

# OMG: Interface Definition Language (IDL)

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Table 1: Data sheet for Interface Definition Language (IDL )

|                     |                                                                                         |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title               | Interface Definition Language                                                           |
| Acronym             | IDL                                                                                     |
| Version             | 4.2                                                                                     |
| OMG Document Number | formal/18-01-05                                                                         |
| Release Date        | March 2018                                                                              |
| About Specification | <a href="https://www.omg.org/spec/IDL/">https://www.omg.org/spec/IDL/</a>               |
| Document            | <a href="https://www.omg.org/spec/IDL/4.2/PDF">https://www.omg.org/spec/IDL/4.2/PDF</a> |

**Note:** The following is an excerpt from the actual document. It is provided here as a convenience and is not authoritative. Refer to the original document as the authoritative reference.

## Scope

*This document specifies the OMG Interface Definition Language (IDL). IDL is a descriptive language used to define data types and interfaces in a way that is independent of the programming language or operating system/processor platform.*

*The IDL specifies only the syntax used to define the data types and interfaces. It is normally used in connection with other specifications that further define how these types/interfaces are utilized in specific contexts and platforms:*

- *Separate “language mapping” specifications define how the IDL-defined constructs map to specific programming languages, such as, C/C++, Java, C#, etc.*
- *Separate “serialization” specifications define how data objects and method invocations are serialized into a format suitable for network transmission.*
- *Separate “middleware” specifications, such as, DDS or [CORBA](#) leverage the IDL to define data-types, services, and interfaces. The description of IDL grammar uses a syntax notation that is similar to Extended Backus-Naur Format (EBNF).*

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