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Section of
An Olde Saw That Just Won't Cut

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1.0 Introduction

The “old saw” at issue is the traditional three part paradigm approach for data element names: prime word, modifier[s], and class word. This old saw just won’t cut. Never did, and never will. So, stop wasting your time and money and choose one that does.

This paper identifies and describes the five main problems with the traditional approach and then presents an approach that since its introduction in 1981, has lowered cost and risk, and increased speed and quality.

2.0 Problems with the Traditional Approach

The five main mistaken notions associated with the traditional three part paradigm for data elements are:

- ! That data elements are synonyms for table columns, screen cells, entity attributes, or report fields.
- ! That data elements don’t have names
- ! That prime word, modifier[s] and class word *are* part of the data element’s name
- ! That modifiers are from a single homogeneous set
- ! That there is only a choice of one class word

