Describo and RO-Crate - the FAIR data research helpers

Dr Marco La Rosa¹, Dr Peter Sefton²

- 1. PARADISEC and The University of Melbourne
- 2. University of Technology Sydney

Problem

Research projects don't always involve work practices that describe the data generated so that it meets the FAIR principles.

Solution

Describe the data as it's being created using open standards and tools

→ use Describo

source: https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/datamanagement/

The Research Data Management Lifecycle



What is Research Object Crate (RO-Crate)?

- Lightweight approach to packaging research data with metadata
- Community effort 38 contributors from AU, EU and US.
- Can aggregate files and/or any URI-addressable content, with contextual information to aid decisions about re-use. (Who What Where Why How).
- Uses Schema.org as the main ontology, with domain-specific extensions

→ Sefton is an Editor of the specification

Who is using it?

- Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures
 (PARADISEC). Demonstrator with > 16k items and > 500 collections exported as RO-Crates into
 OCFL @ http://mod.paradisec.org.au/
- University of Technology Sydney
- Galaxy
- WorkflowHub
- CS3MESH4EOSC

Describo

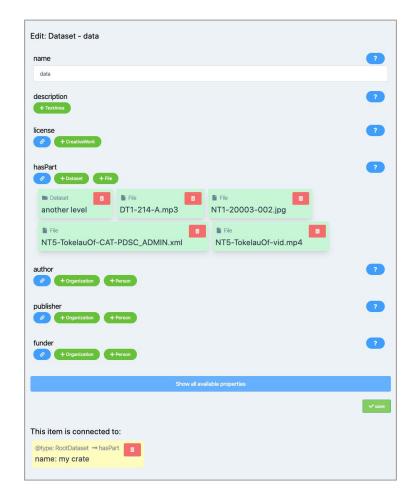
- Describo is a pair of tools for researchers and support staff to create spec-compliant RO-Crates w/:
 - a. Linked data for high-precision unambiguous metadata
 - b. Package level "who, what, where" metadata
 - c. Individual file-level metadata including provenance
- Describo exists as:
 - a. a desktop tool (electron application) for all major platforms: https://uts-eresearch.github.io/describo/
 - b. an online tool that integrates with Microsoft OneDrive: https://github.com/UTS-eResearch/describo-online
- Describo was developed as a proof of concept in two short sprints in 2020 (Desktop ~ 3 months and Online ~ 2 months). Both are viable products.
- https://arkisto-platform.github.io/assets/docs/Describo-WhitePaper.pdf

Describo Desktop - define and link entities

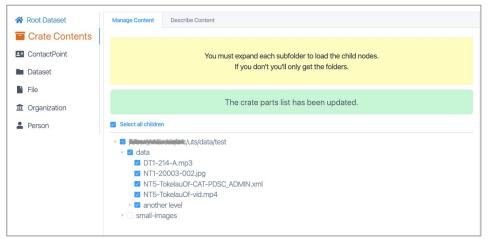


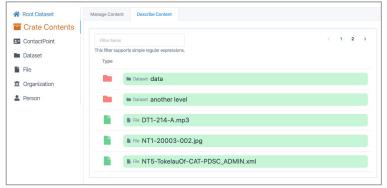
This item is connected to:

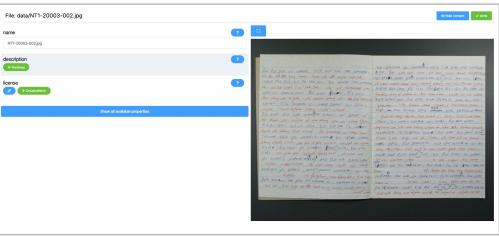
@type: RootDataset → hasPart
name: my crate



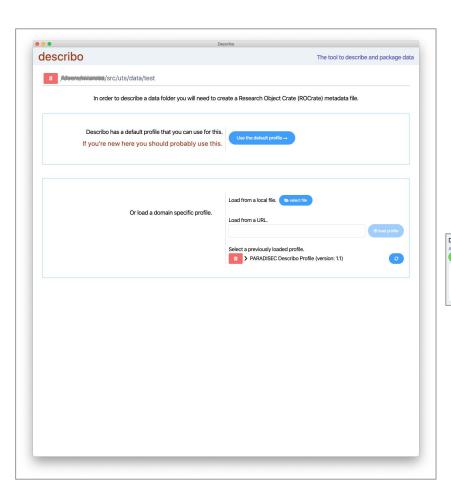
Describo Desktop - define and document data

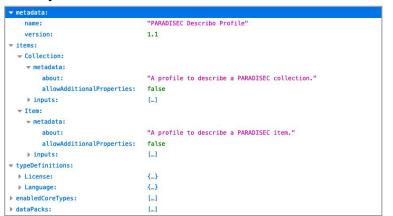


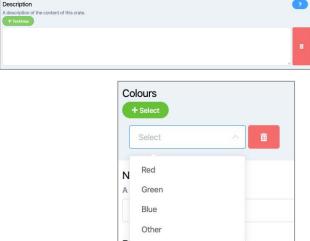


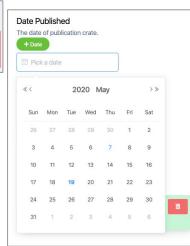


Describo Desktop - load custom data profiles



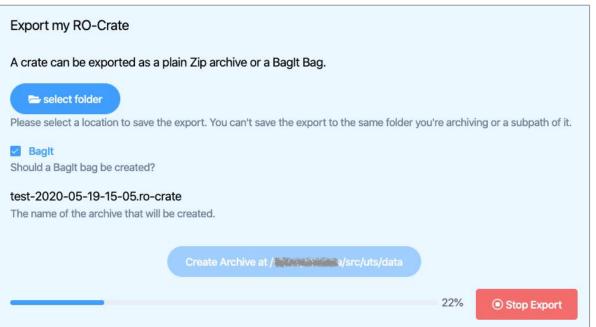






Describo Desktop - save / export





Describo Online - architecture: integrate or standalone service

Easily deployed via docker containers: UI, API and PostgreSQL database. Start one instance and scale to many users or start small instances for individual domains.

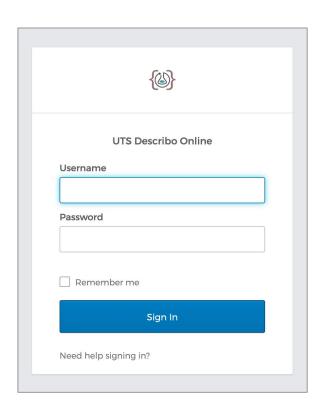
Architected for extensibility to other backends and data stores: S3, Dropbox, Google Drive, Openstack Swift, webdav, SFTP.

Operates on RO-Crate in database and synchronises back to target resource on change

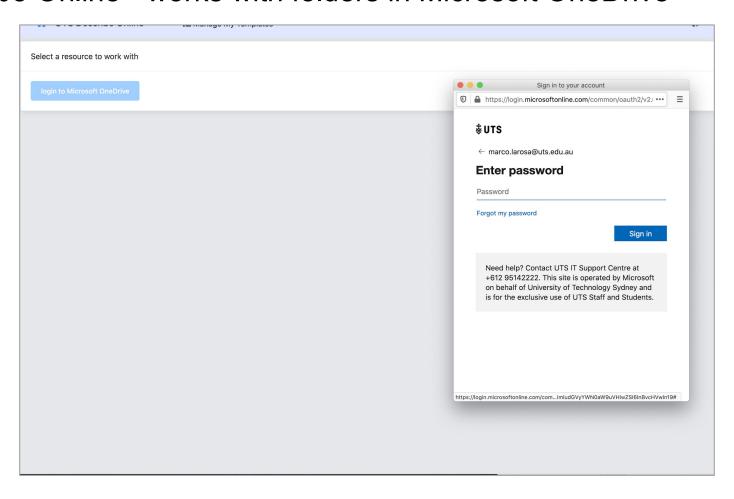
Dynamically loads existing crates into DB and can associate crates on disk with in database entries to support multiple users operating on the data

User management and authentication

- via okta.com (developer.okta.com) (free up to 1000 Monthly Active Users)
- or integrate into your own application.

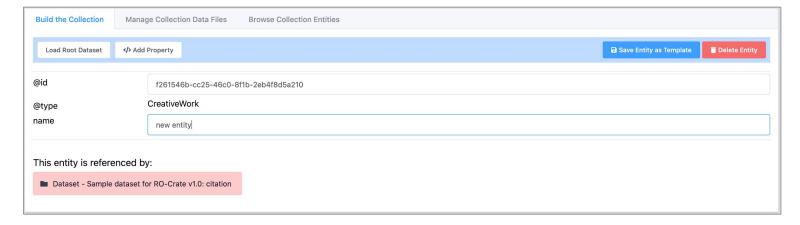


Describo Online - works with folders in Microsoft OneDrive

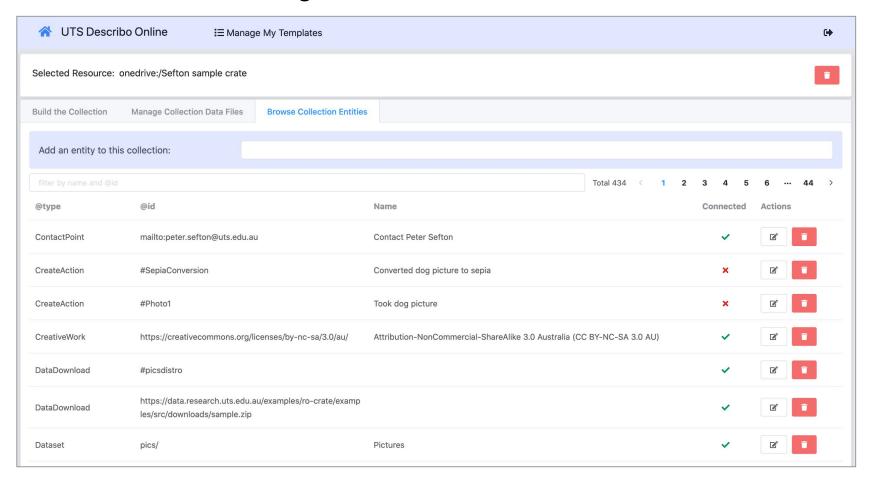


Describo Online - define and link entities





Describo Online - manage crate entities



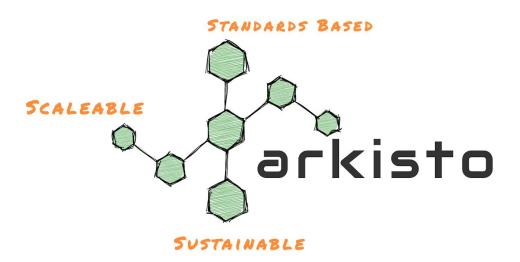
Describo Online - MVP - next steps

- Develop other backend integrations
- Develop a UI for novice users current UI = expert RO-Crate user
- Develop a UI to manage cultural collections
- Port capability to upload domain specific profiles from desktop

Describo Desktop - next steps

- Port online entity rendering code from online implementation cleaner than initial implementation in desktop
- Port novice user and cultural collections UI from online
- Port backend integrations from online

https://arkisto-platform.github.io/



A scaleable, standards based platform for sustainable data.