

Frame-Scale

Frame-Scale is a conceptual–analytic instrument used in IAD to specify, examine, and coordinate information architectures across spans of abstraction and consequence. It does not describe the size of an object but the span of relations within which an Information Architecture is interpreted or conceptualised.

Within the IAD canon, Frame-Scale provides the conceptual geometry that allows Information Architectures to be reasoned about consistently across objects, systems, institutions, and conceptual formations.

EXTENDED DESCRIPTION

Frame-Scale is a disciplined conceptual instrument for reasoning about span and coordination in artificial composition. Expanding the frame-scale reveals additional relations, contexts, and consequences surrounding an Information Architecture. Narrowing the frame focuses attention on more local configurations.

Frame-Scale itself makes no ontological claims. It renders visible how Information Architectures are specified at different spans, how coordination occurs across those spans, and how consequences propagate across artificial assemblages. Frame-Scale does

not create Information Architecture. It reveals the span within which Information Architecture operates.

The same relational configuration may therefore be interpreted at different spans as a localised object, a coordinated system, or a conceptual formation. These spans are analytic perspectives rather than metaphysical layers of reality.

DISTINCTION FROM IA TYPES

Frame-Scale is not equivalent to Conceptual, Systems-level, or Object-level IA. IA Types describe kinds of relational configuration. Frame-Scale describes the span at which such configurations are interpreted, specified, or coordinated.

DISTINCTION FROM LEVELS OF ABSTRACTION (LOA)

Frame-Scale does not duplicate Floridi's Levels of Abstraction.⁸ It does not specify informational filters or ontological commitments. Instead, it concerns coordination-span within artificial composition and interpretation.

KEY PROPERTIES

- Conceptual–analytic instrument
- Span-sensitive
- Cross-frame coordination capable

⁸ See Chapter 3 in Floridi, L. (2011). *The Philosophy of Information*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Non-ontological
- Operates across low/high abstraction, low/high information density, and time.
- Supports both IA in Design and IA in the Wild

METHODOLOGICAL GUARDRAILS

Frame-Scale:

- Is not an ontological doctrine
- Is not a metaphysical layer of reality
- Does not itself explain institutional stabilisation of IA
- Does not duplicate IA Types
- Does not function as metaphor or rhetorical device

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CITATION & USE

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