Secure Custom Metadata Types and Custom Settings Spring '20 Critical Update
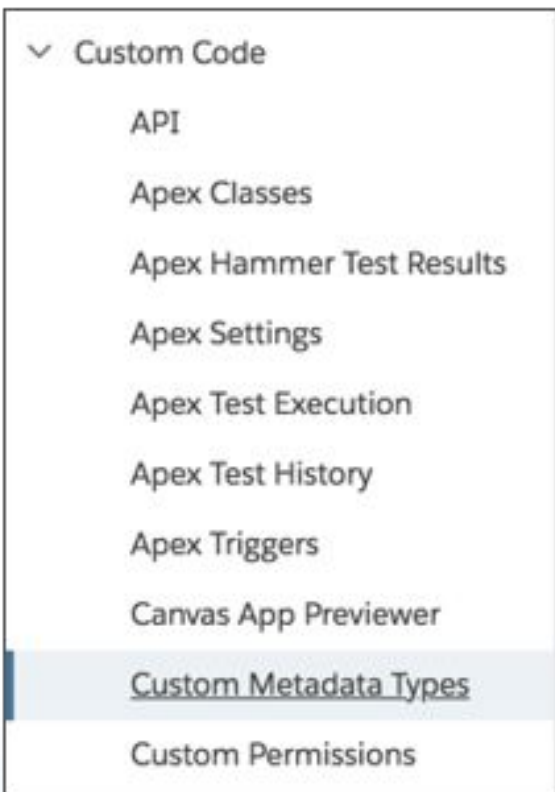
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What Are Custom Settings / Custom Metadata Types?

Objects designed to store configuration data

- Custom settings and custom metadata types are two types of objects that are primarily used for storing configuration data.

- They are often used in Apex code to define the logic and the execution flow.

- Custom metadata types and custom settings can be used declaratively and referenced in process builder, flow, formula fields and validation rules.

- Custom settings and custom metadata types are often an important part of AppExchange packages and come with them when you install it into your org.

What Is Changing?

New user access checks would apply

Restrict access to custom metadata

Allow custom metadata access only through Apex, flow, and formula operations.

Restrict access to custom settings

Allow custom settings access only through Apex, flow, and formula operations.

- When first introduced custom metadata types and custom settings were intentionally made accessible to anyone with API access.

- Starting **Spring '20**, users without the "Customize Application" permission will not be able to access custom metadata types and custom settings outside of System context (for example: Apex code).

- All other users would have to be granted access explicitly.

What Might Get Affected?

And how to prepare for the impact

- Identify if you have any of the following:

  - Custom solutions in your org that require direct API access to custom settings or custom metadata types.

  - VisualForce pages and Lightning components.

  - Solutions installed from AppExchange.

- Identify users that need to have a direct access to custom settings / custom metadata types

  - Grant permission to access a particular custom metadata type

  - Assign View All Custom Settings permission*

- Enable critical update in your sandbox to test it out.

Additional Information
Review this documentation to prepare better

Critical updates:

Grant Access to Custom Settings on Profiles and Permission Sets After Restricting Org-Wide Access (Critical Update)

Require Customize Application Permission for Direct Read Access to Custom Metadata Types (Critical Update)
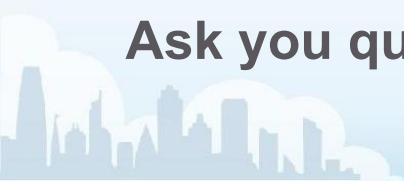
Release notes & Help Documentation:

Control Who Gets Read Access to Custom Metadata Types

Protection and Privacy Options for Custom Settings

Trailhead:

Secure Secret Storage

Ask you questions here: Secure Custom Settings & Types

thank you