

# Governance of Context and Intents Types from the FDC3 API

Proposals for supporting Context and Intents releases outside of the FDC3 API release cycle

## Definitions:

## Problem Statement

The maintainers team is broadly supportive for an easier and quicker way of adding Intents and Context more frequently:

- Current process is holding back new additions, some of which have been waiting almost 10 months.
  - For each and every Context and Intent that is defined and created. A PR is submitted back to the main standard. However, the standard is only released periodically when we have a major milestone release.
  - Raising your first PR can be intimidating (docs/docusaurus, schemas, links to other content)
- Vendor feedback from the field if a capability is not within the standard, therefore I cant use FDC3.
- The current process doesn't support/help with proprietary formats.
  - Supporting proprietary types would promote uptake of other parts of the standard
    - Great feedback for standard types where they are needed
    - We should have a clear workflow from creating a private proprietary type, to publishing it, to standardizing it (if needed)

# Requirements:

1. Don't break FDC3 for existing applications
2. Governance of standard types independently from FDC3 standard versions, whilst still checking the consensus of the FDC3 community.
  - a. Additional appointed maintainers could help provide governance
3. Anything that is trying to change Intents and Context types as concepts would have to go back up to the FDC3 Standards working group.
4. Maintain some form of version control
5. Make it easy for people to create & publish new proprietary types (at the moment, creating a new standard type involves a lot of markdown)

# Design Goals:

- Create a website or section of the website that is a Catalog of object definitions - which can be updated between/independently of FDC3 versions!.
- Provide clear guidance on:
  - Best practices for developing, describing and packaging new Intents or Contexts.
  - How to contribute an Intent or Context.
- Community can add PR's for new additions into the catalog. This would allow people to get on with sharing context and interop'ing without having to necessarily wait for standards to happen. E.g. for context, types could include:
  - **published proprietary context types**, which can be used to interop with a given vendor's data structures, e.g. "symphony.chat" or "chartiq.chart"
  - **standardized context types**, which are within the "fdc3.\*" namespace like "fdc3.contact"
  - **proposed/@experimental standard context types**, by publishing early community feedback should be easier to gather
- We can all see their definitions and a separate NPM module that contains types for them all.

- Be able to move to a rolling basis where we release more frequently, say, every quarter, or even on a rolling basis (i.e. whenever additions are approved/merged).
- Publish incremental updates using semantic versioning e.g. v.1.0.0?
  - Both for an NPM module and individual types?

## Implementation ideas / discussions to have / ideas for the future

- Create a website or section of the website that is a Catalog of object definitions.
  - Each of these types has a version and change log

The screenshot shows the FDC3 website. The top navigation bar includes links for Getting Started, Roadmap, Community, The Standard, Get Involved, FINOS AppD, and Training. A left-hand navigation menu is visible, with 'Site 1' selected. The main content area displays the 'Introduction' page for 'Version: 2.0'. The page title is 'Welcome to FDC3 2.0'. The text describes the mission of the Financial Desktop Connectivity and Collaboration Consortium (FDC3) and lists the standard components: intents, context data, App Directory, and Desktop Agent. A 'Motivation' section follows, explaining that FDC3 codifies standard patterns used in the financial industry. A link to 'Why FDC3?' is provided at the bottom.

- Repository style approach, where you create proposals (PRs) and push them to a repository after they are agreed upon
  - When a PR is approved a new NPM module would be created and made available immediately, it's also visible on the FDC3 website
  - New additions could exist under a companies own namespacing, allowing for company specific types as well.
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# Proposal