

Glossary of Terms

Data Class

A data class is a component of a data model for defining a specific concept, from which specific data objects may be instantiated. An example data class is the [VRS Allele](#), and an example instantiation of this class is the [Allele object corresponding to rs7412C>T](#). Data classes have named *properties* (sometimes called *fields*, *attributes*, or *slots*) that define specific pieces of information about the overall Data Class. Example properties include the *state* and *location* of a VRS Allele.

Data Model

A mapping of the information of a concept domain (an information model) to a technical domain for use by implementations. An example data model is the [VRS Schema](#).

Implementation

Software that uses a [technical specification](#).

Product

A product is a GA4GH [standard](#), framework, or tool (definition derived from [here](#)). New products should be developed according to the [GA4GH Product Development and Approval Process](#).

Product Feature

A product feature is a component or function of a product that serves a specific purpose. Examples of product features in a [technical specification](#) include documentation, data classes, data class properties, algorithms, and tests.

Product Group

A product group is the group tasked with developing and/or maintaining a GA4GH product following the Product Development Study phase and associated approval to begin product development by the GA4GH Steering Committee. A product group may also be an *ad hoc* group assembled by the Work Stream for the purposes of maintaining a technical specification that is not a GA4GH standard but is shared by multiple Work Stream products (e.g. the [GKS Common Library](#)).

Protocol

A protocol is a procedural method for manipulating or exchanging data. An example protocol is the [VRS Computed Identifiers algorithm](#).

Release

A snapshot of a Technical Specification during its product development lifecycle with an associated [version](#). Some snapshots may be versioned as *pre-releases*, a special type of release that is used for community review and discussion but does not lock the snapshot to a major, minor, or patch version.

GA4GH Roles

The function assumed by a person in developing GKS [technical specifications](#) and other GA4GH [products](#). There are several roles relevant to this document:

Role: Feature Developers

Feature developers are members of a product group assigned to implement a [product feature](#).

Role: Product Implementers

Representatives of teams that will develop **implementations**. These typically include (but are not limited to) **Driver Project** representatives that have committed to developing the **product** as part of the **GA4GH Product Development and Approval Process**.

Role: Product Owners

Designated leads of a **product group**, who are responsible for overseeing product development.

Role: Work Stream Leads

These are domain experts assigned by the GA4GH to coordinate and lead the activities of a **GA4GH Work Stream**.

Standard

A GA4GH standard is a **technical specification** that has been approved as a standard by the GA4GH Steering Committee. New standards are expected to have been approved through the **GA4GH Product Development and Approval Process**.

Technical Specification

A technical specification is a technical document that defines a **protocol**, API, file format, **data model**, ontology, or other structure for the interoperable sharing or storing of data. A technical specification may include several of these components. An example technical specification is the **Variation Representation Specification (VRS)**.

Version

A unique identifier for a **release**.