

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AGREEMENT

IWA
44

Draft
2024-10-22

Unique Media Identifier (UMId) for distribution channels and brands

DRAFT - Public consultation
Call for comments
(End date: 2024-11-29)

Please **submit your comments (if any) no later than 2024-11-29** via E-Mail to:

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

International Workshop Agreement IWA 44 was approved at a series of workshops hosted by the German Institute for Standardisation (DIN), in association with Global Media Registry (GMR), held between February 2024 and January 2025.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

1 Introduction

2 Unique Media Identifiers (UMId), as covered by this IWA, are a tool to enhance the integrity of the
3 online news ecosystem – among other things, by harmonising and improving the effectiveness of
4 respective signalling along the distribution chain to facilitate content indexation and recommendation
5 by online platforms (e. g. search, streaming and social media). In addition, the deliverables of the IWA
6 can be used by all other stakeholders that engage with mass media and content distribution online,
7 such as providers/operators of advertising technology, and public sector actors (e. g. regulatory
8 authorities).

9 The functioning of our shared information space depends on digital infrastructure and platforms.
10 Their protocols and algorithmic-driven recommender systems determine how content can be accessed
11 by users online. In order to work properly, these recommender systems require up-to-date criteria by
12 which content is included, promoted or even excluded based upon inclusion lists of trustworthy
13 sources of content, or exclusion lists of bad actors.

14 The unique key of the UMId will be designed to provide signal transparency and integrity in a neutral
15 way and will be assigned to media outlets (which means all distribution channels and brands of a
16 content provider), so that the industry, regulators, audiences and other stakeholders can
17 unambiguously identify the respective source of information, for example, in order to trace back and
18 identify its ultimate beneficial owner.

19 Identifiers of media are not a new idea per se. Most, if not all, major stakeholders concerned (such as
20 social media platforms and search engines, the advertising sector and public actors, such as national
21 regulators, and academic researchers) already use their own identifiers to index media companies,
22 their outlets, brands and channels, but those lists are often incomplete and not harmonized. The UMId
23 is an effective and transparent alternative or complement to these diffuse attempts, which will
24 mitigate related risks by facilitating harmonization – both vertically (between platforms and signal
25 providers) as well as horizontally (platforms, ad-tech amongst each other respectively) – thus
26 reducing errors, speeding up the processes, as well as preventing mismatches and mix-ups that are
27 common in this space.

28 Many countries and transnational entities are currently in the process of updating their regulatory
29 frameworks to better reflect the realities of the online environment, safeguard transparency and
30 protect the rights of users. Assigning news sources with UMIDs would enable key players to more
31 effectively comply with this kind of regulation. Some examples from the EU context are the Digital
32 Services Act that requires online services to take effective mitigation measures against online risks,
33 and the Copyright Directive which obliges online platforms to pay rights holders for their content. The
34 European Media Freedom Act foresees a protected status for news media publishers and their
35 accounts on social media, and the co-regulatory Code of Practice on Disinformation prescribes
36 indicators of trustworthiness of online sources, to better inform users, guide content recommendation
37 and to make advertising placement more transparent. At the same time, the assigning and managing of
38 the UMId needs to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation, and some other laws inside
39 and outside the EU.

40 As highlighted above, current efforts to assign identifiers to online media have some shortcomings. A
41 problem occurs when different lists categorise accounts according to different criteria. This might be
42 the case with brands of the same name (there are several dozens of media outlets called 'Phoenix'), or
43 with affiliates, syndicated channels or sister-brands of the same origin, that might follow different
44 editorial lines (e. g. Al Jazeera, Phoenix or Fox). Even when a web-domain or social media account is
45 always distinct, it might not be immediately clear to which media outlet or company it belongs. This
46 could lead to conflicting or wrong signals, misleading algorithmic indexation and negatively impacting
47 site integrity and user experience. Bad actors could even capitalise on this deficiency and try to game
48 the recommender systems with similar sounding names of channels, accounts, or brands.

49 The instrument of industry standard setting is a useful path to solve the outlined problem in a fully
50 self-regulatory and consensual, but still authoritative way. Examples of such conventions are the two-

51 or three-letter country codes stipulated by ISO, the three letter codes for airports, or the international
52 bank account number (IBAN). Specific to the content creation process, the International standard
53 name identifier (ISNI) is an identifier for the public identity of parties.

54 The UMId project has been proposed by the Global Media Registry, a Germany-based non-profit social
55 enterprise that supports transparency, accountability, and pluralism in the digital information space.
56 The GMR is a member of the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), a consortium member of
57 the Global Media and Internet Concentration Project (GMICP) and a member of the Media Freedom
58 Cohort of the Summit for Democracy. The proposer of the workshop has, in advance, taken into
59 account the work of existing ISO/TCs such as:

- 60 • ISO/TC 46/SC 9 Identification and description
- 61 • ISO/TC 204 Intelligent transport systems
- 62 • ISO/TC 289 Brand evaluation
- 63 • IEC/TC 100 Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment
- 64 • ISO/IEC JTC 1 Information technology

65 Members or officials of the above-mentioned ISO/TCs have actively participated in the elaboration of
66 this IWA. The IWA 44 workshop members have organized themselves in dedicated subgroups on
67 certain aspects (clauses) of this document:

- 68 • Subgroup on Syntax and taxonomy to identify a possible format and the elements that are most
69 suitable for the UMId, based on use cases. This work includes the definitions of terminology,
70 the entity relationships, and the scope of applicability, for example with regards to individuals;
- 71 • Subgroup on Operations and governance to identify the aspects relevant for assigning and
72 managing the UMId, including recommendations for possible entities involved in the process
73 and their roles in the governance, possible methods of assigning UMId keys (e.g. automated,
74 curated or mixed) and business model considerations;
- 75 • Subgroup on integrity, transparency and security to assess relevant aspects of security, to
76 identify mechanisms to prevent misuse and to ensure that the UMId could serve as a trusted
77 resource for the industry and audiences.

78

79 IWA 44 - Unique Media Identifier (UMId) for distribution 80 channels and brands

81 1 Scope

82 This document provides requirements and recommendations for the structure, associated metadata to
83 be included and the governance of the Unique Media Identifier (UMId) that can be assigned to all
84 media outlets that publish content online. The identification of material or physical objects is out of
85 scope of this document.

86 The aim of the UMId is to establish source identity, including a clear connection between channels
87 operated by the same editorial unit across platforms, including news media websites and their social
88 media presence. Such an interoperable system of UMIDs is crucial to safeguarding the integrity of
89 news and information ecosystems, which is relevant when publishing, accessing, and managing
90 content online.

91 Additional parties engaged in this information ecosystem such as individuals (influencers, bloggers, or
92 independent journalists), as well as third-party aggregators and other distributors may be considered
93 for UMId assignment.

94 Unique Media Identifiers (UMId) are one of the possibly multiple components of an open and scalable
95 infrastructure of identifier systems and indicators that aim at safeguarding the transparency,
96 responsibility and accountability of online content and its sources. The purpose of this proposal is
97 therefore not to replace existing standards and indicators, but to add a holistic and global framework
98 with a view on harmonising them.

99 The IWA also considers the UMId's technical infrastructure and its practical implementation.

100 This document is a neutral, non-judgemental numbering or naming convention, not a certification
101 scheme. Thus, it does not include any requirements for the assessment of online content – for example
102 as regards its “trustworthiness” or quality – or an outlet's compliance with journalistic standards.

103 2 Normative references

104 The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content
105 constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For
106 undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments)
107 applies.

108 ISO 639-2, *Codes for the Representation of Names of Languages*

109 ISO 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions*

110 ISO 17442 (all parts), *Financial services — Legal entity identifier (LEI)*

111 ISO/IEC 7064, *Information technology — Security techniques — Check character systems*

112 ISO/IEC 10646, *Universal coded character set (UCS)*

113 IETF 4648, *The Base16, Base32, and Base64 Data Encodings*

114 3 Terms and definitions

115 For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

116 ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

117 — ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

118 — IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

119 **3.1**

120 **UMId system**

121 technical and management infrastructure that supports the assignment of UMId keys (3.2) and
122 provides for the network's long-term maintenance, resolution and governance

123 **3.2**

124 **UMId key**

125 alphanumeric string representing a unique outlet (3.10) in the UMId system

126 **3.3**

127 **code point**

128 value in the Universal coded character set (UCS) codespace

129 [SOURCE: ISO/IEC 10646; 3.9]

130 **3.4**

131 **UMId syntax**

132 rules for the form and sequence of code points (3.3) comprising any UMId key (3.2), specifically the
133 form and sequence of code points of a UMId prefix element (3.5) and suffix element (3.6)

134 **3.5**

135 **UMId prefix**

136 unique string of code points (3.3) forming part of the beginning element of the UMId syntax (3.4)

137 **3.6**

138 **UMId suffix**

139 unique string of code points (3.3) forming part of the ending element of the UMId syntax (3.4)

140 **3.7**

141 **kernel UMId metadata**

142 specific data associated with the outlet (3.10) identified with a UMId key (3.2), that is based on a data
143 model that is sufficient to uniquely identify the Outlet

144 Note 1 to entry: kernel metadata is specified in Annex A;

145 Note 2 to entry: kernel metadata is mandatory in the metadata model.

146 **3.8**

147 **extended UMId metadata**

148 specific data associated with the outlet (3.10) identified with a UMId key (3.2), that provides
149 additional information related to outlet

150 Note 1 to entry: examples of extended metadata are specified as optional in Annex A;

151 Note 2 to entry: extended UMId metadata is managed by the Issuing agent (3.9) with data of any desired
152 degree of precision and granularity to support identification and description in their market
153 (3.12).

154 **3.9**

155 **Issuing agent**

156 organization that assigns and registers a particular UMId key (3.2) to an outlet (3.10)

157 Note 1 to entry: Issuing Agents are registered and accredited within the UMId system (3.1) by the UMId
158 Registration Authority.

159 **3.10**

160 **media outlet**

161 editorial entity that is the source of content with designated staff, distribution channels (3.14), assets (3.15) – i. e.
162 content brands (such as publications, shows, etc.) and frequent/periodical output.

163 Note 1 to entry: There is at least one ultimate beneficial owner (3.12);

164 Note 2 to entry: Usually, a legal entity (3.11) is affiliated with the outlet;

165 Note 3 to entry: Different channels of one outlet can target different media markets (3.13).

166 **3.11**

167 **legal entity**

168 a registered body, usually a company, which is formed and owned by one or more natural persons to
169 engage in commercial activities

170 Note 1 to entry: Through its registration it is always tied distinctively to one country but might operate in
171 several language markets (3.13).

172 **3.12**

173 **owner**

174 a natural person who owns or controls a legal entity (3.11), typically through shares and voting rights
175 as its (ultimate) beneficiary

176 Note 1 to entry: A special case is the State as an owner, mostly represented by public law bodies, like a
177 ministry or other authority instead of natural persons.

178 **3.13**

179 **media market**

180 target area of outlet (3.10) as a combination of the geographical or territorial dimension, defined by at
181 least one country or more, and one language or more

182 Note 1 to entry: Target MARKETs can differ from jurisdiction (country) where an outlet (3.10) is registered
183 and/or operates from.

184 **3.14**

185 **channel**

186 distribution channel of a media outlet (3.10) and its editorial content

187 Note 1 to entry: For example, an FM radio frequency, a social media account or streaming channel;

188 Note 2 to entry: A channel is always distinct and tied to one outlet;

189 Note 3 to entry: The affiliation of a channel might be ambiguous or fully covert (e. g. anonymous social media
190 accounts, impersonation, 'pirate' radio stations);

191 Note 4 to entry: Different channels (3.13) of one outlet (3.10) can target different markets (3.13).

192 **3.15**

193 **asset**

194 a content brand, like a show, segment or publication title under a media outlet (3.10)

195 **4 Construction of a UMI**

196 **4.1 General characteristics**

197 A UMI key shall consist of an ordered sequence of case-insensitive alphanumeric code points encoded
198 URI-safe base64uri character set as defined in IETF RFC 4648 using the alphanumeric Latin characters
199 A-Z in capital and lowercase and the numbers 0-9.

200 Note: The term code point is used instead of the term character, which is ambiguous in the context
201 of Unicode where a given abstract character can be encoded in multiple ways.

202 The code points are arranged in a UMI prefix and a UMI suffix and a two-element check digit.

203 1. UMI prefix

204 A UMI prefix shall consist of a string of four code points and shall be assigned by the UMI
205 Registration Authority to the issuing agent.

206 2. UMI suffix

207 A UMI suffix shall consist of a string of sixteen code points, with fourteen code points
208 identifying the outlet and the final two code points being a checksum. The UMI suffix shall be
209 assigned by the UMI issuing agent.

210 Table 1 shows the structure of the UMId key.

211 **Table 1 — Example of a UMId Key**

UMId Code Point	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	UMId prefix: Issuing Agent Code – Assigned by the Registration Authority				UMId suffix: Identifier for Outlet – Assigned by the Issuing Agent										UMId checksum digits	
Example	Z	Z	Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	#	#

212
213 The last two characters of the UMId suffix shall consist of a check digit element to ensure the validity of
214 the UMId Key. The method for calculating the check digit element is described in clause 5.

215 Further constraints on code points (e.g. the use of numeric characters only) can be defined for an
216 application by either the UMId Registration Authority or by the issuing agency.

217 The combination of a UMId prefix (assigned by the UMId Registration Authority to a particular UMId
218 issuing agent) and a UMId suffix (assigned by the issuing agent to a specific outlet) shall be unique.
219 While UMId prefix may be duplicative within the context of a specific issuing agent, and alternatively a
220 UMId suffix may be duplicated across different issuing agents, the combination across the issuing
221 agencies name spaces should prevent UMId conflicts. This allows the decentralised allocation of UMId
222 keys. The registration of the combination of the prefix and suffix in the UMId system serves to validate
223 the UMId syntax for a given UMId key. Care should be taken to ensure that the same outlet is not
224 identified multiple times through the use of a deduplication process before the assignment is
225 registered.

226 In a human-readable context, the UMId key should be displayed as “UMId: ” followed by the UMId key.
227 For human readability, the UMId key may be separated by spaces but these spaces are not to be
228 considered part of the canonical representation of the UMId key.

229 For interoperability purposes with other identifiers (such as DOI) or for human readability the UMId
230 prefix and UMId suffix may be separated by U+002F SOLIDUS. The canonical UMId key shall be the
231 code point string without the solidus separator.

232 Note: U+002F SOLIDUS is also referred to as forward slash (“/”).

233 The UMId key shall be regarded as an opaque string by users of the UMId system. No definitive
234 information shall be inferred from the specific sequence of code points that make up a UMId key. In
235 particular, the inclusion in a UMId key of any UMId prefix allocated to a specific issuing agent does not
236 provide evidence of the ownership of rights, the current management responsibility of any intellectual
237 property in the referent, or in any relations to the geographical location of the owner of the outlet. The
238 mere assignment of a UMId key shall not imply endorsement of the outlet by any party.

239 **5 UMId Check Digit**

240 **5.1 General characteristics**

241 The UMId suffix shall end in a two-code point check digit unit. This unit shall be calculated and
242 appended to the first 18 code points of the UMId key, including both the prefix and the first fourteen
243 code points of the UMId suffix. The check digit pair is used to verify that the UMId key is properly
244 formed.

245 The check digit pair shall be calculated based on the simplified procedure defined in ISO/IEC 7064
246 (MOD 97-10) after the conversion of the leftmost 18 alphanumeric characters of the UMId key
247 consisting of both the UMId prefix and the UMId suffix into a character string consisting only of digits.

248 Valid check digit pairs are in the range of [02 .. 98]. 00, 01, and 99 are not valid UMIId check digit pairs.
 249 If the check digit pair has been calculated correctly, when the entire 20-character UMIId is converted to
 250 numbers following the process described in 5.2 step 1, and divided by 97 as described in 5.2, step 3,
 251 the remainder shall be “1”.

252 5.2 Procedure for calculating the check digit unit

253 Step 1: The value of any code points that represent digits shall be equal to their numeric digit value
 254 between 0 and 9. Any code points representing letters in the first 18 code points of the UMIId key shall
 255 be converted to digit pairs in accordance with the table described below.

256	A (or a) = 10	F (or f) =15	K (or k) =20	P (or p) =25	U (or u) =30
257	B (or b) =11	G (or g) =16	L (or l) =21	Q (or q) =26	V (or v) =31
258	C (or c) =12	H (or h) =17	M (or m) =22	R (or r) =27	W (or w) =32
259	D (or d) =13	I (or i) =18	N (or n) =23	S (or s) =28	X (or x) =33
260	E (or e) =14	J (or j) =19	O (or o) =24	T (or t) =29	Y (or y) =34 Z (or z) =35

261 Step 2: Two zeros shall be appended to the resulting string at the rightmost positions.

262 Step 3: A Euclidian division of the resulting number by 97 shall be performed to determine the
 263 remainder.

264 Step 4: The remainder shall be subtracted from 98 to determine the check digit pair.

265 Step 5: The check digit pair shall be appended to the original 14 alphanumeric characters to form the
 266 16-character alphanumeric string.

267 5.3 EXAMPLE

268 Examples of this model:

- 269 • **9523Gg2t87xz8H53** – 9523 (Issuing Agent) Gg2t87xz8H (identifier of Outlet) 53 (Checksum)
- 270 • **8802Uu877V2Mo770** – 8802 (Issuing Agent) Uu877V2Mo7 (identifier of Outlet) 70 (Checksum)

271 Note 1 to examples: These examples are fictional UMIId keys and one should not infer an implementation model
 272 of the UMIId key based on these examples;

273 Note 2 to examples: To avoid collisions with other related ID systems, which may be interoperable with the
 274 UMIId system, the Registration Authority needs to work with other identification systems to
 275 set aside reserved code blocks in related namespaces where UMIId and other identifiers
 276 may overlap to ensure that there is not duplicative assignment of identifier strings.

277 6 UMIId kernel Metadata Elements

278 6.1 General characteristics

279 The UMIId kernel metadata captures those attributes that are core to identifying and disambiguating
 280 the media outlet, as well as to ensure proper management of the UMIId system. An issuing agent must
 281 generate a complete UMIId kernel metadata record in the system for a resulting UMIId key to be valid.

282 UMIId kernel metadata are all required attributes of a UMIId systems record. Some of these attributes
 283 may be withheld from public distribution of media outlets within the UMIId system.

284 The UMIId kernel metadata must include the following attributes:

- 285 — the UMIId key
- 286 — the name of outlet (could include transliterations as a data array)
- 287 — the owner of the outlet (could be represented by an organizational identifier, such as LEI)

288 Note to owner: Owners may be anonymous, or unknown to the issuing agent.

289 — the language(s) of the outlet (as represented using ISO 639)

290 — Media market of the outlet (could be an array of geography and language)

291 — the country / jurisdiction of the outlet (represented using ISO 3166 codes)

292 Note 1 to country: Some regions may not be formally recognized and therefore not have an official ISO
293 3166 Code assigned. In these cases, this field should be populated using Specially
294 Reserved Codes as defined in ISO 3166-1 to identify geographic regions which the
295 origin is clear but where a country is not formally recognized;

296 Note 2 to country: If the country of origin is unknown, the country of assignment will be noted, with the
297 notation "(assigned in)" to avoid confusion with the location of the origin.

298 — the date of assignment

299 — the date of last amendment to record

300 — the media type or types, if there are multiple, of the outlet (i.e., print, digital, broadcast TV, radio,
301 etc.).

302 Full details of the UMIId kernel Metadata elements are specified in Annex A.

303 The Registration Authority may establish additional required fields beyond those described here in the
304 implementation of the UMIId system.

305 **7 UMIId Extended Metadata Elements**

306 **7.1 General characteristics**

307 The UMIId metadata record may contain other metadata elements that provide additional context and
308 information regarding the outlet, its owners, markets, or other attributes worthy of the investment of
309 creating and maintaining the information. This extended metadata record is managed by the issuing
310 agent. Some of these data may be shared with the Registration Authority.

311 Additional metadata which are desirable, although not mandatory are specified in Annex A.

312 The Registration Authority or issuing agents may establish additional metadata elements beyond
313 those described here in the implementation of the UMIId system.

314 **8 UMIId Assignment**

315 **8.1 General characteristics**

316 The UMIId shall not be construed to replace other identifiers, such as ISSN, ISAN, ISNI, LEI, and other
317 commonly recognised identifiers.

318 Rules for assignment of UMIId keys and UMIId extended metadata can vary based on a functional
319 definition of the assignment scope based on the requirements of an issuing agent.

320 The UMIId key shall be associated with kernel metadata that describes the referent to which the UMIId
321 name is assigned.

322 Specific attributes of kernel metadata may not be available in some circumstances. Terms like
323 "unavailable" or "anonymous" might be included in attributes and metadata associated with a UMIId
324 that have been withheld.

325 **9 UMIId Interoperability with other IDs**

326 **9.1 Interoperability with DOI**

327 The UMIId key allows for the use of the code point U+002F (i.e., solidus or forward slash) as an
328 alternate representation of UMIId key string. This allows for the capability for interoperability of the

329 UMIId with the DOI system as defined in ISO 26324 and the DOI Registration Authority. In the use case
330 where the UMIId is integrating with the DOI system, the UMIId prefix shall be represented with the DOI
331 prefix and the UMIId suffix shall represent the DOI suffix, with the two separated by the U+002F code
332 point. Further integration between the metadata schema for UMIId and the DOI shall be addressed in
333 coordination between the UMIId Registration Authority and/or a UMIId issuing agent and the DOI
334 Registration Authority.

335 **9.2 Interoperability with QR Codes**

336 The UMIId key is defined as being case-insensitive using base64uri characters. It is noted that the
337 encoding of lower-case characters in a QR Code requires significantly more data representation in the
338 code processing, as described in ISO/IEC 18004:2015 Information – Automatic identification and data
339 capture techniques – QR Code barcode symbology specification. Therefore, it is recommended that in
340 the use case of a UMIId being applied to a QR code the UMIId should be represented as being in capital
341 letters to improve interoperability with the QR code standard.

Annex A (normative)

Metadata elements

A.1 Metadata elements

Table A.1 shows the metadata elements associated with a UMID key.

Note 1 to Table A.1: Some of these data elements may be arrays of information in an operational system, to record history, changes, valid keys, or other data that may change over time;

Note 2 to Table A.1: Some of these data elements may be unavailable, anonymous, or withheld in various circumstances. The Registration Authority may establish rules for how issuing agents handle data.

Table A.1 — Metadata Elements

Kernel/required - or - extended/optional	Element	Description	Related information
REQUIRED	UMID KEY	The UMID KEY code point string	
REQUIRED	NAME OF MEDIA OUTLET	Identified Source Name, in original LANGUAGE/script	
REQUIRED	LEGAL ENTITY	LEGAL ENTITY that operates the OUTLET	LEI (or alternate if noted)
OPTIONAL	LEGAL ENTITY TYPE	Controlled vocabulary of OWNER types, such as government, corporate, non-profit.	
REQUIRED	ULTIMATE BENEFICIAL OWNER	Natural person or public law body that owns and controls LEGAL ENTITY.	
OPTIONAL	VARIANT NAMES	Variant names of the OUTLET/Publication (acronyms, etc.), repository of brand names including logos.	
OPTIONAL	CHANNELS	Structured repository of distribution channels of OUTLET	
OPTIONAL	ASSET	Content brand, like a show, segment or publication title under a media OUTLET.	
REQUIRED	MARKET	Geographical/territorial area that the OUTLET targets, defined by one or more COUNTRY.	ISO 3166

Kernel/required - or - extended/optional	Element	Description	Related information
REQUIRED	LANGUAGE	Primary language of the content in the OUTLET	ISO 639
REQUIRED	COUNTRY	Jurisdiction in which LEGAL ENTITY is registered	ISO 3166
REQUIRED	INTERNET DOMAIN	Internet domain of the OUTLET	DNS URL
REQUIRED	DATE	Date of Assignment/Record update	
REQUIRED	CATEGORY	Category of OUTLET	Controlled vocabulary of the category of the Outlet, such as print, web, audio, video, etc
OPTIONAL	RELATED ENTITIES/IDENTIFIERS	Identifiers of related entities (owners, translations, republishers)	If not directly related to Channel or Outlet from above
OPTIONAL	RELATED IDENTIFIER TYPE	Description of the identifier type	More information about the Related IDs above
REQUIRED	REGISTRANT	Entity that requests the identifier	
REQUIRED	PLACE	Location of the OWNER (Could be as specific as an address, or as general as "City/Country")	
REQUIRED	ISSUING AGENT	Entity that recorded the registration	Administrative metadata
REQUIRED	VERIFICATION STATUS	Corroboration level of data	Controlled vocabulary determined by the Registration Authority
REQUIRED	REGISTRATION STATUS	Status of the OUTLET, such as "Active", "Ceased", "Inactive", etc.	Administrative metadata
REQUIRED	REGISTRATION STATUS DATE CHANGE	Date of last status change	Administrative metadata
OPTIONAL	REGISTRATION CONTACT	Contact information of the registering entity	Administrative metadata

Kernel/required - or - extended/optional	Element	Description	Related information
OPTIONAL	PUBLIC SIGNING KEY	Used for cryptographic id	

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Table A.2 — Fictitious Examples of Metadata Set

Kernel/required - or - extended/optional	Element	<i>fictitious example #1</i>	<i>fictitious example #2</i>
REQUIRED	UMId Key	9523Gg2t87xz8H53	8802Uu877V2Mo770
REQUIRED	Name of Media Outlet	The Springfield Daily Online News	TV1
REQUIRED	Legal entity	Daily News Foundation (LEI: 94AAF735A7170011FA84)	First Channel Media Ltd. (LEI: 493001KJTIIGC8Y1M12)
OPTIONAL	Legal Entity TYPE	non-profit	corporate
REQUIRED	Ultimate beneficial OWNER	N/A (member owned)	Jane Doe
OPTIONAL	Variant Names	SDON, The Springfield Daily, SpringDay	Channel 1, The First, TV1
OPTIONAL	Channels	www.thespringfielddaily.co.uk (open-web), @springfield-daily (YouTube; streaming platform), @springfield-news- online (X, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat; social media platforms)	www.firstchannel.xx (open- web), @firstchannel, @tv1news (YouTube; streaming platform), @1stchannel (X, Facebook; social media platforms), 2.0° E 1115 MHz H (Star satellite), UHF channel 45, 656 MHz (terrestrial broadcasting)
OPTIONAL	Asset	SDON-Kids, SDON local newsletter, Springfield4You, City-Council LIVE	Daily News Hour, Quiztime, Morning Show, etc.
REQUIRED	MARKET	GBR	[XXX]
REQUIRED	Language	eng	eng

Kernel/required - or - extended/optional	Element	<i>fictitious example #1</i>	<i>fictitious example #2</i>
REQUIRED	COUNTRY	GBR	[Country X]
REQUIRED	Internet Domain	www.thespringfielddaily.co.uk	www.firstchannel.xx
REQUIRED	Date	07/08/2024	24/03/2024
REQUIRED	CATEGORY	web	audiovisual broadcaster and web
OPTIONAL	Related Entities and Identifiers	N/A	Movie Channel Y
OPTIONAL	Related Identifier Type	N/A	UMID Movie Channel Y: WvbtU59zAJHYeo33
REQUIRED	Registrant	Daily News Foundation	Media Empire Holding Inc.
REQUIRED	Place	Springfield, United Kingdom	Exampton, [Country X]
REQUIRED	Issuing Agent	IMPRESS	ID-Hub Ltd.
REQUIRED	Verification Status	verified	verified
REQUIRED	Registration Status	active	active
REQUIRED	Registration Status Date Change	07/08/2024	09/09/2024
Optional	Registration Contact	16-18 New Bridge Street, London, England, EC4V 6AG	123 Streetname, Othercity, [Country X]
Optional	Public Signing Key	N/A	MCowBQYDK2VwAyEA4oxcRU fK5BuwXI5dF4D2p0/fEgRkMY PxYbghx2uwYXM=

358 **Annex B**
359 (informative)

360 **Governing and Operating the UMIId**

361
362 **B.1 General**

363 **B.1.1 Purpose**

364 The success of the identifier will depend on demand for it and this can only be met and further
365 nurtured if suitable governance and operational structures are in place to issue the identifier and to
366 maintain it together with its related reference (meta) data.

367 The purpose of this annex is to lay out requirements for such an infrastructure, including
368 recommendations of how to implement it.

369 It was decided to choose the format of a reference document, annexed to the actual workshop
370 agreement, in order to emphasise the difference in character of these two main chapters. While the
371 specification of the actual identifier, as constituting the main body of this workshop agreement, might
372 be further developed into an ISO standard later on, the requirements and recommendations regarding
373 governance and operational models could in parts, but do not necessarily have to be included into that
374 trajectory of codification.

375 **B.1.2 Guiding principles and references**

376 The path of a workshop agreement was chosen by the proposer as a suitable instrument to produce a
377 result swiftly, meeting the urgent demand expressed by a variety of stakeholders. With this in mind,
378 the implementation is also expected to unfold and make the identifier available for usage as quickly as
379 possible.

380 Secondly, efficiency was mentioned throughout the development process as a main principle to adhere
381 to. In practical terms this means to build, preferably, on existing knowledge and structures, rather than
382 creating redundancies.

383 Thirdly, the integrity of the overall endeavour is considered key. This principle is a given for any
384 identifier to function and thrive, but perhaps even more important in the context of media and
385 information. Different from many other industries, potential risks of fraud or infringements might not
386 be motivated by financial gains only but could also be driven by political or ideological purposes.

387 This document has been informed by ISO/TS 22943: Information and documentation – Principles of
388 identification, as a main benchmark.

389 Other relevant sources are listed in the bibliography.

390 **B.1.3 Centralized vs. decentralized model**

391 Governing and operating an identifier like UMIId at a global scale requires significant resources and
392 structures in place. Both a centralized and decentralized model might be considered to achieve this
393 goal, with each of them having distinct advantages and disadvantages.

394 From a practical perspective, a centralized structure would require significant investments that are
395 not considered feasible, let alone matching the general principles of speed and efficiency. Insofar, also
396 with a view on capitalising on existing structures and actors in the field of digital identity, a
397 decentralized structure of implementation seems worthwhile to consider.

398 On the other hand, essential requirements related to the overall integrity, but also conflict escalation
399 and mitigation, as well as external representation, would call for a certain hierarchy that might be
400 better represented by a centralized structure.

401 In order to combine the advantages of both models, a hybrid solution is recommended according to
 402 which a decentralized, distributed or syndicated structure of operations (see pt. BIII. below) would be
 403 complemented by one lean, centralized governance body.

404 **B.1.4 Economic considerations**

405 The distinction between governance and operations also matters in terms of financing. While the
 406 former is generally designed to become a utility and not-for-profit public service, the latter might
 407 require a business model to scale through incentives, depending largely on the assignment tracks and
 408 types of actors involved.

409 Accordingly, the income foreseen to build and sustain the centralized governance structure is most
 410 likely a combination of public subsidies, grants and levies extracted from the operational level,
 411 possibly organized in a tiered model, depending on country context. There, different environments
 412 and use cases will determine the respective economic model. Given the expected worldwide,
 413 decentralized nature of the network for assignment, it is anticipated that the cost-recovery structure
 414 will vary by national origin and type of the assigning agency. They may range from the enforcement of
 415 regulation by public sector authorities, through investments into content moderation by commercial
 416 intermediaries, to a diverse ecosystem of assigning agencies to serve voluntary applicants.

417 While the economic concept is bound to be restricted to cost-recovery, rather than profit driven, actors
 418 may be encouraged to build and sell ancillary services as an additional incentive to consider becoming
 419 an assigning entity.

420 The concept of cost-recovery may also include the maintenance of an operating surplus to facilitate,
 421 for example, strategic and developmental plans associated with providing the Services.

422 **B.2 Centralized Level of Governance**

423 **B.2.1 General**

424 A centralized structure is considered essential to govern the overall UMID system. It is the guardian of
 425 certain core principles and responsible for enforcing them throughout a decentralized network.

426 Certain operational duties might also be located at the centralized level, for example for the purpose of
 427 efficiency or to safeguard coherence, while other duties and operational responsibilities might be
 428 situated at the issuing agency level.

429 **B.2.2 Principles for a governance structure**

430 ISO will appoint a Registration Authority (RA) to manage the UMID system, following a public call for
 431 applications. The principles below might be applied as criteria in the respective selection process, but
 432 also serve as a guideline to operate the RA further on.

433 a. Transparency, participation and representation

434 The strength of this identifier, its breadth of potential use cases, also brings about elevated
 435 requirements to cater to the needs of different stakeholders and represent them accordingly. This
 436 also means to balance potentially divergent interests to avoid any undue or disproportionate
 437 influence.

438 Transparency as a requirement of the governance structure is not considered an end in itself, but
 439 an essential prerequisite to sustain and further build the legitimacy of this identifier.

440 b. Interoperability and openness to change

441 Preliminary research during the proposal process and the subsequent development phase of this
 442 identifier has demonstrated the existence of a variety of relevant, neighbouring initiatives. While
 443 the specification of this identifier and its underlying logic are being built on them in a
 444 complementary manner, this ecosystem will remain dynamic and thus the need to constantly

445 cross-fertilize remains. This requirement is not only catering to the principle of ISO to avoid
446 overlaps, but also meant to drive efficiency through interoperability.

447 It must be stated that the realm of digital policy and regulation is still in its infancy, thus
448 developing relatively quickly and at different speeds around the world. Further propelled through
449 technological breakthroughs, such as AI, the legislative environment is expected to remain
450 dynamic and thus require the governance of this identifier to be agile, innovative and open to
451 change.

452 c. Efficiency, effectiveness, ethical conduct and accountability

453 A proposed governance model needs to be realistic and fit for purpose. This includes the
454 resources, capacity and skills needed to discharge its mandate in a professional, efficient and
455 ethical manner.

456 To that end, suitable protocols for internal and external accountability must be implemented.

457 d. Independence and human rights

458 In this sensitive field of information integrity, it is of utmost importance to insulate the UMId
459 system from any undue influence, including, but not limited to political pressure. To defend its
460 independence and a human-rights-based approach, appropriate measures could include
461 appointment procedures of directors, due impartiality provisions and suitable oversight
462 structures.

463 e. Security

464 The integrity and legitimacy of this identifier depends on the overall, operational security of the
465 system, of which the governance body is expected to become the supreme guardian (see Annex C).

466 **B.2.3 Specific roles and responsibilities**

467 a. Safeguarding the overall, internal integrity of the UMId

468 A decentralized model of operations requires a robust protocol to ensure the identifier's integrity.
469 This includes the development and implementation of rules and protocols across the whole
470 system, e. g. unified terms for assigning entities and appropriate measures to prevent duplicates
471 from being issued.

472 In addition, systemic risk assessment and mitigation, including respective trust and safety
473 protocols, is a responsibility of the UMId governance structure.

474 b. Facilitating operations

475 With a clear distinction between centralized governance and decentralized operations, it is
476 important to define the interface between these two layers. This manifests in the role a
477 governance structure can and must play to facilitate operations.

478 One of those central roles will be the appointment of issuing agencies, including suitable audit and
479 compliance protocols (see below). Secondly, coordination between the three proposed
480 assignment tracks can only happen at a 'higher' level. This also includes transition rules between
481 these different tracks.

482 In addition, coordinating the physical storage and provision of data, including catalogues,
483 interfaces and other protocols and means of accessing, securing, and exchanging them, is an
484 operational task located at the centralized level.

485 Furthermore, the centralized level's tasks include providing documentation for users and issuing
486 agents, as well as collating and analysing statistics on operations.

487 c. Securing external interoperability and consistency

488 In addition to safeguarding the internal integrity of this system (see above), continuous
 489 monitoring of and potential harmonisation with relevant neighbouring standards is essential. This
 490 would involve both existing and new initiatives in this space. Interoperability is a key feature of
 491 this identifier and thus, proactive exchange at the technical and also the policy level is considered
 492 key.

493 This quest also covers the regulatory environment, where a requirement for the governance
 494 structure is to monitor and assess developments on a rolling basis.

495 d. Providing accountability and compliance throughout the system

496 A central structure, also in a hierarchical sense, is necessary to escalate and resolve potential
 497 conflicts within the system. This would, for example, include complaints and alternative dispute
 498 resolution (ADR) mechanisms, frequent audits and independent review processes, advisory and
 499 oversight boards.

500 e. Representing the UMId

501 Within the ISO system, but also vis-à-vis other external stakeholders, the UMId needs a unified
 502 representation in order to communicate and, if needed, to defend its role. This would include the
 503 participation in relevant technical committees and bodies, as well as coordinating government
 504 and institutional relations, advocacy and PR across the network. Representation should also
 505 include activities focused on promotion, education and training.

506 f. Development (a learning system)

507 This identifier is located within a highly dynamic and fast-moving environment of technological
 508 progress. Use-cases and demand will develop accordingly, also defined by potential regulatory
 509 action in this space. Insofar, constant adjustment of the UMId logic and protocols is an essential
 510 requirement of all actors involved, with a centralized governance structure in charge to
 511 coordinate.

512 g. Financial self-sufficiency

513 The Registration Authority must define, implement and maintain such funding arrangements as
 514 are necessary to support its operations.

515 h. Risk mitigation

516 The overall risk assessment, on a rolling basis, as well as the oversight of effective risk mitigation
 517 protocols is a task of centralized governance bodies (see Annex C).

518 **B.3 Decentralized Model of Operations**

519 **B.3.1 General**

520 A decentralized network of entities is considered essential to scale operations of the UMId system, but
 521 also to ensure responsiveness to adapt to a variety of markets and use cases.

522 However, operational actors – such as issuing agencies – are not only subject to the overarching,
 523 centralized governance, but also actively contributing to it in return.

524 **B.3.2 Features of an operational model**

525 a. Scalability across markets and geographies

526 Assignment of, or easy access to, an identifier must be secured for all media outlets alike. This
 527 requires an operational strength to manage the amounts of potential cases (even more so at the
 528 beginning), but also to cater to the specificities of markets and the variety of actors.

529 This will become particularly important when political pressures might negatively impact the fair
 530 and equal assignment process in a certain place. In those cases, alternative avenues of assignment
 531 must be made available.

532 b. Sustainability

533 Based on a cost-recovery model, the operation of this identifier scheme requires investment into
534 infrastructure, as well as a constant flow of revenues to sustain its implementation. Depending on
535 the different tracks of assignment, different funding models will apply to incentivise actors to
536 provide services in the space to begin with, and then provide a durable business model.

537 As it is the case with other successful identifiers, the possibility of inventing and offering ancillary,
538 but non-mandatory for-profit services around the UMId assignment could become one such
539 incentive.

540 c. Data coherence, exchange and availability

541 A federated system of assigning and maintaining identifiers brings about a requirement for all
542 participating entities to contribute to the coherence of the whole system. This means to commit to
543 general principles like independence and the respect for human rights, but also very practically to
544 follow common rules and practices stipulated through the centralized governance model. More
545 specifically, the interoperability of data, access and exchange both within the system and vis-à-vis
546 external stakeholders must be secured.

547 Ensuring identifiers remain up-to-date requires constant monitoring and reviews, which are also
548 a requirement for the operational model to deliver.

549 d. Flexibility according to different use-cases

550 One advantage of a decentralized system is its agility when it comes to adjusting to different
551 environments and use-cases. This is an operational requirement that participating stakeholders
552 have to live up to, also with a view on further developing the overall system.

553 e. Robustness against risks and threats

554 Part of the operational implementation is the ongoing assessment and, respectively, mitigation of
555 internal and external risks. This requires the suitable protocols being in place and enforced
556 throughout the network of participating entities (see Annex C).

557 f. Outreach

558 By their engagement with the system, participating entities become the public face of UMId in
559 their respective marketplaces. It is in their own best interest to promote it proactively and thus,
560 support its growth.

561 **B.3.3 Assignment tracks**

562 Broadly speaking, the assignment of identifiers follows two separate, but complementary logics – one
563 is voluntary, the other is non-voluntary. In the latter category, media outlets do not have a choice, but
564 will receive a UMId regardless. This could happen as an integral part of the statutory licensing process
565 for broadcasting, or through membership in professional associations or self-regulatory mechanisms,
566 like press councils, where the issuing of a UMId might become mandatory. Another possibility of the
567 non-voluntary logic is to track and trace certain actors online, that are neither subject to regulation,
568 nor members of like-minded bodies.

569 The first two assignment tracks below, a) and b), follow this non-voluntary logic and assignment
570 entities might include institutional regulatory bodies, press councils or professional associations on
571 the one hand ('Assigned and Certified'), or intermediaries enforcing their trust and safety policies in
572 content moderation on the other ('Observed').

573 However, some media outlets do not fall into the non-voluntary category, but might still want to
574 proactively seek and receive an identifier. This voluntary ('Self-reported') logic should be catered for,
575 too, with a third assignment track c).

576 Before a UMId can be assigned under any of the assignment tracks detailed below, the issuing agency
577 will be required to be accredited and appointed by the centralized governing body. The accreditation

578 process will involve the governing body assessing the applicant issuing agency's proposed operational,
579 financial and technology processes and controls for issuing a UMI. The governing body may create
580 simplified accreditation processes, but whether simplified or not, formal documents will need to be
581 exchanged between the governing body and the issuing agency to confirm the terms of the
582 appointment.

583 a. Assigned and Certified

584 This assignment track involves the information provided by applicant media outlets being verified
585 and certified by an issuing agency as part of a non-voluntary process. For example, the issuing
586 agency may be a professional body issuing a UMI as a condition of membership of their body, or
587 a media regulator issuing a UMI if it has been integrated into a statutory licensing or
588 authorisation process.

589 The issuing agency will review the information provided by the applicant media outlet against
590 available information to determine whether it is satisfied to issue the identifier. For example, if
591 the applicant media outlet is a registered corporate body, the issuing body may review this
592 information against corporate entity registers in the relevant jurisdiction.

593 b. Observed

594 This assignment track is designed for media outlets that, for whatever reason, are not interested
595 in receiving an identifier and do not fall under the assigned and certified track either. This might,
596 for example, be the case for providers of content that appear anonymous, even actively disguise
597 their identity, or imposters of legitimate brands.

598 It is expected that issuing agencies in this track might be intermediaries, such as distribution or
599 social media networks, that enforce their respective trust and safety policies of content
600 moderation, to enhance site integrity. This happens, more and more, also against the background
601 of regulatory obligations and self-regulatory commitments.

602 One particular use-case is the coordination of rapid responses to mitigate harm of so-called 'bad-
603 actors' that suddenly appear online across different platforms.

604 c. Self-reported

605 The rationale of this assignment track is twofold.

606 First of all, it should serve all media outlets that, for whatever reason, do not fall under the
607 mandatory logic, but might still want to receive an identifier. This should, of course, be possible
608 and facilitated through self-reporting and third-party validation.

609 Secondly, this track is meant to provide an alternative way of assigned and certified assignment
610 for cases that, for whatever reason, are being left out.

Annex C (informative)

Integrity, transparency and security of UMId

C.1 General

C.1.1 Purpose

The design, governance and operational structure of the UMId needs to ensure that systems, policies, procedures, and controls are in place to prevent misuse and to ensure that the UMId can serve as a trusted resource for the industry and audiences. Thus, risks and threats need to be addressed to prevent potential endangerment of entities identified or adversely affecting the reliable use of the UMId, for example by compromising data quality.

The purpose of this document is to provide a systematic overview of possible risks as well as recommendations of how to mitigate them in order to uphold integrity of the whole system, but also to implement the do-no-harm principle.

Risks can fall into two main categories: Risk that the UMId system might pose to others, and risk that the UMId system might be exposed to. The latter category subdivides into internal risk, coming from within the UMId network of stakeholders and contributors (internal risks) and risks coming from forces outside targeting the UMId system (external risks).

C.1.2 Transparency

The UMId contributes to a transparent media environment, and as such, the identification provided by the UMId, as well as the identity data collected as metadata during the different assignment procedures allow stakeholders to have a better understanding of media outlets, their owners and their asset structure. In order to provide meaningful transparency, the governance of the UMId system needs to ensure that data is widely accessible through databases of identified entities.

While transparency is key for the UMId system, the safety of those working for, running, or owning media (including digital safety and cybersecurity) is also a major concern. If full transparency of media-specific information might endanger individuals, the governing body and dedicated issuing agencies should provide alternative registration and vetting mechanisms for such media outlets and individuals, as well as allow for the storage and management of the data in a way that it can be kept confidential. At the same time, safety concerns shall not be misused to refrain from disclosure.

C.2 Risk categories and mapping

C.2.1 Risk exposure of UMId

A. External

External risks originate from actors outside of the UMId system over which its governance or management protocols have no control. These risks need to be anticipated, monitored and mitigated.

Such risks may include:

- Cyberattacks to compromise the UMId system in whole or in parts to render it dysfunctional, or hacking to tamper with data: External actors might have an interest to harm the initiative and do so by inflicting damage on its infrastructure or reputation;
- Unauthorised external access to protected data: actors that have an interest to disclose the identity and related metadata of vulnerable media outlets might try to compromise the respective measures to protect them;

- 654 • Undue political influence or regulatory pressure on UMIId-related stakeholders: state actors
655 might try to infringe the independence of the system to advance their goals;
- 656 • Technological advancements that impact the UMIId design or procedures of implementation;
- 657 • General business and liability risks like fraud or blackmail, for example through ransomware
658 attacks;
- 659 • Lack of demand and usage.

660 B. Internal

661 Internal risks occur within the purview and control of the UMIId system and thus, are subject to
662 effective compliance mechanisms to avoid or counter.

663 Such risks may include:

- 664 • Breaches of rules and terms of operations by individuals inside one participating entity or in
665 the relationship between entities within the UMIId system;
- 666 • Lack of data coherence or validity, for example through the issuing of duplicate identifiers or
667 incomplete monitoring and updates;
- 668 • Malfunctioning of the system as such, including insufficient back-up and disaster recovery
669 protocols.

670 C.2.2 UMIId as a potential risk to others

671 Even if the UMIId system is well protected against internal and external risks, it can result in
672 unintended consequences, or even be actively misused against its intended purpose. Insofar, these
673 'outgoing' risks need to be considered in the design and implementation of this instrument as well.

- 674 • Certain ID holders might be at risk if protective measures are breached: the holding of an
675 identifier, and the disclosure of identity-related data can put entities in physical danger, in
676 cases when the data is not handled with sufficient caution or if the system is not sufficiently
677 robust against unauthorised access;
- 678 • Potential of reputational, business and security risk of ID holders if data is wrong or outdated,
679 be it due to internally or externally induced risk;
- 680 • Potential of reputational, business and security risk of ID holders if UMIDs are captured, stolen
681 or otherwise appropriated by third parties without authorisation, or sold by ID holders to third
682 parties without notification;
- 683 • Inappropriate use of UMIId by third-party actors (e.g. use of the identifier for undue,
684 discriminatory measures, misuse as a trustworthiness indicator or even censorship) that might
685 negatively impact single entities or whole ecosystems.

686 C.3 Threats and risk mitigation and measures (process approach)

687 C.3.1 Technical level: Design of the identifier

688 Identifiers need to be designed in a way that the use of the UMIId is safe for the whole environment.
689 This starts already with the syntax, as an identifier that provides too much information in its string of
690 characters can provide opportunities for misuse, thus, information included in the syntax needs to be
691 kept at a minimum.

692 In addition, technological means of identification and protection, namely digital signatures with
693 cryptographic keys, need to be considered to sovereignly signal affiliated channels of the holder of the
694 identifier to be traced back to the original source, and to protect identity where necessary.

695 There also need to be sufficient safeguards already at the design level to prevent the misuse,
696 misappropriation and altering of identifiers. For example, there should be reasonable measures in
697 place to mitigate against unauthorised users appropriating, editing, or “hijacking” an existing ID.

698 As the UMIId will rely on a rich metadata structure, this leads to additional considerations of integrity.
699 In order to protect UMIId holders and safeguard the integrity of the identifier system, thorough
700 assessment needs to be made about the risk associated with the kinds of information collected
701 (including the legality of collection and storing, as well as the costs and benefits associated with
702 handling certain kinds of data) and adequate procedures and controls need to be in place to safeguard
703 handling of data.

704 **C.3.2 Distribution level: issuing the identifier**

705 A robust vetting mechanism needs to be in place, and measures need to be taken to keep the data up to
706 date. Quality of data can be checked by including in the metadata the time and mode of verification.
707 Changes in metadata must generate a detailed historic record (audit trail) to document and validate
708 those changes (who updated what, when and why). Media outlets operating in volatile environments,
709 or for other reasons feeling threatened, should be given a chance to undergo a safe and secure
710 procedure of data provision and vetting, and the possibility of pseudonymity.

711 **C.3.3 Management and maintenance level**

712 The operational structure needs to ensure that the system meets the highest standards in relation to
713 data integrity and security, and access controls. Confidentiality of data needs to be provided, if
714 necessary, even in the exchange process between governing body and issuing agencies.

715 A database needs to be available to all stakeholders of the process to avoid duplication of identifiers.

716 Interoperability also needs to be in the focus of risk mitigation measures. The UMIId exists in an
717 ecosystem of a variety of relevant, neighboring initiatives, which are complementary, and can be used
718 to increase the efficiency and enrich the data structure of the UMIId. In order to minimise the risks
719 associated with openness in a dynamic, constantly evolving environment, it is important to take
720 proactive measures and constantly monitor potential weaknesses.

721 **C.3.4 Compliance level**

722 A feedback loop and a reporting mechanism needs to exist between governance and the UMIId-holders
723 that enables swift solving of problems related to identification or downstream distribution (Issuing
724 agency going ‘rogue’ as an example or misalignment between outlet and asset level). In addition, it has
725 to be ensured that stakeholders making use of the UMIId do so in line with the intended purpose of the
726 UMIId (acting as a value-neutral identifier for media outlets). Guidelines and terms of services should
727 ensure that stakeholders abide by the principles of fairness.

728 **C.3.5 Advocacy and educational level**

729 Outside of the reach of the UMIId system’s governance, where terms of service and contracts would be
730 applied to enforce rules and principles, additional efforts must be undertaken to encourage a wider
731 community of stakeholders to use the identifier according to its intended purpose or to call out
732 potential misuse. To that end, a code of conduct and recommendations for the ethical use of the
733 identifiers should be actively promoted.

Annex D (informative)

Guidelines and Best Practices for Potential Usage of the Unique Media Identifier (UMId) by External Parties

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740 **D.1 General**

741 While most users of the UMId will be engaged in a contractual relationship with parts of the UMId
742 system, such as the issuing agencies or recipients of the identifier, certain other third parties, for
743 example state actors, online intermediaries, distributors or advertisers, can use and should use the UMId
744 without becoming a part of the UMId system and thus, remaining outside of a contractually binding
745 relationship.

746 As those users would not be legally subjected to complying with certain rules and obligations to
747 implement the UMId, these guidelines lay out principles for the usage of UMId across the whole
748 ecosystem to foster benefits, but also identify and mitigate misuse, be it intended or not.

749 **D.2 Principles of usage**

750 **D.2.1 Nature**

751 Users of the UMId should be mindful that the identifier is a neutral, non-judgemental numbering or
752 naming convention, not a certification scheme that would serve to assess conformity with certain
753 criteria. Thus, it does not provide information about the level or lack of trustworthiness or
754 independence of a content provider, the accountability mechanisms in place, the editorial standards an
755 outlet follows or the quality of the content it publishes.

756 **D.2.2 Attribution**

757 Users of the UMId should respect the purpose and strict neutrality of this standard and publicly
758 reference the UMId when using it.

759 **D.2.3 Transparency**

760 The UMId is an identifier aiming at enhancing the integrity of the online news ecosystem.

761 Whoever uses it should do so in a transparent manner, by proactively and appropriately describing to
762 all actors it might affect, especially the holders of the UMId and the general public, the ways they use
763 the identifier and metadata associated with it.

764 **D.2.4 Benefits and Sanctions**

765 The UMId identifier itself should not be used as qualitative signal, for example to impose sanctions or
766 penalties on media service providers – only because of the existence of absence of a UMId – or be used
767 as an exclusive requirement to access certain services or benefits.

768 **D.2.5 Unintended consequences**

769 Third-party users of the UMId should constantly monitor the impact of the actions taken reliant on the
770 UMId. If unintended consequences occur, corrections should follow. In those cases, users are also
771 encouraged to share these experiences with the wider community to contribute to the healthiness of
772 the overall UMId system.

773 **D.2.6 Complaints**

774 Third-party users should have appropriate mechanisms in place to handle complaints from UMId
775 holders or other parties of the UMId system.

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Annex E
(informative)

Media Data Taxonomy

780 **E.1 General**

781 The UMI system is designed to crosspollinate with neighbouring, existing identifiers, and provide a
782 data-model that can be applied for a variety of use cases. The purpose of this Annex is to visualize the
783 connectivity of the different metadata elements attached to the UMI, as well as adjacent identifiers.

784 Figure E.1 visualizes the Media Data Taxonomy, based on the Metadata Elements defined in Annex A.

785 Figure E.2 visualizes the fictitious example #2 of Table A.2 based on the above.

Public consultation

Media Data Taxonomy
Visualization of Objects and Elements | V.3

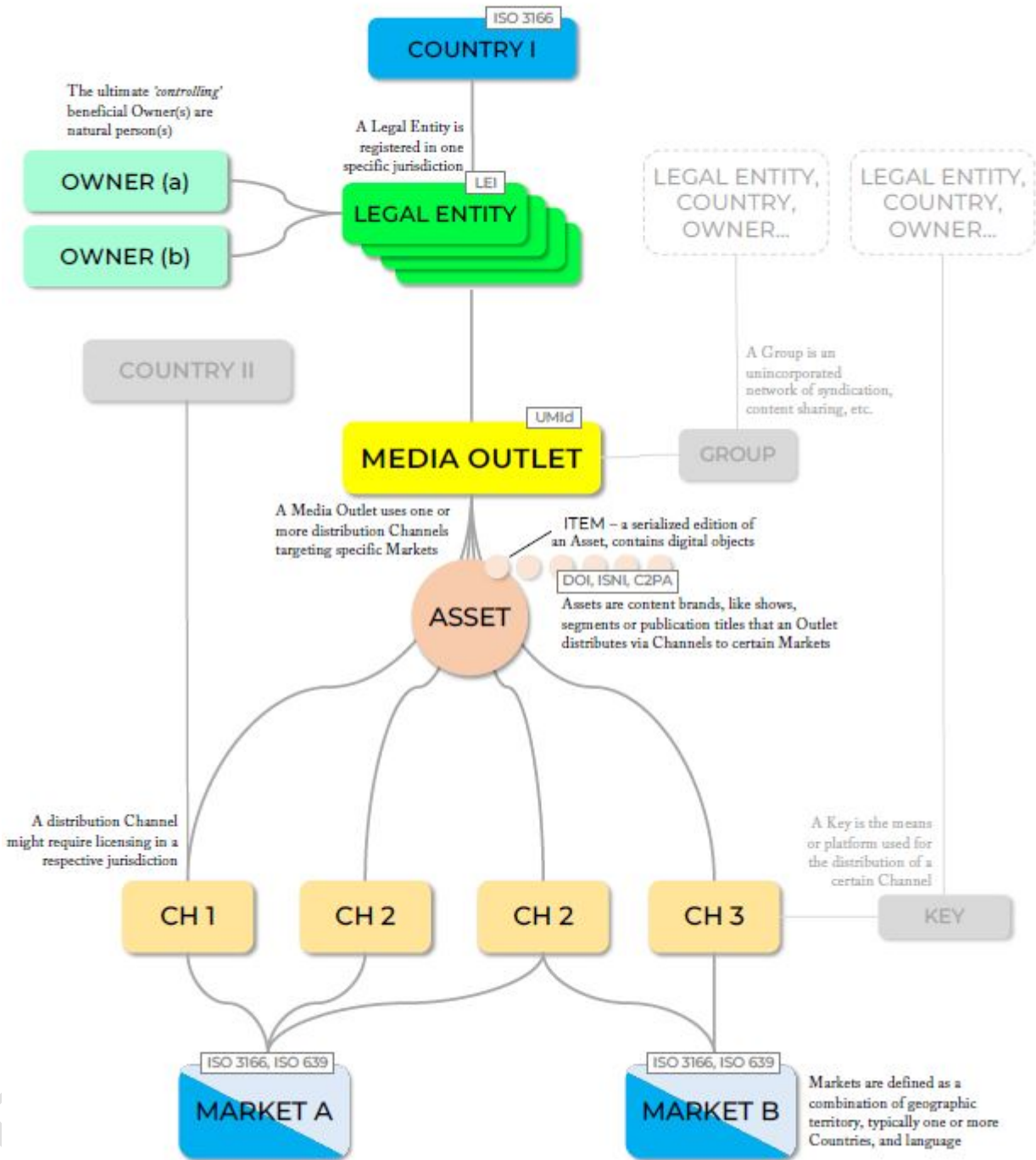


Figure E.1 – Media Data Taxonomy

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Media Data Taxonomy
 Visualization of Objects and Elements | V.4
 Fictitious example: TV 1

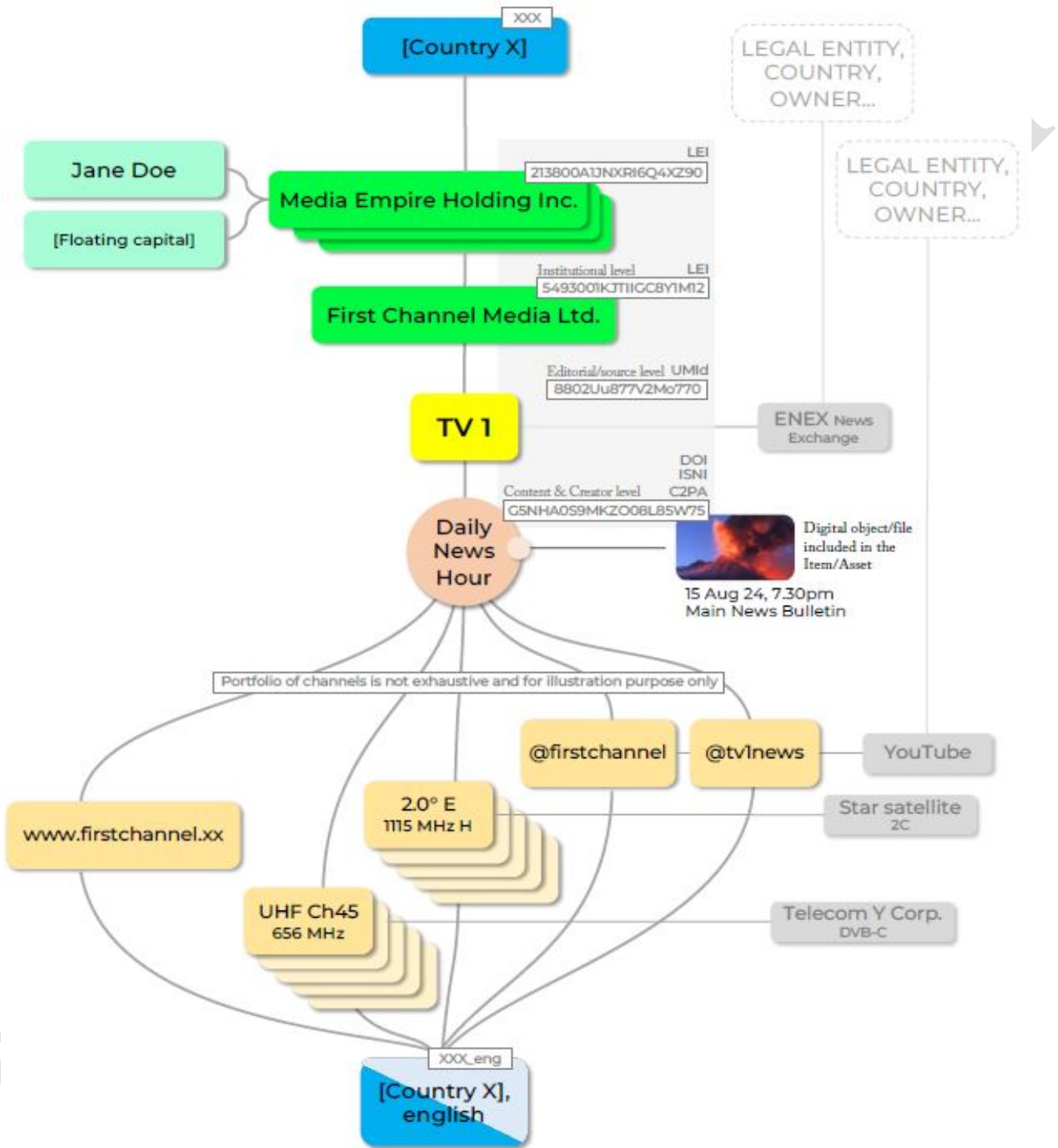


Figure E.2 - Visualization of fictitious example #2

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Annex F
(informative)

Workshop contributors

Country	Representation	Name

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Bibliography

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