Multimedia content representation

2024/25 Q2

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DAC – UPC

* Part of the material comes from other sources.

- Life-cycle
- Content architectures
 - Concepts
 - Classification
- Content types
 - Characters
 - Audio
 - Images
 - Video
- Structures and containers
- Metadata

Life-cycle

- Creation
- Storage
- Processing
- Distribution
- (Preservation)
- Deletion

Life-cycle

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- Storage
- Processing
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Multimedia content: Processing

Use

CRUD → (Create) Read Update (Delete)

- Read: Access, "render" (play, reproduce, ...)
- Update: Transform, Combine, Manipulate
- •

Life-cycle

- Creation
- Storage
- Processing
- Distribution
- (Preservation)
- Deletion

Elements

- Identification
- Description (Metadata)
- Coding
- Transfer (Comm. protocols)
- Search
- Business Models
- Digital Rights Management
- Information (Formats: Metadata + Resources)
- Protocols (Dialogue, Operations)

- Life-cycle
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- Metadata

- Monomedia vs. Multimedia
- Monomedia content types
- Classification: Based on what?
- Concepts to consider:
 - Captured/Scanned vs. Synthetized
 - Space, time, ... (dimensions)
 - Human senses: hearing, vision, ...

— ...

- A first simple classification:
 - Characters
 - Audio
 - Image
 - Video

- Classification: Based on what?
- Concepts to consider:

— ...

EXERCISE:

- What other digital content types, apart from characters, audio, image, video?
- Main standards?

Digital content types EXERCISE

Other content/concepts:

- Classification "Other things":
 - -3D!
 - Computational data / Databases / Application specific information ("Applications"!)
 - Scalar numbers
 - Bio-signals ("perpendicular"?: according to its use")
 - Games, virtual/augmented reality
 - Software? e-books? Document formats
 - Structures and containers!

- Another approach (MIME Content types):
 - application
 - audio
 - example
 - font
 - haptics
 - image
 - message
 - model
 - multipart
 - text
 - video

MIME Content types

- application
- audio
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Characters vs. Text

- Characters: Monomedia
- Text:
 - "Plain" (→ characters)
 - "Rich" (format, structure!)
- Text → Documents!
- Documents:
 - Multimedia structures
 - Logical and physical (layout) structure
 Presentation
- We focus now on characters

Characters

- Coding / representation
- Visualization: Fonts, ...
- Character Sets:
 - ASCII → ISO 646
 - ISO 2022: Variable width encoding (7-8 bits bytes). Escape chars
 - ISO/IEC 8859 (8-bit printable chars encodings):
 1 part for different charsets (Latin, Arabic, Hebrew, ...)
 - UCS (Universal Character Set)
 - ISO/IEC 10646
 - Aligned to UNICODE
 - **UTF-x** concept (UTF-7, UTF-8, UTF-16, UTF-32)

Unicode Characters

- A character is a symbol that appears in a text
 - letters of the alphabet
 - pictograms (like ©)
 - accents
- Unicode characters are abstract entities:
 - LATIN CAPITAL LETTER A
 - LATIN CAPITAL LETTER A WITH RING ABOVE
 - HIRAGANA LETTER SA
 - RUNIC LETTER THURISAZ THURS THORN

Hiragana letter SA



Runic letter Thurisaz Thurs Thorn



Unicode Glyphs

- A glyph is a graphical presentation
- A typical example is: Å
- This may represent several characters:
 - LATIN CAPITAL LETTER A WITH RING ABOVE
 - ANGSTROM SIGN
- Or even a sequence of characters:
 - LATIN CAPITAL LETTER A COMBINING RING ABOVE
- Some characters even result in several glyphs

Unicode Code Points

- A code point is a unique number assigned to every Unicode character
- Code points are between 0 and 1,114,112
- Only around 100,000 are used today
- The character HIRAGANA LETTER SA is assigned the code point 12,373
- Code point 0 through 127 coincide with ASCII
- Some code point are never assigned

Unicode Character Encoding

- A character encoding interprets a sequence of bytes as a sequence of code points
- The bytes are first parsed into code units
- Code units have a fixed length
- One or more code units may be required to denote a code point
- Examples are UTF-8, UTF-16, UTF-32

UTF-8

- A code unit is a single byte
- A code point is from 1 to 4 code units
- Code units between 0 and 127 directly represent the corresponding code points
- 110xxxxx indicates that 2 code units are used
- 1110xxxx indicates that 3 code units are used
- 11110xxx indicates that 4 code units are used
- The remaining code units looks like 10xxxxxxx

UTF-8 Example

- **1**1100011 10000001 10010101
- **1110**0011 **10**000001 **10**010101
- **1**1000001010101
- **12,373**

3055 H

HIRAGANA LETTER SA

UTF-16

- A code unit consists of 2 bytes
- Code points below 65,536 are in a single code unit
- Higher code points are represented as:
 - 110110XXXXXXXXX 110111XXXXXXXXX

(after subtracting 65,536)

This makes sense because Unicode assign no code points between the numbers:

```
110110000000000 (55,296)
```

and

110111111111111 (57,343)

UTF-16 Example

"Big-endian byte order" / Character

- **11111110 11111111** 00110000 01010101
- 00110000 01010101
- **1**2,373

3055 H

■ HIRAGANA LETTER SA

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Audio/Sound

- One dimension
- "Speach" or not. Frequency ranges
- Natural (recorded) or generated
- Structured ("symbols")
- Coding and compression formats

Audio standards

(1/2)

- Telephony/Speech:
 - PCM (Pulse Code Modulation). Logarithmic.
 - -G.7xx

- GSM

- Music:
 - CD-DA (Compact Disc Digital Audio). Linear PCM.
 → 1,411 Mbps (CD-ROM x1)
 - DVD-Audio → 9,216 Mbps
 - Music specific: MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface)
- Broadcasting/video:
 - Based on human hearing (perception)
 - MPEG-1 Layer III (mp3)
 - MPEG-2 AAC (Advanced Audio Coding)

Audio standards

(2/2)

- Open Source (xiph.org Foundation):
 - Lossy:
 - Vorbis: ('00) Competing with mp3/AAC
 - Opus (mainly authored by Mozilla and Skype):
 - -RFC 6716 (2012)
 - -Updated in RFC 8251 (2017)
 - Lossless:
 - FLAC (Free Lossless Audio Codec), 2001
- Vendors:
 - Lossless:
 - ALAC (Apple Lossless Audio Codec):
 - -2004, open source in 2011

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Images

- 2 dimensions
- Still images
- Raster/Pixels/Bitmap vs. Vector
- (Capture/Scanning vs. Synthesis)

Images

- 2 dimensions
- Still images
- Raster/Pixels/Bitmap vs. Vector
- (Capture/Scanning vs. Synthesis)
- Vector graphics:
 - Geometric objects
 (lines, polygons, circles, ellipses, curves, ...)

Vector graphics formats

Standards:

- CGM. Computer Graphics Metafile. (File format / container).
 ISO/IEC 8632. image/cgm
- SVG. Scalable Vector Graphics. XML based. W3C (May include raster graphics). image/svg+xml
- SVG 2 (2018)
- ...

Proprietary:

- Adobe Illustrator. application/illustrator
- CorelDRAW. application/coreldraw
- Encapsulated PostScript (EPS). application/postscript
- ...

Images

- 2 dimensions
- Still images
- Raster/Pixels/Bitmap vs. Vector
- (Capture/Scanning vs. Synthesis)
- Raster images:
 - Bits per pixel ("depth")
 - Formats/Standards

Image (compression) formats

ISO standards:

- JPEG. ISO/IEC 10918 / ITU-T T.81 ('92 → '94) image/jpeg
- JPEG2000. ISO/IEC 15444 ('01 → '19). image/jpeg2000
- JPEG XR. eXtended Range. ISO/IEC 29199 / ITU-T T.83x ('09 → '20). image/vnd.ms-photo, image/jxr
- JPEG XT. eXTensions (compatible). ISO/IEC 18477 Includes HDR (High Dynamic Range)
- JPEG XL (better image quality and compression ratios)
- Other JPEG formats ...
- https://jpeg.org/

Image formats - JPEG



• https://jpeg.org/



Image formats - JPEG



Image formats

"Professional" use:

- DPX. Digital Picture Exchange. ANSI/SMPTE standard (268M-2003 (268M-1994), 268-1:2014, 268-2:2018)
 image/dpx
- "RAW": raw image formats.
- ISO 12234-2, Tag Image File Format / Electronic Photography (TIFF/EP), 2001

Image formats

"Individual" use:

- BMP. Microsoft Windows bitmap, 1986. image/bmp
- GIF. Graphics Interchange format. CompuServe, 1987 Patents expired 2003. image/gif
- WebP. Google. 2010. Based on VP8 (video). Smaller files but concerns on image quality. Also container. image/webp
- BPG (Better Portable Graphics), 2014. image/bpg
- ...

Not so popular:

• FLIF (Free Lossless Image Format), 2015. image/flif

Image file formats / containers

(not clear diferentiation "format" / "file format" !!!)

- JFIF. JPEG File Interchange Format
- PNG. Portable Network Graphics. Donated to W3C ('96)
 (Informational) RFC 2083 ('97), ISO/IEC 15948 ('04)
 Datastream (lossless) & Associated file format. image/png
- TIFF. Tagged Image File Format. Adobe(v.6,1992) image/tiff

• ...

(New/future) Image formats

FROM VIDEO FORMATS:

- AVIF (AV1 Image File Format): Image File Format of AV1, from Alliance for Open Media (AOMedia) (2019)
- HEIF (High Efficiency Image File Format): Image File Format of HEVC (High Efficiency Video Coding), specified in MPEG-H part 12 (ISO/IEC 23008-12) (1st in 2017, Ed.2 2022, Ed.3 in 2025). Based on ISOBMFF
- HEIC (High Efficiency Image Coding): A specific implementation of HEIF using the HEVC codec ("HEVC in HEIF"). Mainly supported by Apple
- WebP: Based on VP8. Includes a RIFF-based container.
 From Google (2010). Web-oriented

(New/future) Image formats

Next-Generation JPEG Image Coding:

JPEG-XL (JPEG XL image coding system): ISO/IEC 18181

Web-oriented. JPEG-1 backwards compatible Parts

- 1: Core coding system (2024, 2022 version withdrawn)
- 2: File format (2024)
- 3: Conformance testing (2022, under revision)
- 4: Reference software (2022)

Multimedia content

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Video

- 3 dimensions (2D + time)
- "Moving images"
- Animation = "moving vector graphics"
- Capture vs. Synthesis
- Series of "frames" (raster images)
 - → Frames per second
- Compression/Coding
- 3D video!

Animation ("moving vector graphics")

- Motion controlled by vectors rather than pixels
- Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) for still vector graphics
- SVG2 allows animation: With JavaScript, f.e.
- Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language (SMIL). Version 3.0 December 2018 (W3C)
- SMIL:
 - write interactive multimedia presentations
 - describe temporal behaviour

- Color: RGB → luma + chroma (2); subsampling
- TV: ITU-R Rec. 601 (1982!)
- Pure sequence of images (spatial compression):
 - M-JPEG, M-JPEG2000

- MPEGs (+ temporal compression; I-, P- & B-frames)
- Others:

- Color: RGB → luma + chroma (2); subsampling
- TV: ITU-R Rec. 601 (1982!)
- Pure sequence of images (spatial compression):
 - M-JPEG, M-JPEG2000

• MPEGs (+ temporal compression; I-, P- & B-frames)

- MPEGs (+ temporal compression; I-, P- & B-frames):
 - MPEG-1 (ISO/IEC 11172) ("CD-ROM")
 - MPEG-2 (ISO/IEC 13818 / ITU-T H.262) ("DVD")
 - MPEG-4 part 2 "visual" (objects) (ISO/IEC 14496)
 (ASF profile compatible with H.263)
 - AVC, Advanced Video Coding (MPEG-4 part 10 / H.264) ("Web")
 - HEVC, ...
 - (H.261, H.263; transmission, videoconferencing)

HEVC (High Efficiency Video Coding)

- Video compression standard after AVC (MPEG-4)
- ISO/IEC 23008-2 MPEG-H / ITU-T H.265
- Improvement over MPEG-4 AVC:
 - Double data compression for the same quality, or
 - better quality for the same bit rate
- High resolutions:
 Ultra HD TV 8K support (up to 8192 × 4320)

HEVC (High Efficiency Video Coding)

Video compression standard after AVC MPEG-4)



HEVC (High Efficiency Video Coding)

Video co pression standard after AVC MPEG-4) ISO/IE MPEG-H Problems with patents!!! **Impro** or https://www.emmys.

- MPEGs (+ temporal compression; I-, P- & B-frames):
 - MPEG-1 (ISO/IEC 11172)
 - MPEG-2 (ISO/IEC 13818 / ITU-T H.262)
 - MPEG-4 part 2 "visual" (objects) (ISO/IEC 14496)
 (ASF profile compatible with H.263)
 - AVC (MPEG-4 part 10 / H.264)
 - HEVC, ...

Others:

- VP8 (Google) 2010. Open Source. RFC6386
- VP9 → AV1 (Alliance for Open Media) (royalty-free)

Still more compression possible?

• AVC (H.264) → HEVC (H.265) → ??

Still more compression possible?

• AVC (H.264) → HEVC (H.265) → ??

VVC: Versatile Video Coding

- Developed in MPEG Committees (JVET)
- MPEG-I: ISO/IEC 23090 / H.266
 Coded Representation of Immersive Media
 - → Part 3: VVC (published 2021, 3rd Ed., 2024, AMDs)
 - → Part 12: Immersive video (FDIS 2nd Ed., 2025)
 - → Part 4: Immersive audio (FDIS 2025) ... 39 parts already!

Still more compression possible?

• AVC (H.264) → HEVC (H.265) → ??

```
VVC: Versatile Vide
```

- Developed in '
- Patents: MPEG LA+

 Patents: MPEG LA+

 Media Coding Industry

 Media Coding (MC-IF) Coa **v**iedia
 - mersive video (FDIS 2nd Ed., 2025) $\rightarrow P$
 - → Par → Immersive audio (FDIS 2025)
 - ... 39 parts already!

Patents? Licenses?

- New standard in MPEG → MPEG-5 !!
 Essential Video Coding
- Objective: solve the need for a "licensingfriendly" video codec that would facilitate the timely availability of clear and transparent Type 2 licensing terms, with HEVC-level quality.
- ISO/IEC 23094. No new algorithms! (2020, Amendments and new parts)

MPEG Other video codings

• ISO/IEC 23094-1: Essential Video Coding (EVC)

 ISO/IEC 23094-2: Low Complexity Enhancement Video Coding (LCEVC)

- Future:
 - (Video) coding for machines
 - Lenslet video coding

— . . .

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Structures and containers

- Structures → Documents
- Files → File formats
- Information ("film" example):
 - Audio streams
 - Video streams
 - Synchronization info
 - Metadata
 - Complementary info: subtitles, chapters, ...
- Parts:

```
"chunks", "atoms", "packets", "segments", ... contain the "payload" (data)
```

Multimedia containers

Proprietary

- Microsoft/IBM: RIFF (Resource Interchange FF)
- Microsoft: ASF, AVI, ...
- Adobe: Flash video, …

Open

- Matroska (.mkv) [Very much used for video]
- Google: WebM (VP8+Vorbis for HTML5). (Based on Matroska) (Now: VP9+Opus)
- Xiph.org: ogg (Theora+Vorbis for HTML5)

– ...

WebP uses RIFF as container WAV, AVI, etc. are derived from RIFF

Multimedia containers

Standard

- DVD Forum: VOB
- 3GP * (mobile)
- MJ2 * (Motion JPEG 2000)
- MPEG-2 TS
- MP4 * (MPEG-4 Parts 14 & 15)
- MXF (Material eXchange Format), SMPTE (TV broadc.)
- MPEG-21 *
- HEIF*(High Efficiency Image File Format), ISO/IEC 23008-12

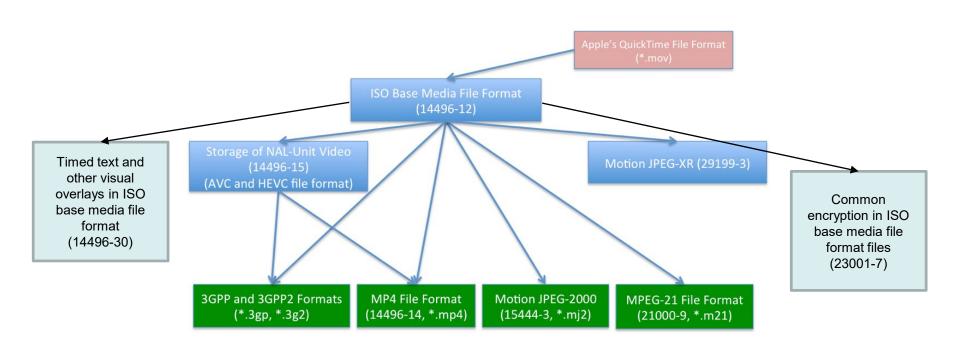
^{*} Based on ISO base media file format (ISOBMFF)

Multimedia containers

- ISO base media file format (ISOBMFF)
 - Format for different bitstreams
 - Specified in JPEG2000 and MPEG-4
 - Based on Apple Quick Time container
 - Specific extensions going on
 - Object oriented structure
 - "Box" → File Type Box
 - Supports streaming

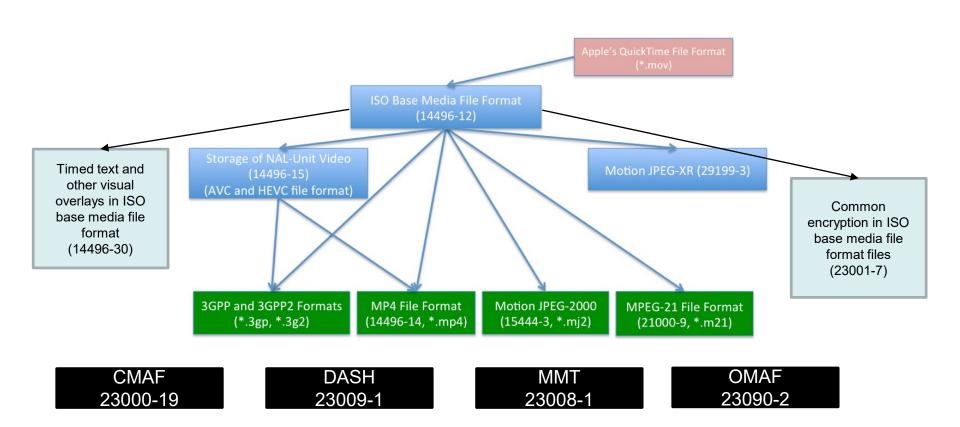
ISO base media file format

Relationship with other standards:



ISO base media file format

Relationship with other standards:



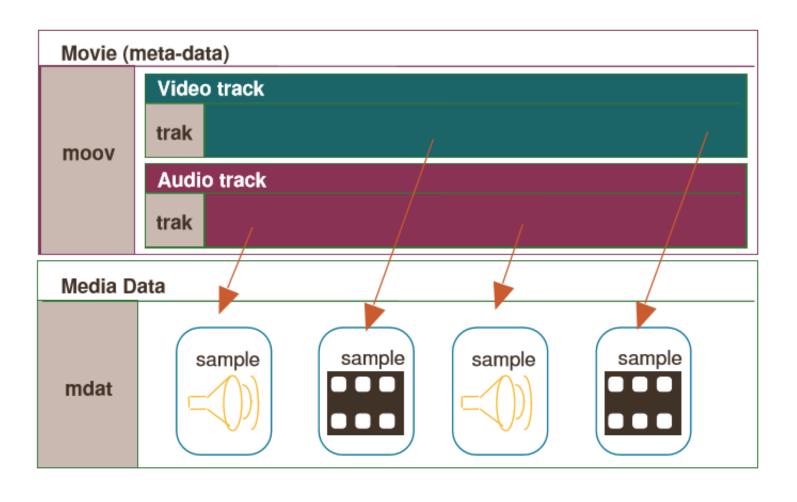
Boxes structure:

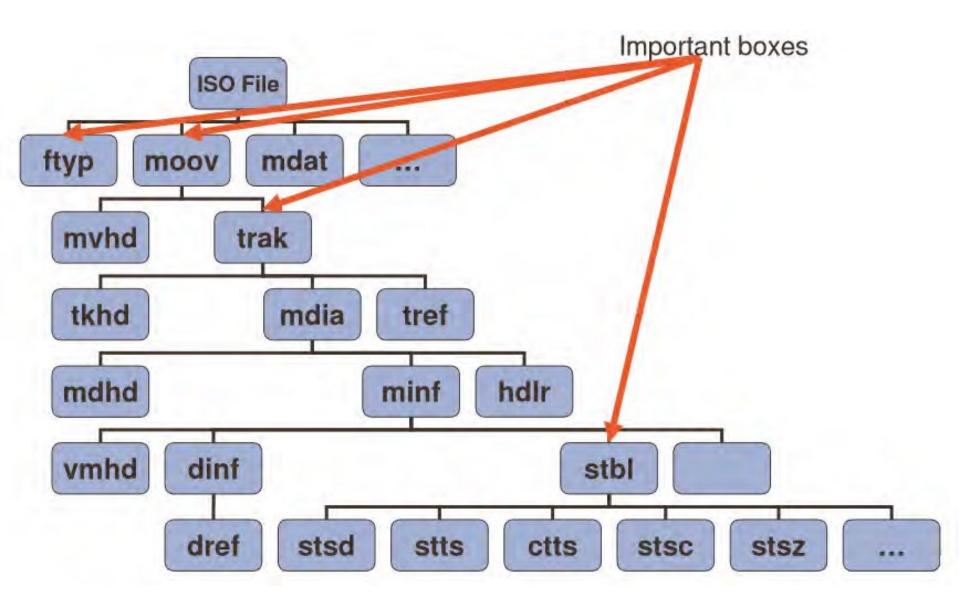
ftyp: FileTypeBox, moov: Movie Box, mdat: Media Data Box

ftyp		
moov		track
		•••
		track
meta	Item infol tem location	Other item specific metadata
mdat	•••	Item's encoded bitstream

Source: "Ultimate Guide to Container Formats", by Armin Trattnig

Example for a movie:

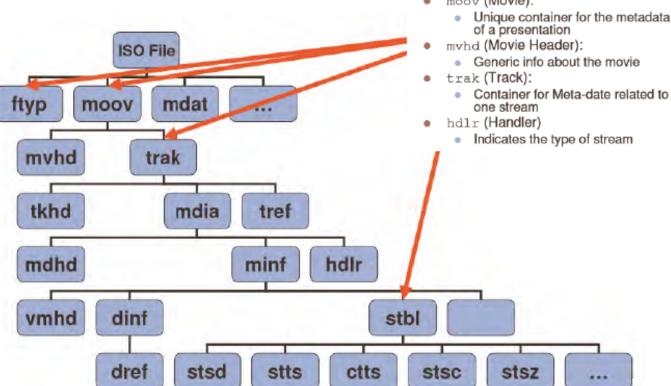




- ftyp (File Type): 1 per file
 - File type
 - File version
 - Compatibility with other ISO files

- Contains the media data
- TYPICAL STRUCTURE Contains the med A file may have several, non contiguoús
 - moov (Movie):
 - of a presentation

- dinf/dref (Data Information/Data Reference)
 - Indicates the location of the data. (current file or remote file)
- stb1 (Sample Table)
 - Contains the meta data related to samples, sample per sample
- stsd (Sample Description)
 - Contains the decoder configuration for the elementary stream
- stts (Sample To Time)
 - DTS for each sample
 - Use a predictive coding scheme
- stsz (Sample To Size)
 - Size of each sample, run-length coded





 MPEG Systems File Format Subgroup wins Technology & Engineering Emmy® Award 2021

 Recognized with an Award for their 20 years of work on the ISO Base Media File Format (ISOBMFF), first standardized in 1999 as part of the MPEG-4 Systems specification, and is now in its 6th edition as ISO/IEC 14496-12. It is the structural specification under the widely used and supported MP4 and 3GP file formats.

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Metadata

- "Data over data"
- "Data over multimedia resources/content"
- Example: Images

Metadata example

JPSearch Core Metadata Schema

- Identifier
- Title
- Description
- OriginalImageIdentifier
- Keyword
- CreationDate
- ModifiedDate
- RightsDescription
- Source

- CollectionLabel
- PreferenceValue
- Rating
- RegionOfInterest
- Modifiers
- Creators
- Publisher
- GPSPositioning
- Width
- Heigth

Metadata example

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- Height

EXERCISE: What is missing? What should be out?

Metadata example EXERCISE

Metadata - components

- Schema (categories of information)
- Vocabulary (specific 'words' or 'values')
- Conceptual model (relationships between the information and concepts in a resource)
- Content standard (describe how specific information should be entered within metadata schema categories)
- Encoding (the way the metadata is presented, e.g. XML)

Metadata - components

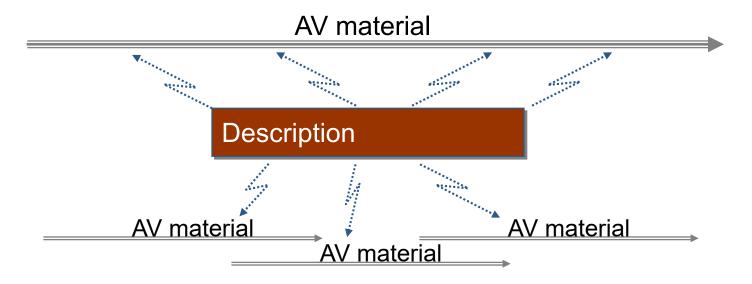
- Schema (categories of information)
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- Content standard (describe how specific information should be entered within metadata schema categories)
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Metadata - Schemas

- Classification concepts:
 - What is described: audio, video, places, images, artistic images, books, ...
 - Application environment: education, libraries, museums, archives, web, ...
 - Objective: administration, description, search, interchange, preservation, ...
- "Embedded" or not

Relation content / description

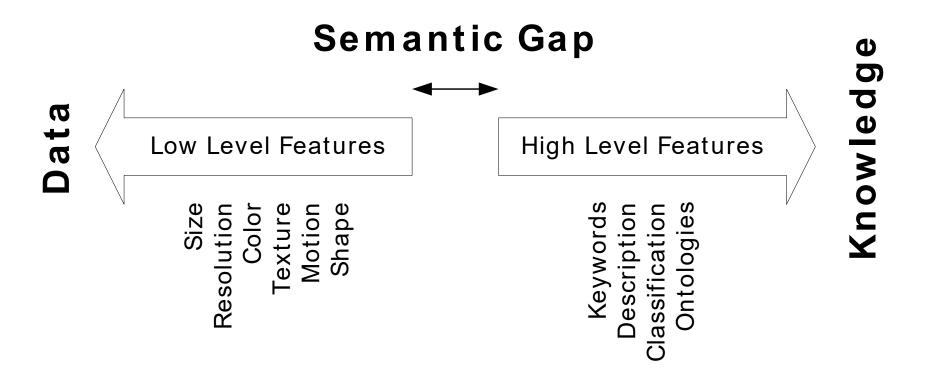
Description may be separated from the content



Description may be embedded in the content



Multimedia Metadata Low level vs. High level features



Dublin Core (DC)

- One of most used schemas.
- Objective: "Set of 'core' metadata properties" for a basic description of resources (simple and compound).
- Generic: "Lowest common denominator".
 Basic interoperability between
 "digital collections".
- Official standard: ISO 15836.
- Extension and adaptation mechanism:
 - "Qualifier"
 - Extension

Dublin Core (DC)

Element	Definition	Record A -	Record B -
		a painting	a digital image
Titlo	Name by which the	Mona Lisa, La	Mona Lisa, La
Title	resource is formally known	Gioconda	Gioconda
Creator	An entity primarily	Leonardo da Vinci	Leonardo da Vinci
	responsible for making the		
	content of the resource		
Subject	The topic of the content	Woman, Portrait,	Woman, Portrait,
Subject	of the resource	Renaissance	Renaissance
	An account of the	Three-quarter	Three-quarter
Description	content of the	portrait of a Florentine	portrait of a Florentine
•	resource	woman in front of a	woman in front of a
	resource	landscape	landscape
Publisher	An entity responsible	Musée du Louvre	owner of digital
	for making the	massa ad zeams	collection]
	resource		
	An entity responsible	N/A	Jane Smith [digital
Contributor	for making contributions to		photographer]
	the content of the		priotographer
	resource A date associated	1500s	2002-10-30
Date	with an event in the life		2002 10 00
	cycle of the resource		

Dublin Core (DC)

Туре	The nature or genre of the content of the	Still Image	Still Image
	resource (e.g. sound, text,		
	still image)	Oil pointing	JPEG file
Format	The physical or digital manifestation of the	Oil painting	JPEG IIIe
	resource (e.g. book, JPEG,		
	PDF)		
Identifier	An unambiguous	No.779 [museum	2002_0054.jpg
Identifier	reference to the	inventory number]	
	resource within a given		
	context		
Source	A reference to a resource from which the present resource is derived	N/A	Louvre No.779 [museum inventory number]
	A language of the	N/A	N/A
Language	intellectual content of the		
	resource		
Relation	A reference to a	N/A	Record A
relation	related resource	77om v 52om	1501/D
Coverage	The extent or scope of the content of the	77cm x 53cm	158KB
	resource Information about rights	Not in copyright	© [owner of digital
Rights	held in and over the resource	l tot iii oopyrigiit	collection]

Metadata - Schemas

General:

- XMP (eXtensible Metadata Platform): ISO 16684 (Ed.2 '19). Originated in Adobe. Different serializations
- Images:
 - Exif (Exchangeable image file format)
 - Photo cameras; In JPEG, TIFF, ...
 - JPSearch
 - JPOnto (JPEG): LinkedData and Ontology
 - VRA (Virtual Resources Association) Core
 - Cultural or art images

Audiovisual:

- MPEG-7 (Multimedia Content Description Interface)
- ID3 (Metadata container. Normally for MP3 audio)

Metadata - Schemas

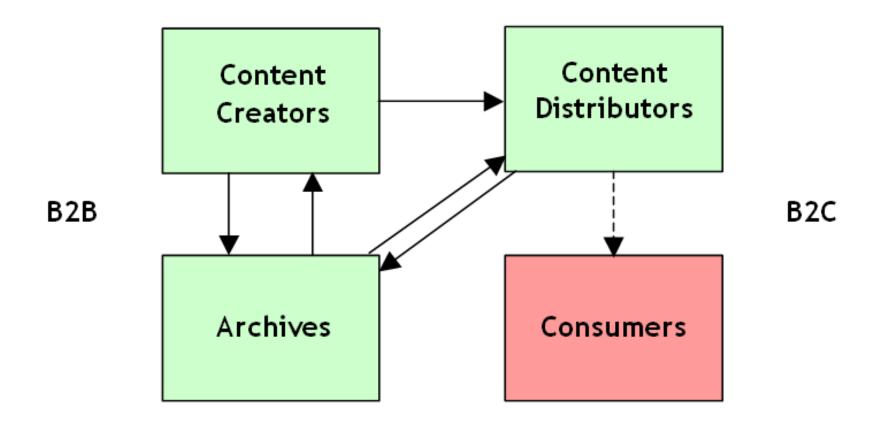
TV:

- P/Meta (EBU), EBUCore (EBU)
- PBCore (Public Broadcasting Metadata Diccionary)
- SMPTE (Society of Motion Picture Technical Experts):
 - -Data Diccionary
 - —MXF (Material Exchange Format)
 - **DMS-1** (Descriptive MD Schema)
 - BXF (Broadcast Exchange Format). Protocol.
- TV-Anytime

Archives:

- ISAD(G) (General International Standard Archival Description)
- OAI-PMH (Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting)

- Minimum information needed to describe radio and television content
- "If you can't find it, you don't have it!"
- Creation, management and preservation of material
- Facilitates programme exchanges between broadcasters or between content producers



- Core Metadata Set Elements (1/2):
 - Title, Alternative title
 - Creator
 - Subject (topic)
 - Description
 - Publisher
 - Contributor
 - Date (created, issued, modified, digitized, ...)
 - Type (genre, target audience, "objectType")

— ...

Core Metadata Set Elements (2/2):

- Format (technical characteristics):
 Image, Video, Video track, Audio, Audio track, Data,
 Captioning, Ancilliary data, Signing, Start, End, Duration,
 Document, Technical attributes, etc.
- Coverage (time and place aspects)
- Rights
- Version
- Publication history
- Rating
- Part
- Metadata provider
- Entity

EBUCore – Conceptual Data Model

