

Standards Change Request

ODL Lines and Records

SCR3-1070.v1

Provenance:

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Problem:

Section 12.4.1 of the Standards Reference states that:

A line of an ODL-encoded label may not cross a record boundary, i.e., each line should be contained within a single record. Any space left over at the end of a record after the last line in that record should be set to all space characters.

In contrast, the practice of most PDS nodes using attached labels on files with FIXED_LENGTH records has been to either pad every line in the label out to record length, or to pad only the last line in the label out to an integer number of records. If the current wording of the Standards Reference is enforced, it will invalidate many existing data sets with attached labels.

Current Urgency:

The Development Team of the Engineering Node is awaiting the results of this SCR to determine which validation tests to include in the new "vtool" program, currently under development.

Proposed Solution:

The Standards Reference will be amended to be consistent with current PDS practice.

Impact Assessment:

Given that this SCR represents a relaxation of ODL standards rather than a tightening of them, and is changing the standards to reflect common practice, there should be no impact on any archiving activities, current or future.

If this SCR is approved, the impact on the development of the "vtool" validation program will be reduced, not increased. The standards, as currently written, require a validation test to verify that each line of a PDS label does not cross a record boundary. If this SCR is approved, only the last line of each label would need to be verified.

Requested Changes:

The following change will be made to the PDS Standards Reference:

Section 12.4.1.1 will be added at the end of section 12.4.1:

12.4.1.1 PDS Implementation of Lines and Records

Lines within PDS labels are permitted to cross record boundaries. The label itself must end on a record boundary, so any space left over at the end of the label should be set to all space characters out to an integer number of records. (See section 5.1.2 for details.)