



Technology Area

DEFINITION

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<i>Name</i>	Geospatial Metadata
<i>Description</i>	<p>Metadata is a term that refers to data about data. The growing use of geospatial data has necessitated the development of a set of documentation about each data set. Geospatial metadata provides a method for capturing data relevant to a data set that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification information, including the originators of the data set and contact information • Details about the data's organization, including number and type of features, spatial reference, and attributes including description of each attribute and definitions of acceptable ranges of values • Descriptions of the quality of the data such as the processes and sources used to create it as well as the last date updated, dates of all changes to the data and whether the data set is considered complete • Suitability of the data for a purpose, such as positional accuracy or use constraints • Information needed to successfully access, transfer and process the data into usable formats
<i>Rationale</i>	<p>Geospatial metadata allows application developers to evaluate the data prior to its potential use. Without metadata, it is difficult to determine what spatial data exist, the status of the data, the quality of the data, how appropriate the data are for a given use, and who to contact about the data. Creating and using geospatial metadata:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides information about an organization's data holdings to data catalogues and clearinghouses • provides information needed to process and interpret data • provides descriptive information to allow an end user to choose the most applicable data set for their needs <p>All federal government agencies are required to the extent practical to provide metadata with all geospatial data. Many state and local governments utilize metadata to facilitate the exchange of geospatial data and to provide the information necessary to assess, understand, and use these data. Standardized metadata also provide a consistent format that allows for automated searches of data repositories.</p>
<i>Benefits</i>	<p>Geospatial metadata provide a common set of terminology and definitions for the documentation of digital geospatial data. Metadata helps to ensure that data users are aware of limitations imposed by the methods used to collect data, the procedures applied during its development, and the accuracy of the resulting data product. Nearly all state and federal geospatial data and metadata are publicly available. Public and private sectors, including citizens, can take advantage of the investments made in collecting and documenting the information by identifying and utilizing the proper geospatial data for making decisions.</p>

ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURE LEVELS

<i>Specify the Domain Name</i>	Information
<i>Specify the Discipline Name</i>	Geographic Information Technology

KEYWORDS

<i>List Keywords</i>	geospatial, metadata, documentation, data dictionary, data, information, quality, utility, content, standard, definitions, mandatory, voluntary, Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), International Standards Organization (ISO), Technical Committee 211, lineage, metadata collection tools, compiling metadata
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ASSOCIATED COMPLIANCE COMPONENTS

<i>List the Compliance Component Names</i>	Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata
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ASSOCIATED PRODUCT COMPONENTS

<i>List the Product Component Names</i>	<i>Fit matrix currently under development.</i>
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CURRENT STATUS

<i>Provide the Current Status</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>In Development</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Under Review</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Approved</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rejected</i>
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AUDIT TRAIL

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