

Global Format Registry Use Case: LEEDS-1

Use Case ID	LEEDS-1
Description	Perform function to monitor for technology obsolescence and maintain/update registry as required.
Actors	<i>Registrar</i> who maintains the registry <i>Registry</i> of digital format representations
Assumptions	Assumes the Registry describes file formats, tools/methods of rendering those formats and platforms on which those tools/methods execute.
Preconditions	
Triggers	Periodic monitoring of Registry. Receipt of external information indicating a platform is becoming obsolete.
Primary Scenario	Step 1: Registrar produces a revised list of current and obsolete computer platforms.
	Step 2: Registrar searches the registry for rendering methods which depend on platforms listed as obsolete.
	Step 3: Registrar replaces obsolete rendering methods with new/alternative rendering methods if available. Rendering information must be updated throughout the registry.
	Step 4: Decision/Request for Action is raised for formats recorded in the registry which no longer have current rendering methods available. A general alert is issued to the community of Registry users
Primary Result	The impact of platform obsolescence is made known and where possible action is taken to provide new methods of rendering.
Post-Conditions	Accuracy of Registry information is maintained.
Non-functional requirements	
Notes	The point at which a computing platform and hence rendering methods become obsolete is often unclear as its slide into obsolescence is usually a gradual one. The human element of the monitoring process is therefore particularly subjective, but crucial to get right.
Issues	Updating rendering information throughout the Registry is an important task that may be laborious depending upon the Registry design. Given the long-term nature of a format registry, this must be given considerable thought. Cedars tackled this problem by separating information on formats, rendering methods and platforms. See page 18 of the Cedars Guide to The Distributed Digital Archiving Prototype (http://www.leeds.ac.uk/cedars/guideto/cdap/).
	Should the proposed format Registry provide this amount of functionality? If not, will it have a useful purpose given that individual

	repositories will need to provide this functionality themselves. If the level of functionality <i>does</i> include descriptions of methods of rendering, the design must facilitate economical maintenance over time and will inevitably constitute far more than a straight “format registry”.
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