

Global Format Registry Use Case: Identify object format

Use Case ID	PRO-2
Description	PRO receives technical information required to definitively identify an object format from the registry.
Actors	PRO – The PRO Digital Preservation Department PRONOM – The PRO file format information system Registry – The file format registry
Assumptions	PRO does not have sufficient existing information about the format to allow identification, i.e. format is not recorded on PRONOM. Registry contains sufficient technical information to support manual or automatic format identification.
Preconditions	Format is registered with registry.
Triggers	Any PRO process which requires format identification, e.g. accession.
Primary Scenario	<p>Step 1: PRO submits request to registry for information on specified object format.</p> <p>Step 2: Registry supplies technical information required for manual or automatic identification of specified format to PRO.</p> <p>Step 3: PRO imports information into PRONOM, and/or develops appropriate tools as required.</p> <p>Step 4: PRONOM automatically identifies format/PRO staff manually identify format.</p>
Primary Result	PRO receives sufficient technical information to undertake automatic or manual identification of the format.
Post-Conditions	
Non-functional requirements	PRO will undertake file format identification internally, using systems such as PRONOM, and will determine the appropriate information and methods to use for this purpose. PRO will also be responsible for developing or acquiring the necessary tools for undertaking this process. However, the registry should be able to supply technical information to support this, e.g. unique signatures, access to formal technical specifications, and should also, where possible be able to supply information on appropriate existing tools.
Notes	
Issues	If the format is not registered, could a repository submit a request to the registry for inclusion of the format, triggering some kind of call for information?