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Fedora

A 17.5 minute primer

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Fedora

is not..

- a distribution of Linux
- a really cool hat
- a relational database
- a turnkey solution
- an integrated solution

is…

- a conceptual framework
- a set of abstractions for expressing digital objects
- a foundation upon which to build applications

Think of it this way

(Digital Commons)

(Fedora)

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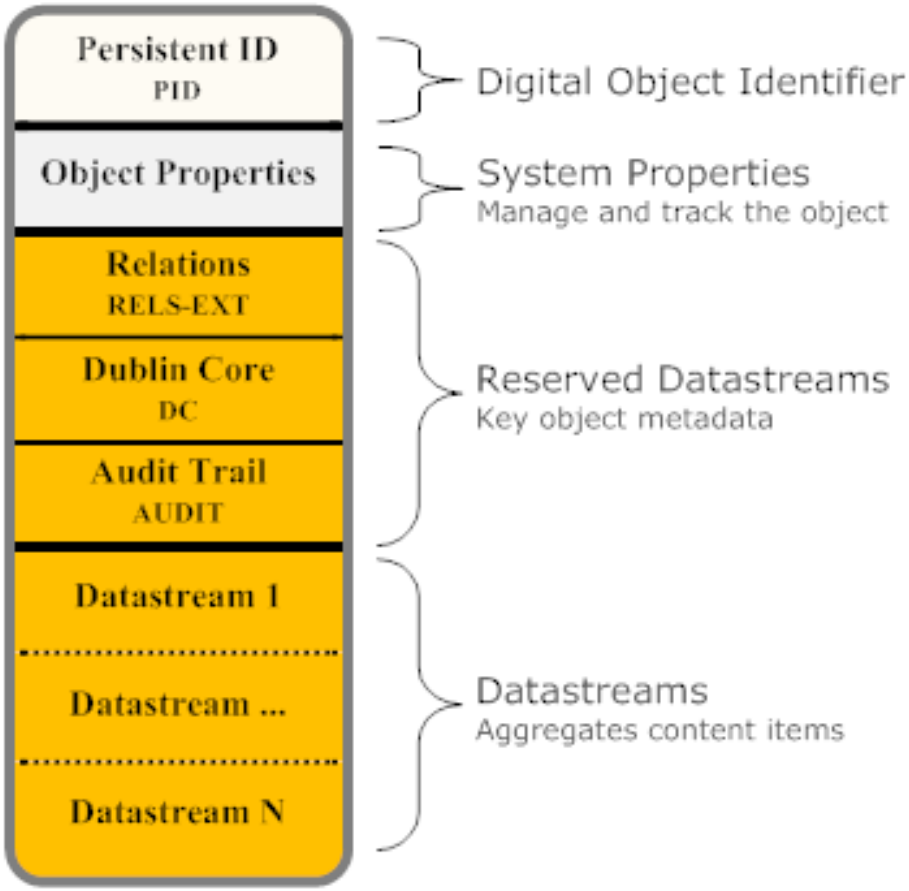
As a recipe..

- fedora provides a syntax for describing digital objects.
- this syntax is flexible and can be used to describe any content, media type, or intended use.
- fedora lets the chef (you!) make adjustments for taste and diet

The Basic Object Model



Within the model..

- you can decide how you want to construct your digital objects.
- you can decide which descriptive, technical and administrative metadata languages you want to use.
- you can mix and match metadata languages to suite your needs.

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For once we are in control

(be brave)

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Lets take a look at a

- sample object model for a metadata object
- sample object for a thumbnail object

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As for object-to-object relationships…

- fedora creates a graph (RDF based) of all objects in the repository
- fedora provides a basic ontology for describing 21 relationships between objects
  - <rdf:Property rdf:ID="isMemberOfCollection">
  - <rdf:Property rdf:ID="isMetadataFor">
  - <rdf:Property rdf:ID="isSubsetOf”>
- you can extend this with your own ontology.
  - <rdf:Property rdf:ID="isDatasetFor">
  - <rdf:Property rdf:ID="isCodebookFor">

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Oh yes, we are in control

(be bold)

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Lets take a look at a

- how a metadata object can find its related media objects

- how a media object knows which metadata object describes it

So, how would this play out?

- Technical services staff work with repository manager, colleagues and scholars to design key components of object models
  - Which metadata standards should we use?
  - When should we use them?
  - How granular should our metadata be?
  - How FRBR-like do we want to be?
  - What local ontologies should we maintain?
- The object model becomes the blueprint for whatever interface(s) web developers implement to create and ingest objects objects.

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So, how would this play out?

- The object model (combined with a service definition and service deployment) drives what one can do with an object.
- Fedora has a messaging service that allows you to set up automatic indexing and notification services.
- Fedora has an extensive set of robust APIs that allow you to create simple interfaces (PHP, Perl, Django, Ruby) for loading, managing, and accessing objects

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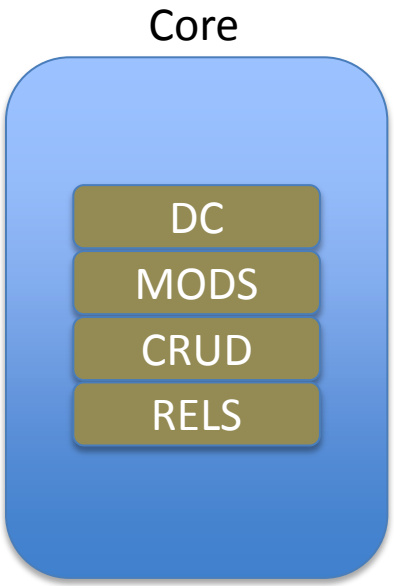
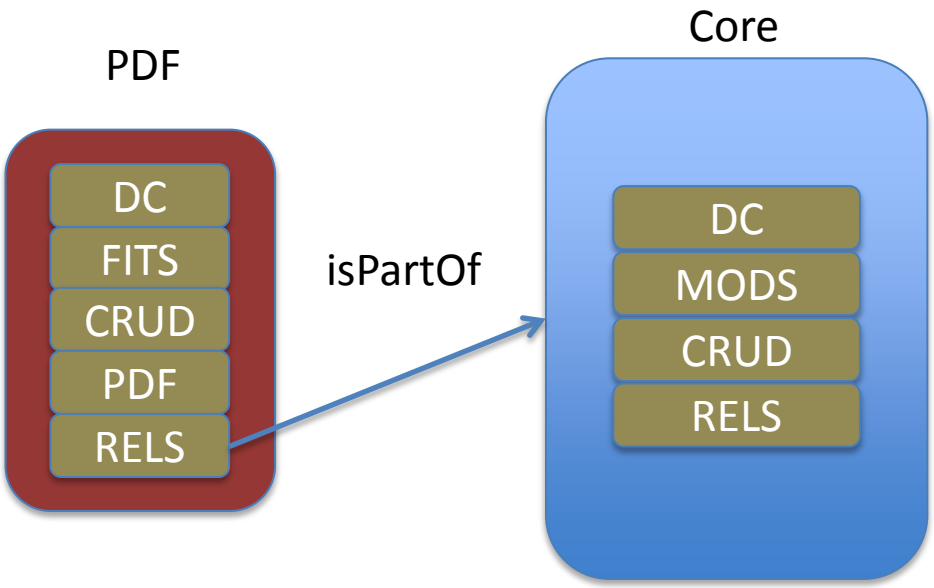
Modeling a PDF Document



Modeling a PDF Document



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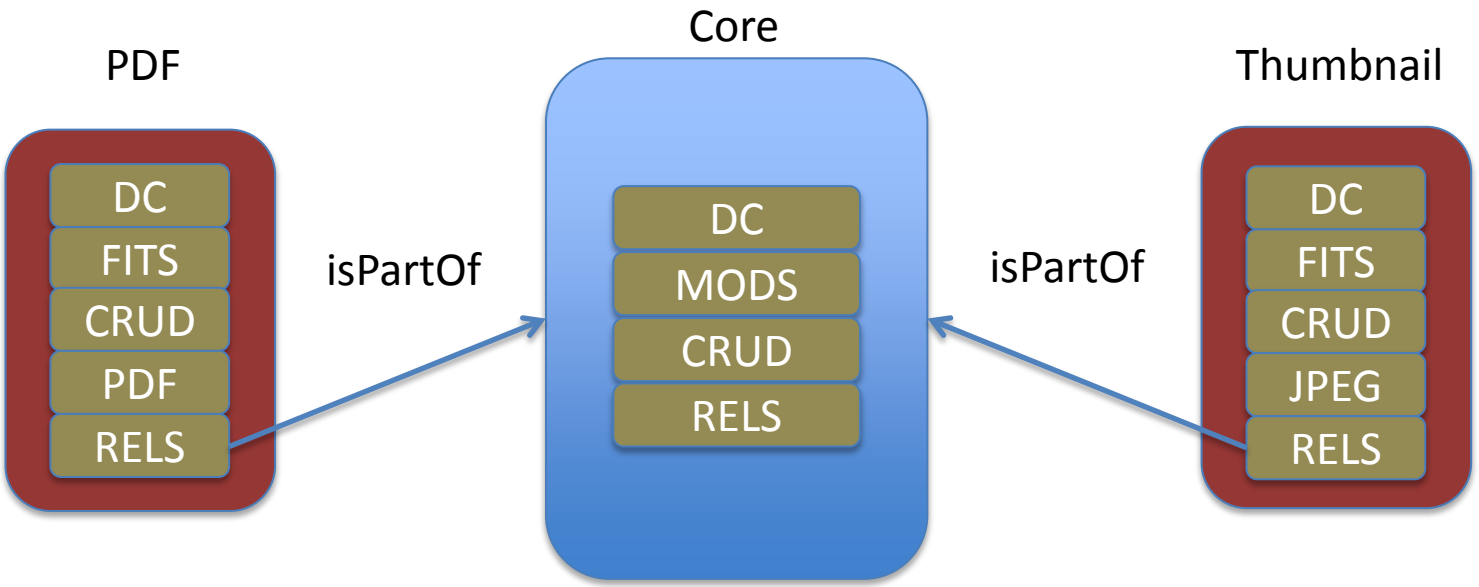

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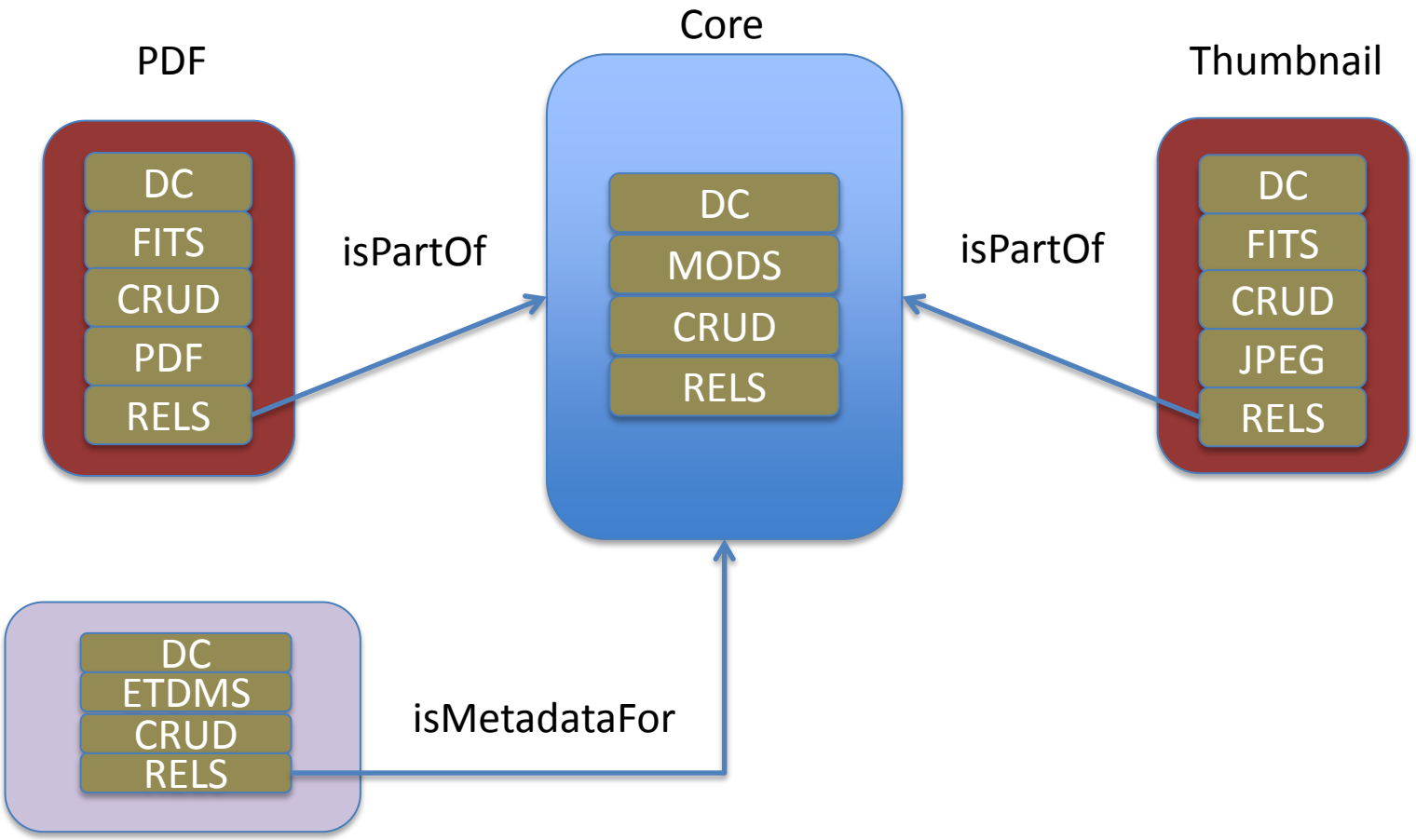

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URLS

- http://duraspace.org
- http://fedora-commons.org
- http://blogs.lib.uconn.edu/nefug

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Questions?

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