10TH EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON

Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange

JANUARY 25-28, 2021

New Use Cases for Reference Metadata Exchange with SDMX 3.0

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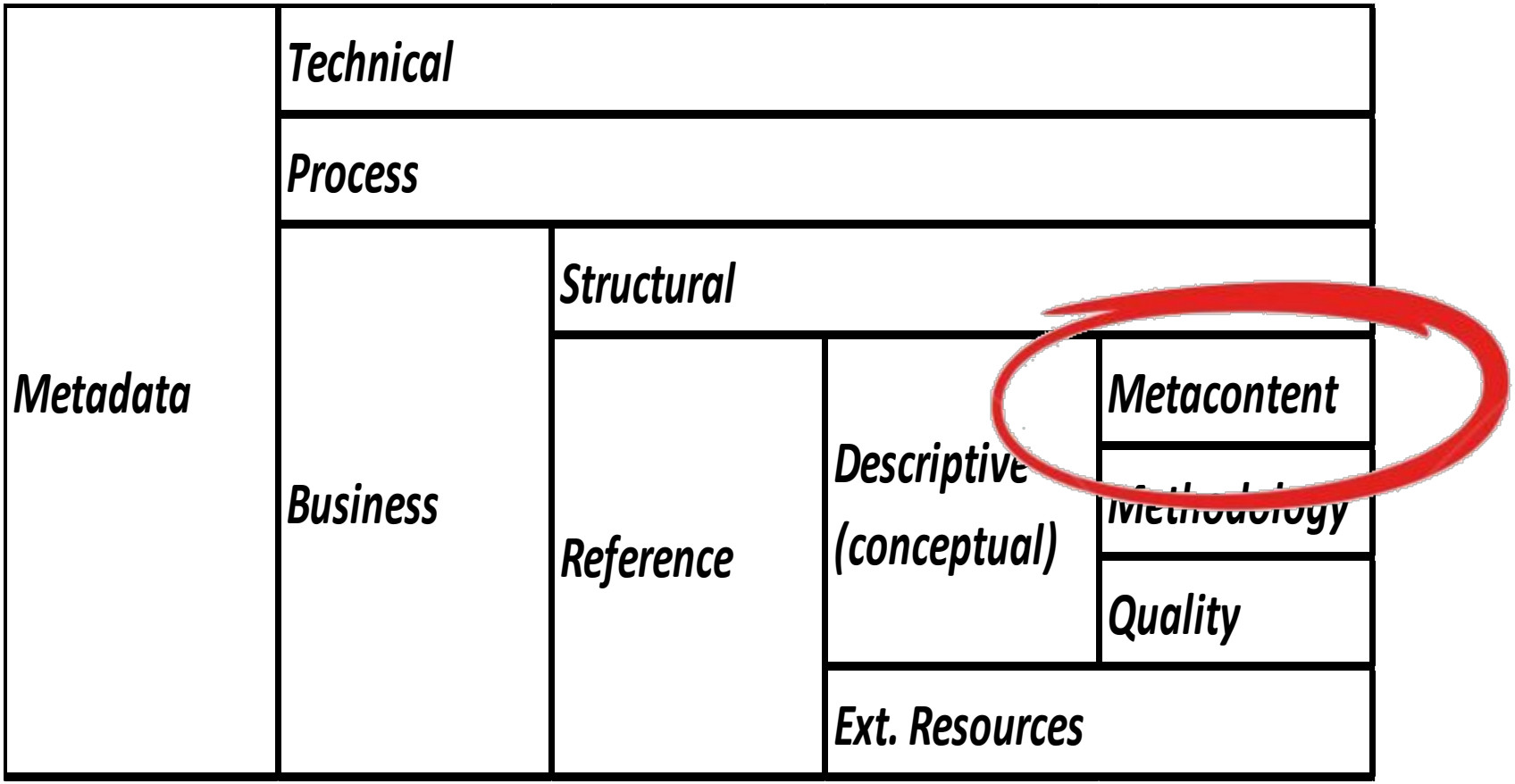
Types of Reference Metadata

- Metadata that is reported against structures
  - example collection methodology, accuracy, timeliness
- Metadata that travels closely to the Data
  - example footnotes

EMBEDDED METADATA

- Type 1 – Continues to be described by the MSD
- Type 2 – Described in the DSD that also describes the Data

Metadata classification



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Statistical Metacontent

Business → Reference metadata → Descriptive metadata → ***Statistical metacontent***

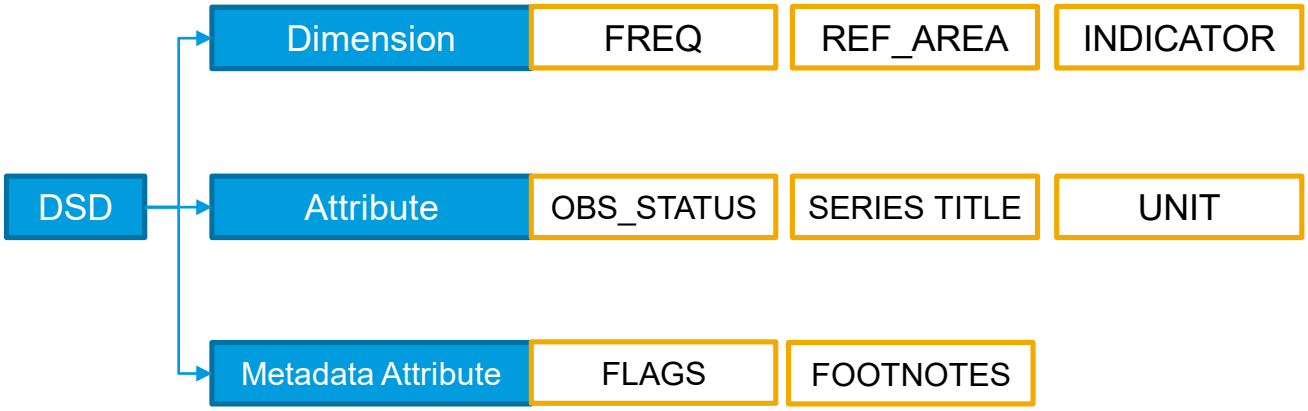
- Typical “data about data”
- Two classes of metacontent:
  - “Status information”: **Flags**
  - **Footnotes**: controlled vocabulary (enumerated concepts) or free text
- Relevant for the **interpretation** of the data
  - Must be embedded and travel with the data
- **Transformation**:
  - “Operating” on notes for derived indicators
- **Dissemination**
  - How to display table’s metadata, flags and footnotes

Metacontent in SDMX 2.1

- Using Reference metadata artefacts:
  - Not delivered with the data by default
  - Methodology and quality metadata is too verbose
  - Usually not maintained by whom, and at the time, the data is
  - Complicated linkage mechanism
  - Can’t operate on them in transformations

- Using Attributes:
  - Can’t avoid travelling with the data
  - Cardinality
  - Lack of hierarchical structure
  - Poor presentation capablities

The solution: Metadata Attributes



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The solution: Metadata Attributes

- **Hybrid solution,** takes «the best of both worlds»
- **Travel with the data** by default
- Can be **selectively removed from the data** message (API)
- As part of the DSD are **maintained together with the data**
- **Same attachment mechanism** as traditional attributes
  - Observation, partial key, measure, etc.
- Allow **multiple values** per instance (cardinality issue)
- Presentation capabilities: **html**, **hierarchy, multilingual**
- Can be treated as normal attributes for **transformations** (VTL)