

Standards Change Request

Correct DATA_SET_HOUSKEEPING object

SCR3-1109.v1

Provenance:

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Working Group: This should be an errata correction – no working group required.

Problem:

The DATA_SET_HOUSEKEEPING object contains the subobject RESOURCE_INFORMATION. This subobject in turn requires the DESCRIPTION element. When DATA_SET_HOUSEKEEPING files passing validation are sent to EN for ingest, however, they are rejected because the EN ingest software requires an element called RESOURCE_DESC rather than DESCRIPTION in the RESORUCE_INFORMATION object.

Priority:

High. This is a constant annoyance that affects the nodes abilities to rapidly and accurately post resource changes to the central catalog. Further, if this housekeeping object is also going to take on the burden of status tracking, which is not a bad idea, it is even more important that it be possible to validate these catalog files like every other file.

Further, this problem has been pointed out repeatedly by various node personnel over at least the last two year, without any improvement in what is clearly a simple mistake in the ingest code/object definition interface.

Proposed Solution:

Modify the EN software to use the valid definition of the RESORUCE_INFORMATION object, as it has been in the PSDD database and pdsdd.full file since its inception.

Impact Assessment:

Documentation changes

- None

Public Interface changes

- Probably none. I am not aware that anyone other than PDS nodes submit DATA_SET_HOUSEKEEPING file, but I may just be uninformed.

Software changes

- None to the general tools.
- EN will have to find and modify the problem in their ingest routine.
- Those of us at the nodes that have been programming around this problem will need to make minor modifications to our code which generates the housekeeping files for submission. At SBN, for example, this is a trivial change. Other nodes may wish to comment on this issue.

External Agencies

- None

Additional Information:

We should formally request an impact assessment from the EN programmer(s) that will actually have to make the fix. Depending on personnel changes and available documentation, it may actually take some time to track this down and fix it.

Recommended Actions:

Modify the EN ingest software to accept the published definition of the DATA_SET_HOUSEKEEPING/RESOURCE_INFORMATION objects.