**Manifest File**

Each archive of information—which may use 7z, zip, or tar+gzip—will have a manifest file in the archive with the filename manifest.json or manifest.yaml.

Format options:

1. JSON – In stdlib, less reliant on and sensitive to whitespace, more commonly used.
2. YAML – Allows comments, more human readable, more versatile.

JSON is the most popular, and is the first choice for the manifest file, though YAML is a very close second with its allowance for comments and greater versatility.

Key Tags:

1. “version” this will start at and default to 1.0. Having this in the file will allow seamless future upgrades.
2. “primary” this will describe the primary file using the following format:
   1. “filename” will give the name of the file if it is located in the folder with the manifest.
   2. “hash” will give a cryptographic hash in the form of a CID if it is hosted elsewhere.
3. “additional” will provide a list of additional files, referenced by name in the primary document, each described with the following format:
   1. “name” will provide a unique name for the supporting file.
   2. “type” will provide a format descriptor (initially including UTF8, UTF16, CSV, HTML, GIF, JPEG, MP3, OGG, AV1, and WEBM to support text, formatted text, images, audio, and video).
   3. “filename” will give the name of the file if it is located in the folder.
   4. “hash” will give a cryptographic hash in the form of a CID if it is hosted elsewhere.
4. “support” will provide a list of hashes of archives that include files referenced but not included in the “additional” list. Each element will have the following form:
   1. “hash” will give a cryptographic hash in the form of a CID for the supporting archive.

This format will allow a variety of file formats to be used to present information. It will also allow the reuse of archive material through the use of cryptographic hashes for data validation.