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Attachment: Functional Requirements

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Abstract

This paper identifies a few functional requirements for files attached to a person, place, event, or other entity within a modern GEDCOM database. This is a "what" and not a "how" paper. The paper does venture into some aspects of software implementation requirements, beyond the pure representational requirements of GEDCOM.

Robust to Merge Process

This is really more of a requirement for the software that implements a GEDCOM database. But there are implicit identifications of things that need to be represented in GEDCOM.

These requirements really are so obvious as to be not even documented. But I think that they are important enough to not be overlooked, so that I am documenting them.

When two GEDCOM databases are merged, the merge must retain the association of a file with any person, event, place or other entity. The merge should also retain the designation of a preferred file (e.g. an image).

The merge should also retain any titles or descriptive text or transcription text or place or other attributes associated with the file, including those specific to an entity.