

# Specifying the preferred type of relation between ArchiMate elements

The ArchiMate® standard prescribes the allowed relationships between the elements of the ArchiMate modeling language. The allowed relationships are shown in the Concepts and Relations table in Enterprise Studio. The position of an element in a relationship (being the 'from' point or 'to' point in the relation) also determines which relation types are allowed.

The vertical list of elements (first column) contains the elements as the 'from' point, in the horizontal list (first row) the elements are the 'to' point. The letters in the cells connecting two elements represent the allowed relationships. They have the following meaning:

(a)ccess	ass(i)gnment	(s)pecialization
(c)omposition	i(n)fluence	(t)riggering
(f)low	ass(o)ciation	ser(v)ing
a(g)gregation	(r)ealization	

In the table you can specify a preferred relation for the combinations of elements. The preferred relation may be used when nested objects are created, depending on the **Generate preferred relation upon creation of nested objects** setting in the [Enterprise Studio general options](#).

Concepts and Relations

Business activity	cfghostv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	cfgotv	cfgotv	fofv	ao	cfghostv	fofv	ao	fofv	fortv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv		
Business actor	fiotv	cfghostv	fiotv	ao	fiotv	fiotv	fiotv	cfgiotv	ao	fiotv	fofv	ao	fiotv	fiotv	fiotv	cfghostv	fiotv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Business collaboration	fiotv	fgotv	cfgiostv	ao	fiotv	fiotv	fiotv	cfgotv	ao	fiotv	fofv	ao	cfgiostv	fiotv	fiotv	fgotv	fiotv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Contract	o	o	o	cgos	o	o	o	o	cgos	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	
Business event	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	cfghostv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	cfghostv	fofv	cfghostv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Business function	cfgotv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	cfghostv	cfgotv	fofv	ao	cfgotv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Business interaction	cfgotv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	cfgotv	cfghostv	fofv	ao	cfgotv	fofv	ao	fofv	fortv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Business interface	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	fofv	cfghostv	ao	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fiotv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Business object	o	o	o	cgos	o	o	o	o	cgos	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	
Business process	cfghostv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	cfgotv	cfgotv	fofv	ao	cfghostv	fofv	ao	fofv	fortv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Product	fortv	fortv	fortv	acgo	fortv	fortv	fortv	fortv	acgo	fortv	cfghostv	acgo	fortv	cfgotv	fortv	fortv	fortv	fortv	fortv	acgo	fortv	
Representation	o	o	o	or	o	o	o	o	or	o	o	cgos	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	
Business role	fiotv	fofv	cfghostv	ao	fiotv	fiotv	fiotv	cfgotv	ao	fiotv	fofv	ao	cfghostv	fiotv	fiotv	fiotv	fiotv	fiotv	fiotv	ao	fofv	
Business service	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	cfghostv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Loss event	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	cfghostv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	cfghostv	fofv	cfghostv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Threat agent	fiotv	cfghostv	fiotv	ao	fiotv	fiotv	fiotv	cfgiotv	ao	fiotv	fofv	ao	fiotv	fiotv	fiotv	cfghostv	fiotv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Threat event	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	cfghostv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	cfghostv	fofv	cfghostv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	
Application collaboration	fortv	fofv	fofv	ao	fortv	fortv	fortv	fortv	ao	fortv	fofv	ao	fofv	fortv	fortv	fortv	fortv	fortv	cfgorstv	cfgorstv	ao	fiotv
Application component	fortv	fofv	fofv	ao	fortv	fortv	fortv	fortv	ao	fortv	fofv	ao	fofv	fortv	fortv	fortv	fortv	fortv	cfgorstv	cfgorstv	ao	fiotv
Data object	o	o	o	or	o	o	o	o	or	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	cgos	o
Application event	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fortv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	ao	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	fofv	ao	cfghostv	

Preferred relation

(G) Aggregation relation   
 (R) Realization relation   
 (O) Association relation   
 (F) Flow relation  
 (C) Composition relation   
 (V) Serving relation   
 (S) Specialization relation   
 (N) Influence relation  
 (I) Assignment relation   
 (A) Access relation   
 (T) Triggering relation

ArchiMate Concepts and Relations table

## Steps:

1. In the ribbon, go to **ArchiMate > Concepts and Relations**.
2. In the table, select the cell of the element combination for which you want to specify a preferred relation.
3. In the bottom right corner of the table window, under **Preferred relation**, select the preferred relation. You can choose one from the allowed relations.

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## Related articles

- Nested objects and relations in ArchiMate models
- Specifying the preferred type of relation between ArchiMate elements
- Model content checks for ArchiMate models
- Showing relations of nested objects in an ArchiMate model