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Information technology – Metamodel framework for interoperability (MFI) – Part 1: Framework

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62 Foreword

63 ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical
64 Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members
65 of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees
66 established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC
67 technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations,
68 governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of
69 information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

70 International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

71 The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International
72 Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication
73 as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

74 Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of
75 patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

76 ISO/IEC 19763-1 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information Technology*,
77 Subcommittee SC 32, *Data management and Interchange*.

78 ISO/IEC 19763 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Metamodel
79 framework for interoperability (MFI)*:

80 *Part 1: Framework*

81 *Part 3: Metamodel for ontology registration*

82 *Part 5: Metamodel for process model registration*

83 *Part 6: Registry summary*

84 *Part 7: Metamodel for service registration*

85 *Part 8: Metamodel for role and goal registration*

86 *Part 9: On demand model selection based on RGPS [Technical Report]*

87 *Part 10: Core model and basic mapping*

88 *Part 12: Metamodel for information model registration*

89 *Part 13: Metamodel for forms registration*

90 Introduction

91 Due to the proliferation of internet-enabled communication aided by mobile devices, social network
92 systems and cloud computing, both the efficient and effective sharing of information and the handling of
93 business transactions across countries and cultures has become easier.

94 In the private sector the handling of these business transactions using Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
95 has been common for a long time. Companies hold large quantities of structured, semi-structured and
96 unstructured data – the “Big Data” explosion. It is in their interest to make effective use of this data to
97 extract business intelligence and knowledge.

98 In the public sector, governments in many countries and territories are working on the establishment of
99 new schemes that enable interoperation and collaboration among different departments or agencies,
100 materialising the semantic interoperability of data and surmounting border and/or language differences. At
101 the same time, many governments and agencies are attempting to make their data available to their
102 citizens over the internet, the “Open Data” initiatives. These “Open Data” initiatives could be the driver for
103 similar innovations in the private sector. One of the issues for users is to access the various sets of open
104 data easily and integrate them for analysis so as to create new value through added information or
105 knowledge.

106 These trends have produced new needs for standards that enable effective information sharing in both
107 private and public sectors.

108 One of the key enablers of this sharing of the information that is used by different communities through the
109 interoperability of systems is registries a registry, or a network of inter-connected registries, that provides
110 for the discovery and sharing of meta-information, such as metadata or models. The Metamodel
111 Framework for Interoperability (MFI) provides the specifications for such registries.

Comment [K1]: See GB 01

112 The MFI specifications can be considered as an extension of those for a Metadata Registry (MDR) as
113 defined in ISO/IEC 11179-3 because MFI and MDR share MFI can be considered as an extension of MDR,
114 particularly the core part of that standard, because it shares the same registration mechanism and
115 procedures. In 2010 a special study project was initiated to consider the harmonisation of MDR and MFI
116 and a key recommendation of that study project was that the common facilities should be identified and
117 used for both MDR and MFI. It is anticipated that MDR and MFI could be more closely related and
118 integrated, leading to benefits for the users who need more effective sharing of information and models, or
119 more sophisticated interoperation of systems.

Comment [K2]: See GB 02

120 This new edition of Part 1 has been developed to provide a clear overview of MFI and to illustrate the
121 overall architecture of the MFI family of standards to reflect the major changes described above.

122 **Information technology – Metamodel framework for**
123 **interoperability (MFI) – Part 1: Framework**

124 **1 Scope**

125 **1.1 Inclusions**

126 This standard is a part of the ISO/IEC19763 (Metamodel framework for interoperability) (MFI) family of
127 standards. As the first part of MFI, this standard provides an overview of the whole of MFI. In particular, the
128 purpose, the underlying concepts, the overall architecture and the requirements for the development of
129 other standards within the MFI family are described.

130 MFI provides a set of normative metamodels to enable the registration of many different types of model.
131 Each of these metamodels is expressed as a UML Class Diagram.

132 MFI is evolving. Currently, in addition to this part, the MFI family comprises:

- 133 • A core model and facilities for the basic mapping of models (Part 10)
- 134 • A metamodel for ontology registration (Part 3)
- 135 • A metamodel for process model registration (Part 5)
- 136 • A metamodel for service registration (Part 7)
- 137 • A metamodel for role and goal registration (Part 8)
- 138 • A Technical Report describing on demand model selection based on RGPS (Part 9)
- 139 • A metamodel for information model registration (Part 12)
- 140 • A metamodel for forms registration (Part 13)
- 141 • A metamodel for a registry summary (Part 6)

142 These parts are described in more detail in Annex A.

143 **1.2 Exclusions**

144 The MFI does not specify any physical structure of the registry where model information is to be recorded.
145 MFI metamodels define standard views as models to be used in the registering of model instances in a
146 model registry while actual instance documents could be stored in a model repository.

147

148 **2 Conformance**

149 ISO/IEC 19763-1 specifies no conformance requirements. Other parts of the ISO/IEC 19763 family of
150 standards specify their own conformance requirements as appropriate.

151

152 **3 Normative references**

153 The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated
154 references only the edition cited applies. For undated references the latest edition of the referenced
155 document (including any amendments) applies.

156 ISO/IEC 11179-3, Information technology – Metadata registries (MDR) – Part 3: Registry metamodel and
157 basic attributes

158 ISO/IEC 11179-6, Information technology – Metadata registries (MDR) – Part 6: Registration

159 ISO/IEC 19505-1:2012, Information technology -- Object Management Group Unified Modeling Language
160 (OMG UML) -- Part 1: Infrastructure

161 ISO/IEC 19505-2:2012, Information technology -- Object Management Group Unified Modeling Language
162 (OMG UML) -- Part 2: Superstructure

163

164 **4 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms**

165 **4.1 Terms and definitions**

166 For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

167 **4.1.1**

168 **concept**

169 unit of knowledge created by a unique combination of characteristics

170 NOTE Concepts are not necessarily bound to particular languages. They are, however, influenced by the social or
171 cultural background which often leads to different categorizations.

172 [ISO 1087-1:2000, 3.2.1]

173 **4.1.2**

174 **cloud computing**

175 paradigm for enabling network access to a scalable and elastic pool of shareable physical or virtual
176 resources with self-service provisioning and administration on-demand

177 [\[ISO/IEC DIS 17788, 3.2.4\]](#)

Comment [K3]: See CA 01

178 NOTE Examples of resources include servers, operating systems, networks, software, applications, and storage
179 equipment.

- 180 **4.1.3**
181 **framework**
182 logical structure for classifying and organizing complex information
- 183 [ISO/TS 27790:2009, 3.27]
- 184 NOTE In MFI the framework is used to represent the architectural view of a set of metamodels for registration.
- 185 **4.1.4**
186 **information model**
187 graphical and textual representation of entities and the relationships between them
- 188 NOTE May also be known as a data model, a conceptual data model, a logical data model, an entity relationship
189 model, an object class diagram or a database definition
190
- 191 **4.1.5**
192 **interoperability**
193 capability to communicate, execute programs, or transfer data among various functional units in a manner
194 that requires the user to have little or no knowledge of the unique characteristics of those units
- 195 [ISO/IEC 2382-1]
- 196 **4.1.6**
197 **metadata**
198 data which describes other data
- 199 [ISO/IEC 11179-1:2004, 3.2.16]
- 200 **4.1.7**
201 **metadata item**
202 instance of a **metadata object** (4.1.8)
- 203 [ISO/IEC 11179-3:2013, 3.2.75]
- 204 **4.1.8**
205 **metadata object**
206 object type defined by a **metamodel** (4.1.10)
- 207 [ISO/IEC 11179-3:2013, 3.2.76]
- 208 **4.1.9**
209 **metadata registry**
210 information system for registering **metadata** (4.1.6)
- 211 NOTE the associated information store or database is known as a metadata register
- 212 [ISO/IEC 11179-3:2013, 3.2.78]
- 213 **4.1.10**
214 **metamodel**
215 **model** (4.1.11) that explains a set of related **models** (4.1.11) by defining the language for expressing such
216 **models** (4.1.11)
- 217 [ISO 14813-5:2010, B.1.84]

218 **4.1.11**
219 **model**
220 representation of some aspect of a domain of interest using a normative **modelling facility** (4.1.17) and
221 **model constructs** (4.1.12)

222 NOTE models can be used to express a set of information requirements, processes, services, roles, goals or some
223 other aspect of a domain of interest

224 **4.1.12**
225 **model construct**
226 unit of notation to represent a **model** (4.1.11)

227 NOTE This is a more generic term for model element. Sometimes the term is used to include metadata, code and
228 object patterns rather than the notations of a particular modelling facility such as UML.

229 **4.1.13**
230 **model element**
231 element or component in a **model** (4.1.11)

232 NOTE Examples of model elements are representation of an entity type in an information model, representation of an
233 event in a process model, representation of a service operation in a service model, or representation of an actor in a
234 role and goal model.

235 **4.1.14**
236 **model information**
237 information that describes characteristics of a **model** (4.1.11) to be registered

238 NOTE In MFI, the model information about a model will be registered using instances of Registered_Item as specified
239 in ISO/IEC 11179-3

240 **4.1.15**
241 **model registry**
242 ~~registry~~ **registry** (4.1.23), where **models** (4.1.11) are registered

Comment [K4]: See GB 03

243 **4.1.16**
244 **model repository**
245 ~~repository~~ **repository** (4.1.24), where **models** (4.1.11) are stored

Comment [K5]: See GB 04

246 **4.1.17**
247 **modelling facility**
248 set of rules and notations for use when modelling

249 NOTE 1 UML is a typical example of a modelling facility

250 NOTE 2 May also be known as a modelling language

251 **4.1.18**
252 **modelling language**
253 language or notation that is used to model some aspect of a domain of interest

254 NOTE 1 UML is a typical example of a modelling language

255 NOTE 2 May also be known as a modelling facility

256 **4.1.19**
 257 **ontology**
 258 specification of concrete or abstract things, and the relationships among them, in a prescribed domain of
 259 knowledge

260 NOTE The specification should be computer processable

261 [ISO/IEC 19763-3:2010]

262 **4.1.20**
 263 **process**
 264 collection of related, structured activities or tasks that achieve a particular goal

265 **4.1.21**
 266 **process model**
 267 representation of a **process** (4.1.20), using a specific process **modelling language** (4.1.18)

268 **4.1.22**
 269 **registration**
 270 <generic> inclusion of a item in a **registry** (4.1.23)

271 <metadata registry> inclusion of a **metadata item** (4.1.7) in a **metadata registry** (4.1.9)

272 [ISO/IEC 11179-3:2013, 3.2.108]

273 NOTE 1 In ISO/IEC 19763 a metadata item is a model or a model element and a metadata registry is a model registry.

274 NOTE 2 Registration requires that a minimum set of administrative information about the metadata item (model) be
 275 specified, such that it becomes a registered item

276 **4.1.23**
 277 **registry**
 278 information system for **registration** (4.1.22)

279 [ISO/IEC 11179-3:2013, 3.2.113]

280 NOTE In ISO/IEC 19763, the registry is a Model Registry since the metadata items that are registered are models.
 281 This Model Registry uses facilities provided by a Metadata Registry as specified in ISO/IEC 11179-3

282 **4.1.2324**
 283 **repository**
 284 place where, or receptacle in which, things are or may be stored

Comment [K6]: See GB05

285 NOTE In MFI and MDR, a repository is recognized as a database that stores actual instances to conform to a
 286 particular metamodel or a particular set of metadata.

287 **4.1.2425**
 288 **service**
 289 kind of web based application, which encapsulates one or more computing modules and can be accessed
 290 through a specified interface

Comment [K7]: See GB 06

291

292 **4.2 Abbreviated terms**

293 **BPEL**
 294 Business Process Execution Language

ISO/IEC [CD1-CD2 19763-1 Ed 2](#)

- 295 **BPMN**
296 Business Process Model and Notation
- 297 **IDEF1X**
298 Integration DEFinition for Information Modeling
- 299 **IEC**
300 International Electrotechnical Commission
- 301 **LOD**
302 Linked Open Data
- 303 **ISO**
304 International Organization for Standardization
- 305 **MDR**
306 Meta Data Registry
- 307 **MDR Metamodel**
308 ISO/IEC 11179-3, Information technology – Metadata registries (MDR) – Part 3: Registry metamodel and
309 basic attributes
- 310 **MDR Registration**
311 ISO/IEC 11179-6, Information technology – Metadata registries (MDR) – Part 6: Registration
- 312 **MFI**
313 Metamodel Framework for Interoperability (this family of standards (ISO/IEC 19763))
- 314 **MFI Core and mapping**
315 ISO/IEC 19763-10, Information technology – Metamodel [Framework for Interoperability](#)
316 [interoperability](#) – Part-10: Core model and basic mapping
- 317 **OMG**
318 Object Management Group
- 319 **RGPS**
320 Role, Goal, Process and Service
- 321 **ROR**
322 Registry of Registries
- 323 **RS**
324 Registry Summary
- 325 **SDO**
326 Standards Developing Organization
- 327 **UML**
328 Unified Modeling Language
- 329 **UN**
330 United Nations
- 331 **XML**
332 eXtensible Markup Language
- 333 **W3C**
334 World Wide Web Consortium

Comment [K8]: See JP 01

335

336 **5 Purpose and objectives of MFI**337 **5.1 Purpose of MFI**

338 MFI provides a set of specifications that allow the registration of models to facilitate interoperability among
 339 systems or persons. In this context interoperability is interpreted in its broadest sense: the capability to
 340 communicate, execute programs, or transfer data among various functional units in a manner that requires
 341 the user to have little or no knowledge of the unique characteristics of those units (ISO/IEC 2382-1:1993).
 342 The models that are registered may be ontologies, information models, process models, service models,
 343 models of roles and goals or any other type of model specified within MFI~~service models or models of roles~~
 344 and goals.

Comment [K9]: See GB 07

345 Models are used widely within the information technology community to represent system requirements
 346 and system specifications. These models can be expressed using a variety of notations or languages. An
 347 information model may be expressed in any one of a number of entity-relationship notations, from the
 348 simplicity of the original entity-relationship notation proposed by Dr Peter Chen through to the complexity of
 349 Express-G, as a UML Class Diagram, or even as a set of SQL CREATE TABLE statements. Similarly,
 350 process models may be expressed as BPMN models, as UML Activity Diagrams, or as a set of BPEL
 351 statements.

352 The sharing of these models is essential if interoperability is to be achieved. If two systems are to
 353 exchange information then not only must the formats in which the information is represented as data in
 354 those systems be known but the semantics underpinning that data and the processes that the systems are
 355 designed to support must also be unambiguously understood. If services are to be shared between
 356 interoperating systems then the processes that these services execute, with their goals and the roles of the
 357 people or organisations associated with these processes and services, also need to be unambiguously
 358 understood.

359 The underlying purpose of MFI is to allow ~~for the~~ sharing of these models. Each of the main parts of MFI
 360 provides a specification, in the form of a metamodel, for a model registry where information about the
 361 models, and the things, processes, etc that they are describing, can be registered. Once models have
 362 been registered it is possible for the mappings between models, or parts of models, to also be registered.
 363 In addition, because models are registered in a registry they can be discovered.

Comment [K10]: See GB 08

364 A metamodel in MFI is an information model that provides a conceptual view of the information that is
 365 recorded when a model is registered. Each of these metamodels is expressed as a UML Class Diagram.

366 It is not sufficient to register a model in a registry. The registry must also be discoverable, and enabling this
 367 discoverability of registries is also an important element of MFI.

368 **5.2 Strengthening interoperability and integration capability**369 **5.2.1 Introduction**

370 High-level information sharing is necessary to achieve the integration of data or services described above.
 371 This relies upon the strengthening of the capabilities to discover models. This is underpinned by two types
 372 of interoperability, as follows:

- 373 • System interoperability
- 374 • Semantic interoperability

375 This is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

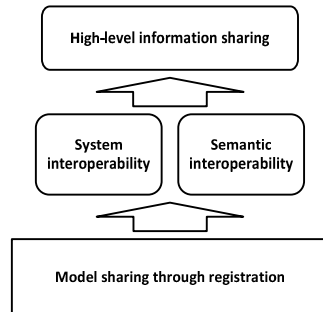


Figure 1 – Two types of interoperability

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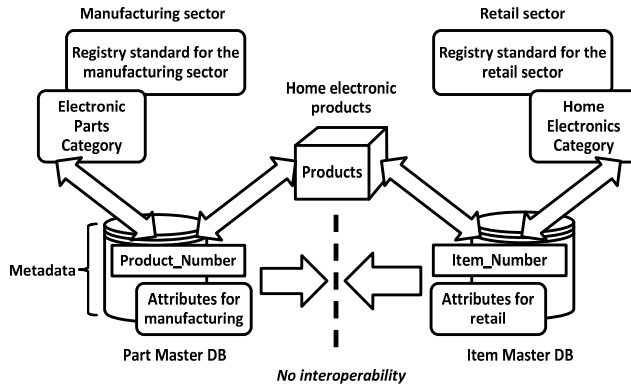
379 **5.2.2 System interoperability**

380 System interoperability in a heterogeneous network system requires the standardisation of the
 381 communication protocols to enable the lower level physical connection. It also requires the standardisation
 382 of both the message formats and the syntactic representation of the data to be exchanged. The syntactic
 383 representation of data is normally held as metadata.

384 Many de jure and de facto Standards Developing Organizations (SDO), such as ISO, IEC, UN, OMG and
 385 W3C, have developed and enforced many industry-specific metadata or registry standards. Examples exist
 386 in the e-business, healthcare, electronic parts, electronic documents and library areas, but most of these
 387 industry sector metadata or registry standards are incompatible with each other.

388 With this proliferation of standards it is not easy to share information across different industries or domains
 389 without any specific mapping or translation tools. This is made worse if the metadata is registered in
 390 different registries. For this reason it is almost impossible to have a global and dynamic supply chain that
 391 penetrates different industries across many countries.

392 For example, an electronics manufacturing company will have their own product database to handle the
 393 development, manufacture and sale of their products while the retailer will have their own item database
 394 which will be used to manage their stock and their purchases. Each database will have been developed
 395 individually, with each following the particular metadata standards, if any, that were specified by the
 396 industry consortium or some other SDO. In this situation it is almost impossible to achieve interoperability
 397 between the manufacturer's system and the retailer's system. Figure 2 illustrates this problem.



398

399

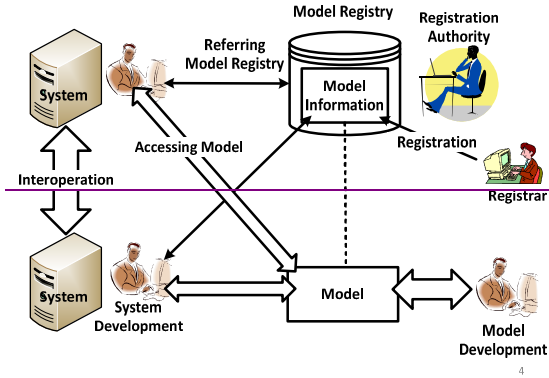
Figure 2 – Current problems with cross-industries interoperation

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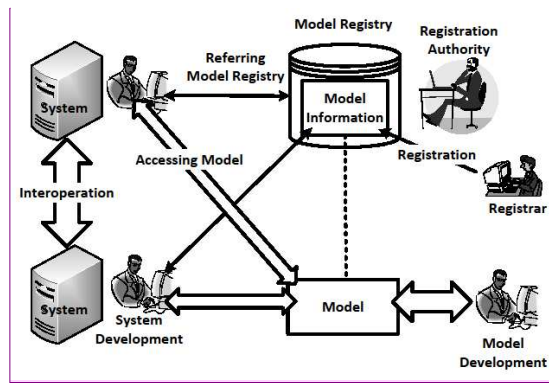
400 To overcome this problem there must be a mapping between the database structures of the two systems.
 401 To achieve this mapping the information models, and perhaps the process models, need to be understood
 402 and compared. The mappings themselves then need to be registered.

403 In software development, information models are used to capture and document the information
 404 requirements that should then lead to the specification of a database design. Each of these information
 405 models will be expressed using one of the many notations available, for example as a UML Class Diagram
 406 or as an IDEF1X model. Since many engineers are normally involved in any software development the
 407 sharing of models is common. Where this development involves collaborating engineers in different
 408 countries and languages, this model sharing must be supported by a specific platform or infrastructure.

409 In the model registry, MFI provides a basis for this model-sharing infrastructure. Model sharing can be
 410 made possible by registering these models in a model registry. This will make it easier to discover an
 411 appropriate model. See Figure 3 for an illustration of this concept.



412



413

Comment [K11]: See JP 02

414

Figure 3 – Basic concept of model sharing through a Model Registry

Comment [K12]: See JP 03

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416 5.2.3 Semantic interoperability

417 Many terminology dictionaries are available, some on the internet. Some of these are generic dictionaries
 418 while the others each provide a set of technical terminologies in a specific domain, such as healthcare.

419 By enabling the registration of ontologies, where each ontology is a set of inter-related concept definitions
 420 within a specific domain of knowledge, MFI provides the ability to annotate each model construct so that
 421 data sharing and model sharing can be based on the semantic understanding of the model or the
 422 information represented by the model.

423 As well as aiding the understanding of the meaning of information, these facilities are also helpful in the
 424 definition of mapping rules between model constructs.

425

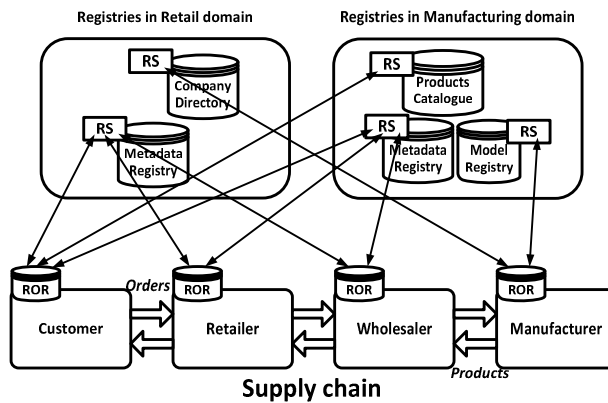
426 5.3 Registry interoperability

427 Another major purpose of MFI is to enable interoperability between registries. Many metadata registries or
 428 model registries are in existence, each designed to support industry-specific business domains in many
 429 different countries or territories. Most of these registries conform to industry-specific standards, such as for

430 e-business, healthcare, or library operations. However, those standards themselves are incompatible with
 431 each other and they have been developed to meet the requirements specific to their own domains. It
 432 means that a single company or user who belongs to a particular domain experiences difficulties in
 433 accessing registries in other, different, domains.

434 To enable system interoperability, it is necessary to share information registered in different registries
 435 across different domains. To achieve this MFI specifies, using a metamodel, a set of small XML artefacts,
 436 called a Registry Summary (RS), which will record the nature of the registry and its content and also
 437 provide technical information to enable accessing the registry. The intention is that the RS should be
 438 attached to each registry.

439 Figure 4 below illustrates a typical example of the use of Registry Summaries. Each registry in a particular
 440 domain can make their Registry Summary publically available. Users in different domains, such as
 441 Manufacturing or Retailing, can then build their own dedicated registry that is a collection of Registry
 442 Summaries that are of interest to them. This special registry is called a Registry of Registries (ROR).



443

444 **Figure 4 – Registry interoperability using RS and ROR**

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446 5.4 Model discovery

447 There is a need for the smart and efficient discovery and integration of information objects that are
 448 available over networks. This is made more urgent in the era of the internet, cloud computing and Linked
 449 Open Data (LOD), where there is a requirement for more sophisticated knowledge and service discovery.

450 MFI provides for this discovery through those parts that contribute to the Role, Goal, Process and Service
 451 (RGPS) facilities: the metamodel for process model registration, the metamodel for service registration,
 452 and the metamodel for role and goal registration. The use of these parts is brought together in the
 453 Technical Report that explains the on demand model selection based on RGPS, as illustrated in Figure 5.

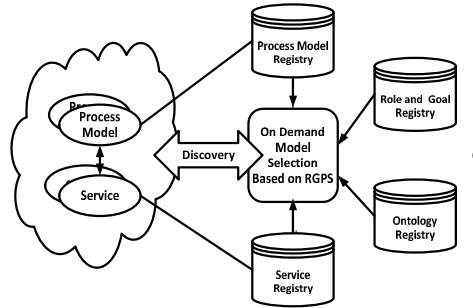


Figure 5 – Discovering services and processes based on RGPS

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6 Model registration

6.1 Basic idea of the MFI metamodels

A metamodel is a model that is used to explain a set of related models by defining the language that is used for expressing such models. In MFI the metamodels specified in the different parts define the set of concepts described in the models under consideration that are important for interoperability and, therefore, need to be registered.

In MFI all of the metamodels are specified as UML Class Diagrams, which means that all of the MFI metamodels are described using the UML metamodel.

However, UML is not the only set of notations used for domain modelling. Other languages, such as IDEF1X for information modelling and BPMN for business process modelling, are often used. All of the MFI metamodels, therefore, are not designed for a specific domain modelling language but are able to accommodate generic concepts covered by the type of model concerned (ontologies, information modelling, process modelling, etc).

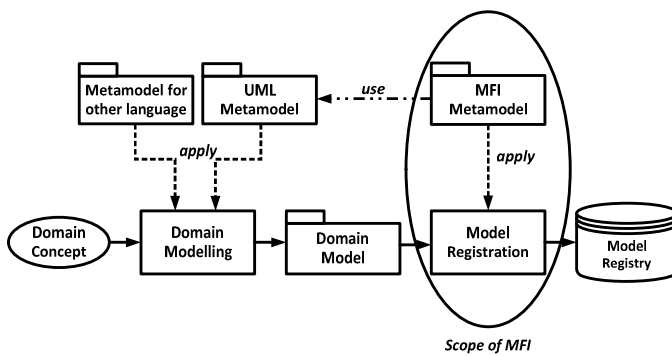


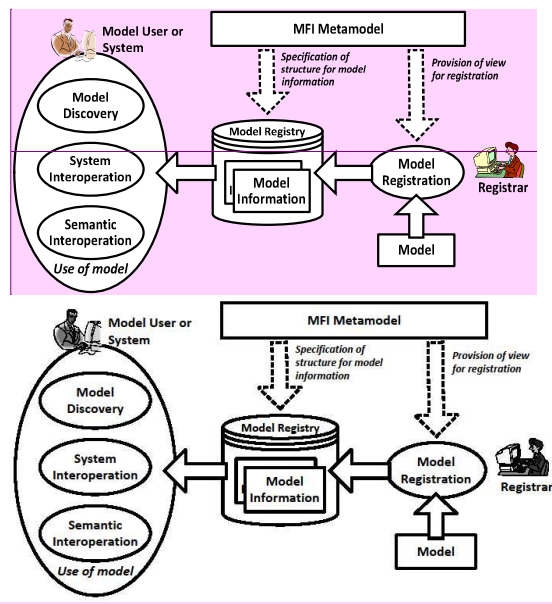
Figure 6 – MFI metamodels and the UML metamodel

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473 **6.2 Basic concept of model registration**

474 MFI is a set of metamodels specifying the structure of registries that may be used to register various types
 475 of models. The use of these MFI metamodels makes the model registration process easier. They also
 476 enable consistency in the information to be registered about the models.

477 Figure 7 shows the basic concept of the model registration. The MFI metamodels provide a registrar with a
 478 consistent view of model information that needs to be registered.



Comment [K13]: See JP 02

481 **Figure 7 – Basic concept of MFI registration**

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482 One of the MFI metamodels is a core model that provides common features that are used by all the other
 483 parts. The model constructs in the metamodels in the other parts are all specialisations of model constructs
 484 defined in the core model. The metamodels for the other parts provide details of the information to be
 485 registered for:

- 486 • ontologies
- 487 • information models
- 488 • process models
- 489 • services
- 490 • roles and goal models
- 491 • form descriptions

Comment [K14]: See JP 04

492 MFI does not specify any implementation requirements for a registry. Each metamodel only specifies the
 493 information that may be registered about a model. A registry does not store the actual model instance in its
 494 database; only the model information is stored.

495 The model information stored in a registry provides information about:

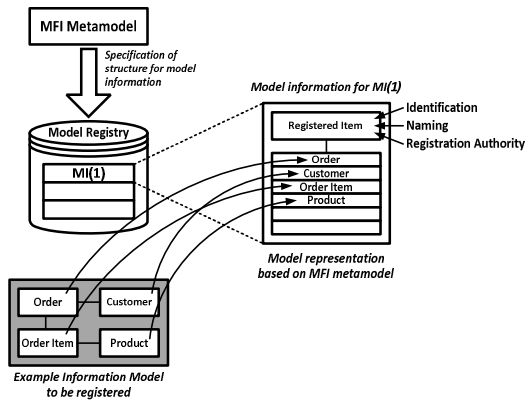
- 496 • where the model exists, who is the owner, and when it is registered,
- 497 • what model elements are included in the model, and
- 498 • what are relationships between these model elements.

499 MFI assumes that the actual models to be shared are stored outside of MFI. This storage may be
500 electronic in a model repository or the models may be held as documents.

501 An MFI registry uses the registration facilities that are specified in the MDR Metamodel. As such, for each
502 model the following information may be recorded:

- 503 • details of the registration authority, including the registrar.
- 504 • the date of the registration.
- 505 • the submission status.
- 506 • the ownership of the model.
- 507 • the context of the model.
- 508 • the elements within the model.

509 In terms of the MDR Metamodel, the registered model becomes a registered item, as shown in Figure 8.



510

511 **Figure 8 – Relationship between a model and the its associated model information**

Comment [K15]: See JP 05

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512

513 **7 MFI Architecture architecture**

Comment [K16]: See JP 06

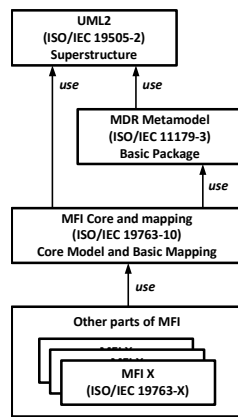
514 **7.1 The overall structure of MFI**

515 This section specifies the architecture of MFI. All future developments of extra parts of MFI must adopt this
516 architecture.

517 The MFI family of standards consists of a number of parts, each of which (other than this part and any
 518 technical reports) specifies a metamodel. Most of these metamodels provide for the registration of a
 519 particular type of model. One part (Part 10) provides common facilities for the other parts: a core model
 520 and basic mapping facilities.

521 In order to achieve the purpose set out in Clause 5 the MFI family of standards needs to be tightly
 522 harmonised with the MDR family of standards. This is because metadata is needed to define the model
 523 information that is to be registered in the MFI registries. MFI uses the registration procedure specified in
 524 MDR Registration.

525 MFI can be considered to be an extension of MDR. Figure 9 shows the basic overall structure of the MFI
 526 standard, including its relationship to MDR and UML.



527

528 **Figure 9 – Overall structure of MFI and its relationships to MDR and UML**

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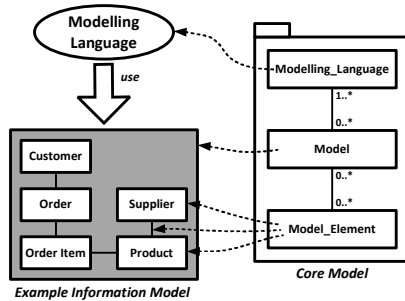
530 7.2 A common modelling facility for MFI

531 To maintain consistency between the parts of the MFI family of standards, one of the parts (Part 10)
 532 provides common modelling facilities in addition to facilities to map models together.

533 Figure 10 shows the core model concept. Central to the core model are three metaclasses:

- 534
- Modelling_Language,
 - 535 • Model, and
 - 536 • Model_Element.

537 The inclusion of Modelling_Language allows models expressed in any modelling language to be registered.



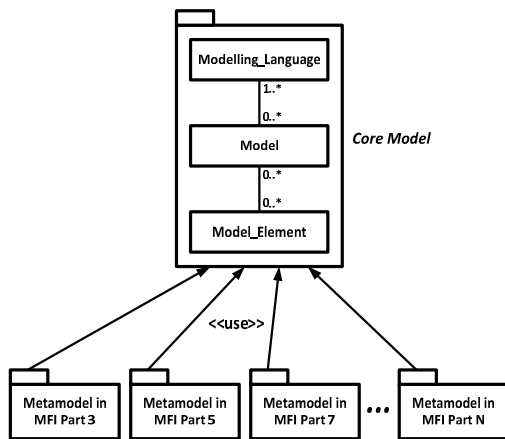
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Figure 10 – Basic concept of the core model

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540 The metaclasses in the metamodels specified in the other parts are all specialisations of one of the
 541 metaclasses in the core model, as shown in Figure 11. As new parts are developed they will follow this
 542 structure, thus ensuring that the architecture is maintained.



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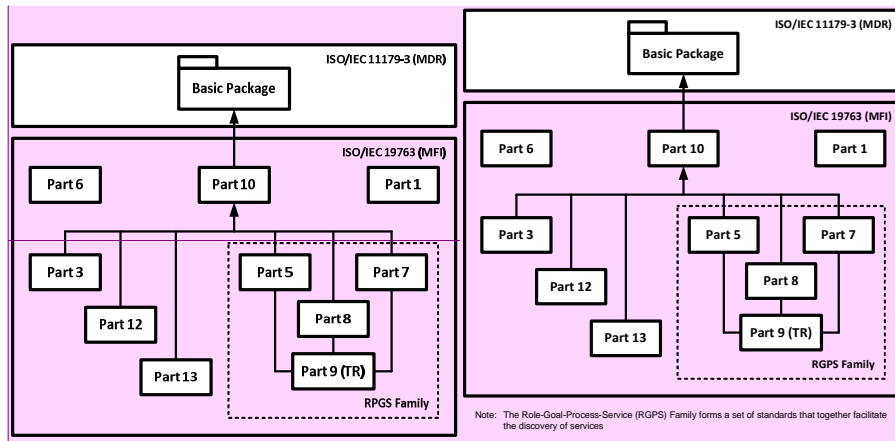
Figure 11 – Common base for MFI subparts

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Annex A
(informative)
Internal structure of MFI

550 The MFI family of standards is still evolving but this Annex describes the parts that are planned at the time
551 of publication of this framework.



Comment [K17]: See JP 07

552

Figure A.1 – Relationship between parts within the MFI family of standards

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555 **MDR**

556 In order to maintain consistency in the registration of objects, such as models or model elements, all parts
557 of MFI share the same administrative information that is defined in the basic package of ISO/IEC 11179-3.
558 This enables MFI registries to make use of the common facilities provided by metadata registries. Thus, a
559 model or a model element may be registered as one or more of the types specified in ISO/IEC 11179-3, ie:

- 560 • an Identified_Item
- 561 • a Registered_Item
- 562 • an Administered_Item
- 563 • an Attached_Item
- 564 • a Designatable_Item
- 565 • a Classifiable_Item

566 **MFI Part 1: Framework**

567 Part 1 (this part) describes the concepts, including registration, and the overall architecture of the standard
568 that is to be applied in the development of the individual metamodels specified in the other parts.

569 **MFI Part 10: Core model and basic mapping**

570 Part 10 specifies the core model that provides the framework for all other metamodels specified in the
571 other parts. It also provides facilities to enable individual models and model elements to be annotated with
572 constructs from ontologies and facilities to enable the mapping of models to other models.

573 **MFI Part 3: Metamodel for ontology registration**

574 Part 3 specifies a metamodel that provides for the registration of administrative information about
575 ontologies. These ontologies may be used to annotate elements of other models.

576 **MFI Part 5: Metamodel for process model registration**

577 Part 5 specifies a metamodel that provides for the registration of administrative information about different
578 kinds of process models. These process models may describe the processes supported by a system or
579 may support the discovery of services through RGPS.

580 **MFI Part 6: Registry summary**

581 Part 6 specifies a metamodel of the registry summary information that may be added to any type of registry.
582 This summary information can be collected together into a Registry of Registries (ROR).

583 **MFI Part 7: Metamodel for service registration**

584 Part 7 specifies a metamodel for the registration of administrative information about services. The main
585 focus of this part is on web services but the metamodel can be used to register any service that is
586 supported by a set of processes.

587 **MFI Part 8: Metamodel for role and goal registration**

588 Part 8 specifies a metamodel for the registration of administrative information about the roles and goals
589 that are associated with processes and services.

590 **MFI Part 9: On demand model selection based on RGPS (Technical Report)**

591 Part 9 is a technical report that explains how a registry, or a collection of interconnected registries, that is
592 based the metamodels specified in Parts, 5, 7 and 8 may be used together to discover models, particularly
593 models that represent services.

594 **MFI Part 12: Metamodel for information model registration**

595 Part 12 specifies a metamodel for the registration of administrative information about information models,
596 models that describe the information recorded in a system. These may be entity-relationship models, UML
597 Class Diagrams or SQL table definitions.

598 **MFI Part 13: Metamodel for form registration**

599 Part 13 specifies a metamodel for the registration of administrative information about the structure of forms,
600 such as electronic health records or other legal or official forms.

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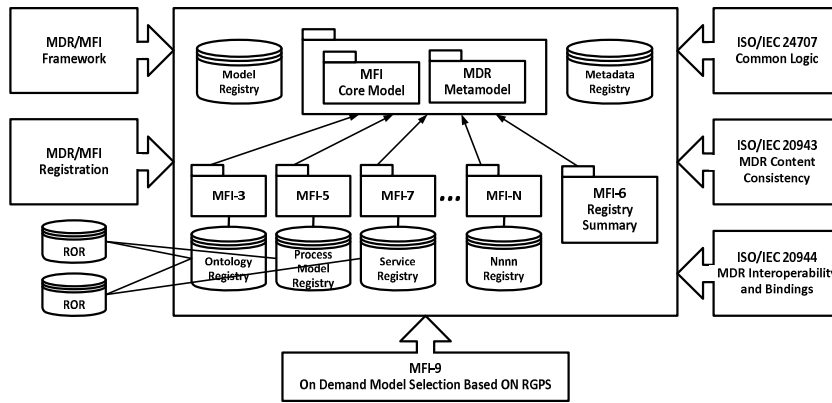
Annex B
(informative)
Future harmonised structure for MFI and MDR

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606 MFI relies heavily on the common facilities provided by the MDR Metamodel. It is envisaged that at some
607 stage in the future there should be even closer harmonisation of the MFI and MDR standards, the
608 ISO/IEC19763 family of standards, the ISO/IEC11179 family of standards and ~~the their~~ associated
609 standards. This closer harmonisation will enable more effective and efficient use of both metadata and
610 models.

Comment [K18]: See GB 09

611 Figure B.1 illustrates the final target of the harmonisation on MFI and MDR.



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Figure B.1 – The future harmonisation target

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616

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