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Metadata

Metadata is data that provides information about other data

What is Metadata?

Metadata refers to data that describes other data. It provides information about the characteristics of a particular piece of data, such as its format, size, author, creation date, and location.

For example, metadata for a photograph might include the date and time it was taken, the camera model and settings used, and the location where the photo was taken. Metadata for a document might include the author's name, the creation date, the file type, and the file size.

Metadata is often used to help organize and manage large collections of data, such as digital libraries or archives. It can also be used to help search engines and other software applications index and retrieve information more effectively.

Snippet from [Wikipedia](#): **Metadata**

Metadata (or **metainformation**) is "data that provides information about other data", but not the content of the data itself, such as the text of a message or the image itself. There are many distinct types of metadata, including:

- **Descriptive metadata** – the descriptive information about a resource. It is used for discovery and identification. It includes elements such as title, abstract, author, and keywords.
- **Structural metadata** – metadata about containers of data and indicates how compound objects are put together, for example, how pages are ordered to form chapters. It describes the types, versions, relationships, and other characteristics of digital materials.
- **Administrative metadata** – the information to help manage a resource, like resource type, permissions, and when and how it was created.
- **Reference metadata** – the information about the contents and quality of statistical data.
- **Statistical metadata** – also called process data, may describe processes that collect, process, or produce statistical data.
- **Legal metadata** – provides information about the creator, copyright holder, and public licensing, if provided.

Metadata is not strictly bound to one of these categories, as it can describe a piece of data in many other ways.

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