

A Glossary of Support Documents and Terms Found on affymetrix.com

Alignment Files	Alignment files are provided in the NetAffx® Analysis Center. These files specify the alignments between the genomic coordinates and the consensus and exemplar sequences of probe sets. For species with well-characterized genomes, these alignments are also available as downloadable PSL files. To find these PSL files, select the array of interest from the support by product page. The files can be viewed with the Integrated Genome Browser (IGB).
Annotation Files / Annotation	Annotation files contain the complete NetAffx® annotation information for all probe sets on the specified array. This information is provided in a single file for each array type and updated quarterly. Annotation files are for use in spreadsheet applications and database programs, such as SQL databases. Interactive and batch queries can be performed in the NetAffx Analysis Center to find information for individual probe sets of interest.
Application Notes	An application note provides insights and context into how our customers have utilized a particular technology, product or application for their scientific research.
Archived Annotation Files / Archived Sequence Files	Annotation and sequence files contain the complete NetAffx annotation information for all probe sets on the specified array. This information is provided in a single file for each array type and updated quarterly. Archived annotation files and archived sequence files provide a historical reference so that interested parties can evaluate the evolution of annotations over time or map array content to a previous build of the genome.
Array Comparison Sheets	Array comparison spreadsheets are useful tools for comparing data generated from two different expression array designs. These spreadsheets can be used to find relationships between probe sets of similar sequences from two different expression products. Affymetrix provides two types of array comparison spreadsheets: 1) Same-species array comparison – looks at two designs from the same product family or species. These spreadsheets allow some level of data comparison as the product line evolves. 2) Cross-species comparison – looks at two designs from different product families or species, such as rat genome arrays versus mouse genome arrays. These comparisons can be used to find highly similar sequences between the two species. For additional information please refer to the User's Guide to Product Comparison Spreadsheets.
Assay Panel Files	Assay panel files are used in conjunction with targeted genotyping arrays and reagents and GeneChip® Targeted Genotyping Software (GTGS). These files contain information about the assays, including assay IDs, target alleles and assay alleles. Assay panel files and their associated GT settings files must be loaded into the GTGS software prior to beginning any experiment.
Assay Protocol	See "Protocol"
Brochure	A brochure describes the components and benefits of an Affymetrix product, service or family of products.
Concordance	Concordance is measured by the percentage of SNPs that are called identically between two samples. Samples from the same individual or identical twins theoretically have a concordance of 100 percent, but due to assaying errors and somatic mutations, they are usually found in the range of 99 percent to 99.95 percent.

Custom Design Forms / Custom Design Applications	The CustomSeq® resequencing array design request form is used to submit a custom array design. Please refer to the CustomSeq Resequencing Array Design Guide for information about designing your array.
	The expression array design request form is used to submit a custom expression array design. Please contact Affymetrix about the design fee and array price and refer to the MyGeneChip™ Custom Array Design Guide for information about designing your array.
Data Sheets	A data sheet is a document that provides detailed information about a product or family of products, including descriptions, specifications and ordering information.
Demo Data	See “Sample Data”
Design Time / Design Date	The design date precedes the release of the array and indicates when the design data may have been drawn from its bioinformatics data sources.
Design Time Annotations / Probe Design Information	Design time annotations provide a record of the evidence compiled for the probe set. This information is provided to document the design content which led to the choice of probe sequences. The information does not change or update in any way, and entities such as Unigene clusters and transcript or EST accessions may no longer be active in their respective databases of origin. The current biological interpretation of the probe set is available on the NetAffx details page.
FAQs	A frequently asked questions (FAQs) document refers to a collection of answers to common questions that customers may have about a certain product.
Fluidics Scripts	Fluidics scripts are protocols, or methods, for the washing and staining of cartridge arrays. The scripts are specific for the application, array format, reagents and fluidics station model used.
Installation Notes / Installation Instructions	Installation notes may accompany software downloads and provide step-by-step instructions on installing the software.
Library Files	Library files provide information about a given microarray design which is necessary for array processing and first-level data analysis. Library files are intended for use with Affymetrix software, including Affymetrix® GeneChip® Command Console® (AGCC), Expression Console™ (EC), Genotyping Console™ (GTC), and GeneChip Operating Software (GCOS).
Manual	See “User Manual”
Mask Files	Mask files are used to exclude specified probe sets and/or probe pairs from analysis when using GeneChip® Operating Software (GCOS). Probe masks can be applied across a data set. For more details, refer to the GCOS user manual.
Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)	A material safety data sheet (MSDS) is a document that provides information and instructions on the chemical and physical characteristics of a substance, its hazards and risks, stability and reactivity, safe handling and storage requirements and the actions to be taken in the event of fire, spill or exposure.
Package Inserts	A package insert describes the actual materials contained in a kit or array package, instructions on which protocols and library files to use, storage and handling conditions as well as general terms and conditions of use.
Probe Design Information	See “Design Time Annotations”
Probe Sequence Files	Probe sequence files contain all probe sequences, in both FASTA and tabular format. The sequences are provided in the same orientation as on the array and in the 5'→3' direction. For a sense target array, such as GeneChip® Gene and Exon Arrays, this corresponds to the reverse complement of the target mRNA sequence orientation. Probe set sequences are extracted from the genome version that was used for array design. The probe sequence files include control probes in addition to all probes from the main design.
Probe Set Sequence Files	Probe set sequence files provide the contiguous genomic sequence as they are aligned to the genome—from the beginning of the first probe to the end of the last probe in the set. The sequences are provided in the same orientation as exist in the mRNA and in the 5' to 3' direction.
Protocols / Assay Protocols	Protocols provide detailed step-by-step instructions regarding sample preparation and array processing. Protocols are often incorporated into the corresponding user guide or user manual.

Quick Reference Cards	A quick reference card (QRC) is a concise set of notes intended for experienced customers. It summarizes a manual and captures the major steps in the workflow.
Quick Start Guides	See "User Manual"
README	A README file is a text file that contains specific instructions for a user to install or use a software program.
Release Notes	Release notes may accompany software downloads and detail new features and enhancements, system requirements and known issues.
Sample Data / Demo Data	Sample data is available from the Affymetrix Data Resource Center for researchers and algorithm developers to access data sets.
Site Prep Guide	See "User Manual"
Software Patch	A software patch applies software updates and fixes to current software versions.
Technical Notes	A technical note is a document that provides additional technical details on a technology, product or application. Typically included are product design information and insights, and performance and validation data.
Tutorials	Web tutorials provide beginner-level GeneChip® array customers with educational resources to support all aspects of the microarray experiment workflow.
User Manual	Manuals/Quick Start Guides/Site Prep Guide/User Manuals A manual is a technical document intended to give step-by-step instructions and general guidance to customers working with a particular product/application.
Webinars/Web Talks	A webinar is a virtual seminar attended online.
White Papers	A white paper is an authoritative report. White papers are meant to educate users by revealing, in great technical detail, the features and benefits of a particular technology, product, or application.
Workflows	A workflow is a set of sequential steps that must be followed to use a product.