



PFA Working Group Charter

The Portable Format for Analytics (PFA) Working Group develops the PFA standard for statistical and analytic models and workflows. PFA is a JSON based specification for data transformations, data processing and data models that supports compositions in order to support complex analytic workflows.

PFA working group activities include: i) developing and releasing new versions of the PFA standard; ii) maintaining and updating the PFA specification; iii) working with the vendor community to develop products that support PFA; iv) communicating with the user community to determine community needs; v) maintaining an FAQ on PFA best practices; and vi) promoting adoption of the PFA standard by facilitating presence at workshops, conferences, and other events frequented by the analytics community.

Charter approval date:	May 10, 2017
Initial Charter expiration date:	May 9, 2022
Working Group Chair:	Robert Grossman, DMG
Committee Chairs:	TBD
Meeting Frequency	Teleconferences: approximately once a month. Face to face meetings: up to 2 times a year.
Team Contact:	Walt Wells – walt@dmg.org
Related Links:	http://dmg.org/pfa/index.html https://github.com/datamininggroup/pfa

1. Scope

The PFA Working Group (WG) will coordinate a single committee that will i) refine and implement the full activities of the working group, establish and reinforce member and community partnerships, and build a sustainable framework for the working group; ii) work with DMG staff and DMG members to review, incrementally extend, and maintain the PFA standard code; iii) clearly define conformance requirements for products to properly support PFA; iv) construct test suites to check product conformance to the PFA specification; and v) promote PFA adoption by facilitating a consistent presence at workshops, conferences, and other events frequented by the analytics community.

Initially, it is expected that the PFA WG will also respond to early questions on PFA best practices until the user community is self-sustaining. It is recommended that the PFA WG record these questions and responses in a public FAQ/Wiki for the community.

The PFA WG committee can commission subcommittees should the need arise.

1.1 Success Criteria

The PFA WG's efforts will be considered a success if during its implementation more than one of the following occur: i) the PFA standard is maintained and enhanced; ii) stable documentation is produced for the vendor and user community; iii) multiple vendors create products supporting PFA; and iv) the PFA user community grows over time.

2. Deliverables

A primary deliverable for the PFA WG is the development, maintenance, and enhancement of the PFA specification. In keeping with the DMG mission, it should be open source, platform-neutral, and device-independent in design. The following items should be considered part of the PFA WG deliverables:

1. Refine and implement the full activities of the working group, establish and reinforce member and community partnerships, and build a sustainable framework for the working group.
2. Work with DMG staff and DMG member staff to review, incrementally extend, and maintain the PFA specification.
3. Clearly define conformance requirements for products to properly support PFA.
4. Construct test suites to check product conformance to the PFA specification.
5. Promote PFA adoption by facilitating a consistent presence at workshops, conferences, and other events frequented by the analytics community.

Each working group committee should regularly report back to the DMG governing body to ensure proper progress is being made on deliverables.

3. Dependencies and Liaison

NA

4. Participation

To be successful, the PFA WG is expected to have active participation of a diverse vendor and user community for its duration.

The committee chairs are expected to contribute sufficient time each month to make the Working Group a success. The other members are expected to be able to participate in most of the calls and meetings.

DMG membership is a requirement to contribute directly to the PFA WG, and all groups participating in committees are expected to be DMG Members in good standing that joined the PFA WG using the regular DMG process.

The PFA WG also welcomes participation from non-Members. This may take the form of questions and comments on the mailing list, for which there is no formal requirement, or technical submissions or proposals for consideration, for which the participant must agree to royalty-free licensing under the DMG IPR Policy.

5. Communication

This group's primary means of external correspondence is a public mailing list (pfa.wg@dmg.org). The WG committee chairs and DMG members can communicate using an internal mailing list

(pfa.wg@dmg.org). As need is proven, additional mailing lists and communication channels will be developed.

The PFA mailing lists remain available for general discussion of PFA, including topics outside the scope of this WG.

General information about the group will be available from the DMG website.

6. Decision Policy

The group will seek to make decisions when there is consensus. We expect that typically, a Member makes an initial proposal, which is refined in discussion with WG members and other reviewers, and consensus emerges with little formal decision-making. However, if a decision is necessary for timely progress, but after due consideration of different opinions, consensus is not achieved, the Chair should put a question (allowing for remote, asynchronous participation using, for example, email and/or web-based survey techniques) and record a decision and any objections, and consider the matter resolved, at least until new information becomes available.

7. Patent Policy

This WG operates under a IPR Mode of RF on RAND Terms, as defined by the DMG IPR Policy in coordination with the DMG Membership agreement.

For more information about disclosure obligations for this group, please see the DMG IPR Policy.

8. About this Charter

This charter for the PFA Working Group has been created according to the provisions in the DMG Membership agreement and DMG IPR Policy. In the event of a conflict between this document or the provisions of any charter and the DMG Membership Agreement and DMG IPR Policy, the DMG Membership Agreement and DMG IPR Policy shall take precedence.

9. Charter Version History

Version	Date	Description
1.0	May 10, 2017	Initial version