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Open Cloud Computing Interface – Core

Status of this Document

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Abstract

This document, part of a document series produced by the OCCI working group within the Open Grid Forum (OGF), provides a high-level definition of a Protocol and API. The document is based upon previously gathered requirements and focuses on the scope of important capabilities required to support modern service offerings.

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1 Introduction

The Open Cloud Computing Interface (OCCI) is a RESTful Protocol and API for all kinds of management tasks. OCCI was originally initiated to create a remote management API for IaaS¹ model-based services, allowing for the development of interoperable tools for common tasks including deployment, autonomic scaling and monitoring. It has since evolved into a flexible API with a strong focus on interoperability while still offering a high degree of extensibility. The current release of the Open Cloud Computing Interface is suitable to serve many other models in addition to IaaS, including PaaS and SaaS.

In order to be modular and extensible the current OCCI specification is released as a suite of complementary documents, which together form the complete specification. The documents are divided into four categories consisting of the OCCI Core, the OCCI Protocols, the OCCI Renderings and the OCCI Extensions.

- The OCCI Core specification consists of a single document defining the OCCI Core Model. The OCCI Core Model can be interacted with through *renderings* (including associated behaviors) and expanded through *extensions*.
- The OCCI Protocol specifications consist of multiple documents, each describing how the model can be interacted with over a particular protocol (e.g. HTTP, AMQP, etc.). Multiple protocols can interact with the same instance of the OCCI Core Model.
- The OCCI Rendering specifications consist of multiple documents, each describing a particular rendering of the OCCI Core Model. Multiple renderings can interact with the same instance of the OCCI Core Model and will automatically support any additions to the model which follow the extension rules defined in OCCI Core.
- The OCCI Extension specifications consist of multiple documents, each describing a particular extension of the OCCI Core Model. The extension documents describe additions to the OCCI Core Model defined within the OCCI specification suite.

The current specification consists of seven documents. This specification describes version 1.2 of OCCI and is backward compatible with 1.1. Future releases of OCCI may include additional protocol, rendering and extension specifications. The specifications to be implemented (MUST, SHOULD, MAY) are detailed in the table below.

Table 1. What OCCI specifications must be implemented for the specific version.

Document	OCCI 1.1	OCCI 1.2
Core Model	MUST	MUST
Infrastructure Model	SHOULD	SHOULD
Platform Model	MAY	MAY
SLA Model	MAY	MAY
HTTP Protocol	MUST	MUST
Text Rendering	MUST	MUST
JSON Rendering	MAY	MUST

2 Notational Conventions

All these parts and the information within are mandatory for implementors (unless otherwise specified). The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [?].

¹Infrastructure as a Service

3 Terms and definitions

Section 7 provides a glossary of all terms and definitions with a specific meaning to the OCCI specification suite. However, for reader convenience, a sub-set of the glossary is provided here as well. The following terminology has specific meaning in the OCCI context:

capabilities In the context of **Entity** sub-types **capabilities** refer to the **Attributes** and **Actions** exposed by an **entity instance**.

entity instance An instance of a sub-type of **Entity** but not an instance of the **Entity** type itself. The OCCI model defines two sub-types of **Entity**: the **Resource** type and the **Link** type. However, the term **entity instance** is defined to include any instance of a *sub-type* of **Resource** or **Link** as well.

mix-in An instance of the **Mixin** type associated with an **entity instance**. The **mix-in** concept as used by OCCI *only* applies to instances, never to **Entity** types. See section 5.3.4.

model attribute An attribute of the Core Model.

OCCI base type(s) The OCCI base types are **Entity**, **Resource** and **Link**. See section 5.4.

template A mechanism to provide default values for an **entity instance**. See section 5.3.7.

type A **type** refers to one of those defined by the OCCI Core Model. The OCCI Core Model types are **Category**, **Attribute**, **Kind**, **Mixin**, **Action**, **Entity**, **Resource** and **Link**.

concrete type/sub-type A **concrete type** or **sub-type** is a **type** that can be instantiated.

4 OCCI Core

The Open Cloud Computing Interface is a boundary protocol and API that acts as a service front-end to a provider's internal management framework. Figure 1 shows OCCI's place in a provider's architecture.

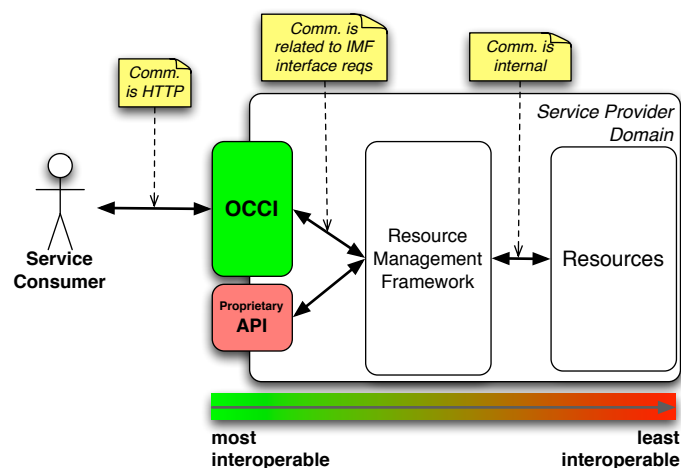


Figure 1. OCCI's place in a provider's architecture.

Service consumers can be both end-users and other system instances. OCCI is suitable for both cases. The key feature is that OCCI can be used as a management API for all kinds of resources while at the same time maintaining a high level of interoperability.

This document, the OCCI Core specification, defines the OCCI Core Model. This model is the core of the specification suite. Renderings (including associated behaviors) can interact with it and extensions can expand it. In itself, the core model is only useful for a very limited set of use cases. However, it provides the basis for renderings and extensions to build upon.

5 OCCI Core Model

The OCCI Core Model defines a representation of instance types which can be manipulated through an OCCI protocol and rendering implementations. It is an abstraction of real-world resources, including the means to identify, classify, associate and extend those resources.

A fundamental feature of the OCCI Core Model is that it can be extended in such a way that any extension will be discoverable and visible to an OCCI client at run-time. An OCCI client can connect to an OCCI implementation using an extended OCCI Core Model, without knowing anything in advance, and still be able to discover and understand, at run-time, the various instance types supported by that implementation. For example, a web-based OCCI client could easily be reused as the management tool for a wide variety of services. The OCCI Core Model can be extended through inheritance but also using a mixin-like concept.

Mixins first appeared in the Symbolics' object-oriented Flavors [?] system (developed by Howard Cannon), which was an approach to object-orientation used in Lisp Machine Lisp.²

The mix-in model only applies at the instance level, i.e., the “object level”, and thereby differs from the more common uses of the mix-in concept. A mix-in in OCCI can never be applied to a type, only to an instance.

5.1 Overview

The UML class diagram shown in figure 2 gives an overview of the OCCI Core Model. It must be noted that the UML diagram in itself is not a complete definition of the model. The diagram is merely provided as an overview to help understanding the model.

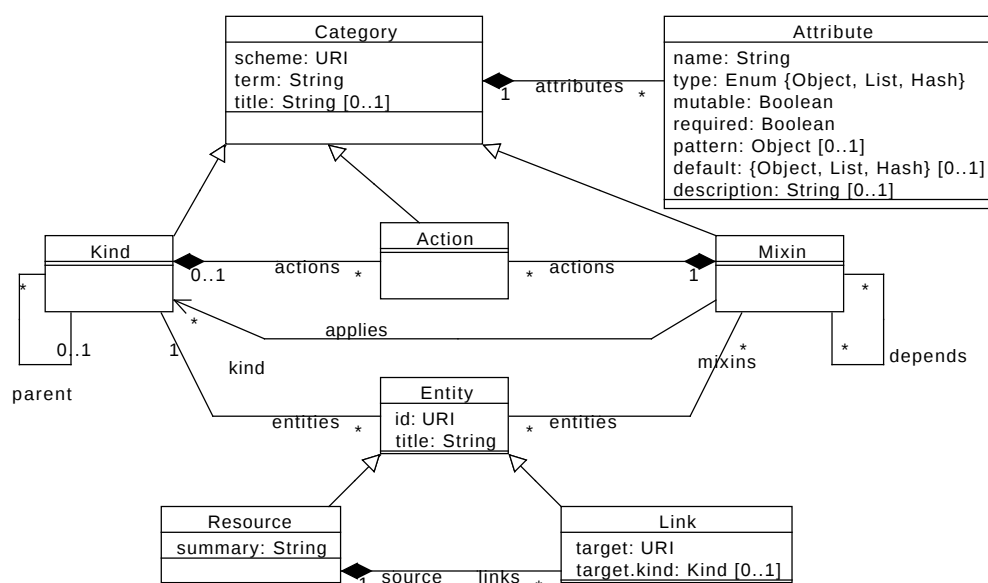


Figure 2. UML class diagram of the OCCI Core Model. The diagram provides an overview of the OCCI Core Model but is not a standalone definition thereof.

The heart of the OCCI Core Model is the **Resource** type. Any resource exposed through OCCI is a **Resource** or a sub-type thereof. A resource can be, e.g., a virtual machine, a job in a job submission system, a user, etc.

The **Resource** type contains a number of common attributes that **Resource** sub-types inherit. The **Resource** type is complemented by the **Link** type which associates one **Resource** instance with another. The **Link** type contains a number of common attributes that **Link** sub-types inherit.

²<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixin>.

Entity is an abstract type, which both **Resource** and **Link** inherit. Each sub-type of **Entity** is identified by a unique **Kind** instance.

The **Kind** type is the core of the type classification system built into the OCCI Core Model. **Kind** is a specialization of **Category** and introduces additional capabilities in terms of **Actions**. An **Action** identifies an invocable operation applicable to an entity instance.

Attributes describe the name and properties of attributes found in **Entity** and its sub-types.

The last type defined by the OCCI Core Model is the **Mixin** type. An instance of **Mixin** can be associated with an entity instance to mix-in additional capabilities at run-time.

For compliance with OCCI Core, all of the types defined in the OCCI Core Model MUST be implemented. The following sections of the specification contain the formal definition of the OCCI Core Model.

5.2 Mutability

Attributes of an OCCI Core Model type instance are either client mutable or client immutable. If an attribute is noted to be mutable this MUST be interpreted that a client can create an instance that is parametrized by the attribute. Likewise, if an attribute is mutable, a client can update that instance's mutable attribute value and the server side MUST support this. If an attribute is marked as immutable, it indicates that the server side implementation MUST manage these exclusively. Immutable attributes MUST NOT be modifiable by clients under any circumstance.

5.3 Classification and Identification

The OCCI Core Model provides a built-in type classification system allowing for safe extension towards domain-specific usage (e.g., infrastructure). This system is the OCCI type system and offers the means to be easily and transparently (i.e., no format translation required) exposed over either a text- or binary-based protocol.

The classification system can be summarized with the following key features:

- Each OCCI base type and extension thereof is assigned a unique type identifier (a **Kind** instance), which allows for dynamic discovery of available types. All **Entity** sub-types, including core model extensions, are assigned a unique **Kind** instance.
- The inheritance structure of **Entity**, **Resource** and **Link** is client-discoverable. This also applies to any sub-type of **Resource** and **Link** and therefore an OCCI client can discover the type inheritance structure used by a particular OCCI implementation. The discovery of the inheritance structure is made possible through the relationship of **Kind** instances.
- The classification system allows **Mixin** instances to be associated to **Entity** instances in order to assign additional capabilities in terms of **Attributes** and **Actions** at run-time.
- Tagging of **Entity** instances is supported through the association of **Mixin** instances. A tag is simply a **Mixin** instance, which defines no additional capabilities.
- A collection of associated **Entity** instances is implicitly defined for each **Kind** and **Mixin** instance. That is, all **Entity** instances associated with a particular **Kind** or **Mixin** instance form a collection.

5.3.1 Category

The **Category** type is the basis of the type identification mechanism used by the OCCI classification system. It MUST be implemented. There are no instances of the **Category** type itself in the OCCI Core Model. The **Category** type is only used through its sub-types **Kind**, **Mixin** and **Action**. Table 2 defines the model attributes the **Category** type MUST implement to be compliant.

Table 2. Model attributes defined for the **Category** type.

Model attribute	Type	Value Multiplicity	Required	Client Mutability	Description
term	String	1	Yes	Immutable	Unique identifier of the Category instance within the categorization scheme.
scheme	URI	1	Yes	Immutable	The categorization scheme.
title	String	0..1	–	Immutable	The display name of an instance.

A **Category** instance is uniquely identified by concatenating the categorization scheme with the category term, e.g., `http://example.com/category/scheme#term`. This is done to enable discovery of **Category** definitions in text-based renderings such as the OCCI Text Rendering [?]. All renderings MUST make use of and understand concatenated unique type identifiers of **Category** instances. Sub-types of **Category** such as **Kind**, **Mixin** and **Action** inherit this property.

The categorization schemes defined in the OCCI specification all use the `http://schemas.ogf.org/occi/` base URL. This base URL is reserved for OCCI and MUST NOT be used by service provider extensions.

A **Category** instance³ has zero or more associated **Attribute** instances. Each **Attribute**, see section 5.3.2, describes the name and properties of a single attribute.

5.3.2 Attribute

The **Attribute** type has a composite relationship to **Category** and defines the name and properties of client readable **Attributes**. Table 3 defines the model attributes the **Attribute** type MUST implement to be compliant.

Table 3. Model attributes defined for the **Attribute** type.

Model attribute	Type	Value Multiplicity	Required	Client Mutability	Description
name	String	1	Yes	Immutable	Attribute name.
type	Enum {Object, List, Hash}	1	Yes	Immutable	Attribute type.
mutable	Boolean	1	Yes	Immutable	Attribute mutability.
required	Boolean	1	Yes	Immutable	Whether the Attribute must be supplied by the client at instance creation-time.
pattern	Object	0..1	–	Immutable	Attribute pattern expressed in a rendering-specific way.
default	{Object, List, Hash}	0..1	–	Immutable	Attribute default value.
description	String	0..1	–	Immutable	A description of the Attribute.

An Attribute name MUST be defined by **Attribute.name**. The Attribute namespace is flat and the “occi.” prefix is reserved for the OCCI specification. Domain-specific Attribute names MUST NOT contain the “occi.” prefix, instead they SHOULD use a prefix consisting of the provider’s reverse domain name. E.g., “com.example.”.

An **Attribute** MAY specify the following properties in addition to the Attribute name. Attribute properties are OPTIONAL but MUST be client discoverable if used.

type The type of the **Attribute**. The types supported are “Object”, “List” and “Hash”.

mutable Whether an OCCI client can change the Attribute value. See section 5.2.

required If an **Attribute** is “required” a client MUST specify a value at instance creation-time.

pattern MAY be specified in a rendering-specific format, places additional restrictions on acceptable attribute values. Detailed information is provided in every OCCI rendering document.

default The default value given to an **Attribute** if the client does not specify a value at instance creation time. The *default* property is used to implement templates, see section 5.3.7.

³Also applies to **Kind**, **Mixin** and **Action** instances.

description A summarizing description of the **Attribute** to complement the attribute name. For example, an interactive OCCI client may use the description property when presenting the content of an entity instance.

5.3.3 Kind

The **Kind** type, together with the **Mixin** type, defines the classification system of the OCCI Core Model. It MUST be implemented. The **Kind** type represents the type identification mechanism for all **Entity** types present in the model. Sub-types MUST NOT be derived from the **Kind** type.

A unique **Kind** instance MUST be assigned to each and every **Entity** sub-type defined in an OCCI implementation. Every instance of **Kind** represents a unique type identifier for a particular sub-type of **Entity**. Consequently, when an **Entity** sub-type is instantiated the entity instance MUST be associated with its type identifier, i.e., the **Kind** instance. An entity instance MUST remain associated with its **Kind** instance throughout its lifetime. For example an instance of **Resource** MUST always be associated with the **Kind** instance which identifies the **Resource** type.

In the initial instantiation of the OCCI Core Model, with no core model extensions, three instances of **Kind** will be present: one for **Entity**, another for **Resource** and the last one for **Link**.

Table 4. Model attributes defined for the **Kind** type.

Model attribute	Type	Value Multiplicity	Required	Client Mutability	Description
actions	List of Action	0..*	–	Immutable	List of Action instances defined by the Kind instance.
parent	Kind	0..1	–	Immutable	Another Kind instance which this Kind has an inheritance relationship with.
entities	List of Entity	0..*	–	Immutable	List of Entity instances. Instances of the particular Entity sub-type which is uniquely identified by this Kind instance.

The **Kind** type inherits the **Category** type. To be compliant the **Kind** type MUST implement the model attributes defined in table 4 and the inherited model attributes defined in table 2. The following rules apply to all instances of the **Kind** type:

- A unique **Kind** instance MUST be assigned to each and every sub-type of **Entity**, including **Entity** itself.
- A **Kind** instance MUST expose the discoverable attributes defined for the **Entity** sub-type it identifies.
- A **Kind** instance MUST expose the **Actions** defined for its **Entity** sub-type.
- A **Kind** instance MUST have the **Kind** instance of **Entity**⁴ as its parent.
- If type **B** inherits type **A**, where **A** is a sub-type of **Entity**, the **Kind** instance of **B** MUST have its parent attribute set to the **Kind** instance of **A**. See Kind Relationships below.

Kind Relationships A relationship between **Kind** instances is defined by the “parent” attribute. This implies a setup of a hierarchy where the capabilities of the parent MUST be inherited by the child **Kind** instance.

Figure 3 illustrates the relationship of the **Kind** instances assigned to the **Entity**, **Resource** and **Compute**⁵ types. **Compute** inherits **Resource** and therefore the **Kind** instance assigned to **Compute** has the **Kind** instance of **Resource** as its parent. The same applies to the **Resource** type, which inherits **Entity**.

As can be seen in figure 3 the **Kind** instance relationships mirror the inheritance structure of the types.

⁴ <http://schemas.ogf.org/occi/core#entity>

⁵ The **Compute** type is defined in the OCCI Infrastructure document [?].

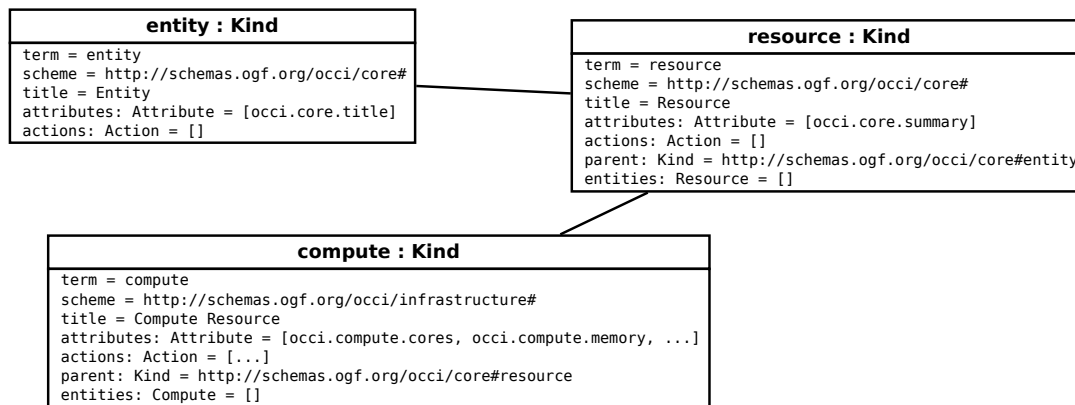


Figure 3. Object diagram illustrating the **Kind** instances involved for the **Entity**, **Resource** and **Compute** types. The **Compute** type is an extension to the OCCI Core Model defined in the OCCI Infrastructure document [?].

5.3.4 Mixin

The **Mixin** type complements the **Kind** type in defining the OCCI Core Model type classification system. It MUST be implemented. The **Mixin** type represents an extension mechanism, which allows new capabilities to be added to entity instances both at creation time and/or run time. Sub-types MUST NOT be derived from the **Mixin** type.

A **Mixin instance** can be associated with any existing entity instance and thereby identify new capabilities, i.e., **Attributes** and **Actions**, for the entity instance. However, a **Mixin** can never be applied to a type. In the initial instantiation of the OCCI Core Model, with no extensions, no **Mixin** instances are present.

A **Mixin** instance MAY be associated with an entity instance either at instance creation time or at run time. Restrictions on which entity instances a particular **Mixin** can be associated with MUST be advertised through the **Mixin.applies** model attribute.

When a client attempts to associate a **Mixin** instance to an entity instance at a stage not supported by a particular provider's OCCI implementation, the provider MUST notify the client it has issued a bad request. For example a "bandwidth" **Mixin** may only be applicable to instances of the **Network**⁶ type. An OCCI provider MUST advertise such a restriction by setting **Mixin.applies** to the **Kind** instance of the **Network** type⁷.

Table 5. Model attributes defined for the **Mixin** type.

Model attribute	Type	Value Multiplicity	Required	Client Mutability	Description
actions	List of Action	0..*	–	Immutable	List of Action instances defined by the Mixin instance.
depends	List of Mixin	0..*	–	Immutable	List of Mixin instances this Mixin instance depends on.
applies	List of Kind	0..*	–	Immutable	List of Kind instances this Mixin instance applies to.
entities	List of Entity	0..*	–	Mutable	List of Entity instances associated with the Mixin instance.

The **Mixin** type inherits the **Category** type. To be compliant the **Mixin** type MUST implement the model attributes defined in table 5 and the inherited model attributes defined in table 2. The following rules apply to all instances of the **Mixin** type:

- A **Mixin** instance MUST only be associated with entity *instances*, not types, either at creation time or at run time.

⁶The **Network** type is defined in OCCI Infrastructure [?].

⁷<http://schemas.ogf.org/occi/infrastructure#network>

- A **Mixin** instance is *only* a type identifier. It MUST NOT provide the implementation of the new capabilities it introduces. For example, a **Mixin** instance never contains the value of an OCCI **Attribute**.
- A **Mixin** instance MAY introduce additional **Attributes** when applied to an entity instance. The name and properties of those **Attributes** MUST be exposed through **Mixin.attributes** inherited from **Category**. E.g., a Location **Mixin** defining the “com.example.location” **Attribute** MUST have Location.attributes populated with a single **Attribute** instance where **Attribute.name** is ‘‘com.example.location’’.
- A **Mixin** instance MAY define **Action** instances that will identify additional invocable operations on any entity instance associated with the **Mixin**. **Actions** defined by a **Mixin** are exposed through the **Mixin.actions** model attribute that represents the association between a **Mixin** instance and the **Action** instances it defines.
- A **Mixin** instance MAY depend on another **Mixin** instance. If **Mixin B** depends on **Mixin A**, any entity instance associated with **Mixin B** will receive the capabilities defined by both **Mixin B** and **Mixin A**. See Mixin Relationships below.
- A **Mixin** instance defining no additional capabilities is considered to be a tag.
- A **Mixin** instance MAY be used as a template. A template defines default values for **Attributes** to be applied at entity instance creation-time. See section 5.3.7.
- A **Mixin** instance MAY restrict which **Kind** instances it applies to using the **applies** model attribute. If **Mixin.applies** is unspecified the **Mixin** may be associated to any entity instance, i.e., equivalent of having **Mixin.applies** set to the **Kind** instance of **Entity**.

Mixin Relationships Other **Mixin** instances MAY depend on any given **Mixin** instance. **Mixin** relationships are implemented using the **Mixin.depends** model attribute. For example a set of operating system templates, implemented as **Mixin** instances, could be related to an “OS-template” **Mixin** in order to help identification. **Attributes** and **Actions** defined by different **Mixin** instances are *combined* when **Mixin** relationships are present. Therefore an entity instance associated with a particular **Mixin** will receive the additional capabilities defined by any related **Mixin** instances as well as those defined by the **Mixin** associated.

5.3.5 Action

The **Action** type is the final part of the OCCI type classification system and identifies invocable operations on individual entity instances and collections. It MUST be implemented. Each **Action** instance identifies a single invocable operation. The **Action** instance is only an identifier and does not represent the implementation of the operation.

The **Action** type inherits the **Category** type. To be compliant the **Action** type MUST implement the inherited model attributes defined in table 2.

Table 6. Example of an **Action** instance which identifies a “resize” operation.

Model attribute	Value
term	resize
scheme	http://schemas.ogf.org/occi/infrastructure/storage/action#
title	Resize virtual disk
attributes	Attribute(‘‘size’’)

An **Action** instance MUST be always bound to either a **Kind** or a **Mixin** instance through composite association. An **Action** is considered to be a capability of the **Kind** or **Mixin** instance it is associated with. The operation identified by an **Action** MAY be invoked on any entity instance associated with the **Kind** or **Mixin** instance defining the **Action**. An OCCI implementation MAY however refuse to invoke the operation if currently not applicable.

An operation identified by an **Action** instance MAY be invoked on a collection of **Entity** sub-type instances. The **Action** is only considered valid if all entity instances of the collection are associated with the **Kind** or **Mixin** defining the **Action** instance.

An **Action** instance MAY identify **Attributes** which correspond to parameters of the invocable operation. The mechanism to define **Attributes** is inherited from **Category** and follows the same semantics. The namespace restrictions imposed on entity instance attributes (see 5.3.2) do however not apply to **Actions**.

Table 6 shows an example of a “resize” operation defined for a Storage instance. The operation has a “size” parameter which represent the size argument of the resize operation. In that example the identifying **Action** instance would have **Action.attributes** populated with an **Attribute** instance where **Attribute.name** = ‘size’.

5.3.6 Instantiation

To create an entity instance a client MUST supply the concrete **Entity** sub-type by submitting a reference to the type-identifying **Kind**. The reference MUST consist of the term and categorization scheme, which uniquely identify the **Kind** instance, see section 5.3.1. All OCCI implementations MUST understand these requests.

A client MAY also submit any number of references to **Mixin** instances to be associated with the instance to be created. A **Mixin** reference submitted by a client MUST consist of the term and categorization scheme, which identify the **Mixin** instance, see section 5.3.1.

5.3.7 Templates

A template is a mechanism to provide default values for entity instances. OCCI supports templates through **Mixins**.

A **Mixin** instance associated at entity instance creation-time MAY provide default values for **Attributes**. Each default value is specified through **Attribute.default**.

A **Mixin** instance MAY provide default values for **Attributes** already defined by a **Kind**. A **Mixin's Attribute.default** overrides the default specified by the **Kind**.

The handling of **Mixins** with a common (transitive) parent **Mixin**, if assigned repeatedly, MAY be defined case-by-case. A new **Mixin** may, e.g., replace the previous one, be rejected, or be place alongside the previous one. An example of this is the definition of replacing Resource Templates in [?].

5.3.8 Collections

One or more entity instances associated with the same **Kind** or **Mixin** instance, automatically form a collection. Each **Kind** and **Mixin** instance in the system identifies a collection consisting of all different entity instances associated with the same **Kind** or **Mixin**.

An entity instance is always a member of the collection indicated by the **Entity** sub-type's unique **Kind** instance. The **Kind.entities** model attribute implements the collection of entity instances for a specific **Entity** sub-type.

A **Kind** instance maintains the collection of all entity instances of the type identified by the **Kind**.

Since a **Mixin** instance can be associated to any entity instance, a collection can contain entity instances of different **Entity** sub-types. For example, an instance of the **Resource** type will always be associated to the **Kind** instance <http://scheme.ogf.org/occi/core#resource> and thus part of the collection implied by that **Kind** instance.

Adding an entity instance to a collection is accomplished by associating the entity instance to the corresponding **Mixin** instance.

Removing an entity instance from a collection is accomplished by disassociating the entity instance from the corresponding **Mixin** instance.

An OCCI implementation MUST allow a client to navigate collections. The following basic navigation operations MUST be supported:

- Retrieve the whole collection.
- Retrieve a specific item in a collection.
- Retrieve a subset of a collection.

The details of collection navigation is rendering specific.

5.3.9 Discovery

An OCCI client MUST be able to discover all instances of **Kind**, **Mixin** and **Category** a particular service provider's OCCI implementation has defined. By examining these instances a client MUST be able to, at a minimum, deduce the following information:

- The **Entity** sub-types available from the service provider, including core model extensions. This information is provided through the **Kind** instances of the OCCI implementation.
- The attributes defined for each **Entity** sub-type. The identifying **Kind** instance provides this information.
- The invocable operations, i.e., **Actions**, defined for each **Entity** sub-type. The identifying **Kind** instance provides this information.
- Any **Mixin** instances that can be associated to entity instances.
- Additional capabilities defined by a particular **Mixin** instance, i.e., **Attributes** and **Actions**.

The above requirements comprise the OCCI discovery mechanism. It MUST be implemented.

The details of exactly how the **Category**, **Kind** and **Mixin** instances are exposed to an OCCI client are specific to the particular rendering used. The relevant details can be found in the OCCI Rendering documents.

5.4 The OCCI Core Base Types

The following sections describe the OCCI base types defined by the OCCI Core Model. The base types are **Entity**, **Resource**, **Link**. All base types MUST be implemented.

An instance of the **Resource** type, the **Link** type or one of their sub-types is called a *entity instance*. Each entity instance within an OCCI system MUST have a unique identifier⁸ stored in the **id** model attribute of the **Entity** type, as defined in table 7. The structure of these identifiers is opaque and the system should not assume a static, pre-determined scheme for their structure other than the rules imposed by the Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) [?] syntax.

Although every unique entity instance identifier MUST be a valid URI it is RECOMMENDED to use the Uniform Resource Name (URN) [?] syntax.

For example **Entity.id** could be `urn:uuid:de7335a7-07e0-4487-9cbd-ed51be7f2ce4`.

5.4.1 Entity

The **Entity** type is an abstract parent type of the **Resource** type and the **Link** type. It MUST be implemented. Table 7 defines model attributes the **Entity** type MUST implement to be compliant.

Every sub-type of **Entity** MUST be assigned a **Kind** instance, see section 5.3.3.

⁸An entity instance identifier MUST be unique within the service provider's name-space. It is RECOMMENDED to use globally unique identifiers.

Table 7. Model attributes defined for the **Entity** type.

Model attribute	Type	Value Multiplicity	Required	Client Mutability	Description
id	URI	1	Yes	Immutable	A unique identifier (within the service provider's name-space) of the Entity sub-type instance.
title	String	0..1	–	Mutable	The display name of the instance.
kind	Kind	1	Yes	Immutable	The Kind instance uniquely identifying the particular Entity sub-type of this instance.
mixins	List of Mixin	0..*	–	Mutable	Mixin instances associated to this entity instance. Consumers can expect the Attributes and Actions of the associated Mixins to be exposed by the instance.

Entity itself is assigned the **Kind** instance <http://schemas.ogf.org/occi/core#entity>. Being an abstract type **Entity** itself can never be instantiated.

An **Entity** sub-type instance, also referred to as an *entity instance*, MAY be associated with one or more **Mixin** instances.

An **Entity** sub-type instance MUST expose its identifying **Kind** instance and any associated **Mixin** instances together with the **Attributes** and **Actions** defined by them.

5.4.2 Resource

The **Resource** type inherits **Entity** and describes a concrete resource that can be inspected and manipulated. It represents a general object in the OCCI model and MUST be implemented. A **Resource** is suitable to represent real world resources, e.g., virtual machines, networks, services, etc. through specialization.

Table 8. Model attributes defined for the **Resource** type.

Model attribute	Type	Value Multiplicity	Required	Client Mutability	Description
links	List of Link	0..*	–	Mutable	List of Link compositions. Being a composite relation the removal of a Link from the set MUST also remove the Link instance.
summary	String	0..1	–	Mutable	A summarizing description of the Resource instance.

The **Resource** type is assigned the **Kind** instance <http://schemas.ogf.org/occi/core#resource>.

Resource enforces the inheritance of a set of common attributes into sub-types. Moreover, it introduces relationships to other **Resource** instances through instances of the **Link** type.

The **Resource** type is the first of three entry points to extend the OCCI Core Model, see section 5.5.

5.4.3 Link

An instance of the **Link** type defines a base association between two **Resource** instances. It MUST be implemented. A **Link** instance indicates that one **Resource** instance is connected to another.

The **Link** type MUST implement all attributes inherited from the **Entity** type together with the model attributes defined in table 9 in order to be compliant.

The **Link** type is assigned the **Kind** instance <http://schemas.ogf.org/occi/core#link>.

The source attribute of a **Link** instance MUST refer to a **Resource** instance within the service provider's namespace. The **Link**'s target attribute MUST point to a resource instance either within the provider's

Table 9. Model attributes defined for the **Link** type.

Model attribute	Type	Value Multiplicity	Required	Client Mutability	Description
source	Resource	1	Yes	Mutable	The Resource instances the Link instance originates from.
target	URI	1	Yes	Mutable	The unique identifier of an Object this Link instance points to.
target.kind	Kind	0..1	–	Mutable	The Kind of target, if applicable.

namespace or outside, hosted by a third-party. `target.kind` MAY be used to explicitly define the **Kind** of the **Resource** instance referenced by target. The source **Kind** is implied by the assigned **Resource** instance.

The **Link** type is the second of three entry points to extend the OCCI Core Model, see section 5.5.

5.5 Extensibility

The OCCI Core Model has a flexible yet fairly simple extension mechanism based on the type classification system described in section 5.3.

The OCCI Core Model can be extended using three different methods: provider-specific category instances, sub-typing and mix-ins. Custom sub-typing requires provider-specific **Kind** instances and custom mix-ins require provider-specific **Mixin** instances. Both methods MAY involve the use of provider-specific **Action** instances. The following sections define the rules for extending the OCCI Core Model.

The rules defined in section 5.3 and 5.4 are REQUIRED for all extensions of the OCCI Core Model.

5.5.1 Category instances

Provider-specific instances of **Category**, **Kind** and **Mixin** MAY be introduced by an OCCI implementation. Since **Kind** and **Mixin** both inherit **Category** the extension rules for **Category**, defined below, apply to them as well.

A **Category** instance defined outside of the OCCI specification MUST use a **Category** scheme unique to the provider, e.g., `http://example.com/occi#`. The term of a provider-specific **Category** instance can be any string corresponding to a “token” as defined by the OCCI Rendering documents.

An **Attribute** introduced by a provider-specific **Category** MUST use an attribute name prefix. This prefix MUST NOT be the “occi.” prefix, which is reserved for the OCCI specification. Domain-specific **Attribute** names SHOULD use a prefix consisting of the provider’s reverse domain name, e.g., “com.example.”.

5.5.2 Sub-typing

The OCCI Core Model MAY be extended through sub-typing. Two OCCI Core Model types MAY be sub-typed; those are **Resource** and **Link**.

In order to define a new sub-type of **Resource** or **Link**, a provider-specific **Kind** instance MUST be defined and assigned to the new sub-type. This provider-specific **Kind** instance MUST have its `Kind.parent` model attribute equal to the **Kind** instance of the type extended. See figure 3 for an example of **Kind** relationships.

5.5.3 Mix-ins

The OCCI Core Model MAY be extended using a mix-in like concept by defining provider-specific **Mixin** instances. A **Mixin** instance can be associated with any entity instance although a provider MAY apply restrictions.

In order to support user-defined tags⁹ an OCCI implementation must allow custom **Mixin** instances to be created and destroyed by request of a client. There is no limitation in the OCCI Core Model from doing so but it is RECOMMENDED to assign a separate **Category** scheme for each user’s **Mixin** instances (e.g., per-user schemes).

⁹A tag is a **Mixin** instance, which does not introduce additional capabilities.

6 Security Considerations

Since the OCCI Core and Model specification describes a model, not an interface or protocol, no specific security mechanisms are described as part of this document. However, the elements described by this specification, namely type instance attribute mutability, **Category**, **Kind**, and **Mixin** instantiations; **Entity**, **Resource**, and **Link** subtypes, whether direct or indirect; resource or collection manipulation; and the discovery mechanism need to implement a proper authorization scheme, which **MUST** be part of a concrete OCCI rendering specification, part of an OCCI specification profile, or part of the specific OCCI implementation.

Concrete security mechanisms and protection against attacks **SHOULD** be specified by OCCI rendering specification. In any case, OCCI rendering specifications **MUST** address transport level security and authentication on the protocol level.

All security considerations listed above apply to all (existing and future) extensions of the OCCI Core and Model specification.

7 Glossary

Term	Description
Action	An OCCI base type. Represents an invocable operation on an Entity sub-type instance or collection thereof.
Attribute	A type in the OCCI Core Model. Describes the name and properties of attributes found in Entity types.
Category	A type in the OCCI Core Model and the basis of the OCCI type identification mechanism. The parent type of Kind .
capabilities	In the context of Entity sub-types capabilities refer to the Attributes and Actions exposed by an entity instance .
Collection	A set of Entity sub-type instances all associated to a particular Kind or Mixin instance.
Entity	An OCCI base type. The parent type of Resource and Link .
entity instance	An instance of a sub-type of Entity but not an instance of the Entity type itself. The OCCI model defines two sub-types of Entity : the Resource type and the Link type. However, the term <i>entity instance</i> is defined to include any instance of a sub-type of Resource or Link as well.
Kind	A type in the OCCI Core Model. A core component of the OCCI classification system.
Link	An OCCI base type. A Link instance associates one Resource instance with another.
Mixin	A type in the OCCI Core Model. A core component of the OCCI classification system.
mix-in	An instance of the Mixin type associated with an <i>entity instance</i> . The “mix-in” concept as used by OCCI <i>only</i> applies to instances, never to Entity types.
OCCI	Open Cloud Computing Interface.
OGF	Open Grid Forum.
Resource	An OCCI base type. The parent type for all domain-specific Resource sub-types.
resource instance	See <i>entity instance</i> . This term is considered obsolete.
tag	A Mixin instance with no attributes or actions defined. Used for taxonomic organisation of entity instances.
template	A Mixin instance which if associated at instance creation-time pre-populate certain attributes.
type	One of the types defined by the OCCI Core Model. The Core Model types are Category , Attribute , Kind , Mixin , Action , Entity , Resource and Link .
concrete type/sub-type	A concrete type/sub-type is a type that can be instantiated.
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier.
URL	Uniform Resource Locator.
URN	Uniform Resource Name.

8 Contributors

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Next to these individual contributions we value the contributions from the OCCI working group.

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A Change Log

The corrections introduced by the January 28, 2016 update are summarized below. The following sub-sections describe the possible impact of the corrections on existing implementations and associated dependent specifications such as OCCI Text Rendering [?] and OCCI Infrastructure [?].

- Adjusted language and types in Model Attribute tables (using lists where applicable).
- Added optional typed **Link** (via the `target.kind` attribute).
- Introduce an explicit **Attribute** type to expose the discoverable attribute properties already defined for the OCCI base types **Entity**, **Resource**, **Link** and their sub-types.
- Correct the previously unclear definition of OCCI **Action**. The **Action** type inherits **Category** and is only an identifier of an invocable operation. It does *not* represent the operation itself. The **Action** definition now aligns with its use in the OCCI Text Rendering [?].
- Clarify the format of the unique entity instance identifier defined in OCCI **Entity**. Incorporate the description and recommendations from the OCCI Text Rendering [?].
- Clarify that an OCCI **Mixin** instance is only a type identifier. The Core Model does not specify how a mixed-in attribute is implemented. The **Mixin** instance only states that the attribute exists.
- Rename the term *resource instance* to *entity instance*. An *entity instance* refers to an instance of either OCCI **Resource**, OCCI **Link** or a sub-type of either type. The *resource instance* term, while defined identically, was due to its name a source of misinterpretations in the specification.
- Rename **Kind.related** to **Kind.parent** and **Mixin.related** to **Mixin.depends**. Clarify the use of **Kind** and **Mixin** relationships.
- Add a new model attribute **Mixin.applies** to optionally advertise which entity instances a **Mixin** instance may be associated to.

A.1 Action definition

The corrected definition of OCCI **Action** has impact neither on discovery nor on invocation of **Actions** in existing implementations. The OCCI Text Rendering [?] is better aligned with OCCI Core after the corrections since it already uses `type='action'` in its rendering of categories.

A.2 Rename “resource instance” to “entity instance”

The change is editorial and does not affect existing implementations. The glossary contains both terms for compatibility with the OCCI Text Rendering [?] specification.