

Filling Out the Header Data Structure

The **<Header>** class is used to provide a brief description of a header associated with some other PDS data object. The header (or it could be a footer) must be a contiguous string of bytes and must be described by a specific standard approved for use in the PDS4 archives (FITS and VICAR are common examples).

For additional explanation, see the [PDS4 Standards Reference](#), or contact your PDS node consultant.

Following are the attributes you will find in **<Header>**, in label order.

<name>

OPTIONAL

If you want to give the *Header* a distinguishable, human-readable name, this is the place.

<local_identifier>

OPTIONAL

If you need to be able to refer to this *Header* from elsewhere in the label, assign it a unique identifier using this attribute. If your value would make a simple variable name in a typical programming language, you should be OK syntactically.

<md5_checksum>

OPTIONAL

Use this attribute to provide the MD5 checksum of the object *only*. If the object occupies the entire file, then the checksum should be given as an attribute of the **<File>** object. This checksum should be calculated using *only* the bytes defined as being part of this table.

<offset>

REQUIRED

Offset in bytes from the start of the file containing the *Header* to the byte where the actual *Header* content starts. You must specify the unit:

```
<offset unit="byte">0</offset>
```

<object_length>

REQUIRED

This is the total length of the *Header*, in bytes. You must specify the unit:

```
<object_length unit="byte">28800</object_length>
```

<parsing_standard_id>

REQUIRED

This should contain the appropriate standard value found in the data dictionary, and also available from the [Standard Values Quick Reference](#).

For SBN users, the correct answer for all FITS headers (primary and extension) is "FITS 3.0".

<description>

OPTIONAL

This is a place for free-format comments and additional description.