

Atlas Classifications

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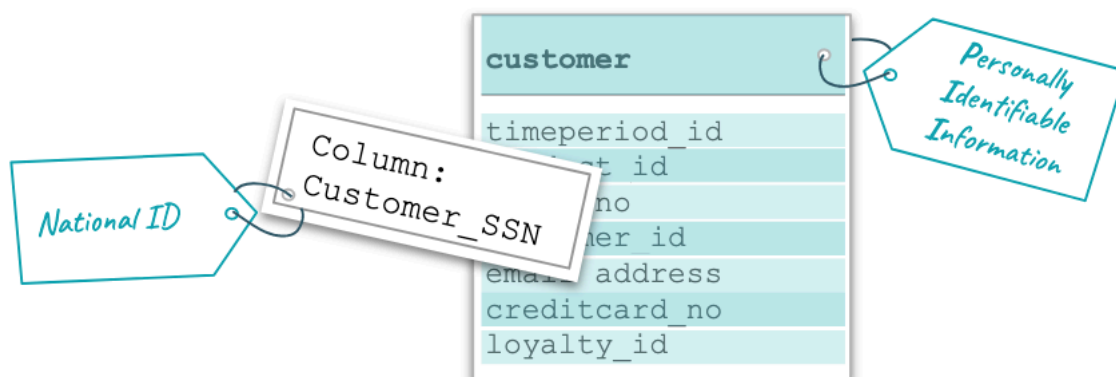
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Working with Atlas classifications

Add metadata labels to Atlas entities using classifications

In Atlas, classifications are labels that can be assigned to entities. The flexibility of classifications makes them useful for many applications. For example, you can define classifications to describe the phases in your data prep processes and assign the classifications to specific assets to mark where they are in the process. You can define classifications to identify data to block or mask and use the classifications in access control policies in Ranger.



Classifications can be simple labels but they can also be defined with attributes that allow you to assign values to further describe the entity where the classification is assigned. A typical use for attributes would be to refine the meaning of a general category. Data assets identified with a classification of “PII” or Personally Identifiable Information can have classification attributes that indicate the nature of the information to drive data masking or expiration policies. Columns tagged with “PII” might be further separated into phone numbers, credit card numbers, and “other” where a Ranger policy identifies masks for the phone and credit card numbers and simply blocks columns tagged as “PII” with attribute “Other”.



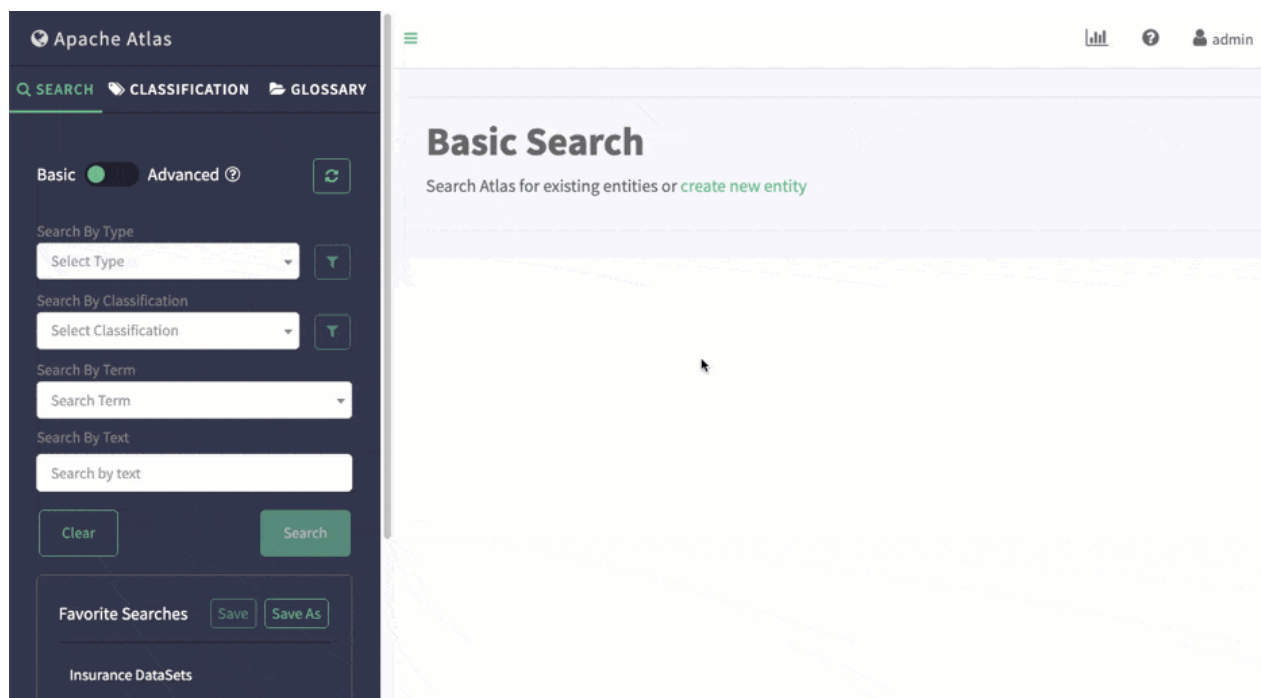
Here are some questions to ask yourself about your classification choices:

- What entities do you expect the classification to apply to? If you mean them only to apply to table columns, make sure that the name and description helps data stewards use the classification correctly.
- Will the classification be used for Atlas searches? Consider including attributes to allow further refinement of search results. If your Atlas users are more likely to search using terms, you might consider connecting the classification to a glossary term so searches from either mechanism return the correct results. (Assigning the term to an entity automatically assigns the classification to the same entity)
- Do you want the classification to follow lineage relationships and be assigned automatically to data that is created from the entities assigned this classification? If not, you can use the classification description to help data stewards understand that they should turn off propagation when assigning this classification to entities or terms.

Creating classifications

Create classifications from the tab in the left navigation bar.

Create classifications from the Classifications tab in the left navigation pane.



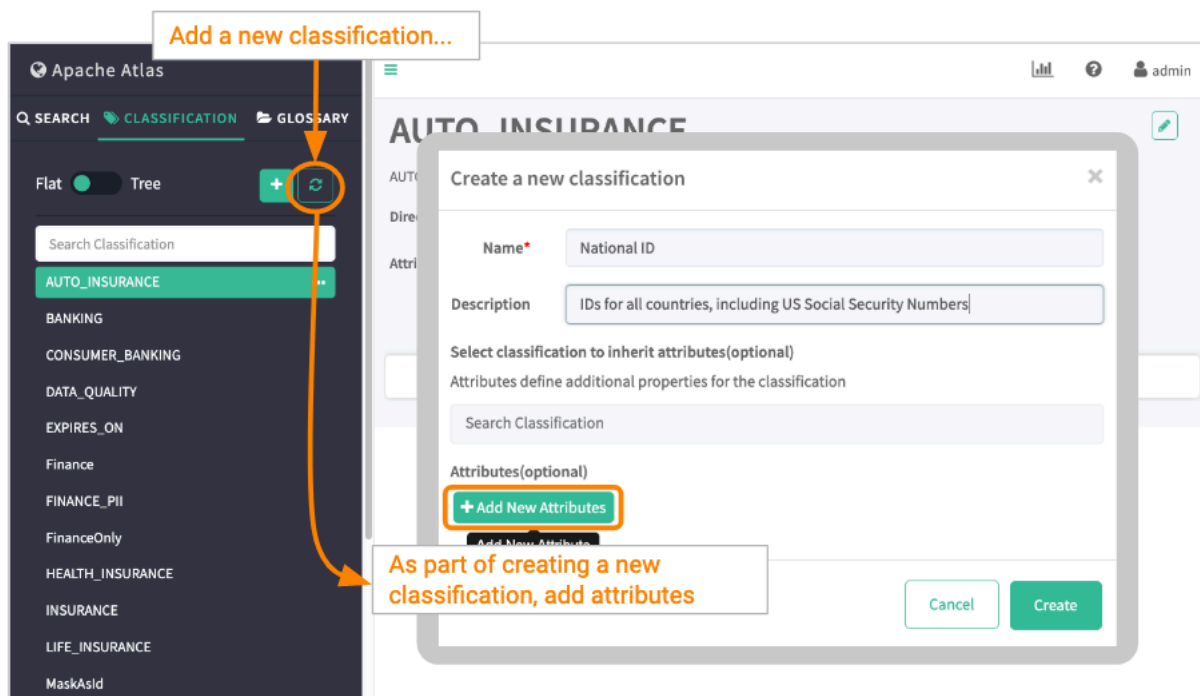
Names can be 255 characters and contain ASCII characters and spaces. Descriptions can be 1024 characters and contain any characters.

When creating a classification, you can choose an existing classification to reuse its attribute definitions.

Adding attributes to classifications

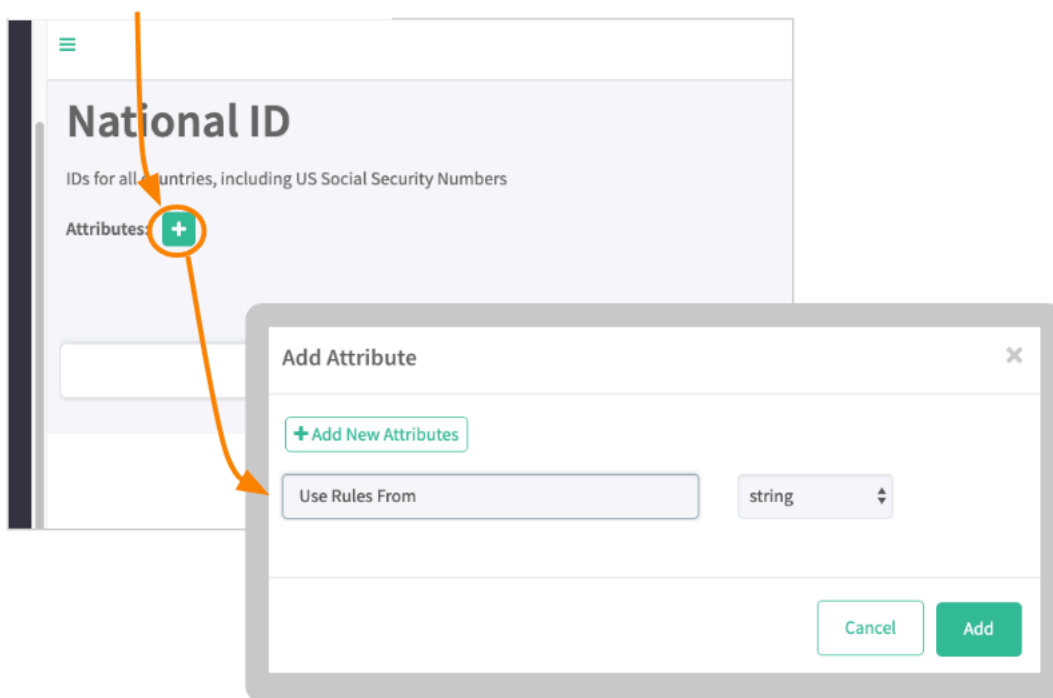
Attributes are key-value pairs defined for a classification that you can set to a value when you assign the classification to an entity

For a new classification, you can add attributes as part of the classification definition.



You can also add attributes to an existing classification. Select the classification in the list, then click the plus button next to Attributes.

From an existing classification...

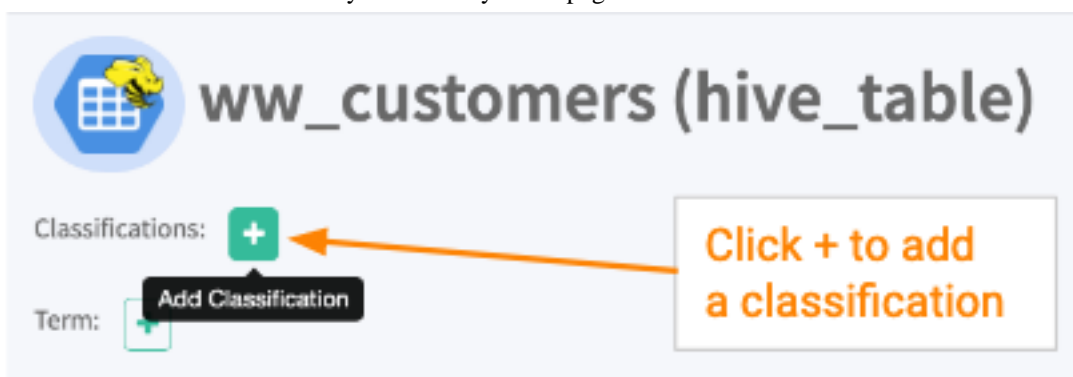


Associating classifications with entities

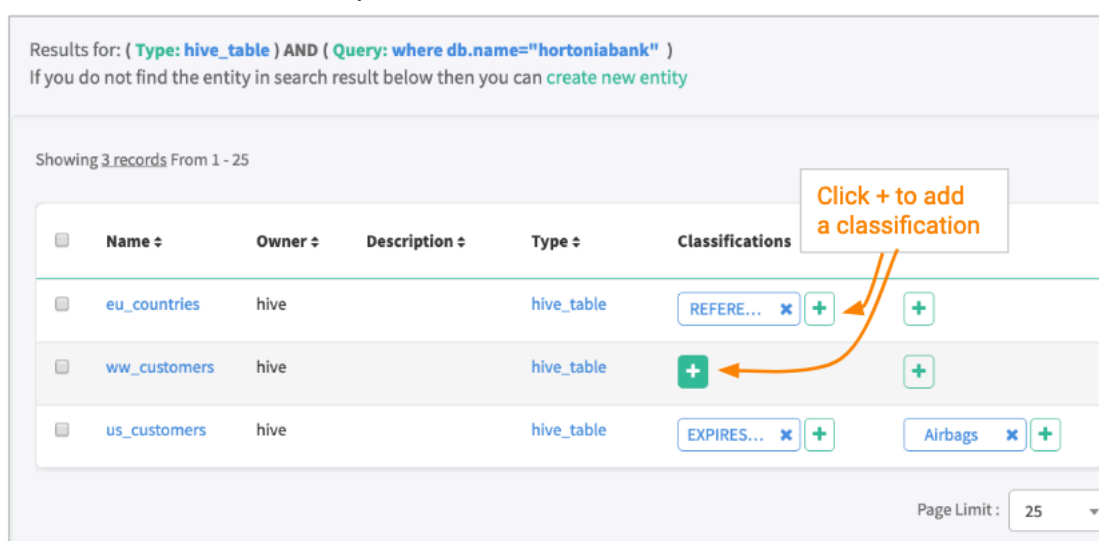
Assign classifications to entities in the entity detail page or in the search results.

There are two ways to associate a classification with an entity:

- Add the classification to the entity in the entity detail page.



- Add the classification to the entity in the search results.



When you associate a classification with an entity, you can set the classification's behavior with these controls:

Add Classification

-- Select a Classification from the dropdown list --

☒ Propagate
☐ Apply Validity Period

☐ Remove propagation on entity delete

Cancel Add

- **Propagate:** Any entities in the impact chain of this entity will automatically be tagged with this classification. The classification can't be removed from the "downstream" entities without being removed from this source entity. See more at [Propagate classifications to derived entities](#).
- **Apply validity period:** You can set a time period after which this classification is removed from the entity. Set the start time or end time or both. If you do not choose a time zone, the local time of the Atlas server is used.
- **Remove propagation on entity delete:** When an entity is deleted in the source and marked as deleted in Atlas, you can choose to maintain the propagation path, or to break propagation at the deleted entity.

You can change the behavior of classifications after they are assigned: go to the Classifications tab for an entity.

You can remove classifications from an entity using the X button on search results or entity detail page. Don't see an X on the classification name? That classification was assigned through propagation; to remove it, you have to turn off propagation for the source entity or term.

Related Information

[Propagating classifications through lineage](#)

Propagating classifications through lineage

Classifications on table columns can automatically apply to other tables where the same data is found when the data transformations are captured in lineage.

Viewing propagated classifications

When you look at the classifications assign to an entity, you can see which classifications were originally assigned to this entity and which were propagated here through lineage. From the Classifications tab, you can:

- Show or hide propagated classifications (Show Propagated Classifications button)
- Navigate to the original entity where a classification was assigned (Propagated From button)

Navigate to the source of the classification

claims_view (hive_table)

Classifications: +

Term: Claim × +

Propagated Classifications: DATA_QUALITY INSURANCE

Properties Lineage Relationships **Classifications** Audits Schema

Showing 1 - 2

☒ Show Propagated Classifications

Classification	Attributes	Action				
DATA_QUALITY Propagated From	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>score</td> <td>0.51</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Value	score	0.51	
Name	Value					
score	0.51					
INSURANCE Propagated From	NA					

Click to go to the entity that was first marked with this classification

Setting propagation behavior

You can set propagation for a classification when you create the classification or in the lineage for an entity where the classification is assigned:

- Set propagation at the time when the classification is associated with an entity or term.

The screenshot displays the 'claims_view (hive_table)' entity page. The 'Classifications' section shows a green '+' button, which is highlighted by an orange box and an arrow pointing to the text 'Click to add a classification'. Below this, the 'Term' is set to 'Claim'. The 'Propagated Classifications' section lists 'DATA_QUALITY' and 'INSURANCE'. The 'Lineage' tab is selected, showing a table with columns for classification and lineage. An orange arrow points from the text 'This classification is applied to entities in the lineage impact of this entity' to the 'DATA_QUALITY' classification in the table. Another orange arrow points from the text 'When the current entity is deleted, this classification is removed from the entities where it propagated in the lineage impact.' to the 'Remove propagation on entity delete' checkbox in the 'Add Classification' dialog. The dialog also shows the 'CONSUMER_BANKING' classification selected, the 'Propagate' checkbox checked, and the 'Apply Validity Period' checkbox unchecked. An 'Add' button is visible at the bottom right of the dialog.

claims_view (hive_table)

Classifications: **+** Click to add a classification

Term: Claim

Propagated Classifications: DATA_QUALITY INSURANCE

Properties Lineage

This classification is applied to entities in the lineage impact of this entity

DATA_QUALITY Propagated From

INSURANCE Propagated From

Add Classification

CONSUMER_BANKING

☒ Propagate ☐ Apply Validity Period

☒ Remove propagation on entity delete

When the current entity is deleted, this classification is removed from the entities where it propagated in the lineage impact.

Add

- Set propagation at a specific point in the lineage.

claim_savings (hive_table)

Classifications: DATA_QUALITY +

Term: +

Properties Lineage Relationships Classifications Audits Schema

Current Entity → Lineage → Impact

create external t... claim_savings create view if no... claims_view

Click on a lineage impact line

Enable/Disable Propagation

Enable/Disable Propagation ☐ Select Classifications to Block Propagation

claim_savings → create view if not from cost_savings.claim_savings

hive_table → hive_process

none

Turn off propagation at this point in the lineage impact: no classifications assigned to the entity on the left will propagate to entities on the right.

Cancel Update

Enable/Disable Propagation

Enable/Disable Propagation ☒ Select Classifications to Block Propagation

Classification	Entity Name	Block Propagation
DATA_QUALITY	claim_savings (hive_table)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Choose the classifications to propagate to entities in the lineage impact.

Update

Related Information

[Associating classifications with entities](#)

[Controlling data access using tags](#)

Searching for entities using classifications

After you tag entities with classifications, it's very easy to search for the entities.

The Atlas dashboard makes it easy to find entities that you've tagged with classifications: in the left navigation pane, go to the Classification tab and select the classification you want. You can refine your search results by adding criteria on the Search tab.

