

An Integrated Overview of Metadata in ATLAS

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Metadata—data about data—arise in many contexts, from many diverse sources, and at many levels in ATLAS.

Familiar examples include run-level, luminosity-block-level, and event-level metadata, and, related to processing and organization, dataset-level and file-level metadata, but these categories are neither exhaustive nor orthogonal.

Some metadata are known a priori, in advance of data taking or simulation; other metadata are known only after processing—and occasionally, quite late (e.g., detector status or quality updates that may appear after Tier 0 reconstruction is complete). Metadata that may seem relevant only internally to the distributed computing infrastructure under ordinary conditions may become relevant to physics analysis under error conditions (“What can I discover about data I failed to process?”).

This talk provides an overview of metadata and metadata handling in ATLAS, and describes ongoing work to deliver integrated metadata services in support of physics analysis.

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