1. Release Notes

Released Software Products

The Data Conservancy is pleased to announce the third release of the Data Conservancy Software Archive (DCS Archive, formerly DCS) and the Data Conservancy Software Frontend (DCS Frontend, formerly DCS Reference UI). These are ***beta*** releases, still focused on core functionality. Future releases will include additional functionality and enhancements.

For more information about the Data Conservancy, its purposes, and goals, please visit the Data Conservancy website and read the Data Conservancy Blueprint for Data Management

Data Conservancy Software Archive (DCS Archive) Version 1.1.2-beta

The DCS Archive is software designed with explicit support for storing, archiving, preserving, and curating scientific research data. Based on service-oriented architecture (SOA) principles, and comporting with the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Model, the DCS Archive aims to provide a technology platform supporting data preservation, integration, and reuse.

Data Conservancy Software Frontend (DCS Frontend) Version 1.1.1-beta

The DCS Frontend is a web-based application designed to meet the needs of data managers at Johns Hopkins and partner Data Conservancy institutions. The Frontend supports basic features pertaining to data management, leveraging the capabilities of the DCS Archive to support data archiving and preservation.

Documentation

Documentation for this release is found online. Users are encouraged to read the documentation, in order to understand the capabilities and limitations of this release.

There are three primary documents:

- The DCS Archive, targeted at systems administrators responsible for installing the DCS Archive
- The DCS Business Object Ontology, targeted at users of DCS Frontend and DCS Package Tools GUI.
- The DCS Frontend, which includes Administration Guide and User Guide targeted at administrators and users of the DCS Frontend

The online documentation will be continually updated as errors are corrected and language is clarified. PDF versions of the documentation are also found here on the Data Conservancy website.

Developer documentation will be forthcoming in the form of maven sites.

Download

For current and past releases of the Data Conservancy Software please see the Downloads page.

Features and Limitations

DCS Archive features

Under development since 2009, the DCS Archive provides a robust ingest framework, query interface, and an archival store abstraction over the Fedora Repository. Events generated upon ingest provide a preservation-ready environment for data, facilitating future preservation activities. The Feature Extraction Framework provides an API for atomizing data, allowing its properties to be surfaced in novel ways. HTTP APIs provide entry points to the system, allowing developers and advanced users of the DCS Archive to perform ingests, queries of the DCS data model, and retrieval of system entities and data streams.

DCS Frontend features

Under development since 2011, the Frontend provides a functional, browser-based interface making interaction with the DCS Archive practical for data managers. The features for this release are still focused on functionality enabling deposit and retrieval of data with the addition of package ingest capability and a set of HTTP APIs which makes some functions of data deposit and retrieval machine actionable. There is minimal support for business concerns such as authentication and user management; robust support will be provided in future releases.

Limitations

This is a beta release, which means there are limitations with the system, including no guarantees of compatibility with future releases. The most severe manifestations of these limitations could be incompatibility with future APIs and data models, and the inability to migrate data deposited into the DCS from this release to the next.

Known Issues

Please see the Known Issues page.

1.1. Change Log

Data Conservancy Frontend

1.1.1-Beta

- Tool tips on input fields
- Fixed bug which made ingest of package with multiple checksum formats not possible
- Other bug fixes and minor improvements

1.1.0-Beta

- Support for ingesting packages of data, see the DCS Packaging Specification for more details. Frontend now supports anonymous collection browsing right from the home page of an instance.
- Support for the extraction of metadata from FGDC, TIFF, and JPEG metadata files.
- Support for instance administrators to add new xml based metadata formats which metadata files can be validated against.
- Support for metadata file validation.
    - Instance administrators can add new metadata formats as well as test files against known formats in the instance administrator page.
    - All metadata files that assert to conform to a known metadata format will be validated against the format before being ingested into the system.
- Updated support for sub collections (currently sub collections can only be deposited through package ingest).
- Updated Data Items to support multiple Data Files (currently multi-file Data Items can only be deposited through package ingest).
- Udded the ability to specify Metadata Files for all Data Items, Data Files, and Metadata Files (currently only available through package ingest).
- Ubility to reset forgotten passwords.
- Various Bug Fixes and Enhancements

1.1.0-Alpha

- Initial release of the Data Conservancy Frontend

Data Conservancy Archive

1.1.2-Beta

- Code clean up.

1.1.0-Alpha

- Initial release of the Data Conservancy Archive

3. Known Issues

There are a few known issues with the current release of DCS Software. This list represents the ones likely to be seen by administrators or end users of the software.

DCS Frontend

- Projects can not be added via package ingest.
- Updates to existing Collections, DataItems cannot be done via package ingest.
- Subcollections currently can only be added through package ingest, however they can be viewed in the Frontend UI.
- All top level Collections to be ingested in the package must belong to a Project that already exists in the system.
- When updating a file in a multi-file data item through the UI, the new version of the data item will have only that file in it (the other files in the original data file will not persist to the new version of the data item).
- Emails are not sent when files' deposits are completed, despite of the UI message which says so. However, emails with links to deposit status are sent after each deposit is initiated.
- UI currently allows 2-digit years, and appends "20" to the beginning. The UI *should* only allow 4-digit years.
- When metadata files are ingested as part of packages, no metadata extraction is performed on them.
- Metadata files in a package that specify more than one metadata format (dcterms:format, dcterms:conformsTo) will not have their additional formats used by the reference UI.
- When editing a creator, if you try to use a blank value for first or middle name when a non-blank value was there previously, the blank value will not save, and the previous value will persist.
- When adding a metadata file to a collection, selecting a new file doesn't update the name field.
- Project ID is not easily identifiable on the project information page - you have to use the URL in your browser to extract it.

Technical Issues (Archive)

- DROID signature files are not the most recent available.