

Stewardship

CONTINUITY STEWARDSHIP v0.1

Capsules in context (of Trust, Governance, and Interchange)

How Capsules Maintain Trust Across People, Systems, and Time

Status: Conceptual Frame (Non-Spec)

Series: The World of Capsules IV — Continuity Stewardship

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****Capsules introduce a foundational shift:**

continuity travels with what matters — not with the platforms that host it.**

Terminology note: We do not define Capsule “types.”

Capsules have **states, orbits, or contexts** they operate within.

The same Capsule can fluidly move across contexts.

Executive Summary

Continuity is not self-maintaining. Left to drift, systems centralize power, erase context, and fracture trust. **Continuity Stewardship** describes **Capsules in context (of trust, governance, and interchange)**—how meaning remains accountable and portable as it moves among people, organizations, and machines.

This paper introduces **stewardship gravity**—the cultural commitments and structural patterns that keep **intent, lineage, integrity, and responsibility** intact during exchange and coordination. It outlines how Capsules **avoid central authorities without succumbing to chaos**, how **interchange works between systems**, and how **abuse is resisted** without surveillance. It concludes with practical examples across **B2C, B2B, and C2C** markets and prepares the ground for the later **DLC Standard**, without revealing that spec.

This is not a technical document. It is the **meta-layer** that lets the rest of the World of Capsules hold together.

1) The Governance Gap: Why Good Intentions Erode

Digital ecosystems commonly fail along predictable lines:

- **Centralization creep:** convenience concentrates control; platforms become gatekeepers of history.
- **Opaque mutation:** meaning shifts quietly as artifacts pass through teams, vendors, and agents.
- **Continuity capture:** providers equate hosting with authority; portability and memory break at boundaries.
- **Unbounded automation:** agents execute beyond mandate; changes lack traceable authorship.
- **All-or-nothing disclosure:** “provenance” becomes exposure; privacy collapses or integrity does.

Stewardship exists to counter these pressures—**keeping continuity attached** even when incentives diverge and infrastructure changes.

2) Stewardship Gravity

Stewardship gravity is the commitment to preserve **intent, lineage, integrity, and responsibility** as Capsules move across roles, systems, and eras.

It does not require central control.

It requires **accountable relationships**—and **portable commitments**.

Stewardship gravity ensures:

- **Authority stays visible** even when execution moves.
- **Change is recorded as relationship**, not replacement.
- **Interchange does not sever continuity**.
- **Inspection is possible** when it matters—**without turning life into surveillance**.

3) Capsules in context (of Trust, Governance, and Interchange)

In this context, a Capsule:

- **Carries its mandate** (purpose, constraints, allowances, escalation paths).
- **Maintains a living record** of significant changes (who/what/why/when).
- **Supports selective transparency** (private lineage that can be revealed under defined conditions).
- **Travels across environments** (people, orgs, tools, agents) **without losing continuity**.
- **Separates authority from execution** (agents can act; mandates remain human-defined).
- **Resists capture** (no single provider can “own” continuity).

Stewardship is the social layer that **keeps the Capsule whole in the world**, not just within a single app.

4) A Minimal Stewardship Model (Non-Spec Patterns)

4.1 Roles (contextual, not hierarchical)

- **Creators/Authors** — originate intent; can revise mandates.
- **Contributors** — add or adapt; visible as branches.
- **Custodians** — hold, host, or transmit; cannot rewrite origin.
- **Interpreters/Executors** — humans, systems, or agents that act within bounds.
- **Stewards** — individuals or groups that defend continuity (may overlap with any role).

4.2 Duties (portable and bounded)

- **Preserve mandate** (purpose, constraints).
- **Record meaningful mutations** (relationship, not exposure theater).
- **Maintain traceability** (discoverable responsibility).
- **Respect privacy** (lineage preservable without compulsory publication).
- **Enable interchange** (continuity survives boundary crossings).

4.3 Rights (context-aware, revocable where appropriate)

- **Right to be remembered** (authorship/contribution visible).
 - **Right to evolve** (honest revision and branching).
 - **Right to be built upon** (remix with visible ancestry).
 - **Right to local custody** (provider independence).
 - **Right to selective disclosure** (privacy preserved unless conditions require inspection).
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5) Trust Without Centralization

We replace “trust the platform” with **trust the relationships**:

- **Relationship proofs over platform attestation**: what matters is the chain of decisions and contributions—not a hosted badge.
- **Bounded execution over blanket permissions**: agents act within limits set by the Capsule’s mandate; escalations are explicit.
- **Selective transparency over permanent exposure**: integrity can be demonstrated without violating privacy.
- **Plural custody over single ownership**: many can hold; none can unilaterally redefine.

Stewardship does not outlaw authority; it keeps authority **localized, visible, and bounded**.

6) Interchange: Crossing Boundaries Without Breaking Continuity

Interchange is where continuity usually dies—handoffs between teams, vendors, jurisdictions, tools, and agents.

Stewardship patterns for interchange:

- **Mandate travels with the Capsule**: purpose, constraints, and allowed scopes remain attached.
- **Branching over overwriting**: adaptations declare differences; originals remain reachable.
- **Responsibility trails**: who approved what, under which conditions, remains discoverable.
- **Contextual compaction**: surface what’s needed for a boundary crossing; keep deeper lineage sealed unless invoked.
- **Reciprocal expectations**: recipients accept duties (e.g., no silent mutation, respect for private lineage).

Interchange should feel like a **handoff of care**, not a loss of memory.

7) Abuse & Drift Resistance (Without Surveillance)

Common threats

- **Silent alteration** (misleading changes, erased contributors).
- **Continuity hijacking** (rehosting that claims authority).
- **Overreach by automation** (agents act beyond scope).
- **Weaponized disclosure** (provenance used to harm, dox, or chill speech).
- **Institutional erasure** (legal/process changes that whitewash history).

Stewardship responses

- **Difference declarations** (declare what changed, not every keystroke).
- **Mandate ceilings** (explicit bounds for agents and processes).
- **Conditional reveal** (lineage sealed until warranted by policy, consent, or governance triggers).
- **Custody pluralism** (more than one holder; no single point of failure).
- **Cultural guardrails** (norms, not just mechanisms, for credit, consent, and care).

The goal is **accountability without panopticon**.

8) Examples — Capsules in context (of Stewardship)

8.1 Public Health Advisory (multi-jurisdiction)

- **Mandate**: clarity, safety, minimal panic.
- **Adaptations** by regions declare differences (risk thresholds, local policy).
- **Corrections** remain branch-visible; responsibility trails allow targeted review.

8.2 Open Design System (enterprise ↔ vendors ↔ regulators)

- Mandate carries accessibility and ethical constraints.
- Vendors adapt; regulators audit selectively.
- Interchange maintains scope and lineage; no vendor can “capture” the standard.

8.3 Community Archive (sensitive history)

- Custody distributed across trusted custodians.
- Private lineage preserved; public curation controlled by community process.
- Conditional reveal for scholarship or redress—**without exposing vulnerable individuals by default.**

8.4 AI Negotiation Agent (bounded authority)

- Capsule sets objectives, floors/ceilings, escalation.
- Agent actions logged at decision-grain, not surveillance-grain.
- Mandate revisions branch with approvals; drift is detectable.

8.5 Cross-Border Supply Data (interchange under law)

- Safe-use constraints travel with the Capsule.
- Transformations declare assumptions; audit is event-triggered.
- Compliance is inspectable without leaking unrelated private data.

9) Applied E-Commerce — Capsules in context (of Trust, Governance, and Interchange)

B2C (Business → Consumer)

- **Trusted goods & experiences:** provenance, safety notices, and updates **travel with the purchase**—independent of storefronts.

- **Aftermarket confidence:** repairs, patches, remixes **declare differences**; consumers can see meaningful history without being tracked.

B2B (Business → Business)

- **Handoff integrity:** agencies, vendors, brands, and regulators share Capsules that **retain mandates and responsibility trails**.
- **Migration without amnesia:** switching vendors/tools doesn't reset meaning; **continuity is not a hostage**.

C2C (Consumer → Consumer)

- **Authenticity in peer exchange:** templates, mods, digital goods, and community archives **carry ancestry and safe-use notes**.
 - **Community stewardship:** curators can assemble anthologies without erasing origins; credit accrues rather than being reallocated.
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10) Design Constraints (stewardship-specific)

- **Authority remains visible** (who decides scope, when, under what terms).
 - **Execution remains separable** (any executor; mandate unchanged).
 - **Interchange preserves continuity** (handoffs don't break lineage).
 - **Selective transparency** (privacy by default; reveal by condition).
 - **Plural custody** (no single gatekeeper of continuity).
 - **Difference over deletion** (branching relationships, not overwrites).
 - **Human primacy** (humans define mandates; agents follow).
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11) Relationship to the Trilogy (and DLC preparation)

- **Origin** — the first commitment: meaning should endure.
- **Creative Continuity** — Capsules in context (of creative work).

- **Functional Continuity** — Capsules in context (of utility workflows).
- **Experiential Continuity** — Capsules in context (of memory, play, identity, rest).
- **Continuity Stewardship** — the **meta-layer**: trust, governance, and interchange across all three.

This paper prepares the mental model for the **DLC Standard** by establishing **why** a formal baseline is necessary—so continuity is preserved across implementations **without** central authorities.

Closing

Continuity does not protect itself.

Left alone, platforms capture, processes drift, and histories are rewritten.

Continuity Stewardship is how we **keep mandates intact, lineage honest, and interchange trustworthy**—so Capsules can move freely through real-world conditions **without losing themselves** to hosting, hype, or convenience.

When continuity travels with what matters, governance becomes care—not control.

Appendix A — Stewardship Manifesto (One page)

We reject continuity as platform property.

We reject provenance as exposure theater.

We reject automation without mandate and migration without memory.

We build for relationships that can be inspected,

handoffs that do not erase,

and authority that remains visible under scale.

Let artifacts move.

Let systems change.

Let agents act.

But let the **mandate, lineage, and responsibility** remain attached—to the things that matter, and the people who care for them.

Appendix B — Stewardship Lexicon (contextual)

- **Stewardship gravity** — continuity of mandate, lineage, integrity, responsibility across boundaries.
 - **Mandate** — purpose, constraints, allowances, escalation paths.
 - **Difference declaration** — explicit statement of change and relationship.
 - **Conditional reveal** — policy- or consent-based access to private lineage.
 - **Responsibility trail** — discoverable approvals and decision ownership.
 - **Plural custody** — distributed holding; no single point of failure or capture.
 - **Interchange compact** — shared expectations when Capsules cross boundaries.
 - **Agent ceilings** — explicit scope limits and escalation triggers.
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Appendix C — Practical FAQs (Public-safe)

Q1: Do Capsules require a central authority to be trusted?

No. Stewardship emphasizes **relationship accountability, plural custody, and bounded execution**—not platform attestation.

Q2: Does preserving lineage expose private data?

No. Stewardship uses **selective transparency** and **conditional reveal**. Lineage can be preserved without compulsory publication.

Q3: How do agents avoid mandate drift?

By operating under **agent ceilings**, with escalation paths and **difference declarations** for meaningful changes.

Q4: Can enterprises migrate vendors without losing continuity?

Yes. **Interchange compacts** and mandate-carrying Capsules mean switching tools doesn't orphan meaning.

Q5: Is this a legal framework?

This is a **governance frame** that informs policy and technical standards. Legal codification can follow; it is not a precondition for stewardship.

Appendix D — Diagram Prompts (for later visuals)

- **Stewardship Map** — roles (creator/contributor/custodian/executor/steward) around a Capsule; arrows show duties/rights.
- **Interchange Bridge** — boundary crossing with mandate + difference declarations preserved.
- **Trust Without Centralization** — plural custody nodes vs single platform hub.
- **Conditional Reveal** — private lineage store with policy/consent gates.