

# Topic

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A **Topic** is the most basic description of data that is to be published and/or subscribed to. A topic connects a [Data Writer](#) with a [Data Reader](#), i.e., communication does not occur unless the topic published by a data writer matches a topic subscribed to by a data reader. Communication via topics is anonymous and transparent, i.e., publishers and subscribers need not be concerned with how topics are created or who is writing/reading them since the [Data Distribution Service \(DDS\) DCPS middleware](#) manages these issues. In programming terms, a Topic is a [Class](#) and each [instance](#) is a [Sample](#). Topic instances are associated with a [key](#) (similar to a packet [ID](#)), defined by [IDL](#) and a set of [Quality of Service parameters](#).

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