Making an NFT on the IC

MY NOTES AS A BEGINNER IN SUPPORT OF MOTOKO BOOTCAMP

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Aim

Share what I have been learning about creating NFTs so that others may be able to advance their own projects.

Disclaimer

- These are my notes and may contain inaccuracies.
- Use the information at your own risk. No warranty is implied.
- Sorry, I cannot provide technical support.

A word of advice: Never share your wallet recovery seed with anyone.

My first NFT

- I started learning about NFTs in August/2021. I minted my first 360 degree NFT in August/2021 using DepartureLabs' Minter. Here is the NFT content.
 - https://jb6ng-naaaa-aaaaf-qacvq-cai.raw.ic0.app/mmiwg.html

Non-Fungible Token (NFT)

- A non-fungible token (NFT) is a unique and non-interchangeable unit of data stored on a digital ledger (blockchain).
- NFTs can be associated with reproducible digital files such as photos, videos and audio.
- NFTs use a digital ledger to provide a public certificate of authenticity or proof of ownership, but it does not restrict the sharing or copying of the underlying digital file.
- The lack of interchangeability (fungibility) distinguishes NFTs from blockchain fungible token such as ICP and Bitcoin.

Digital Asset

The NFT terminology

- Digital asset: photo, music, video, game piece, software, ticket stub, etc.
- Minter: process that converts an asset into an NFT.
- Wallet where your assets can be viewed/transferred.
- Marketplace where you can buy and sell NFTs.



Difference between a digital asset and a NFT?



+ Ownership recorded in the NFT registry.

Digital Asset

Built-in transfer, registration and access services.

Optionally a program to transform or display the asset or deliver a service.

An NFT

The IC enables you to do all this on-chain in a canister (smart contract).

It is also economical to do on the IC.

Costs of minting an NFT on the IC

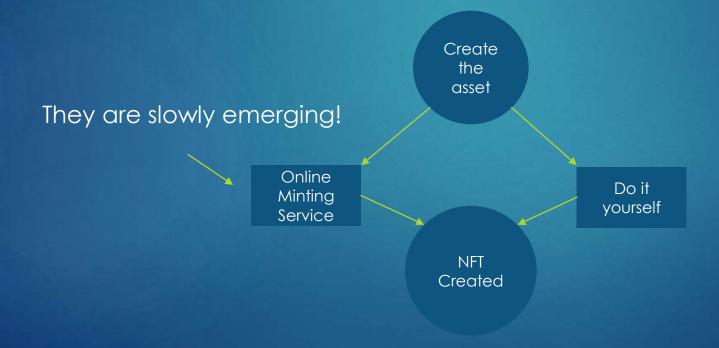
- NFTs are stored in canisters.
- Minting a canister costs about \$3 USD on the IC:
 - Canister creation costs 2 trillion Cycles.
 - 1 trillion Cycles costs 1 Standard Define Rate (SDR), a term defined by the International Monetary Fund or approximately \$1.39 USD as at 22 Feb 2022.
- In addition, there is an ongoing fee for storage, transmittal and processing (very low paid in Cycles).
- Over time, the cost of storage and execution will have to be topped up unless it is loaded with more Cycles to maintain it. If not, it will be removed from the blockchain when it is depleted.

Multiple NFTs can also be stored in a single canister reducing cost.

Using a multi-NFT canister, minting 100 000 tokens would cost around \$3 vs \$300 000.

How do you make an NFT?

- Create a digital asset, e.g. an image saved as a .png file. (Any digital asset supported by the minter/marketplace can be used.)
- Use an online minter to create the NFT or do it yourself.



Online minting of your content

- DepartureLabs had an experimental minter offline now.
- NFT anvil is in development.
 https://5rttq-yqaaa-aaaai-qa2ea-cai.raw.ic0.app/mint
- Toniqlabs will mint collections as part of the collect intake process if deemed of interest to Entrepot.
- BobNFTs.com is a new minting service with potential.
- NFTStudio.biz is a new minting service with potential.
- ICME are working on a minting offering.
- Blocks Editor has a DIP721 example which can be built to mint and learn.

Let me know if you find any others.

Create it yourself

- You will need to have the DFINITY Canister SDK and dependencies installed and running on a computer using:
 - Windows with WSL2 and Linux subsystem installed (e.g. Ubuntu2004);
 - Linux; or
 - Mac
- Follow the quick start tutorial and deploy the sdk Hello example.
- Test to see if you can see the front end that looks like this:



So what did that achieve?

- Following the quick start tutorial means you created a smart contract owned by you that displays an image (the dfinity symbol) stored on the local replica. It has an index.html, index.js and the dfinity logo png.
- Turning into an NFT means adding:
 - the NFT data elements for the certificate of ownership data
 - ▶ the NFT smart contract functions to enable minting, transfer, etc
 - digital assets.

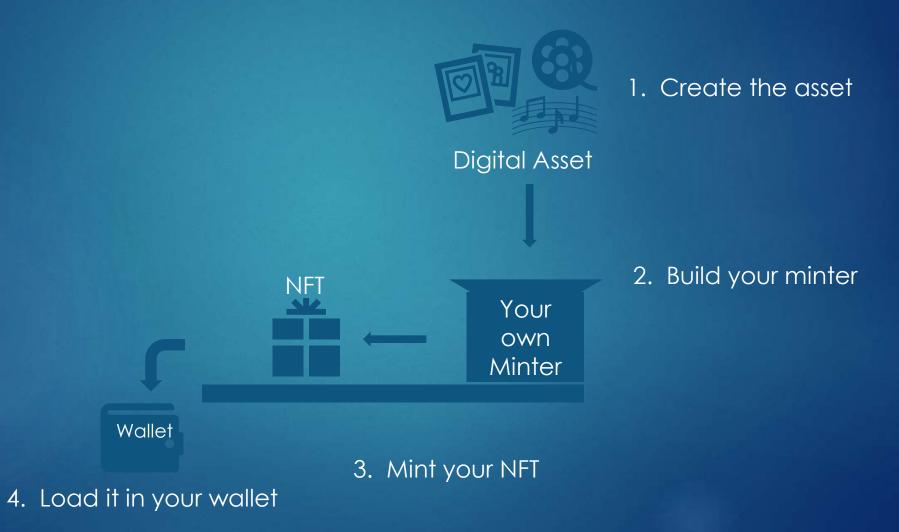
ERC-721

- A standard called ERC-721 (ERC is Ethereum Request for Comment) defines data elements and methods that must be present when constructing an NFT for trading within the Ethereum eco-system to aid interoperability with wallets and ecosystems.
- The Internet Computer community has not defined a standard. Instead a variety of implementations are in use that define data elements and functions.

Signficant NFT development work			
		Languag	
Name	Creator	е	Repository
ICP721	C3Protocol	Motoko	https://github.com/C3-Protocol/NFT-standards
EXT	Toniq Labs	Motoko	https://github.com/Toniq-Labs/extendable-token
IC-NFT	Rocklabs	Motoko	https://github.com/rocklabs-io/ic-nft
DIP721	Psychedelic	RUST	https://rustrepo.com/repo/Psychedelic-DIP721 /
			https://github.com/SuddenlyHazel/DIP721/tree/main/src/D
DIP721	SuddenlyHazel	Motoko	<u>P721</u>
	Departure		
Hazeld	Labs	Motoko	https://github.com/DepartureLabsIC/non-fungible-token
Legends NFT	Sagacards	Motoko	https://github.com/sagacards/legends-nft

We use one derived from DIP721.

The workflow



Minting with a @BlocksEditor DIP721 example

DIP721 Example

- DIP721 "standard" was developed in Rust by @PsychedelicDAO
- @SuddenlyHazel implemented DIP721 in Motoko.
- @BlocksEditor adapted the @SuddenlyHazel's version and will be used as the example. It is found here: https://blocks-editor.github.io/
- It differs from the DIP721 implementation in that the functions are not using the DIP721 postfix namespace and only a subset of DIP721 functions are implemented.

How to build (after you installed the SDK)

Create a new project called dip721

\$ dfx new dip721

lt will install and when successful displays the following.



DIP721 - Create your digital assets

Create 3 digital assets and store them in into the
 ~/dip721/src/dip721_assets/assets subdirectory naming them 1.png,
 2.png and 3.png.



Deploy the canister locally and test

While in the top project directory:

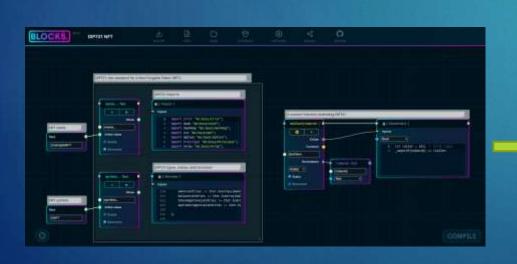
- dfx start (in a separate window as it starts the replica processes)
- dfx deploy
- npm start
- In a browser go to: http://localhost:8080/1.png



Your first image should be displayed.

Add the DIP 721 smart contract code

- Go to https://blocks-editor.github.io/
- Load the DIP721 example and compile
- Copy the compiled output (the source code) and paste the contents of main.mo into ~/dip721/src/dip721/main.mo



```
Compiled Output

| import Error "wo:base/Front";
| import Heah "mo:base/Mach";
| import Heah Map "mo:base/Mach";
| import Nat "mo:base/Mach";
| import Nat "mo:base/Mach";
| import Option "wo:base/Dation";
| import Arway "wo:base/Arcay";
| import P "mo:base/Prelude";
| import P "mo:base/Prelude";
| tame Ois/ZINFt (
| poblic shored query (dolOwn_wsg) func dolOwn(tokenId : Nat |
| iv tailer = dolOwn_msg.caller; // ilret imput |
| ownerOf(tokenId) == Pcaller;
| ;
| stable vor name_ : Text = "ENFT";
| stable vor symbol_ : Text = "ENFT";
| // Nulmeted from: https://github.com/Subdomletosel/GIF221/NI |
| private type TokenAddress = Principal; |
| private type TokenAddress = Principal; |
| private stable var tokenf% : Nat = 0;
```



Deploy the smart contract

- dfx deploy
- npm start

Results in 2 canisters

Dip721 Smart contract



Let's try it out.

Show the name of the NFT

Show the name of the Symbol

Mint a token using the first 1.png as the digital asset

Show the owner of TokenID 1.

\$ dfx canister call dip721 name ("ExampleNFT")

\$dfx canister call dip721 symbol ("ENFT")

This is the Uniform Resource Identifier where the asset is stored

\$dfx canister call dip721 mint http://localhost:8080/1.png
(1 : nat)

This is the TokenId

```
$dfx canister call dip721 ownerOf '(1)' (
opt principal "p3oiq-zvq7o-ir4je-ngxhk-br4ps-ymn3e-i7lsc-a6o67-irbt3-h5ddq-pae",
)
```

Transfer the token to someone else.

TokenID 1

Confirm you own it.

Transfer it.

Confirm you don't own it.

Who is the owner now?

```
$dfx canister call dip721 dolOwn '(1)' (true)
```

\$dfx canister call dip721 transferFrom '(principal "p3oig-zvq7ø-ir4je-ngxhk-br4ps-ymn3e-i7lsc-a6o67-irbt3-h5ddq-pae",principal "zht7g-jivec-azc2g-f5bkj-oxsfc-pvyo6-ch4jb-el2tb-ebyuf-zeo4d-gae",1)' (NULL)

\$dfx canister call dip721 dolOwn '(1)' (false)

```
$dfx canister call dip721 ownerOf '(1)'

(
opt principal "zht7g-jivec-azc2g-f5bkj-oxsfc-nvyo6-ch4jb-el2tb-ebyuf-zeo4d-gae",
)
```

@BlocksEditor DIP721 has more methods

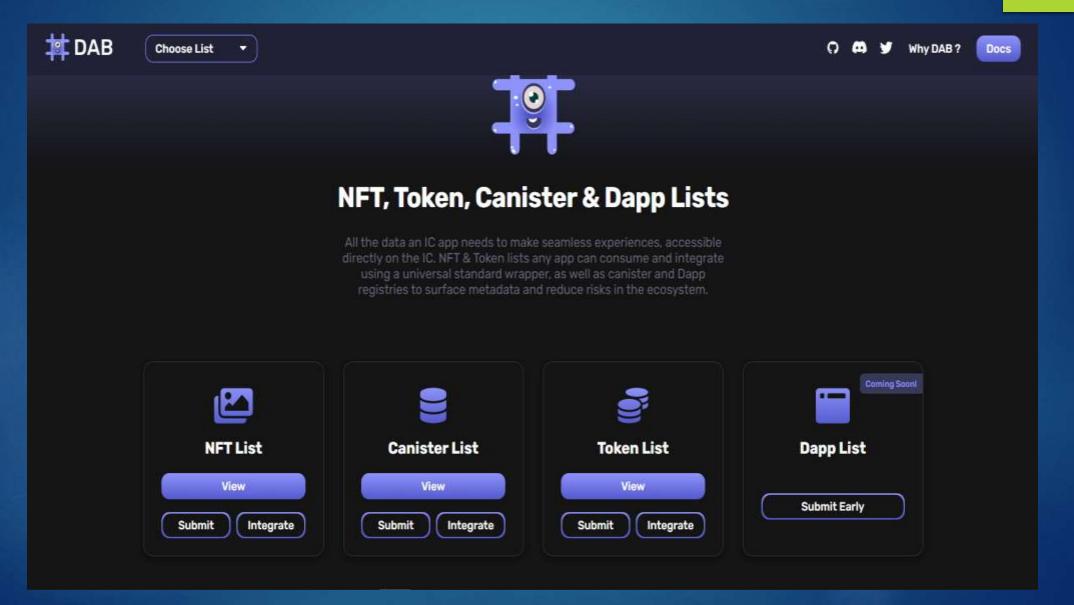
- approve(to: Principal, tokenId: TokenId)
- balanceOf(p : Principal)
- dolOwn(tokenId : Nat)
- getApproved(tokenId: Nat)
- isApprovedForAll(owner: Principal, opperator: Principal)
- mint(uri : Text)
- name()
- ownerOf(tokenId : TokenId)
- setApprovalForAll(op : Principal, isApproved : Bool)
- symbol()
- tokenURI(tokenId : TokenId)
- transferFrom(from : Principal, to : Principal, tokenId : Nat)

This is not production ready yet.

- No front end.
- No Marketplace integration.
- Lacks wallet integration.
- Access control and security is missing.
- The example does not implement the full DIP721 interface standard. DFINITY is publishing this in the coming weeks as part of their tutorial.
- Ownership history is missing
- Integration with other Wallets and Marketplaces via DAB SDK has not been implemented.
- Payment/refund flows are missing.
- Topping/monitoring up cansister cycles is missing.



DAB



CAP

- Certified Asset Provenance (CAP)
- CAP is an open internet service providing transaction history & asset provenance for NFT's & Tokens on the Internet Computer. It solves the huge IC problem that assets don't have native transaction history, and does so in a scalable, trustless and seamless way so any NFT/Token can integrate with one line of code.

Clean up the old code

► Get rid of the leftover assets, html, css and etc. from the greet application create by the dfx new process and re-deploy.

Additional info on the EXT follows.

EXT Standard

This next section is based on the EXT style --- there are no standards yet on the IC.

▶ I have not been able to integrat into a wallet...

Steps to build (after you installed the SDK)

Create a new project called nft1

\$ dfx new nft1

It will install and, when successful, display the following:



Clone the NFT code repository from GITHUB

- Change directory into ~nft1.
- Install github (if not already done google for your particular platform).
- Clone the repository (repo) locally.
 - \$ git clone git@github.com:Toniq-Labs/extendable-token.git
- Copy the erc721.mo file in the examples subdirectory into the ~nft1/src/nft1 subdirectory.
- Rename the existing main.mo to main.old or delete it.
- Rename the erc721.mo to main.mo

This replaces the Motoko code with the ERC721 code.

Move the dependencies

- Copy the extendable-token motoko sub-directory and its <u>contents</u> into the ~nft1/src directory.
- Check ext and util directories exist and the files are there:

```
$ Is -IR motoko
motoko:
total 8
drwxr-xr-x 2 jhm jhm 4096 Dec 16 10:24 ext
drwxr-xr-x 2 jhm jhm 4096 Dec 16 10:24 util
motoko/ext:
total 48
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 621 Dec 16 10:24 Allowance.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 831 Dec 16 10:24 Archive.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 445 Dec 16 10:24 Batch.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 550 Dec 16 10:24 Common.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 6672 Dec 16 10:24 Core.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 400 Dec 16 10:24 Fee.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 701 Dec 16 10:24 Ledger.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 394 Dec 16 10:24 NonFungible.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 999 Dec 16 10:24 Operator.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 546 Dec 16 10:24 Secure.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 202 Dec 16 10:24 Subscribe.mo
motoko/util:
total 20
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 1564 Dec 16 10:24 AccountIdentifier.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 3991 Dec 16 10:24 CRC32.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 1866 Dec 16 10:24 Hex.mo
-rw-r--r-- 1 jhm jhm 5392 Dec 16 10:24 SHA224.mo
```

Start the local replica

In a separate window/terminal session.

dfx start --clean warning: --clean wipes out the old replica state

OF

dfx start

\$ Dfx start --clean

Starting webserver for /_/ binding to: 127.0.0.1:45621

Dec 18 11:30:16.222 INFO ic-starter. Configuration: ValidatedConfig { replica_path: Some("/home/ted/.cache/dfinity/versions/0.8.4/replica"), replica_version: "0.8.0", log_level: Warning, cargo_bin: "cargo", cargo_opts: "", state_dir: "/home/ted/nft1/.dfx/state/replicated_state", http_listen_addr: 127.0.0.1:0, http_port_file: Some("/home/ted/nft1/.dfx/replica-configuration/replica-1.port"), metrics_addr: None, provisional_whitelist: Some(All), artifact_pool_dir: "/home/ted/nft1/.dfx/state/replicated_state/node-100/ic_consensus_pool", crypto_root: "/home/ted/nft1/.dfx/state/replicated_state/node-100/crypto", state_manager_root: "/home/ted/nft1/.dfx/state/replicated_state/node-100/state", registry_local_store_path: "/home/ted/nft1/.dfx/state/replicated_state/ic_registry_local_store", unit_delay: None, initial_notary_delay: Some(600ms), detect_consensus_starvation: None, consensus_pool_backend: Some("rocksdb"), state_dir_holder: None }, Application: starter Dec 18 11:30:16.223 INFO Initialize replica configuration "/home/ted/nft1/.dfx/state/replicated_state/ic.json5", Application: starter Dec 18 11:30:17.154 INFO Executing "/home/ted/.cache/dfinity/versions/0.8.4/replica" "--replica-version" "0.8.0" "--config-file" "/home/ted/nft1/.dfx/state/replicated_state/ic.json5", Application: starter

Dec 18 11:30:23.398 WARN s:knvjx-zgkm4-hkvvw-3ueag-xlh7y-zje4m-54tyb-vp2bf-xigrc-mrffa-xae/n:6ufqp-7ok73-oxrj6-zgchl-xllg5-dukck-4zeln-dlz3g-megws-lov4f-qae/ic_p2p/download_management PeerManagerImpl::new(): relay_config = None

version: 0.7.0

Dec 18 06:30:23.433 INFO Log Level: INFO

Dec 18 06:30:23.433 INFO Starting server. Listening on http://127.0.0.1:8000/

Create an empty Canister

\$ dfx canister create nft1

Creating a wallet canister on the local network.

The wallet canister on the "local" network for user "default" is "rwlgt-iiaaa-aaaaa-aaaaa-cai" Creating canister "nft1"...

"nft1" canister created with canister id: "rrkah-fqaaa-aaaaa-aaaaq-cai"

Build the wasm code

dfx build nft1

These warnings are not an issue

\$ dfx build nft1

Building canisters...

/home/ted/nft1/src/motoko/util/Hex.mo:48.17-48.30: warning [M0154], field unwrap is deprecated:

Option.unwrap is unsafe and fails if the argument is null; it will be removed soon; use a `switch` or `do?` expression instead /home/ted/nft1/src/motoko/util/Hex.mo:49.17-49.30: warning [M0154], field unwrap is deprecated:

Option.unwrap is unsafe and fails if the argument is null; it will be removed soon; use a `switch` or `do?` expression instead /home/ted/nft1/src/motoko/util/Hex.mo:48.17-48.30: warning [M0154], field unwrap is deprecated:

Option.unwrap is unsafe and fails if the argument is null; it will be removed soon; use a `switch` or `do?` expression instead /home/ted/nft1/src/motoko/util/Hex.mo:49.17-49.30: warning [M0154], field unwrap is deprecated:

Option.unwrap is unsafe and fails if the argument is null; it will be removed soon; use a `switch` or `do?` expression instead /home/ted/nft1/src/motoko/util/AccountIdentifier.mo:38.14-38.27: warning [M0154], field unwrap is deprecated:

Option.unwrap is unsafe and fails if the argument is null; it will be removed soon; use a 'switch' or 'do?' expression instead

Get the principal

dfx identity get-principal will show you the identity you are using on the local replica. Your principal response will be different to this.

\$ dfx identity get-principal zht7g-jivec-azc2g-f5bkj-oxsfc-nvyo6-ch4jb-el2tb-ebyuf-zeo4d-gae

Copy your result to the clipboard

Install the code into the canister

The dfx canister install is used to move the code into the canister and to set the owner of the registry to your principal. Your principle will be different (the output from the dfx identity get-principal)

dfx canister install nft1 --argument="(principal \"zht7g-jivec-azc2g-f5bkj-oxsfc-nvyo6-ch4jb-el2tb-ebyuf-zeo4d-gae\")"

Change to match your principal from the previous step

Status check

- You now have a canister with the dfinity logo in it and the NFT logic to manage the token. It also has an HTML page to render it and a no-longer-needed index.js which can be removed.
- Check to see which identity will be the minter.

\$ dfx canister call nft1 getMinter (principal "zht7g-jivec-azc2g-f5bkj-oxsfc-nvyo6-ch4jb-el2tb-ebyuf-zeo4d-gae")

Should match your principal

Mint your first NFT

Result

One line

 Call the mintNFT method passing the principal (vs a stoic address) with the appropriate principal

\$dfx canister call nft1 mintNFT "(record { to = (variant { \"principal\" = principal \"zht7g-jivec-azc2g-f5bkj-oxsfc-nvyo6-ch4jb-el2tb-ebyuf-zeo4d-gae\" })})"

(0 : nat32)

Minted a NFT in position 0 of the registry.

Run it again and the next one will be in position 1

Sets the NFT token owner and may be different for each token.

You can use dfx to call public methods of the canister

- getMinter() e.g. dfx canister call nft1 getMinter
- setMinter(minter: Principal)
- mintNFT(request : MintRequest)
- transfer(request: TransferRequest)
- approve(request: ApproveRequest)
- extensions()
- balance(request : BalanceRequest)
- allowance(request : AllowanceRequest)

...continued

- bearer(token : TokenIdentifier)
- supply(token : TokenIdentifier)
- getRegistry()
- getAllowances()
- getTokens()
- metadata(token
- public func acceptCycles()
- availableCycles()

This is what was achieved

- You minted an NFT with ownership information stored within the canister on the local replica.
- There is no access control implemented anyone can see the content of the canister or call the methods – not just the NFT holder.
- Upgrading the contract may clobber persistent data (I have not checked this) so be aware.
- You can mint additional tokens by running the mint command again and it will store it in the same canister with an index increment.

Deploying an NFT costs Cycles

- Creating a canister costs 2 Trillion Cycles.
- Sign up to GITHUB to get free Cycles from the Dfinity Cycles faucet: https://faucet.dfinity.org/auth
- With a GITHUB account created more than 90 days ago, you can get free Cycles to test deployment on the IC.
- The Faucet will give about \$20 worth of Cycles once.

Now moving to the real world

- Doing it on the IC involves:
 - creating a canister (incurs a cost of 2 x SDR) using the NNS or using dfx
 - Noting the canister ID.
 - Replacing the Dfinity logo image file with your digital asset image.
 - Cleaning up unused code (index.js and index.html).
 - Adding access controls in the Motoko code.
 - Installing the code into the canister on the IC with the correct principle.
 - ▶ Then running the dfx minter command pointing to the canister on the IC.

Now moving to the real world

Doing it on the IC involves:

This is one line (dfx... })"

This metadata is encoded for acceptance by a particular wallet - to be tested. Often it is the URI for the asset.

Moving into a wallet (theory):

In order for this to work, the NFT must be minted with the specific metadata and format supported by the wallet. It likely will need the canister reference URI encoded as a base64 reference. The wallet or marketplace may not accept all NFT projects.

- Install a wallet that supports NFTs (e.g. Stoic wallet)
- Go to the NFT option
- Add NFTs
- Enter the canister ID when you created it on the IC
- Boom! Done! (if the canister is in a compatible format).

not working yet.

not working yet.

Also, need to create an also heed to display it.

Also, need to display it.

Appendix

ERC-1155 – Multi-NFT

- ▶ ERC1155 uses a single smart contract to represent multiple tokens at once (fungible and non-fungible).
- Storing multiple NFTs into one smart contract reduces the cost of creating a canister for each and every NFT.
- Toniq-Labs/extendable-token examples has an advanced token that enables multiple NFTs to be stored in a single canister available on GITHUB.

For the purpose of this document, building is shown using an ERC-721-like token and not the multi-NFT canister.

A word about wallets

- Wallets are a place to load, view and transfer NFTs. They will accept NFTs only in formats they support.
- Popular wallets are:
 - Stoic Wallet by Toniq Labs and
 - Plug Wallet
 - EarthWallet by EarthDAO

Wallets only work with NFTs in certain formats. If it is in the wrong format, it may be possible to use a wrapper to transform one NFT format into another NFT format. For example, the metadata may need certain encoding.

A Wallet's code may be periodically updated and may result in temporary loss of access to your NFTs.