Managing Community Hierarchy

1 Sub-Community Management

Sub-Community Management

DSpace provides an administrative tool, 'CommunityFiliator', for managing community sub-structure. Normally this structure seldom changes, but prior to the 1.2 release sub-communities were not supported, so this tool could be used to place existing pre-1.2 communities into a hierarchy. It has two operations, either establishing a community to sub-community relationship, or dis-establishing an existing relationship.

The familiar parent/child metaphor can be used to explain how it works. Every community in DSpace can be either a 'parent' community, meaning it has at least one sub-community, or a 'child' community, meaning it is a sub-community of another community, or both or neither. In these terms, an 'orphan' is a community that lacks a parent (although it can be a parent); 'orphans' are referred to as 'top-level' communities in the DSpace user-interface, since there is no parent community 'above' them. The first operation, establishing a parent/child relationship - can take place between any community and an orphan. The second operation - removing a parent/child relationship, will make the child an orphan.

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Set a parent/child relationship, issue the following at the CLI:

```
[dspace]/bin/dspace community-filiator --set --parent=parentID --child=childID
```

(or using the short form)

```
[dspace]/bin/dspace community-filiator -s -p parentID -c childID
```

where `-s` or `-set` means establish a relationship whereby the community identified by the `-p` parameter becomes the parent of the community identified by the `-c` parameter. Both the `parentID` and `childID` values may be handles or database IDs.

The reverse operation looks like this:

```
[dspace]/bin/dspace community-filiator --remove --parent=parentID --child=childID
```

(or using the short form)

```
[dspace]/bin/dspace community-filiator -r -p parentID -c childID
```

where `-r` or `-remove` means dis-establish the current relationship in which the community identified by `parentID` is the parent of the community identified by `childID`. The outcome will be that the 'childID' community will become an orphan, i.e. a top-level community.

If the required constraints of operation are violated, an error message will appear explaining the problem, and no change will be made. An example in a removal operation, where the stated child community does not have the stated parent community as its parent: "Error, child community not a child of parent community".

It is possible to effect arbitrary changes to the community hierarchy by chaining the basic operations together. For example, to move a child community from one parent to another, simply perform a 'remove' from its current parent (which will leave it an orphan), followed by a 'set' to its new parent.

It is important to understand that when any operation is performed, all the sub-structure of the child community follows it. Thus, if a child has itself children (sub-communities), or collections, they will all move with it to its new 'location' in the community tree.