

OR2015 | 10th International Conference on Open Repositories

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Upgrading? Migrating? There's a portmanteau for that!

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Session Type (select one)

- Panel
- Presentation

Abstract

Fedora 4, the new, revitalized version of Fedora, boasts a feature set that includes improvements in scalability, linked data capabilities, research data support, modularity, and more. Since the launch of Fedora 4.0, a number of institutions have begun the process of upgrading their existing Fedora 3 repositories to Fedora 4 and migrating their content (thus the portmanteau "upgration"). Upgration will be different for every institution, but the common thread is the wealth of new opportunities Fedora 4 provides, both in terms of data modeling and application integrations.

This panel will focus on planning a move to a new repository platform and the opportunities provided by the new Fedora 4 feature set. In particular, the Linked Data Platform implementation provides some exciting capabilities for enhancing metadata and building semantic relationships between objects both within the repository and on the open web. By engaging in upgration projects now, the panelists are making sure their use cases are supported, as well as paving the way for full scale migrations later this year. Attendees considering their own upgration projects will have a chance to learn from the experience of the panelists and get excited about the new opportunities provided by Fedora 4.

Conference Themes

Select the conference theme(s) your proposal best addresses:

- Supporting Open Scholarship, Open Science, and Cultural Heritage
- Managing Research (and Open) Data
- Integrating with External Systems
- Re-using Repository Content
- Exploring Metrics and Assessment
- Managing Rights
- Developing and Training Staff
- Building the Perfect Repository

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Keywords

Fedora, migration, upgrade

Audience

The primary audience for this panel is repository managers and librarians. Developers may also be interested, but the panel will not focus on technical details.

Background

This panel supports the “Looking back, moving forward” theme of Open Repositories 2015, because the panelists will be discussing the challenges of migrating their existing repositories to the new Fedora 4 infrastructure, while at the same time enhancing and upgrading their data to take advantage of new opportunities available in Fedora 4, particularly in the realm of linked data. This is not just a data migration; it is a chance to improve both the data and the application in a forward-thinking way.

This panel also addresses a number of the conference sub-themes, primarily “integrating with external systems”. Fedora 4 features a number of robust RESTful APIs, and also implements the W3C Linked Data Platform 1.0 specification. Taken together, these features open the door to a wide variety of integrations with external systems, which the panelists will discuss.

Presentation content

Fedora 4, the new, revitalized version of Fedora, officially launched in December of 2014 with a feature set that includes vast improvements in scalability, linked data capabilities, research data support, modularity, ease of use, and more. Since that time, a number of institutions have begun the process of upgrading their existing Fedora 3 repositories to Fedora 4 and migrating their content (thus the portmanteau “upgration”). This process will be different for every institution, but the common thread is the wealth of new opportunities Fedora 4 provides, both in terms of data modeling and application integrations.

The panelists will provide an overview of their legacy repositories and discuss their reasons for upgrading and migrating content to Fedora 4, focusing on the new features and opportunities enabled by Fedora 4. In particular, the Linked Data Platform implementation provides some exciting capabilities for enhancing metadata and building semantic relationships between objects both within the repository and on the open web. RDF-based metadata is still an emerging standard, but Fedora 4 is well-positioned to take advantage of RDF metadata schemas as they become more common.

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Michael Friscia, from Yale University, will discuss Yale's efforts to upgrade and migrate away from many separate, distinct Fedora 3 repositories to a more standardized, up-to-date, Hydra-based Fedora 4 framework. Yale University also contributes significant developer effort to the Fedora 4 project, and Michael will discuss why this effort is important and how it supports their overall institutional goals.

Michael Giarlo, from Penn State University, will talk about Penn State's participation in the Fedora 4 beta pilot program and their efforts to integrate Hydra with Fedora 4. Fedora 4 introduces a number of important features that are now being leveraged by Hydra, most significantly in the world of linked data. Penn State is also developing a Hydra-based tool to migrate content from Fedora 3 to Fedora 4, which will be a boon to the Hydra community as more and more institutions make the leap to Fedora 4.

Nick Ruest, from York University, is leading a project to integrate Islandora with Fedora 4, and as part of this effort he is upgrading and migrating an existing Islandora/Fedora 3 repository to Islandora/Fedora 4. This project will feed into the ongoing Islandora-Fedora 4 integration project, which will in turn allow many other Islandora installations to upgrade and migrate to Fedora 4.

Conclusion

Moving to a new repository platform is challenging, but in this case the challenge comes with an opportunity to improve data and enhance repository services. For the speakers on this panel, Fedora 4 represents a crossroads; it is an opportunity to reflect on past decisions and repository implementations, and move forward with an eye toward modern, sustainable systems and standards. Attendees considering their own upgration projects will have a chance to learn from the experience of the panelists and get excited about the new opportunities provided by Fedora 4.