approach (the combined set of control measures) including effective dates, capture efficiency, and effectiveness, where applied at an emissions unit or process to reduce the amount of pollutants released into the environment. |
| Control measure | The specific control device or practice applied to an emissions stream after capture and routing. |
| Criteria air pollutants (CAPs) | Substances for which EPA has set health-based standards. There are six "criteria pollutants" of air quality: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and lead. Five of the six criteria air pollutants are included in EPA's emissions inventory: carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO _x), sulfur dioxide (SO ₂), particulate matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}), and lead (Pb). Lead is also a hazardous air pollutant (HAP). |
| Data block | A logical grouping of data elements and other data blocks defined for the purposes of reporting data. |

(cont.)

Figure A1-1
Terms (cont.)

| Terms | Descriptions |
|------------------------|--|
| Data category | The category of emissions inventory data to be reported. The EIS data categories are: Facility Inventory, Point, Nonpoint, Onroad and Nonroad, and Event. |
| Data element | The smallest discrete unit of information that can be reported and still have meaning between systems. Examples of data elements are Agency identifiers, State codes and stack height measure. The EIS will process data elements as part of XML complex types corresponding to complex types defined as part of the reporting instructions. |
| Data type | The data format defined for a given data element. Common data types include string, integer, and date. EIS requires that all data elements reported in the XML document have a data type of string. These data will be converted by the EIS to the data types defined for each data element in the reporting instructions. For example, the data element EndDate must be reported in XML as a string, but will be converted by the EIS to a date as defined in the various sections of the reporting instructions. |
| Dataset | The entire set of data submitted to the EIS by an S/L/T for an inventory year. An S/L/T nonpoint emissions dataset can have only a single value for a given geographic area, process, reporting period, and pollutant. For example, the North Carolina 2008 dataset may contain only one annual total for a given County, process, and pollutant. |
| EIS Facility Inventory | The category of data used to define, relate, and integrate information on the physical location, configuration, and process of a facility site. |
| EIS identifiers | Unique identifiers assigned by the EIS system to facility sites, emissions units, release points, and emissions processes. These identifiers will be stored in EIS and will be used to track facility sites, emissions units, release points, and emissions processes across inventory cycles. While they are encouraged to, S/L/Ts are not required to adopt the EIS identifiers. |
| Emission factor | The average rate of emissions, generally uncontrolled, per unit of activity for a given pollutant. |
| Emissions | The release of pollutants into the ambient air. |
| Emissions process | An operation or function by an emissions unit that produces emissions, characterized by an SCC. |
| Release point | The location at which emissions are released into the environment. |
| Emissions sector | A group of processes which are related and identified by common, shared measures, such as activities, pollutants, and emissions estimation methods. Residential Wood Combustion and Petroleum Refining are examples. |
| Emissions unit | Any significant activity, stationary article, process equipment, machine, or other contrivance which emits air pollution. |
| Estimation methodology | See "calculation methodology." |
| Event emissions | Significant, reportable air emissions resulting from unexpected activities, including wildfires, controlled burns, wildland and agricultural burns, and natural disasters. |

(cont.)

Figure A1-1
Terms (cont.)

| Terms | Descriptions |
|-------------------------|---|
| Exchange Network | A secure Internet- and standards-based approach for exchanging data. Partners on the Exchange Network establish and maintain servers called Network Nodes that are securely connected to the Internet. These nodes can act as submitters of data to other exchanges, receivers of data to be integrated into their own exchange, publishers of data to other exchanges, or some combination of the three. This EPA-controlled network of nodes layered on top of the public Internet, is used for the purpose of publishing and disseminating environmental data. |
| Expected pollutant | A pollutant which EPA has identified as likely to occur from an emissions process and has determined should be reported by the S/L/T. If not reported, EPA will estimate emissions for the missing pollutants and use these values in the published NEI. |
| Facility site | A place where activities resulting in air emissions occur or have occurred in the past. |
| Facility source type | A classification code based upon facility emissions processes, emissions units, and associated Source Classification Codes used to characterize the type of facility associated with emissions. |
| Fire type | A group of fire-related SCCs. These are: Wildfire, Wildland Fire Use, Prescribed Fire, Agricultural Fire, Native American Fire Use, Natural Disaster Cleanup, and Other Fire. |
| Fire occurrence | The information used to describe a fire temporally, its size, geographic coordinates, name and type. |
| Flaming emissions | The emissions from a fire that is ablaze or has an active flame. |
| Fugitive emissions | Air pollutants released to the air other than those from stacks or vents, including small releases from leaking plant equipment such as valves, pump seals, flanges, or sampling connections, and large open area releases such as from landfills, waste ponds, or unpaved roads. |
| General Purpose Release | The single set of emission values selected that represent the data most appropriate for use by the general public. The set will be released at the end of the development process through the NEI Public Website. |
| Inventory selection | The process of identifying emissions inventory data for inclusion in the General Purpose Release, based on a combination of prioritization algorithms and individual EIAG analyst selections. |
| Major data group | A logical grouping of related Data Blocks that fully describe business area, functions, and entities. |
| Major source | A stationary source that emits or has the potential to emit any pollutant regulated under the Clean Air Act at a significant emission rate, as defined by 40 CFR 70. |
| Markup Language | A way to combine text and extra information to show the structure and layout of a document. This information is expressed using markup, which is typically intermingled with the primary text. A commonly known markup language is HTML. |
| Metadata | Summary information about data, such as format, structure, version, or quality of the data. |

(cont.)

Figure A1-1
Terms (cont.)

| Terms | Descriptions |
|------------------------|---|
| Minor source | A facility site that does not qualify as a major source. |
| Mobile emissions | The emissions from motorized sources for both the onroad and nonroad data categories. |
| Namespace | A namespace uniquely identifies a set of names such that there is no ambiguity when objects having different origins but the same names are mixed together. |
| NCD dataset | The set of ten tables and referenced external files that include a State's activity data and that are eligible for modification. |
| Node | A web server that facilitates the interface between database systems and the Exchange Network. It is a partner's "point of presence" on the Exchange Network. Occasionally referred to as "network node" or "Exchange Network Node." |
| Node client | A type of node that can submit, request, and receive data on the Network, but cannot respond to data queries from other Nodes. |
| Nonattainment area | A geographic area that fails to meet, for a specified criteria pollutant, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. |
| Nonpoint emissions | Emissions from stationary sources or from diffuse stationary sources for which emissions have not been submitted as point sources. |
| Nonroad sources | Vehicles and equipment that operate off public roadways or highways. This includes vehicles used on roads for transportation of passengers or freight. Nonroad sources include vehicles, engines, and equipment used off highways for construction, agriculture, transportation, recreation, and many other purposes. |
| Official submission | The current data values for a given inventory cycle that an S/L/T has submitted to the EIS Production Environment at the close of the submission window. |
| Onroad sources | Vehicles used on roads for transportation of passengers or freight, also called "on-highway." |
| Operating status | The conditions under which the facility site or the emissions unit was operating during the time emissions were reported. |
| Point emissions | The emissions released from a facility that is included in the EIS Facility Inventory. |
| Pollutant | An emitted substance that is regulated or monitored for its potential to cause harm to the health of individuals or to the environment. |
| Pollutant coverage | The minimum set of expected pollutants that EPA has identified as likely to occur from an emissions sector or SCC, and which should therefore be included in the NEI. If not reported, these will be supplemented in the EIS and published in the NEI by the EPA. |
| Prescribed fire | A fire ignited on wildlands to meet a specific resource management objective such as fuel reduction or habitat restoration. |
| Production Environment | The EIS area in which data will be stored that have been officially submitted to the EIS. |
| Program system code | The abbreviation or acronym of an S/L/T Agency or other data system that is associated with an Agency or alternative identifier. |

(cont.)

Figure A1-1
Terms (cont.)

| Terms | Descriptions |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Protected data | Data that have been subjected to a high level of quality assurance by EPA and that cannot be changed by an S/L/T user through the usual edit process. Examples include latitude and longitude for large industrial or electric generating sources which have been validated for a special study. |
| Public data | The data available to the general public through the NEI public website. |
| Quality Assurance Environment | The EIS area in which data are stored temporarily by a submitter for evaluation and checking prior to submission. |
| Record | A group of data that represent a single case or occurrence, along with all dependent data. An emissions record would consist of all data within the Emissions component for a single pollutant. |
| Release point | The location (defined optionally by geographic coordinates) at which pollutants are released into the environment, either via a stack or fugitive release. |
| Referenced external files | The ASCII files referenced in the NCD tables. These files must be included in a submission of the NCD dataset. |
| Reporting entity | The State, Local, or Tribal (S/L/T) Agency, or its delegate, that has the responsibility for reporting emissions for a geographically defined area. |
| Reporting period | The timeframe for the reported activity and/or emissions. |
| Routine emissions | The pollutant releases that result from a normal, planned emissions process and its operation. |
| S/L/T | State, Local, or Tribal jurisdiction. |
| Smoldering emissions | The emissions from a fire that has been extinguished or that is barely spreading. |
| Source Classification Code (SCC) | The code that characterizes an emissions process. All emissions in the inventory are associated with an SCC. |
| Speciation | The process of disaggregating inventory pollutants into individual chemical species or species groups. |
| Stack | A chimney, smokestack, or vertical pipe that discharges pollutants. |
| Stakeholder | An organization or group of persons who would participate in, be affected by, benefit from, or be burdened by a system or process. |
| Stationary combustion | Burning of fuels to generate electricity, steam, heat, or power in stationary equipment such as boilers, turbines, reciprocating engines, or furnaces. |
| Submittal data block | The set of data blocks that can be submitted together for a category of data. These submittal data blocks are defined for each data category and contain the minimal complex types necessary to report data such that the EIS can successfully process and integrate the data into the inventory. |

(cont.)

**Figure A1-1
Terms (cont.)**

| Terms | Descriptions |
|-------------------|---|
| Supplement | To enlarge a dataset by filling in the missing data with values. |
| System code | |
| Tag name | The physical name of the data element that adheres to EPA's data standards for XML. In almost all cases, this is the same name as the data element, but with all spaces removed. |
| Throughput | The term used in NIF 3.0 which has been superseded in the EIS by the broader term "activity" and is reported as part of the operating details for an inventory. |
| Tuple | An ordered list of objects, each of a specific type. The CERS uses valued pairs consisting of a parameter name and a parameter value to report optional data elements to the EIS. |
| Vent | A hole for the escape of gas or air. |
| Wildfire | An unwanted, non-structural fire often set by lightning or arson. |
| Wildland fire use | Wildfires managed for resource objectives. |
| XML attribute | An XML attribute contains additional information about an XML element placed at the start tag of the XML element. XML attributes have the form attributeName = "attributeValue," as in <StateCode="CA">. EIS will use XML attributes to report identifying information or to help the EIS process the data being reported within the EIS elements. |
| XML complex type | An XML element which has attributes or nested elements. All EIS components described in other sections of this document are XML complex types comprised of XML simple types and other complex types. |
| XML document | An XML document is a file containing data organized into a structured document using XML markup. An XML document is considered to be "well-formed" if it conforms to all XML syntax rules. An XML document is considered to be "valid" if it conforms to all the semantic rules defined by an associated XML schema. An XML document cannot be processed if it is not well-formed or valid. XML documents have the file extension .xml. |
| XML element | An XML element is a unit of the XML document that is expressed as tags in the form "<tagname>." XML elements must have either a start and end tag as in <FacilitySite></FacilitySite> or a single empty tag name as in <FacilitySite/>. XML elements may be nested within one another in a structured hierarchy and sequence specified in an XML schema. |
| XML schema | An XML schema describes the structure of an XML document. An XML schema defines the set of rules to which the XML document must conform in order to be considered "valid" according to its schema. An instance of an XML schema is an XML schema document and is a file with the extension .xsd. |
| XML simple type | An XML element which has no attributes or nested elements. |

Figure A1-2
Acronyms

| Acronym | Description |
|----------------|---|
| AERR | Air Emissions Reporting Requirements. |
| AQAD | Air Quality Assessment Division (of EPA's Office of Air, OAQPS, located in RTP, NC). Develops and makes decisions on air quality management policy and accountability. Responsible for the development of emissions inventories and for determining the progress of reduction programs. |
| AQAG | Air Quality Analysis Group (of EPA's Office of Air, OAQPS, located in RTP, NC). Tracks and analyzes air quality data for policy and program development, evaluation, and accountability. |
| AQMG | Air Quality Modeling Group (of EPA's Office of Air, OAQPS, located in RTP, NC). Directs pollution modeling and modeling techniques. |
| AQPD | Air Quality Policy Division (of EPA's Office of Air, OAQPS, located in RTP, NC). Manages policies and strategies related to air quality management, including determining nonattainment areas. |
| AQS | Air Quality System. EPA's repository of ambient air quality data, AQS stores data from over 10,000 monitors, 5000 of which are currently active. |
| ARP | Acid Rain Program. A national sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides air pollution control and emissions reduction program established in accordance with Title IV of the Clean Air Act. |
| ASCII | The American Standard Code for Information Interchange. A standard text file format that contains alphanumeric characters. |
| BFCC | Basic Format/Content Checker. A desktop tool used to check data for the 2002 inventory cycle. |
| BTS | Bureau of Transportation Statistics. |
| CAA | Clean Air Act. |
| CAIR | Clean Air Interstate Rule. Rule to reduce the interstate transfer of fine particulate material and ozone by establishing State-level caps on SO ₂ and NO _x . |
| CAMD | Clean Air Markets Division (of EPA's Office of Air, OAP, located in Washington, DC). Administers several market-based regulatory programs designed to improve air quality, including EPA's Acid Rain Program. |
| CAP | Criteria air pollutant. |
| CAS | Chemical Abstract Service. Provides information on chemical properties and interactions. |
| CDX | Central Data Exchange. |
| CE | Control equipment table, used in NIF 3.0 for 2002 and 2005 NEI submittals. |
| CEMS | Continuous Emissions Monitoring System. A system that samples, analyzes, measures, and provides a permanent record of a pollutant emission rate by in-stack readings taken on a periodic basis. |

(cont.)

Figure A1-2
Acronyms (cont.)

| Acronym | Description |
|----------------|---|
| CERR | Consolidated Emissions Reporting Rule. The rule published by EPA in 2002 to update the regulatory basis for the collection of emissions inventory information. |
| CERS | Consolidated Emissions Reporting Schema. The XML schema that describes the structure of the XML document for reporting emissions inventory data. |
| CHIEF | Clearing House for Emission Inventories and Emission Factors. |
| CMSA | Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area. |
| CROMERR | Cross-Media Electronic Reporting Rule. Defines the standards for electronic reporting to EPA. |
| DOE | U.S. Department of Energy. |
| DOT | U.S. Department of Transportation. |
| EGU | Electric generating unit. |
| EIA | Energy Information Administration (of DOE). |
| EIAG | Emission Inventory and Analysis Group (of EPA's Office of Air, OAQPS, located in RTP, NC). Develops and maintains the NEI and provides analysis and interpretation of emissions data and trends. |
| EIS | Emissions Inventory System. EPA's information system that stores all current and historical emissions inventory data. It will be used to receive and store emissions data and generate emissions inventories beginning with the 2008 cycle. |
| EM | Emission table used in NIF 3.0 for 2002 and 2005 NEI submittals. |
| EN | Exchange Network. |
| EP | Emission process table used in NIF 3.0 for 2002 and 2005 NEI submittals. |
| EPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. |
| ER | Emission release table used in NIF 3.0 for 2002 and 2005 NEI submittals. |
| ERT | Emission Reduction Technique. |
| EU | Emission unit table. A table used in NIF 3.0 for 2002 and 2005 NEI submittals. |
| FETS | Fire Emissions Tracking System. Developed by the Western Regional Air Partnership. |
| FHA | Federal Highway Administration. |
| FIPS | Federal Information Processing Standards. |
| FIRE | Factor Information Retrieval Data System. The database management system containing EPA's recommended emission estimation factors for criteria and hazardous air pollutants. |
| FITS | Facility Identification Template for States. |
| FRS | Facility Registry System. EPA's database of all facilities which are of environmental interest. |
| FTP | File Transfer Protocol. |
| GHG | Greenhouse gases. |

(cont.)

Figure A1-2
Acronyms (cont.)

| Acronym | Description |
|----------------|--|
| GIS | Geographic information system. |
| GPRA | Government Performance Results Act. Requires Agencies to develop plans for what they intend to accomplish, measure how well they are doing, make appropriate decisions based on the information they have gathered, and communicate information about their performance to Congress and to the public. |
| HAP | Hazardous air pollutant. |
| HEID | Health and Environmental Impacts Division (of EPA's Office of Air, OAQPS, located in RTP, NC). Responsible for the range of tasks related to the interaction between human health and air pollution. Determines the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Emissions Reduction Standards. |
| ICR | Information Collection Request. |
| IPM | Integrated Planning Model. |
| ITEP | Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals. |
| LADCO | Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium. |
| LTO | Aircraft landing and takeoff. |
| MACT | Maximum Achievable Control Technology. The maximum degree of reduction in emissions for new and existing air pollution sources, taking into consideration cost, non-air quality health and environmental impacts, and energy requirements, as specified in Section 112d of the Clean Air Act. |
| MAD | Method Accuracy and Description codes. |
| MARAMA | Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association. An RPO consisting of mid-Atlantic states. |
| MOBILE6 | The computer model used to estimate various pollutant emission factors for onroad vehicles. |
| MOVES | Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator. The model developed by EPA to estimate emission for onroad and nonroad sources. This system will serve as a replacement for MOBILE6 and NONROAD models, and will be used to create future emission inventories. |
| MSA | Metropolitan Statistical Area. |
| NADG | National Air Data Group (of EPA's Office of Air, OAQPS, located in RTP, NC). Manages the design, operation, maintenance, and improvement of databases and information systems that assist air programs. |
| NAICS | North American Industry Classification System Code. |
| NATA | National Air Toxics Assessment. |
| NCC | National Computer Center for EPA, located in RTP, NC. |
| NCD | NMIM County Database. NMIM is a consolidated emissions modeling system for EPA's MOBILE6 and NONROAD models. |

(cont.)

Figure A1-2
Acronyms (cont.)

| Acronym | Description |
|--------------------------|--|
| NEI | National Emissions Inventory. All of the data within the EIS data store at a particular point in time. It includes data submitted by S/L/T Agencies, datasets created by EIAG, and datasets obtained from other Agency sources. |
| NEON | NEI on the NET. EPA internal query reporting system for the National Emissions Inventory. |
| NESCAUM | Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management. An RPO consisting of Northeast states. |
| NIF 3.0 | NEI Input Format Version 3.0. The format used to report NEI data in 2005 and earlier cycles. |
| NMIM | National Mobile Inventory Model. Developed by EPA to estimate current and future emission inventories for onroad motor vehicles (MOBILE6) and nonroad equipment (NONROAD.) |
| NOF | NEI Output Format. Previous format used for distribution and publishing NEI data. |
| NONROAD | Computer model that calculates past, present, and future emission inventories for all nonroad equipment categories except commercial marine, locomotives, and aircraft. |
| NO _x SIP call | NO _x State Implementation Plan call. A regulatory action taken by EPA in 1998 that requires significant NO _x reductions in a 22-State area in the eastern U.S., and that allows for an interstate trading program as one method of achieving the necessary reductions. |
| NSPS | New Source Performance Standard. A standard for an industrial or source category, as published in 40 CFR Part 60 of the CAA, limiting pollutant levels from new stationary sources. |
| NTI | National Toxics Inventory. The NTI database is an inventory of stationary and mobile sources that emit hazardous air pollutants in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. It is now part of the NEI. |
| OAQPS | Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (of EPA's Office of Air, located in RTP, NC). Develops national air quality standards, develops programs to address pollution, and assesses the performance of air pollution control programs. |
| OECA | Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance (of EPA). |
| OEI | Office of Environmental Information (of EPA). |
| OID | Outreach and Information Division (of EPA's Office of Air, OAQPS, located in RTP, NC). |
| OPSG | Ozone Policy & Strategies Group (of EPA). |
| ORIS (or ORISPL) code | A plant identification number assigned by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) that is used to identify plants for the Acid Rain Program. |
| OTAQ | Office of Transportation and Air Quality (of EPA's Office of Air, located in Ann Arbor, MI). Responsible for the modeling and regulation of onroad and nonroad mobile source emissions. |
| PE | Period emission table used in NIF 3.0 for 2002 and 2005 NEI submittals. |
| PSD | Prevention of Significant Deterioration. |
| PTE | Potential to Emit. |
| QA | Quality assurance. The process of determining the accuracy and quality of emissions data. |

(cont.)

Figure A1-2
Acronyms (cont.)

| Acronym | Description |
|----------------|---|
| RO | EPA Regional Office. Plays a key role in any process involving S/L/T air program activities and requirements. Acts as an intermediary for EPA Headquarters. |
| RPO | Regional Planning Organization. Organizations sponsored by EPA to address visibility impairment from a regional perspective. Examples of RPOs include WRAP and VISTAS. |
| RTP | Research Triangle Park. |
| SCC | Source Classification Code. |
| SI | Site table, used in NIF 3.0 for 2002 and 2005 NEI submittals. |
| SIC | Standard Industrial Classification (code). The Department of Commerce economic end-product identifier, which has been replaced by NAICS. |
| SIP | State Implementation Plan. The combined set of regulations, permits, and other enforceable measures that a State uses to demonstrate that it will meet a National Ambient Air Quality Standard. |
| SMOKE | Sparse Matrix Operator Kernel Emissions Model. |
| SOA | Service-Oriented Architecture. A collection of standards-based web services that use a common messaging technology. |
| SPPD | Sector Policies and Programs Division (of EPA's Office of Air, OAQPS, located in RTP, NC). Develops emission reduction strategies. |
| SQL | Structured Query Language. |
| TRI | Toxic Release Inventory. An EPA dataset that contains information about more than 650 toxic chemicals that are being released into the environment. |
| USPS | United States Postal Service. |
| UTM | Universal Transverse Mercator. A grid-based method of specifying locations on the surface of the earth. |
| VISTAS | Visibility Improvement State and Tribal Association of the Southeast. An RPO consisting of Southeast states and tribes. |
| VMT | Vehicle miles traveled. The total number of miles traveled in a given period of time by a given vehicle or fleet of vehicles. When combined with pollution rates per mile traveled, it provides an estimate of the total amount of vehicle pollution in a given period of time. |
| WRAP | Western Regional Air Partnership. An RPO consisting of Western states. |
| XML | Extensible Markup Language. A markup language for documents containing structured information. The XML specification defines a standard way to add markup language to documents. Its primary purpose is to facilitate the sharing of structured data across different information systems, particularly via the Internet. |

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