

Content Model Driven Software

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Digital collections often have very different properties. Fedora Commons is flexible enough to contain collections with varying structures, file formats and metadata formats. However, that flexibility makes it difficult to work with the data, since very little is known about the data's properties. We present a way to use machine-readable, detailed content models, called Enhanced Content Models, that allows software to adapt automatically to specific collections. We use this approach for our Digital Object Management System, including a web-based metadata editor GUI, search and index, presentation, ingest, and preservation. The practical result of this, is that simply by defining a content model for a collection, all our software automatically adapts to that collection, and is immediately ready to work on the new collection.