

Novellia Token Standard

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Herein, we describe a metadata standard for Cardano tokens.

Novellia Platform

Get ready to take back gaming!

The Novellia Platform is a decentralized game marketplace, built on blockchain technology, ultimately reducing fees for everyone, and preventing censorship.

As a first slice in our initiative, we introduce our own metadata standard we feel will better serve the needs of the Novellia marketplace. Feedback is highly welcome. If our format is widely adopted, we expect this to help the Cardano token ecosystem while also ensuring our own tokens are interoperable with as many clients as possible.

To learn more, [check out our website](#).

721 Token Standard

721 is the most used metadata standard for Cardano Tokens. When developers mint tokens using a common format, applications such as wallets, mobile apps, and games can easily support all tokens that conform.

The 721 metadata is [documented here](#).

Some existing Cardano projects have already used variations of the 721 metadata format:

- [CardanoKidz | Rare NFT's on Cardano! | Collect them all](#)
 - [Example Metadata On-chain](#)
- [SpaceBudz](#)
 - [Example Metadata On-chain](#)

```
{
  "721": {
    "cbc34df5cdikojgoaijerg0e9urg904i3209ri09ferogjerge": {
      "Draculi": {
        "id": 1,
        "name": "Draculi",
        "image": "ipfs://ipfs/QmSXVm14pVec78vjGgQBMygwKYvDeyKyLs4UCic7UspxEv",
        <other properties>
      },
      "IscaraTheTenThousandGuns": {
        "id": 2,
        "name": "Iscara the Ten Thousand Guns",
        "image": "ipfs://ipfs/QmSXVm14pVec78vjGgQBMygwKYvDeyKyLs4UCic7UspxEv",
        <other properties>
      }
    }
    ...
  }
}
```

Unfortunately, this format has some limitations:

- Single image asset
 - A large image would download slowly without a thumbnail also being provided
 - There is no indication of what kind of file the image is
 - Not all tokens have an image
- Limited metadata
 - No copyright, publisher
 - No description

Further, [metadata on-chain has a 64 character limit for strings](#) and the 721 standard does not provide a canonical way to circumvent this other than choosing one of:

- on-chain metadata
- off-chain metadata

This is particularly noticeable for URLs which may choose a strategy like the below to circumvent this:

```
{
  "host": "www.website.com",
  "path": "/path/to/my/nft"
}
```

A hybrid solution where off-chain metadata takes precedence over on-chain metadata is preferable due to the possibility of off-chain storage becoming defunct.

If we assume metadata resources will eventually become broken, we should design our metadata standard such that holders will at least be able to identify their tokens with some basic text information.

So what's the Novellia Token Standard?

We have two options:

- Extend the 721 format by fulfilling mandatory fields and adding our own. We retain the "721" symbol for compatibility.
- We use an entirely new "label" symbol and expect clients to support us.

We choose the first option because:

- we cannot expect clients to support multiple standards at this early stage
- we would like our own tokens to work to a passable degree on clients only supporting 721

We would prefer if other developers did not create a platitude of different ways of specifying 721 extensions, so we elect to make the Novellia Token Standard a specific extension where others could also be applied using composition.

We refer to the **Extended 721 Token Standard** as a metadata format supporting a few simple fields in addition to the base 721 features:

- Copyright
- Publisher
- Version
- Extension

We refer to the **Novellia Token Standard** as a specific extension of the **Extended 721 Token Standard**.

The first version of the **Novellia Token Standard** is denoted by the extension string "novellia_1".

Extended 721 Token Standard

```
{
  "721": {
    "copyright": "Copyright Rektangular Studios Inc.; all rights reserved",
    "publisher": [
      "rektangularstudios.com"
    ],
    "version": 1,
    "extension": [
      "novellia"
    ],
    "cbc34df5cdikojgoaijerg0e9urg904i3209ri09ferogjerge": {
      "Draculi": {
        "id": 1,
        "name": "Draculi",
        "image": "ipfs://ipfs/QmSXVm14pVec78vjGgQBMygwKYvDeyKyLs4UCic7UspxEv",
        <other properties>
      },
      "IscaraTheTenThousandGuns": {
        "id": 2,
        "name": "Iscara the Ten Thousand Guns",
        "image": "ipfs://ipfs/QmSXVm14pVec78vjGgQBMygwKYvDeyKyLs4UCic7UspxEv",
        <other properties>
      },
      ...
    }
  }
}
```

Novellia Token Standard

```
{
  "721": {
    "copyright": "Copyright Rektangular Studios Inc.; all rights reserved",
    "publisher": [
      "rektangularstudios.com"
    ],
    "extension": [
      "novellia_1"
    ],
    "version": 1,
    "cbc34df5cb851e6f1elelelelelelelelelelelf2d4db94288b": {
      "IscaraTheTenThousandGuns": {
        "id": 2,
        "name": "Iscara the Ten Thousand Guns",
        "description": {
          "short": "Occulta Novellia Character",
          "long": "Occulta Novellia character play info such as stats and lore."
        },
        "image": "ipfs://ipfs/<IPFS_HASH>",
        "resource": [
          {
            "resource_id": "Novellia",
            "description": "Off-chain Novellia extended metadata",
            "priority": 0
```

```

    "priority": 0,
    "url": [
      "sia://<SKYLINK>",
      "ipfs://ipfs/<IPFS_HASH>",
      "https://rektangularstudios.com/novellia.json"
    ],
    "content_type": "application/json"
  },
  {
    "resource_id": "Artwork",
    "description": "Low Resolution",
    "priority": 0,
    "url": [
      "sia://<SKYLINK>",
      "ipfs://ipfs/<IPFS_HASH>",
      "https://rektangularstudios.com/iscara_low.png"
    ],
    "content_type": "image/png"
  },
  {
    "resource_id": "Artwork",
    "description": "High Resolution",
    "priority": 1,
    "url": [
      "sia://<SKYLINK>",
      "ipfs://ipfs/<IPFS_HASH>",
      "https://rektangularstudios.com/iscara_high.png"
    ],
    "content_type": "image/png"
  }
],
<other properties>
},
}
}
}

```

	Extension	Description
root label	721	Indicates support for 721 feature set.
copyright	Extended 721	Attribution of rights.
publisher	Extended 721	List of publishers or entities involved in token creation. Useful for onlookers to determine token origin.
extension	Extended 721	List of extensions for parser to understand feature set.
version	Extended 721	Token version. May have future use such as for clients optionally using later metadata iterations, or reprints with updated metadata.
policy_id	721	Indicates policy_id to attribute metadata under. Useful when minting multiple tokens in one TX.
asset_id	721	Indicates asset_id to attribute metadata under. Useful when minting multiple tokens in one TX.
id	721	Token number in a set. Redundant field which makes no sense for tokens without a total-order. Count from 1 as this is user facing information and users are not developers. This is not part of the 721 specification, but makes semantic sense.
name	721	Display name for token. Fill for support on clients not supporting extensions.
image	721	Image URL without source redundancy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For tokens without an image resource, put your favorite logo. • For tokens with an image resource, use the low resolution version. This is not part of the 721 specification, but will cause saner load times for legacy clients.
description	Novellia	Short and long descriptions (64 byte limit per string) of token purpose. A short description makes a good header, while a long description makes a good paragraph body. My Product Name You should buy my product because it's cool.
resource	Novellia	List of token resources. For a complex token with many resources it is recommended to use an off-chain Novellia resource JSON file.

Resource

These will be loaded in the order given in the array. If there are multiple images a client should use the first supported image MIME type as the primary image to display.

If a Novellia resource is resolved all other resources will be ignored. If there are multiple Novellia resources only the first will be used.

Redundant resource URLs should be attempted in the order they are given. If you want to minimize load on your servers / centralized CDN, put decentralized storage first.

We have chosen the following attempt order:

- Sia / Skynet
 - It's decentralized, really fast, but experimental.
- IPFS
 - It's decentralized, but slower and more widely in use than Sia / Skynet.
- Centralized Storage
 - Decentralized storage cannot be relied on for storage permanency. This is last to prevent server load on the behalf of token publishers.

Field	Description
resource_id	Resource identifier interpreted by application. These may correspond to specific names resources a client expects.
description	Short text describing resource. Helpful to know what the resource should have been if the resource breaks.
priority	Order to load resource. Lower numbers load first. Resources with the same name will progressively overwrite each other.
url	Redundant resource URLs. These should all point to the same file on different hosts. It is required to provide an IPFS link. This will be used to validate that contents served from central or unrecognized URL formats are unchanged. Clients should elect to check the IPFS hash from URLs not known to point to decentralized storage.
content_type	MIME type of resource. Common MIME types

For consistency, we define a few common **resource_id** choices:

- Novellia
 - Novellia off-chain resource
- Card
 - Digital artwork simulating physical card
- Artwork
 - Relating to the token or card
- ArtworkAnimation
 - Relating to the token or card, but animated

Clients should automatically enumerate and list resources with supported file formats, even if they do not understand the **resource_id**. For example, a client may ignore GIFs, but if it can display PNGs, it should put all of them into a carousel for display.

721 fields should be filled regardless of using any extensions:

- Ensures interoperability with clients not supporting said extensions
- Ensures some data integrity if extension resources fail to resolve
 - Novellia will overwrite **721** fields with the contents of the Novellia resource. This is helpful for character restricted fields such as **description**.

Novellia Resource

A Novellia resource is a JSON file linked as a resource within a token's metadata. This metadata must be using the Novellia extension for the **Extended 721 Token Standard**. It extends metadata off-chain, providing a few benefits:

- Smaller on-chain metadata means lower minting fees
 - For significant data, it may not even be possible due to transaction size limits
- Off-chain JSON does not have string length limitations

The Novellia resource:

- duplicates all Novellia extension metadata found on-chain
- overwrites on-chain metadata with same field names, taking priority due to relaxed off-chain restrictions

Each Novellia resource is token specific. There is no concept of multiple token metadata sections in a single Novellia resource. The token minting information is still preserved for sanity reasons.

```
{
  "novellia_version": 1,
  "metadata": {
    "copyright": "Copyright Rektangular Studios Inc.; all rights reserved",
    "publisher": [
      "https://rektangularstudios.com"
    ],
    "version": 1,
    "extension": [
      "novellia_1"
    ],
  },
},
{
  "token": {
    "policy_id": "cbc34df5cb851e6f1elelelelelelelelelelelf2d4db94288b",
    "asset_id": "IscaraTheTenThousandGuns"
  },
  "details": {
    "name": "Iscara the Ten Thousand Guns",
    "description": {
      "short": "Occulta Novellia Character",
      "long": "A character token for the surreal horror game Occulta Novellia. This token will grant access to a playable character."
    }
  },
  "resource": [
    {
      "resource id": "Card",
```



```

    "description": "Low Resolution",
    "priority": 0,
    "url": [
      "sia://<SKYLINK>",
      "ipfs://ipfs/<IPFS_HASH>",
      "https://rektangularstudios.com/static"
    ],
    "content_type": "image/png"
  },
  {
    "resource_id": "Card",
    "description": "High Resolution",
    "priority": 1,
    "url": [
      "sia://<SKYLINK>",
      "ipfs://ipfs/<IPFS_HASH>",
      "https://rektangularstudios.com/static"
    ],
    "content_type": "image/png"
  }
  {
    "resource_id": "Artwork",
    "description": "Low Resolution",
    "priority": 0,
    "url": [
      "sia://<SKYLINK>",
      "ipfs://ipfs/<IPFS_HASH>",
      "https://rektangularstudios.com/static"
    ],
    "content_type": "image/png"
  },
  {
    "resource_id": "Artwork",
    "description": "High Resolution",
    "priority": 1,
    "url": [
      "sia://<SKYLINK>",
      "ipfs://ipfs/<IPFS_HASH>",
      "https://rektangularstudios.com/static"
    ],
    "content_type": "image/png"
  },
  {
    "resource_id": "ArtworkAnimation",
    "description": "Animated GIF of the artwork creation process.",
    "priority": 0,
    "url": [
      "sia://<SKYLINK>",
      "ipfs://ipfs/<IPFS_HASH>",
      "https://rektangularstudios.com/static"
    ],
    "content_type": "image/gif"
  },
  {
    "resource_id": "OccultaNovelliaCharacter",

```

```

    "description": "Occulta Novellia character play information such as stats and lore.",
    "priority": 0,
    "url": [
      "sia://<SKYLINK>",
      "ipfs://ipfs/<IPFS_HASH>",
      "https://rektangularstudios.com/static"
    ],
    "content_type": "application/json"
  },
  <other properties>
]
}
}

```

Field	Description
novellia_version	Identifies the JSON file as a Novellia resource and defines the version of the specification in use.
metadata	<p>Metadata for the Novellia resource. Defines a few fields from the 721 Extended Token Standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copyright • publisher • version • extension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is not required to put novellia_1 in here again. This will be ignored. Put additional extensions for proper parsing of the details field.
token	The token that the Novellia resource is intended for. This is helpful if someone finds the Novellia resource but isn't sure what it's being used by.
details	Any information that would have been filed under the specific token on-chain within the Extended 721 Format . Extensions other than novellia_1 should put additional fields here to be parsed by Novellia Dashboard plugins.

Occulta Novellia Character Resource

An Occulta Novellia character resource is a JSON file that describes an Occulta Novellia character. This does not contain references to other resources like illustrations: it only contains the play information.

We provide this as an example of how the Novellia resource can act as an index for other resource files including game information. We neglect to describe the format as it does not pertain to the Novellia Token Standard.

```
{
  "occulta_novellia_version": 1,
  "name": "Iscara the Ten Thousand Guns",
  "card": {
    "number": 2,
    "release_set": "Presale 1",
    "location": "Operator's Fortress"
  },
  "progression": {
    "class": "Iscara of Grevania",
    "stage": 1
  },
  "stats": {
    "health": 8,
    "attack": 6,
    "move": 1,
    "slots": 2
  },
  "attributes": [
    "Operator's Guild",
    "Human",
    "Tainted",
    "Rifle",
    "Sure Shot",
    "Operator",
    "Ten Thousand Guns"
  ],
  "description": "Rumors say the leader of the Operator's Guild is possessed by a demonic entity that lets her morph into monsters and spit in the face of death itself. The Grevans refuse to acknowledge her humanity, referring to her as Ten Thousand Guns. They hide their children at dawn, hoping that the pretty woman, usually seen in a dress, won't take them."
}
```

Security Concerns for Files Hosted on Centralized Storage

It is a requirement that all files listed under the token metadata and Novellia resource contain at least an IPFS link in each set of redundant links. This is for a few reasons:

- We expect IPFS to be more stable than Skynet
- IPFS has easier tooling than Sia for executing a dry run to get a hash
- hash of a file hosted on a CDN must match the IPFS link or it is expected that clients will reject it

Since decentralized storage is still experimental, we do not feel it is reasonable to exclude a link to centralized storage that a developer can trivially maintain.