

# [MS-DSDIFFGRAM]:

## SharePoint Web Services: DataSet DiffGram Structure

---

### Intellectual Property Rights Notice for Open Specifications Documentation

- **Technical Documentation.** Microsoft publishes Open Specifications documentation (“this documentation”) for protocols, file formats, data portability, computer languages, and standards support. Additionally, overview documents cover inter-protocol relationships and interactions.
- **Copyrights.** This documentation is covered by Microsoft copyrights. Regardless of any other terms that are contained in the terms of use for the Microsoft website that hosts this documentation, you can make copies of it in order to develop implementations of the technologies that are described in this documentation and can distribute portions of it in your implementations that use these technologies or in your documentation as necessary to properly document the implementation. You can also distribute in your implementation, with or without modification, any schemas, IDLs, or code samples that are included in the documentation. This permission also applies to any documents that are referenced in the Open Specifications documentation.
- **No Trade Secrets.** Microsoft does not claim any trade secret rights in this documentation.
- **Patents.** Microsoft has patents that might cover your implementations of the technologies described in the Open Specifications documentation. Neither this notice nor Microsoft's delivery of this documentation grants any licenses under those patents or any other Microsoft patents. However, a given Open Specifications document might be covered by the Microsoft [Open Specifications Promise](#) or the [Microsoft Community Promise](#). If you would prefer a written license, or if the technologies described in this documentation are not covered by the Open Specifications Promise or Community Promise, as applicable, patent licenses are available by contacting [iplg@microsoft.com](mailto:iplg@microsoft.com).
- **License Programs.** To see all of the protocols in scope under a specific license program and the associated patents, visit the [Patent Map](#).
- **Trademarks.** The names of companies and products contained in this documentation might be covered by trademarks or similar intellectual property rights. This notice does not grant any licenses under those rights. For a list of Microsoft trademarks, visit [www.microsoft.com/trademarks](http://www.microsoft.com/trademarks).
- **Fictitious Names.** The example companies, organizations, products, domain names, email addresses, logos, people, places, and events that are depicted in this documentation are fictitious. No association with any real company, organization, product, domain name, email address, logo, person, place, or event is intended or should be inferred.

**Reservation of Rights.** All other rights are reserved, and this notice does not grant any rights other than as specifically described above, whether by implication, estoppel, or otherwise.

**Tools.** The Open Specifications documentation does not require the use of Microsoft programming tools or programming environments in order for you to develop an implementation. If you have access to Microsoft programming tools and environments, you are free to take advantage of them. Certain Open Specifications documents are intended for use in conjunction with publicly available standards specifications and network programming art and, as such, assume that the reader either is familiar with the aforementioned material or has immediate access to it.

**Support.** For questions and support, please contact [dochelp@microsoft.com](mailto:dochelp@microsoft.com).

## Revision Summary

Date	Revision History	Revision Class	Comments
4/4/2008	0.1	Major	Initial Availability.
6/27/2008	1.0	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
12/12/2008	1.01	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
3/11/2009	1.02	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
4/6/2009	1.03	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
8/7/2009	1.1	Minor	Clarified the meaning of the technical content.
11/6/2009	1.1.2	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
3/5/2010	1.2	Minor	Clarified the meaning of the technical content.
4/21/2010	1.2.1	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
6/4/2010	1.2.2	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
9/3/2010	1.2.2	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
2/9/2011	1.2.2	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
7/7/2011	1.2.2	Minor	Clarified the meaning of the technical content.
11/3/2011	1.2.2	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
1/19/2012	2.0	Major	Updated and revised the technical content.
2/23/2012	2.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
3/27/2012	2.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
5/24/2012	2.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
6/29/2012	2.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
7/16/2012	2.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
10/8/2012	2.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
10/23/2012	2.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
3/26/2013	2.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
6/11/2013	3.0	Major	Updated and revised the technical content.
8/8/2013	3.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the

Date	Revision History	Revision Class	Comments
			technical content.
12/5/2013	3.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
2/11/2014	3.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
5/20/2014	3.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
5/10/2016	4.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.
8/16/2017	4.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
10/16/2019	5.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.
11/1/2022	6.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.
9/5/2024	7.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction ..... 5
  - 1.1 Glossary ..... 5
  - 1.2 References ..... 6
    - 1.2.1 Normative References ..... 6
    - 1.2.2 Informative References ..... 7
  - 1.3 Overview ..... 7
  - 1.4 Relationship to Protocols and Other Structures ..... 7
  - 1.5 Applicability Statement ..... 8
  - 1.6 Versioning and Localization ..... 8
  - 1.7 Vendor-Extensible Fields ..... 8
- 2 Structures ..... 9
  - 2.1 DiffGram Namespaces ..... 9
  - 2.2 SharePoint DiffGram High-Level Structure ..... 9
  - 2.3 SharePoint DiffGram Schema Element ..... 10
    - 2.3.1 DataInstance Element Schema ..... 10
    - 2.3.2 DataTable Element Schema ..... 11
    - 2.3.3 Unique Element ..... 13
  - 2.4 SharePoint DiffGram Data Element ..... 13
    - 2.4.1 DataInstance Element ..... 14
- 3 Structure Examples ..... 15
- 4 Security Considerations ..... 17
- 5 Appendix A: Product Behavior ..... 18
- 6 Change Tracking ..... 19
- 7 Index ..... 20

# 1 Introduction

The Windows SharePoint Services **DataSet DiffGram** structure is used to represent the results of a Windows SharePoint Services Search service **web service** call. This structure is a subset of the full **DiffGram** structure that is used by the ADO.NET **DataSet**. The **DiffGram** structure is useful for **serializing** schema and data for transmission over a network or storage on disk. Windows SharePoint Services uses the **DiffGram** structure to encapsulate both the schema of the search results as well as the data that represents the search results.

This document covers only the portion of the **DiffGram** structure that is used by the Windows SharePoint Services Search service.

Sections 1.7 and 2 of this specification are normative. All other sections and examples in this specification are informative.

## 1.1 Glossary

This document uses the following terms:

**CDATA section:** A section in an **XML document** that is bracketed by [!CDATA[ and ]] characters. All data in this section, including markup tags, is treated as normal characters by an **XML** parser.

**child element:** In an **XML document**, an element that is subordinate to and is contained by another element, which is referred to as the parent element.

**Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP):** An application-level protocol for distributed, collaborative, hypermedia information systems (text, graphic images, sound, video, and other multimedia files) on the World Wide Web.

**in-memory:** A memory model in which multidimensional aggregates are precomputed and stored but not written out on disk. Instead, they are stored in computer memory.

**Persistent Storage:** Nonvolatile storage mediums, such as magnetic disks, tapes, and optical disks.

**primary key:** A field or set of fields that uniquely identifies each record in a table. A primary key cannot contain a null value.

**root element:** The top-level element in an **XML document**. It contains all other elements and is not contained by any other element, as described in [\[XML\]](#).

**serialization:** A mechanism by which an application converts an object into an XML representation.

**serialize:** The process of taking an in-memory data structure, flat or otherwise, and turning it into a flat stream of bytes. See also marshal.

**SOAP:** A lightweight protocol for exchanging structured information in a decentralized, distributed environment. **SOAP** uses **XML** technologies to define an extensible messaging framework, which provides a message construct that can be exchanged over a variety of underlying protocols. The framework has been designed to be independent of any particular programming model and other implementation-specific semantics. SOAP 1.2 supersedes SOAP 1.1. See [\[SOAP1.2-1/2003\]](#).

**SOAP envelope:** A container for SOAP message information and the root element of a **SOAP** document. See [\[SOAP1.2-1/2007\]](#) section 5.1 for more information.

**User Datagram Protocol (UDP):** The connectionless protocol within TCP/IP that corresponds to the transport layer in the ISO/OSI reference model.

**web service:** A software entity that responds to SOAP messages ([\[SOAP1.1\]](#), [\[WSDL\]](#)).

**web service method:** A procedure that is exposed to web service clients as an operation that can be called on the web service. Also referred to as web method.

**XML:** The Extensible Markup Language, as described in [\[XML1.0\]](#).

**XML attribute:** A name/value pair, separated by an equal sign (=) and included in a tagged element, that modifies features of an element. All XML attribute values are stored as strings enclosed in quotation marks.

**XML document:** A document object that is well formed, as described in [\[XML10/5\]](#), and might be valid. An XML document has a logical structure that is composed of declarations, elements, comments, character references, and processing instructions. It also has a physical structure that is composed of entities, starting with the root, or document, entity.

**XML element:** An **XML** structure that typically consists of a start tag, an end tag, and the information between those tags. Elements can have attributes and can contain other elements.

**XML namespace:** A collection of names that is used to identify elements, types, and attributes in XML documents identified in a URI reference [\[RFC3986\]](#). A combination of XML namespace and local name allows XML documents to use elements, types, and attributes that have the same names but come from different sources. For more information, see [\[XMLNS-2ED\]](#).

**XML schema:** A description of a type of **XML document** that is typically expressed in terms of constraints on the structure and content of documents of that type, in addition to the basic syntax constraints that are imposed by **XML** itself. An XML schema provides a view of a document type at a relatively high level of abstraction.

**MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT:** These terms (in all caps) are used as defined in [\[RFC2119\]](#). All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

## 1.2 References

Links to a document in the Microsoft Open Specifications library point to the correct section in the most recently published version of the referenced document. However, because individual documents in the library are not updated at the same time, the section numbers in the documents may not match. You can confirm the correct section numbering by checking the [Errata](#).

### 1.2.1 Normative References

We conduct frequent surveys of the normative references to assure their continued availability. If you have any issue with finding a normative reference, please contact [dochelp@microsoft.com](mailto:dochelp@microsoft.com). We will assist you in finding the relevant information.

[MC-ADONETDSSS] Microsoft Corporation, "ADO.NET DataSet Structure Schema", <http://schemas.microsoft.com/2003/07/msdata.xsd>

[MS-SEARCH] Microsoft Corporation, "[Search Protocol](#)".

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>

[SOAP1.1] Box, D., Ehnebuske, D., Kaktivaya, G., et al., "Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) 1.1", W3C Note, May 2000, <https://www.w3.org/TR/2000/NOTE-SOAP-20000508/>

[XMLNS] Bray, T., Hollander, D., Layman, A., et al., Eds., "Namespaces in XML 1.0 (Third Edition)", W3C Recommendation, December 2009, <https://www.w3.org/TR/2009/REC-xml-names-20091208/>

[XMLSCHEMA1] Thompson, H., Beech, D., Maloney, M., and Mendelsohn, N., Eds., "XML Schema Part 1: Structures", W3C Recommendation, May 2001, <https://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xmlschema-1-20010502/>

[XMLSCHEMA2] Biron, P.V., Ed. and Malhotra, A., Ed., "XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes", W3C Recommendation, May 2001, <https://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xmlschema-2-20010502/>

[XPATH] Clark, J. and DeRose, S., "XML Path Language (XPath), Version 1.0", W3C Recommendation, November 1999, <http://www.w3.org/TR/1999/REC-xpath-19991116/>

## 1.2.2 Informative References

[RFC7230] Fielding, R., and Reschke, J., Eds., "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Message Syntax and Routing", RFC 7230, June 2014, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7230>

## 1.3 Overview

The **DataSet** is the part of the .NET Framework that provides **in-memory** representation of relational data. A **DataSet** consists of a set of named tables. Each table is defined by a collection of named columns with specified data types. A set of columns in the table can also represent a **primary key**. When a **DataSet** is populated, its tables are filled with rows of data, each of which contains a value for each column. The **DataSet** is a completely in-memory representation of the relational data, and maintains no knowledge of the original source of the data.

In addition to storing data in the rows and columns of the **DataSet**, applications can attach additional data to the entire **DataSet**, or to particular tables or columns, via extended properties. Extended properties are name-value pairs that are exposed to consumers of the **DataSet**, but not interpreted by the **DataSet** in any way. For details on how extended properties are used in the context of a SharePoint Search, please see [\[MS-SEARCH\]](#).

In various scenarios, it is necessary to transfer a **DataSet** across application boundaries. This is usually accomplished by serializing the **DataSet** into a format suitable for transmission over the **serialization** substrate. Common patterns include returning a **DataSet** from a **web service method** and taking **DataSets** as input parameters to web service methods.

The **DiffGram** structure is an **XML** serialized form of a **DataSet** that can be used in these scenarios. Any **DataSet** instance can be serialized into a **DiffGram** that can be transmitted over a service interface or written to **persistent storage**. The **DiffGram** structure encapsulates all of the information required to re-create the in-memory **DataSet** in the exact state it was in at the time it was serialized. This includes the schema information that defines the structure of the data in the **DataSet** and the actual values of the data. The **DiffGram** also contains serialized representations of any extended properties that have been defined on the tables and/or columns.

## 1.4 Relationship to Protocols and Other Structures

The **DiffGram** structure is used by the ADO.NET Framework as a serialization format for the contents of **DataSets**. Whenever a **DataSet** is returned from or received by a **web service method**, the **DiffGram** structure is used as the default serialization format. When used this way, the **DiffGram** can be wrapped in other data structures (for example, as specified in [\[SOAP1.1\]](#), Section 4) that encapsulate other parts of the **web service** call.

The services that exchange **DataSets** can use a variety of network protocols and encodings to transfer **DiffGrams**. For example, one web service can choose to use a plain-text encoding of a **DiffGram** within a **Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)** envelope, transmitted using **Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)** as specified in [\[RFC7230\]](#). Another can choose a binary encoding for the

**SOAP envelope** containing the **DiffGram** and transmit it via **User Datagram Protocol (UDP)**. The network protocols and encodings that can be used to transmit **DiffGrams** are not covered in this document.

## 1.5 Applicability Statement

The **DiffGram** structure can be used whenever a **serialized** representation of a **DataSet** is needed. More generally, the **DiffGram** can be used whenever it is necessary to serialize relational data. This document specifies the serialization of the relational data as used by the Windows SharePoint Services Search service, but it does not cover the general case of **DataSet** serialization.

## 1.6 Versioning and Localization

None.

## 1.7 Vendor-Extensible Fields

None.



## 2 Structures

The SharePoint **DiffGram** is an **XML document** that encapsulates the following information:

- An **XML schema** that specifies the structure of the data in a **DataSet**
- The data in the **DataSet**
- Extended properties associated with tables and columns

The following sections provide details on the particular representation used to capture this information.

### 2.1 DiffGram Namespaces

The **XML** that comprises a SharePoint **DiffGram** MUST include required **XML elements** and **XML attributes** as specified in the following sections of this document. These XML elements and XML attributes are defined in various **XML namespaces**. The following table lists these XML namespaces and specifies the XML namespace prefixes commonly associated with them. Producers of SharePoint **DiffGrams** MUST ensure that the XML refers to these namespaces by using the mechanisms that are specified in [\[XMLNS\]](#), but they SHOULD use the prefixes shown in the table below. For clarity, when XML elements and attributes from these namespaces are referenced in following sections of this document, their fully-qualified names are used.

Description	Namespace URI	Commonly used Prefix	Reference
<b>XML schema</b> elements and attributes	http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema	xs	<a href="#">[XMLSCHEMA1]</a> <a href="#">[XMLSCHEMA2]</a>
<b>DiffGram</b> elements and attributes	urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-diffgram-v1	diffgr	This namespace is internal to the <b>DiffGram</b> structure and is specified in <a href="#">SharePoint DiffGram Data Element</a> .
<b>DataSet</b> specific annotations	urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata	msdata	<a href="#">[MC-ADONETDSSS]</a>
<b>DataSet</b> extended properties	urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msprop	msprop	User and application-specific information SHOULD be annotated on the <b>DataSet</b> schema with extended properties. The extended properties are defined in this namespace.

### 2.2 SharePoint DiffGram High-Level Structure

A valid SharePoint **DiffGram** MUST conform to the following rules:

- The SharePoint **DiffGram** MUST have a **root element**, hereafter referred to as the **Root** element.
- The **Root** element MUST have two **child elements**:

- The first child element, hereafter referred to as the [SharePoint DiffGram Schema element](#), MUST be a **Schema** element as defined by [\[XMLSCHEMA1\]](#) and [\[XMLSCHEMA2\]](#) and MUST contain a valid **XML schema**.
- The second child element, hereafter referred to as the [SharePoint DiffGram Data element](#), MUST be a **DiffGram** element as defined in the namespace urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-diffgram-v1.

The sections that follow define the SharePoint **DiffGram Schema** element and the SharePoint **DiffGram Data** element in more detail. At a basic level, the purpose of these elements can be explained as follows:

- The SharePoint **DiffGram Schema** element defines the XML schema for the data representation in the SharePoint **DiffGram Data** element's content. The XML representation of the data in the SharePoint **DiffGram Data** element's content MUST conform to the XML schema defined in the SharePoint **DiffGram Schema** element.
- The SharePoint **DiffGram Data** element encapsulates the values of the data in the **DataSet**.

## 2.3 SharePoint DiffGram Schema Element

The **Schema** element in a SharePoint **DiffGram** MUST contain an XML schema, as specified in [\[XMLSCHEMA1\]](#) and [\[XMLSCHEMA2\]](#), that defines an XML representation for the data in the **DataSet**. The SharePoint **DiffGram Schema** element is a representation of the shape of the **DataSet** that will be used for serialization purposes, with the tables, columns, and primary keys of the **DataSet** represented as anonymous complex types and unique elements, subject to various constraints specified in the following sections.

### 2.3.1 DataInstance Element Schema

The DataInstance schema MUST define exactly one element that will encapsulate the representation of all data in the **DataSet**. This element is referred to as the **DiffGram DataInstance** element. In addition to being a valid XML schema, this schema MUST conform to the following rules:

- The **DataInstance** element MUST be defined using an anonymous complex type. The complex type MUST be defined as a choice of element content with zero minimum occurrence and unbounded maximum occurrence. Each element in the choice MUST conform to the rules of the element definition specified in section [2.3.2](#).
- The **DataInstance** element definition MUST contain zero or more **DataTable** element definitions in the choice element. The **DataTable** element definitions are immediate children of the choice.
- The element with namespace <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema> that defines the **DataInstance** element MUST have the [urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata:IsDataSet](urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata) attribute set to true (value of "true" or "1").
- The **DataInstance** element MUST contain zero, one, or more [Unique](#) elements. The **Unique** element's definitions are defined immediately after the complex type element that defines a choice of **DataTable** elements.
- The **DataInstance** element complex type definition MUST NOT contain attribute definitions for the element with namespace <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema>.
- The element with namespace <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema> that defines the **DataInstance** element can contain the [urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata:UseCurrentLocale](urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata) attribute. If this attribute is present, the value of the attribute MUST be set to true (value of "true" or "1") or false (value of "false" or "0").

- The element with namespace **http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema** that defines the **DataInstance** element can have the **urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata:DataSetName** attribute. If this attribute is specified, then the name of the **DataSet** is equal to the value of the attribute. If this attribute is not specified, then the name of the **DataSet** is equal to the name of the **DataInstance** element.
- Each extended property MUST appear as an attribute in the declaration of the **DataInstance** element (for properties that apply to the whole **DataSet**). The attribute name MUST be the name of the extended property, and the attribute's namespace MUST be **urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msprop**. The attribute's value MUST be the value of the extended property.
- Any attributes with a namespace other than **urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msprop** are not extended properties.

### 2.3.2 DataTable Element Schema

The **DataInstance** schema MUST define zero or more **DataTable** elements as children of the **DataInstance** element. A **DataTable** element MUST be defined using an anonymous complex type, and conform to the following rules:

- A **DataTable** element complex type definition MUST NOT contain attribute definitions.
- A **DataTable** element definition MUST allow only element content.
- A **DataTable** element definition MUST define zero or more **DataColumn** element definitions that are the immediate children of the sequence.
- The content model of a **DataTable** element definition MUST be specified as a sequence of elements, referred to as **DataColumn** elements, each of which represents a column in the table.
  - The type of a **DataColumn** element definition MUST be specified as one of the following valid **http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema:types**. If the type is a string, the type can be a simple type restriction of the facets as defined by [\[XMLSCHEMA2\]](#) section 3.2.1.1, length, minlength, and maxlength. All other types MUST NOT be restricted.
    - string
    - Boolean
    - unsignedByte
    - base64Binary
    - double
    - float
    - short
    - int
    - long
    - byte
    - integer
    - decimal
    - date

- time
- unsignedShort
- unsignedInt
- unsignedLong
- dateTime
- The minimum occurrence of a **DataColumn** element definition MUST be zero or one and the maximum occurrence MUST be one.
- If the type of the **DataColumn** element definition is a string, then all data in the DataColumn instance MUST be interpreted as **CDATA section**, even if it contains data that could be interpreted as XML.
- Each extended property MUST appear as an attribute in the declaration of the **DataColumn** element (for properties that apply to columns). The attribute name MUST be the name of the extended property and the attribute's namespace MUST be urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msprop. The attribute's value MUST be the value of the extended property.
- Any attributes with a namespace other than urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msprop are not extended properties.
- Each extended property MUST appear as an attribute in the declaration of the **DataTable** element (for properties that apply to tables). The attribute name MUST be the name of the extended property and the attribute's namespace MUST be urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msprop. The attribute's value MUST be the value of the extended property.
- Any attributes with a namespace other than urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msprop are not extended properties.

The following is a sample **Schema** element from a **DiffGram**:

```
<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
xmlns:msdata="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata"
xmlns:msprop="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msprop">
  <xs:element name="SalesDS" msdata:IsDataSet="true">
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:choice minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
        <xs:element name="Customers" msprop:ExtProp1="USA">
          <xs:complexType>
            <xs:sequence>
              <xs:element name="CustId" type="xs:int" minOccurs="0"/>
              <xs:element name="CustName" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
            </xs:sequence>
          </xs:complexType>
        </xs:element>
      </xs:choice>
    </xs:complexType>
    <xs:unique name="Constraint2" msdata:PrimaryKey="true">
      <xs:selector xpath="."//Customers" />
      <xs:field xpath="CustId" />
    </xs:unique>
  </xs:element>
</xs:schema>
```

In this sample, the element **SalesDS** defines the **DataInstance** element. It can contain **Customers** elements, which are known as **DataTable** elements, corresponding to rows in the Customers table in the **DataSet**. The columns of the Customers table (CustId and CustName), which are known as **DataColumn** elements, are represented as **child elements** of the **Customers** element. The **primary**

**key** of the **DataTable** element is specified in the **Unique** element. The selector defines which **DataTable** element to reference. The field element defines what **DataColumn** element is part of the primary key. An extended property on the Customers table, **ExtProp1** is manifested as an attribute on the Customers **DataTable** element declaration.

### 2.3.3 Unique Element

A **Unique** element is specified as an **XML element** per [\[XMLSCHEMA1\]](#) and [\[XMLSCHEMA2\]](#) specifications. A **Unique** element MUST follow these rules:

- The element MUST have an urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata:PrimaryKey where the value is equal to true (value of "true" or "1").
- The **selector xpath** attribute value MUST use './data-table' XPath-abbreviated syntax described in section 2.5 of the [\[XPATH\]](#) specification where data-table is the name of a **DataTable** element.
- A **field xpath** attribute value MUST use the 'data-column' XPath-abbreviated syntax where data-column is the name of a **DataColumn** element. The following is an example of a **Unique** element:

```
<xs:unique name="Constraint2" msdata:PrimaryKey="true">
  <xs:selector xpath="./Customers" />
  <xs:field xpath="CustId" />
</xs:unique>
```

## 2.4 SharePoint DiffGram Data Element

Conceptually, the SharePoint **DiffGram Data** element encapsulates the XML representation of the data in the **DataSet**. The SharePoint **DiffGram Data** element MUST have one child element:

- A [DataInstance](#) element, which MUST conform to the **DataInstance** element definition specified in the [SharePoint DiffGram Schema](#) element.

This high-level structure is defined by the following XML schema:

```
<?xml version="1.0" standalone="yes"?>
<xs:schema targetNamespace="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-diffgram-v1"
  xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-diffgram-v1"
  xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
  xmlns:diffgr="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-diffgram-v1"
  attributeFormDefault="qualified"
  elementFormDefault="qualified">
  <xs:attribute name="id" type="xs:string"/>
  <xs:element name="diffgram">
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:sequence minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1">
        <xs:any namespace="##other" processContents="lax" minOccurs="0"/>
      </xs:sequence>
    </xs:complexType>
  </xs:element>
</xs:schema>
```

However, it is not possible to write a single schema for the SharePoint **DiffGram Data** element that properly defines the **DataInstance** element, because the schema of the **DataInstance** element is defined by the SharePoint **DiffGram Schema** element (and varies per **DataSet**). Therefore, the schema specified previously in this section allows any content in the place of the **DataInstance** element. Producers and consumers of **DiffGrams** MUST ensure that the **DataInstance** element complies with the schema defined in the SharePoint DiffGram Schema element, as specified in section [2.3.1](#).

The following section defines the parts of the SharePoint **DiffGram Data** element in more detail.

### 2.4.1 DataInstance Element

The **DataInstance** element can contain one child element named **DocumentElement**. The **DocumentElement** MUST contain zero or more first-level child elements, referred to as "row elements". If the **DocumentElement** is not present, then the **DataInstance** element MUST contain zero or more row elements. Each row element MUST conform to a **DataTable** element definition, as specified in section [2.3.2](#).

A row element MUST contain zero or more first-level child elements, referred to as "column elements". Each column element MUST conform to a **DataColumn** element definition. A column element's content represents a data value. A NULL data value is represented by the absence of a column element in a row element, or by using the <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema:nil> attribute.

The following is an example of a **DataInstance** element that can appear in a SharePoint **DiffGram Data** element:

```
<SalesDS>
  <Customers diffgr:id="Customers1" msdata:rowOrder="0" >
    <CustId>1</CustId>
    <CustName>C1</CustName>
  </Customers>
  <Customers diffgr:id="Customers2" msdata:rowOrder="1">
    <CustId>2</CustId>
    <CustName>C2</CustName>
  </Customers>
  <Customers diffgr:id="Customers3" msdata:rowOrder="2" >
    <CustId>3</CustId>
    <CustName>C3</CustName>
  </Customers>
</SalesDS>
```

The following rules apply to the row elements within the **DataInstance** element:

- Each row element MUST have an **urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-diffgram-v1:id** attribute. The string value of this attribute acts as the row identifier within the scope of the **DiffGram Data** element. The **DataInstance** element MUST NOT have two row elements with the same value for the **urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-diffgram-v1:id** attribute.
- Each row element MUST have an **urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata:rowOrder** attribute whose value MUST be an integer that specifies the 0-based ordinal position of the row element. The **DataInstance** element MUST NOT have two row elements with the same value for the **urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata:rowOrder** attribute. The value for the **urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata:rowOrder** attribute MUST be less than the count of the rows in the **DataInstance** element.
- Each row element can have an **urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata:hasChanges** attribute. If this attribute is specified, the value MUST be "inserted", "modified", or "decent".

### 3 Structure Examples

Consider a SharePoint Search with the keywords "Cool Bikes". The results consist of a **DataSet** containing one **DataTable** named "RelevantResults", which contains the results of the search. This **DataSet** is serialized into an **XML document** that consists of one **DataTable** element with the name "RelevantResults", with a number of child **DataColumn** elements. Note that while the type of the HitHighlightedProperties **DataColumn** is a string, the contents appear to be XML. However, they are serialized by the **DataSet** as a string, not XML, and are not encoded as XML.

The following XML is the **DiffGram** structure that encapsulates this search result:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<DataSet xmlns="http://tempuri.org/">
  <xs:schema id="Results" xmlns="" xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
    xmlns:msdata="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata"
    xmlns:msprop="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msprop">
    <xs:element name="Results" msdata:IsDataSet="true"
      msdata:UseCurrentLocale="true" msprop:QueryTerms="Cool Bikes;"
      msprop:IgnoredNoiseWords="" msprop:Keyword="" msprop:ElapsedTime="938"
      msprop:Definition="" msprop:SpellingSuggestion="">
      <xs:complexType>
        <xs:choice minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
          <xs:element name="RelevantResults" msprop:TotalRows="175"
            msprop:IsTotalRowsExact="False">
            <xs:complexType>
              <xs:sequence>
                <xs:element name="WorkId" type="xs:long" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="Rank" type="xs:long" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="Title" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="Author" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="Size" type="xs:long" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="Path" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="Description" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="Write" type="xs:dateTime" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="SiteName" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="CollapsingStatus" type="xs:long" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="HitHighlightedSummary" type="xs:string"
                  minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="HitHighlightedProperties" type="xs:string"
                  minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="ContentClass" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="IsDocument" type="xs:long" minOccurs="0" />
                <xs:element name="PictureThumbnailURL" type="xs:string"
                  minOccurs="0" />
              </xs:sequence>
            </xs:complexType>
          </xs:element>
        </xs:choice>
      </xs:complexType>
    </xs:element>
  </xs:schema>
  <diffgr:diffgram xmlns:msdata="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-msdata"
    xmlns:diffgr="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-diffgram-v1">
    <Results xmlns="">
      <RelevantResults diffgr:id="RelevantResults1" msdata:rowOrder="0">
        <WorkId>1321891</WorkId>
        <Rank>822</Rank>
        <Title>New Metro Sport Equipment Bikes</Title>
        <Author>Ms.Kim Abercrombie</Author>
        <Size>8276480</Size>
        <Path>file://PublicShare/BikesConference/postshow/NewModels.ppt</Path>
        <Description>Metro Sport Equipment Bikes is introducing Bikes for this
          model year - this slide deck shows the new models and options</Description>
        <Write>2006-10-06T14:46:27.7529559-07:00</Write>
        <SiteName>file://PublicShare/BikesConference</SiteName>
      </RelevantResults>
    </Results>
  </diffgram>
</DataSet>
```

```

<CollapsingStatus>0</CollapsingStatus>
<HitHighlightedSummary>Metro Sport Equipment Bikes is introducing Bikes
    for this model year - this slide deck shows the new models and
    options</HitHighlightedSummary>
<HitHighlightedProperties>
  <HHTitle>
    Bike Retailers - Always ready to ride
  </HHTitle>
  <HHUrl>
    file:///PublicShare/BikesConference/postshow/NewModels.ppt
  </HHUrl>
</HitHighlightedProperties>
<IsDocument>1</IsDocument>
</RelevantResults>
<RelevantResults diffgr:id="RelevantResults2" msdata:rowOrder="1">
  <WorkId>26116233</WorkId>
  <Rank>793</Rank>
  <Title>How to care for BB Ball Bearings</Title>
  <Author>Mr. Gustavo Achong</Author>
  <Size>50004</Size>
  <Path>http://bikewiki/Parts/Wiki Pages/BB_Ball_Bearings.aspx</Path>
  <Write>2008-04-01T22:00:46-07:00</Write>
  <SiteName>http://bikewiki/Parts</SiteName>
  <CollapsingStatus>0</CollapsingStatus>
  <HitHighlightedSummary>
    BB Ball Bearings are known for being hard to take care of, but actually
    they aren't too bad if you follow these simple directions.
  </HitHighlightedSummary>
  <HitHighlightedProperties>
    <HHTitle>How to care for BB Ball Bearings</HHTitle>
    <HHUrl>http://bikewiki/Parts/Wiki Pages/BB Ball Bearings.aspx</HHUrl>
  </HitHighlightedProperties>
  <ContentClass>STS_ListItem_WebPageLibrary</ContentClass>
  <IsDocument>1</IsDocument>
</RelevantResults>
<RelevantResults diffgr:id="RelevantResults3" msdata:rowOrder="2">
  <WorkId>5522013</WorkId>
  <Rank>714</Rank>
  <Title>014 PPS Build</Title>
  <Author>Mr. Samuel N. Agcaoili</Author>
  <Size>253623</Size>
  <Path>http://sharepoint/sites/PerformanceBikes/Build Changes.docx</Path>
  <Write>2008-02-18T15:03:43-08:00</Write>
  <SiteName>http://sharepoint/sites/PerformanceBikes/</SiteName>
  <CollapsingStatus>0</CollapsingStatus>
  <HitHighlightedSummary>
    No Summary available
  </HitHighlightedSummary>
  <HitHighlightedProperties>
    <HHTitle>014 PPS Build </HHTitle>
    <HHUrl>http://sharepoint/sites/PerformanceBikes/Build
      Changes.docx</HHUrl>
  </HitHighlightedProperties>
  <ContentClass>STS_ListItem_DocumentLibrary</ContentClass>
  <IsDocument>1</IsDocument>
</RelevantResults>
</Results>
</diffgr:diffgram>
</DataSet>

```



## 4 Security Considerations

None.

## 5 Appendix A: Product Behavior

The information in this specification is applicable to the following Microsoft products or supplemental software. References to product versions include updates to those products.

- 2007 Microsoft Office system
- Microsoft Office 2010 system
- Microsoft Office 2013 system
- Microsoft Office 2016
- Microsoft Office 2019
- Microsoft Office 2021
- Microsoft Office LTSC 2024
- Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007
- Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010
- Microsoft SharePoint Server 2013
- Microsoft SharePoint Server 2016
- Microsoft SharePoint Server 2019
- Windows SharePoint Services 3.0
- Microsoft SharePoint Foundation 2010
- Microsoft SharePoint Foundation 2013
- Microsoft SharePoint Server Subscription Edition

Exceptions, if any, are noted in this section. If an update version, service pack or Knowledge Base (KB) number appears with a product name, the behavior changed in that update. The new behavior also applies to subsequent updates unless otherwise specified. If a product edition appears with the product version, behavior is different in that product edition.

Unless otherwise specified, any statement of optional behavior in this specification that is prescribed using the terms "SHOULD" or "SHOULD NOT" implies product behavior in accordance with the SHOULD or SHOULD NOT prescription. Unless otherwise specified, the term "MAY" implies that the product does not follow the prescription.

## 6 Change Tracking

This section identifies changes that were made to this document since the last release. Changes are classified as Major, Minor, or None.

The revision class **Major** means that the technical content in the document was significantly revised. Major changes affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of major changes are:

- A document revision that incorporates changes to interoperability requirements.
- A document revision that captures changes to protocol functionality.

The revision class **Minor** means that the meaning of the technical content was clarified. Minor changes do not affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of minor changes are updates to clarify ambiguity at the sentence, paragraph, or table level.

The revision class **None** means that no new technical changes were introduced. Minor editorial and formatting changes may have been made, but the relevant technical content is identical to the last released version.

The changes made to this document are listed in the following table. For more information, please contact [dochelp@microsoft.com](mailto:dochelp@microsoft.com).

Section	Description	Revision class
<a href="#">5</a> Appendix A: Product Behavior	Added Microsoft Office 2024 and SharePoint Server Subscription Edition to the product applicability list.	Major

## 7 Index

### A

[Applicability](#) 8

### C

[Change tracking](#) 19

[Common data types and fields](#) 9

### D

[Data types and fields - common](#) 9

[DataInstance element](#) 14

[DataInstance element schema](#) 10

[DataTable element schema](#) 11

Details

[common data types and fields](#) 9

[DiffGram namespaces](#) 9

### E

Element schema

[DataInstance](#) 10

[DataTable](#) 11

[Examples](#) 15

### F

[Fields - vendor-extensible](#) 8

### G

[Glossary](#) 5

### H

[high-level structure](#) 9

### I

[Implementer - security considerations](#) 17

[Informative references](#) 7

[Introduction](#) 5

### L

[Localization](#) 8

### N

[Namespaces](#) 9

[Normative references](#) 6

### O

[Overview \(synopsis\)](#) 7

### P

[Product behavior](#) 18

### R

[References](#) 6

[informative](#) 7

[normative](#) 6

[Relationship to protocols and other structures](#) 7

### S

[Security - implementer considerations](#) 17

[SharePoint DiffGram Data element](#) 13

[SharePoint DiffGram high-level structure](#) 9

[SharePoint DiffGram Schema element](#) 10

Structures

[high-level](#) 9

[overview](#) 9

### T

[Tracking changes](#) 19

### U

[Unique element](#) 13

### V

[Vendor-extensible fields](#) 8

[Versioning](#) 8