



Information linked to Requirements

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,
2. 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, Information linked to Requirements is built as a matrix. The matrix is a representation that shows the relationship of captured information between specific decomposed and/or composed requirements (high level and detailed) and information objects. The core idea of a Information linked to Requirements Matrix is that it typically consists of requirement aspects in a list of columns, and another aspect is a set of information columns (taken from the map), while the third and final aspect being the cross product between the rows and the columns.

This allows for the Information linked to Requirements Matrix to relate (un)familiar objects to familiar objects in the different layers of an enterprise (composition discipline), usually in the form of a diagram, a table or a chart (e.g. rows and columns), thereby outlining direct (and possibly indirect) connection points between different kinds of objects while showing a common pattern of the objects and the relationship between them.

Information linked to Requirements

The Information linked to Requirements Matrix provides you with a detailed overview of the cross relationships between requirements and informations (each identified with a unique name and ID number) that has been identified through the Information Map, and then associated with the information objects, business objects, data objects, and data entities.

How to use the Information linked to Requirements

Identify, document and relate requirements to the informations (each identified with a unique name and ID number) that has been identified through the Information Map, and then associated with the information objects, business objects, data objects, and data entities.

For example:

1. A requirement (high level or detailed) may set a specific requirement for different informations, information objects, business objects, data objects, and data entities.
2. Multiple requirements (high level and detailed) may set specific requirements for any single specific information, information object, business object, data object, and data entity.



What (What are the requirements around information)	Information #	What			
		Information Object	Business Object	Data Object	Data Entity
Requirement 1	#				
Requirement 2	#				
Requirement N	#				

Table 1: The Information linked to Requirements Matrix.

Please note that the objects we have listed here are the most typical objects that are commonly used within a Information linked to Requirements, 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 Information linked to Requirements is shown in Table 2.





Objects used with Information linked to Requirements		
Notation	Name	Description
	Information Object	Information about real world objects that can be in any medium or form.
	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 Information linked to Requirements.



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