

Canonical types to support (recommended)

Treat these as your public, cross-platform types:

- **text/plain; charset=utf-8** — plain text (always include)
- **text/html** — HTML fragment (also expose a plain-text fallback)
- **text/uri-list** — list of URIs (primarily `file:///...`; may also include `http(s)://`)
- **image/png** — lossless image; ideal interchange for transparency
- **image/jpeg** — common lossy fallback
- **image/bmp** — if you decide to surface raw DIB/BMP drops as-is
- **image/svg+xml** — vector images (nice-to-have)
- **application/json** — lightweight structured data (nice-to-have)
- **application/x-virtual-files** — *your* abstraction for “promised” files (deferred rendering)
- **application/x-color** — simple color payload (e.g., `#RRGGBBAA` or CSS color) (nice-to-have)

Also support the **operation** (copy/move/link/none) in a platform-neutral way.

Map native formats ⇔ canonical types

Windows (OLE DnD)

- Plain text → `CF_UNICODETEXT` ⇔ **text/plain; charset=utf-8**
- HTML → registered "HTML Format" ⇔ **text/html** (parse Start/EndFragment; also offer plain text)
- URLs → `UniformResourceLocatorW` ⇔ **text/uri-list** (single URL)
- Files on disk → `CF_HDROP` ⇔ **text/uri-list** (`file:///...` for each item)
- Shell items → `IShellItemArray` ⇔ **text/uri-list** (resolve to file URLs when possible)
- PNG → registered "PNG" ⇔ ***image/png**
- Bitmaps → `CF_DIBV5`/`CF_DIB` ⇔ **image/bmp** (you may convert to **image/png** internally)
- Virtual files (not on disk yet) → `FileGroupDescriptorW` + `FileContents` ⇔ **application/x-virtual-files** (list of descriptors + lazy `IStream` suppliers)
- Preferred/performed effects → `"Preferred DropEffect"` / `"Performed DropEffect"` (map to your copy/move/link result)

macOS (NSPasteboard / UTType)

- Plain text → `public.utf8-plain-text` ⇔ **text/plain; charset=utf-8**
- HTML → `public.html` ⇔ **text/html** (WebArchive exists, but HTML covers most)
- URLs → `public.url` (NSURL) ⇔ **text/uri-list** (include title separately if you like)
- Files → `public.file-url` (one or many) ⇔ **text/uri-list**
- PNG/JPEG/SVG/BMP → `public.png`/`public.jpeg`/`public.svg-image`/`public.bmp` ⇔ **image/***

- Virtual files → **File Promises** (`NSFilePromiseProvider` / `NSFilePromiseReceiver`) ⇔ **application/x-virtual-files**
- Operations → `NSDragOperationCopy/Move/Link` ⇔ your normalized op

Linux (X11 XDND / Wayland + GTK/Qt/FDO)

- Plain text → `text/plain; charset=utf-8` ⇔ **text/plain**
- HTML → `text/html` ⇔ **text/html**
- Files/URIs → `text/uri-list` (newline-separated URIs) ⇔ **text/uri-list**
- Images → `image/png`, `image/jpeg`, sometimes `image/bmp`, `image/svg+xml` ⇔ **image/***
- Virtual files → toolkit-specific streams (GTK GIO streams, Qt MIME providers) ⇔ **application/x-virtual-files**
- Operations → `copy/move/link` per XDND/Wayland action mask ⇔ your op

Extraction & production rules (portable behavior)

text/plain

- Always UTF-8 internally. On Windows, convert `CF_UNICODETEXT` (UTF-16LE) ⇔ UTF-8.

text/html

- Prefer the HTML fragment (Windows “HTML Format” has Start/EndFragment markers; macOS/Linux give raw HTML).
- Also provide a plain-text fallback by stripping tags.

text/uri-list

- Parse per RFC 2483 style: `\r\n` or `\n` separated, ignore `#` comment lines, entries are absolute URIs.
- For `file:///` URIs, decode percent-escapes and normalize to platform paths.
- Be prepared for **http(s)://** URLs too (browsers do this).

image/png / image/jpeg / image/bmp / image/svg+xml

- If multiple are offered, **prefer PNG**, then JPEG, then SVG (if your consumers can render it), then BMP.
- On Windows, `CF_DIBV5`/`CF_DIB` can be wrapped into a BMP *file* or converted to PNG internally.

application/x-virtual-files (deferred rendering)

- Normalize to: a list of { name, size?, suggested_mime?, openStream(index)->Reader }.
- Map from:
 - Windows: FileGroupDescriptorW (names/size/etc) + FileContents (per-file IStream)
 - macOS: NSFilePromiseReceiver (receive to a folder, or vend a stream per file)
 - Linux/GTK/Qt: per-file streams promised by the toolkit
- Expose a **pull** API so you only materialize bytes if/when the drop is accepted.

Operation (copy/move/link)

- Normalize from: Windows DROPEFFECT_*, macOS NSDragOperation*, XDG/Wayland actions.
- Let callers request a preferred op; intersect with source's allowed mask.

API shape that works well

Design a tiny, capability-oriented interface:

```
// Discovery
offer.types(): string[] // e.g., ["text/plain; charset=utf-8", "text/uri-list", "image/png"]
offer.has(type: string): boolean
offer.pickImage(): Promise<{ type: "image/png"|"image/jpeg"|"image/svg+xml"|"image/bmp", data: Uint8Array }>
offer.getText(): Promise<string>
offer.getHtml(): Promise<{ html: string, plain?: string }>
offer.getUris(): Promise<string[]> // URIs, not paths
offer.getVirtualFiles(): Promise<Array<{ name: string, size?: number, openStream(): Promise<Readable> }>>

// Operation
offer.allowedOps(): ("copy"|"move"|"link")[]
offer.chooseOp(desired: "copy"|"move"|"link"): "copy"|"move"|"link"|"none"
```

On the **source** side, mirror it with `DataPackage`-like setters that accept your canonical types and let the platform bridge handle the rest.

“Baseline” vs “Nice-to-have”

- **Baseline (do these first):**
 - text/plain; charset=utf-8
 - text/uri-list
 - image/png (and accept image/jpeg)
 - text/html
 - **application/x-virtual-files** (if you ever expect Outlook/email/archives/browser drags)

- o op mapping (copy/move/link)
- **Nice-to-have:**
 - o image/svg+xml, image/bmp
 - o application/json
 - o application/x-color (e.g., #RRGGBB or rgb(a))

Edge cases & tips

- **Security:** treat URIs carefully. Don't auto-fetch network URLs; validate paths; resolve symlinks if your app writes.
- **Huge drops:** cap total bytes you'll buffer (especially for images/virtual files). Stream when possible.
- **HTML:** Windows' "HTML Format" includes headers; extract the fragment by markers (or byte offsets) for consistent results.
- **File paths vs URIs:** Always normalize to **URIs** at your boundary; convert to paths only at the platform edge that needs them.
- **Testing:**
 - o Windows: ClipSpy / your own diagnostic target (dump all formats).
 - o macOS: Pasteboard inspector, Finder/Preview (for file URLs and images), small Cocoa tester app.
 - o Linux: gtk3-demo DnD examples / xclip / small GTK test.

If you'd like, I can sketch the exact **mapping table code** for your Zig layer (Windows OLE ⇌ canonical) and outline the parallel macOS/Linux adapters so you've got a clear to-do list per platform.