Policy Discussion: Superseding and Versioning in the Archive

PDS Management Council

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PDS 2010 Data Design WG

Note

Here we are discussing only files that have been officially accepted by the PDS as final and declared to be "Archived".

Key Points

- Versioning will be tracked at the product level.

- PDS version numbers are applied only to archived products.

- One product supersedes another if and only if that product is an improved version of the original.

- An increment in version number indicates that the preceding version has been superseded.

- PDS must track the "supersedes" (or "is superseded by") relationship for each product.

Additional Points

These points did not necessarily have consensus, but should be discussed and included in the final policy:

* Should version number skipping be prohibited? That is, version 1.2 implies there are versions 1.1 and 1.0; version 2.0 implies there is at least a version 1.0, etc.

* What significance should be applied to major and minor version numbers? Here, for example, is one scheme:
  ➤ An increment in major version indicates a change in the data object contents and requires external peer review of the new product.
  ➤ An increment in minor version indicates a change or addition to the label information or lossless format editing of the data object, and does not require external review.

Backup