

Standards Change Request

Increase length of PATH_NAME keyword

SCR3-1064.v3

Provenance:

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Problem:

Based on the approval of SCR 3-1006, the length of PATH_NAME needs to be increased to accommodate longer directory names.

Current Urgency:

Priority is medium. This change is needed to rectify the discrepancy in the data dictionary.

Proposed Solution:

Increase the maximum length of the PATH_NAME keyword to 223 characters.

Impact Assessment:

Documentation changes – No known changes to published documents.

Interface changes – The pdsdd.full file and the underlying data base must be modified for the new length and the changes propagated to posted files. There is a potential for impact on product server databases when ingesting new products with the longer path names. This potential impact has not been assessed.

Software changes – There is a small potential for impact on validation and parsing tools as new data sets come in. Although this has not been assessed, this is likely to be very low as even the legacy tools were generally developed to reference the current data dictionary for length constraints, rather than hard-coding the information.

Additional Information:

The ISO 9660 path length restrictions are the limiting factor. The value "223" is 32 characters shorter than the longest valid ISO file specification (255 characters), to allow for the maximum length file identifier (31 characters) with one additional character reserved to ensure there is room for the final directory delimiter, should the user omit it. (The current definition of PATH_NAME implies that this final delimiter should be included, but does not explicitly require it.)

There are additional constraints on path specifications in the ISO 9660 standard, but it is not proposed that any attempt be made to try to encapsulate these in the PATH_NAME definition.

Requested Changes:

Increase the value of MAXIMUM_LENGTH in the definition of the PATH_NAME element from 72 to 223.