The Power of Community: Working Together to Build the Future of Fedora

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Fedora...

- Stores, preserves, and provides access to digital objects
- Supports flexible content models for objects
- Supports semantic relationships between objects using RDF
- Supports millions of objects, both large and small
- Interoperates with other applications and services
Fedora by the Numbers

12 committers
29 active contributors
23 leadership group members
75 member institutions
Fedora Committers

Chris Beer, Stanford University
Daniel Bernstein, DuraSpace
Aaron Birkland, Johns Hopkins
Yinlin Chen, Virginia Tech
Esmé Cowles, Princeton University
Osman Din, Yale University

Mike Durbin, University of Virginia
Peter Eichman, University of Maryland
Ben Pennell, UNC Chapel Hill
Bethany Seeger, Amherst College
Jared Whiklo, University of Manitoba
Andrew Woods, DuraSpace
Fedora Leaders

Chris Awre, University of Hull
Rob Cartolano, Columbia University
Sayeed Choudhury, Johns Hopkins
Stefano Cossu, Art Institute of Chicago
Tom Cramer, Stanford University
Jon Dunn, Indiana University
Karen Estlund, Penn State
Maude Frances, University of NSW
Neil Jefferies, University of Oxford
Steve Marks, University of Toronto
Rosalyn Metz, Emory University
Este Pope, Amherst College
Robin Ruggaber, University of Virginia
*Doron Shalvi, National Library of Medicine
Tim Shearer, UNC Chapel Hill
*Dustin Slater, University of Texas at Austin
Jennifer Vinopal, The Ohio State University
*Ben Wallberg, University of Maryland
Evviva Weinraub, Northwestern
Jared Whiklo, University of Manitoba
Maurice York, University of Michigan
*Patrick Yott, Northeastern University

*Joined in 2018
Fedora Governance

Fedora Governance Model

Steering Group
Oversees project operations, provides strategic guidance

Leadership Group
Approves priorities and strategic direction

Project Members
Submit requests, requirements, recommendations, feedback and other input

Technology Team
Committers

DuraSpace Organization
Product Manager
Tech Lead

Working Groups
Working Group 1
Working Group 2
Working Group 3
Leaders and Committers

- Community supported and community support
- Leveraging technical expertise and mission driven development
- Challenge of articulating product position, strategy, and technology roadmap, requires collaboration between leaders and committers
Community supported

- Influence the technical roadmap for the tool we use for our repository
- Contribute technical resources to keep the tool sustainable
- Committers/Leaders quarterly meetings
- Gathering use cases for design process
- Identifying next steps for product development
- Determining priorities and challenges
Community support

- Participating in and benefit from access to a wider community of practice
- Creating the culture we want
- Benefiting from project stewards (who receive compensation)
- Leveraging our connections to other projects and organizations
- Hoping for safety in numbers
Mission Vision

Process
Strategy and Vision Planning

Leaders sub-group to define long-term vision and strategic direction for Fedora.

Focused on five key areas:

- Product position
- Communication and Outreach
- Community
- Governance and Business Model
- Product technology
Basics of the **Roadmap Process**

Create streams of strategic activity

Articulate a Desired Future Condition

Articulate the path forward: Now | Soon | Later
Structure and Process

Crafting a vision and strategy in a community of volunteers

▸ Different than strategy and execution in an organization/institution

How do we represent complexity, be inclusive of voices, and move towards action?

▸ Systemic viewpoint: we are not trying to “solve a problem,” we are trying to improve our position over time
Developing a vision and a path

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community (steward: Este)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GUIDING PRINCIPLE (Higher Purpose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A vibrant community of GLAM professionals committed to the adoption, development, and maintenance of Fedora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fedora Active User Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grow the tactical development community</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Now</th>
<th>Soon</th>
<th>Later</th>
<th>Desired Future Condition</th>
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<tr>
<td>INVESTIGATE effective methods to grow the non-developer community (e.g. SIGs)</td>
<td>IMPLEMENT the methods</td>
<td>Assess the results of the implemented methods</td>
<td>Measured increase in overall participation user community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVESTIGATE effective methods to grow developer community</td>
<td>IMPLEMENT the methods</td>
<td>Assess the results of the implemented methods</td>
<td>Stable commitment of 3 FTE, with a short cycle goals, and ways to assess progress and product.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| IDENTIFY the range of initiatives, projects and communities the Fedora community should follow and advise on issues related to Fedora development | ENHANCE existing partnerships with external partners through communication around Fedora strategy and vision and recommendations related to product technology. | Define recommended roles and processes for sharing, advising, and communicating with external partners | Advancing the work of Fedora project with attention to key strategic initiatives in decision-making, and communication strategy, vision, and technological goals shared with key partners. |

| CREATE liaison structure between | DEVELOP mechanism for | Build a regular process of | An engaged and committed group of stakeholders with an understanding |

Value Proposition

Fedora Commons is dedicated to creating persistent knowledge by providing a repository platform, interoperability standards, and fostering community collaboration around such platform and standards.

Fedora is:
- Repository software that enables access, management, and publishing of digital objects as a core component of digital preservation strategy
- A set of standard protocols (APIs) for flexible, predictable ways to integrate and interact with the repository
- A vibrant community of GLAM professionals committed to advancing the long-term stewardship of digital objects over time

DRAFT
Benefits for Community-based strategy

- **Forming groups** to steward strategic directions

Inclusive and transparent

- Self-documenting basis for *shared understanding* and conversation

- Action lists -- shared view of *what needs to be done* and what direction we’re going in.

- **Clarity of purpose**, identifying gaps, knowing where we need to gather more input. *What do we do next?*
Outcomes

Mission Vision
Product Position

Develop a transparent and thoughtful framing of Fedora's desired preservation affordances and capacities.

▸ Create a product position white paper.
▸ Socialize the product position with the community.
Communication and Outreach

Create a communications strategy that allows us to better engage with Fedora’s community.

▸ Complete an assessment driven conference and events calendar for Fedora.
▸ Develop assessment metrics for Fedora’s training program.
Community

Develop connections between different segments of Fedora’s community structure.

▸ Identify community segments.
▸ Expand the good work done between leaders and committers to other segments of the community.
Governance and Business Model

Develop an engaged, inclusive, and transparent governance model with a clear, well-articulated structure.

▸ Document current governance process
▸ Analyze and expand the current membership strategy
Fedora 5.0

- Released in December, 2018
- Aligned with the [Fedora API specification](#)
- Separates the API from implementation

Fedora 5.0 is built on modern web standards with a focus on modularity and extensibility.
Fedora API Specification 1.0
Candidate Recommendation 22 November 2018

Latest editor's draft:
https://fcrepo.github.io/fcrepo-specification/

Test suite:
https://github.com/fcrepo4-labs/Fedora-API-Test-Suite

Editors:
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Esmé Cowles (Princeton University)
Daniel Lamb (Islandora Foundation)
Simeon Warner (Cornell University)
Andrew Woods (DuraSpace)

Previous version:

Repository:
Github
Issues
Commits

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Introduction

This section is non-normative.

This specification refines the semantics and interaction patterns of the Linked Data Platform (LDP) in order to better serve the specific needs of those interested in implementing repositories for durable access to digital data.
Fedora 6.0

- Implement the **Oxford Common File Layout**
- Provide **transparency** and **durability**
- Achieve better **performance** and **scale**

Fedora 6.0 returns the focus to **digital preservation**.
Oxford Common File Layout Specification 0.2
Candidate Recommendation 18 February 2019

Latest editor’s draft:
https://ocfl.io/draft/spec/

Editors:
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Previous version:
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Use Cases

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Introduction

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This Oxford Common File Layout (OCFL) specification describes an application-independent approach to the
IMLS Fedora **Migration** Grant

- Investigating barriers to migration
- Several outputs now available
- Survey to be distributed in April

The grant team plans to submit its report with recommendations by Fall of 2019.
Designing a Migration Path

Created by David Wilcox, last modified on Apr 02, 2019

Designing a Migration Path: Assessing Barriers Upgrading to Fedora 4.x was awarded $49,279 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2018. DuraSpace will investigate barriers to upgrading unsupported versions of the Fedora repository platform used by approximately 240 libraries and archives in the United States. Use of unsupported versions puts the stability, security, and functionality of the content and services these institutions support at risk. This project will consult with an advisory board of stakeholders from the Islandora, Samvera, and Fedora communities; conduct an environmental scan of relevant community initiatives; and gather primary research data to inform recommendations for reducing barriers to upgrading. Project outputs will include user stories, an inventory of resources for upgrading, and recommendations for migration paths.

Want to get involved in this project? Please contact Erin Tripp (etripp@duarspace.org).

Project Outputs

- Designing a Migration Path - Environmental Scan
- Designing a Migration Path - Institutional Profiles
- Designing a Migration Path - Migration Tool Review
- Designing a Migration Path - Fedora API Review
- Designing a Migration Path - Oxford Common File Layout Review

Project Resources

Here are some important project resources (PDF will load in your browser or download depending on your browser settings):

- Abstract (PDF)
- Full Project Narrative (PDF).
- Schedule of Completion (PDF)
- Project Staff and Advisory Board (PDF)

Meeting Notes and Agendas

- 2018-10-01 Designing a Migration Path Meeting
- 2018-12-13 Designing a Migration Path Meeting
The Value of **Community**

Fedora is supported by a distributed, global community of stakeholders and contributors:

- Prevents accumulation of domain-specific knowledge
- One of the **key strengths** of Fedora
- A natural fit for institutions dedicated to sharing knowledge
New International Members

› Berlin State Library, Germany
› Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic
› Islandora Foundation, Canada
› National Institute for Materials Science, Japan
› Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
› Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium
› University of Graz, Austria
› University of Vienna, Austria
THANKS!

Any questions?

You can find me at dwilcox@duraspace.org