

National ITS Architecture, FRAME Content Mapping

June 2017 Webinar – Questions and Answers



This document address questions regarding the National ITS Architecture, FRAME Content Mapping raised during a webinar broadcast in June 2017. The [recording of the webinar](#) can be accessed on the Austroads website.

On slide 29, I did not see trip purpose included - it is captured or deduced somewhere?

The images in the webinar and report simply illustrate how additional FRAME information in Data Stores and Data Flows could be brought into the National ITS Architecture (NIA) in future National ITS Architecture Framework (NIAF) development work.

Is there a cross-over with the Austroads Road Data Standard project?

Yes, the potential exists for Austroads projects such as the Road Data Standard to produce machine-readable outputs that can be easily incorporated into NIA.

The NIA project deliverables exemplify how NIAF's architectural elements such as data concepts and their relationships can be modelled. The architectural content for specific domains is typically described textually in documents such as Austroads' Road Data Standard. NIAF, based on TOGAF, defines how this content can modelled to be more easily understood by people through architecture artefacts such as matrices and diagrams, and used by machines (such as standard file formats for tools that mirror those artefacts).

TOGAF is already typically used as road agencies' enterprise architecture (EA) framework covering all domains within the agency. The opportunity therefore exists for initiatives such as Austroads' Road Data Standard to use NIAF and publish their data concepts as models/diagrams and in machine-readable file formats. These artefacts can then be easily incorporated into NIAF and related user tools. In this way, investments could deliver even greater returns to agencies with more efficient and effective solutions for their customers.

Is it likely that any message exchange standards (eg. SIRI, TransXChange etc) will be considered?

At present, it is intended that information modelling in NIA will be conceptual and logical only, including referencing message standards to provide consistency. [Slide 29](#) shows an example link to the Geospatial Data Dictionary. Other activities within and outside of Austroads to support harmonisation: Harmonised ITS Technical Specifications (HITS), aligning with International industry standards (such as ISO), international Harmonisation Task Group 7 (HTG7).

On slide 29, how will the external data dictionary elements imported into NIAF be identified by class and numerical identifier? Will it be useful to consider OID structure?

It is quite likely that external standards will contain content broader than NIA. The mechanism for mapping data dictionary references will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and captured in the NIA content exports. NIA won't replicate the low detail in those reference documents.

How do you identify information flows where standardisation at the communications layer is critical?

The information modelling with NIA will reflect the conceptual and logical levels only (data entities and constructs only). Standardisation of communications layer (messages and protocols) can be achieved by other mechanisms such as HITS and is presently outside of the scope of NIA.

Are there any plans for national collection and reporting of the data?

NIAF will not collect the data itself, and therefore will not report on it. NIA defines the agreed data concepts and logical arrangement.

What does FRAME and TOGAF stand for?

FRAME is a common contraction of 'the European ITS Framework Architecture' and is the source of current NIAF content.

TOGAF stands for 'The Open Group Architecture Framework' – an open enterprise architecture (EA) framework. This supports interoperable use of the NIA content across various TOGAF-compliant EA tools.

How you do access the NIAF Content?

To access the NIAF Content, go to the Austroads' NIAF webpage:

<http://www.austroads.com.au/road-operations/network-operations/national-its-architecture>

On sheet 33, supported formats are CSV, XLSX and XML. What is the advantage of XLSX over CSV? Why is XLSX format included?

XLSX is provided for user convenience. It presents the NIAF content preformatted as an Excel table and minimises user effort to benefit from Excel's functionality.

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