2023-08-08 Technical WG Agenda and Notes

Date
08 Aug 2023

Attendees
- Lautaro Matas, Tom Creighton, Karen Hanson, Dave Vieglais, Curtic Mirce

Goals
Inline content, ARK spec transition next step

Discussion items

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Announcements</td>
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<td>New working group member: Lautaro Matas</td>
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<td>Any news items we should blog about? Any</td>
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<td>calls for papers, submission deadlines,</td>
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<td>upcoming meetings we should note? Please</td>
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<td>add to Calendar of events.</td>
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Im: I work with LA Referencia and open access repositories; interested in ARKs because cost of DOIs is prohibitive; working on an ARK implementation with blockchain tech, provided by a network of services; I'm living in Spain
Experimental new shared (available to anyone) NAAN 92250 - inline (self-contained, in-link) concepts

To try:

1. https://n2t.net/ark:/92250/sea_ice
2. https://n2t.net/ark:/92250/sea_ice?info

(from discussion at last meeting)

Some questions from Greg J.

1. Is the intention that N2T would treat this NAAN specially, and not resolve such ARKs to any target? That is, the example ARK resolving to biscicol.org (as it does now) is just a way to demonstrate what N2T would do by itself?

Yes, the proposer (John Deck) is using biscicol.org simply as a place to test the feasibility and plausibility. Not counting the documentation template in the code, it only takes about 12 lines of javascript to support, so it would be easy to support natively in N2T.

2. In minting 92250 ARKs, would N2T ignore a target URL and any other supplied metadata bindings?

There's no such thing as "minting" in this case. These ARKs come into existence only by dreaming them up and writing them down. Although technically possible (assuming an AuthN model existed for these anonymous ARKs) there are no plans for N2T or any other resolver to ever store metadata for them.

3. Would it be more logical for N2T to return HTTP 204 No Content since there is indeed no content associated with such ARKs?

That's an interesting idea. It would be nice to have another distinguished "signal" for this case (the NAAN 92250 is one such signal), but to use "204 No Content" may be misleading. There actually is content (which could amount to the equivalent of several paragraphs of text, whatever fits in a modern URL-embedded ARK), but it's carried in the link itself.

Other questions:

1. Are we encouraging people to use this? No, but if you must use this (eg, because its so cheap), it provides a safer, clearer way than non-resolving URIs. Compare with w3id, purl, yamz.
2. What's the best response format for simple resolution? Currently using YAML, but maybe JSON is better?
3. What's the best response format for ?info inflection? Currently using YAML, but maybe JSON is better?

dv: should not be part of the ARK spec, but provided by a particular NAAN
jk: agree generally about keeping it out of the ARK spec
tc: IANA has reserved example.com and example.org for similar purposes
dv: this is defined in https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc2606; I don't mind a section of arks.org that advertises this, just prefer it not in the spec_
dv: it would be good to start gathering metrics on it's use, to see how wide-spread adoption might be and could be used for interesting studies; metrics could use some GDPR-like warnings
all: json better than yaml
ARK spec transition – proposed next step: create meeting series with key stakeholders.

- This might be a recurring/standing agenda item on each Tech WG monthly meeting until the transition is finished
- Key stakeholders are people (possibly new to ARKA) representing large or high profile ARK implementers, such as
  - FamilySearch
  - BnF (Thomas Ledoux?)
  - Smithsonian
  - EZID
  - Internet Archive
  - what about HathiTrust (not on ARKA, but impacted by transition)?
  - others?
  - should we put out a general Call for Participation to the community?
- Confirm feasibility of steps
- Publish steps regularly via blog and social media – how much publicity is enough? Where to publish?

Action items

- John Kunze add standing agenda item to discuss spec transition
- John Kunze start reaching out to stakeholders as transition partners