

# Metainformation

A metainformation block sets visual parameters of the workflow and aliases for running it from the command line.

Each block starts with **.meta** keyword and consists of the aliases and visual blocks:

```
.meta {  
  aliases {  
    # The workflow aliases  
  }  
  visual {  
    # Visual data for element1  
    # Visual data for element2  
    # ...  
  }  
}
```

## Parameter Aliases

The block starts with the **parameter-aliases** keyword and has the following format:

```
parameter-aliases {  
    element_name.parameter_name:value;  
    ...  
}
```

The value specified for an element parameter is used as the alias for this parameter when the workflow is *executed from the command line*.

See an example of setting workflow aliases:

```
.meta {  
    parameter-aliases {  
        read-msa.url-in:in;  
        write-msa.url-out:out;  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

## Visual

The block starts with the **visual** keyword. It describes the appearance of the workflow in a Workflow Designer window, i.e. appearance of the workflow *elements and connections*:

```
visual {  
  
    # Elements appearance  
    element_name1 {  
        element_appearance_parameter1:value1;  
        element_appearance_parameter2:value2;  
        ...  
    }  
    element_name2 {  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
  
    # Connections appearance  
    element1_name.port1_name->element2_name.port2_name {  
        connection_appearance_parameter1:value3;  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

To describe an element appearance the following parameters are used:

- **description** — description of the element in the *Property Editor*. It is in HTML format.
- **tooltip** — tooltip shown on the element.
- **pos** — position of the element, assuming that bottom right corner of the window is (0, 0) position.
- **style** — style of the element. The following values are available:
  - **ext** — for extended element style
  - **simple** — for minimal element style
- **bounds** — defines the bounds of the element rectangle in the extended style.
- **bg-color-ext** — color of the element in the extended style. The color must be specified in the RGBA format.
- **bg-color-simple** — color of the element in the minimal style.
- **port\_name.angle** — position of the port on the element. Here the *port\_name* must be replaced by the name of the port.

For now, the only parameter that describes a connection appearance is:

- **text-pos** — position of the text near the connection arrow.

For example:

```
visual {  
  read-sequence {  
    description:"";  
    tooltip:"Reads sequences and annotations ...";  
    pos:"-930 -885";  
    style:ext;  
    bg-color-ext:"0 128 128 64";  
    bounds:"-30 -30 45 103";  
    out-sequence.angle:272.309;  
  }  
  write-sequence {  
    ...  
  }  
  read-sequence.out-sequence->write-sequence.in-sequence {  
    text-pos:"-27.5 -24";  
  }  
}
```