

Managing Your Digital Assets THE CROWN JEWELS

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A "Digital Asset" .. (aka: "crown jewel")..

A Digital Asset is the intellectual property of an entity (individual, organization, etc.) embodied in digitized form.

The same intellectual property may exist in different forms as multiple digital assets.



Regardless of Size, Some Assets are Costly to Acquire

Must be accessible for a long time (perhaps decades, or centuries).

Quality must be assured and retrievable in original state at any time in the future.

Must have redundant copies.

Need open standards for exchange.

May be repurposed in ways not previously envisaged.



Forms of Digital Embodiment

"Unstructured":

Files

"Structured":

- Tuples in a Relational Database
- Objects in an Object Database

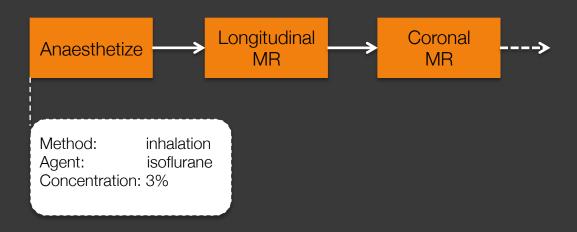
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Digital Asset Management

Science and Research

Reproducible and accountable science requires clearly recording, maintaining and making accessible:

- Research methods
- Measurements
- Acquisitions
- Context (e.g. software)





File Systems are Dead They Will be Supplanted by "Information Systems"...



The File

- A file is simply a container for information
- The "information" itself is the intellectual property of an entity
- In addition to the primary purpose, the file content is also important for:
 - Provenance
 - Discovery
 - Access management
 - Life-cycle management



What Can We Do With a File System?

A file system is a *hierarchy* of files, in which we can:

- Provide a name
- Open, read, write, delete
- Attach extended attributes



What Can We Do With a File System?

We can organize information using the following mechanisms:

- Location (meaning inferred from the name)
- Soft-links give multiple axes

File names usually don't change.



What Can We Do With a File System?

Additional information is often stored in separate files:

```
/data/project1/
    format_X/
    a.x
    a.x.xml
    format_Y/
    a.y
    a.y.txt
    b.z
```



What Can't We Do (easily) With a File System?

A typical file system does not allow:

- Searching by file content
- Searching by multiple contexts
- Attaching (complex) information not supported by the file format itself
- Repurposing information in different contexts
- Semantic operations
- O ...



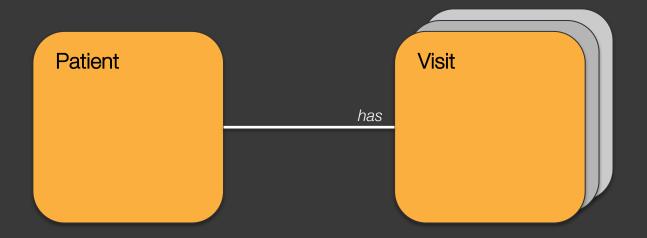
Will be Supplanted by "Information Systems"...



The Structured Database

A structured database is:

- A set of information organized into an agreed structure
- There are often relationships between the structures





What Can We Do With a Structured Database?

We can organize information into agreed structures and:

- Create, update and delete structures
- Perform "structured" searches

```
select a.x, b.y from table_a a join table_b b where
a.id = b.id;
```



What Can't We Do (easily) With a Structured Database?

Typically, cannot:

- Perform "unstructured" searches
- Store and manage "unstructured" data
- Arbitrarily manipulate/transform the data

Even structured data presents problems - Relational Databases cannot effectively store large amounts of complex and arbitrarily structured information without significant performance degradation.



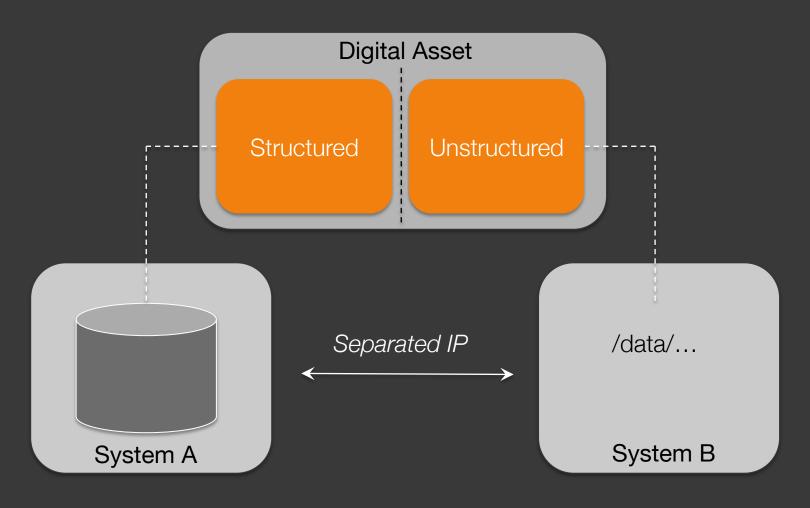
Typical Approaches

Aggregated Systems ...



Typical Approaches

Separation of Intellectual Property





MediafluxTM

OPERATING SYSTEM FOR META+DATA

aka: LiveArc TM (SGI Branding)

Mediaflux™



Operating System

Mediaflux™ is a digital asset and information management platform:

- Treats structured and unstructured data as an atomic object
- Extensible Service-Oriented (SOA) architecture
- Written in Java (platform neutral)



Mediaflux™



Objectives

To:

- Manage any type of complex information
- Hide whether requested data literal or computed
- Hide the location of information (logical addressing)
- Make it easy to evolve ontologies (and support multiple ontologies)
- Scale linearly for any given set of evaluants
- Unify information management

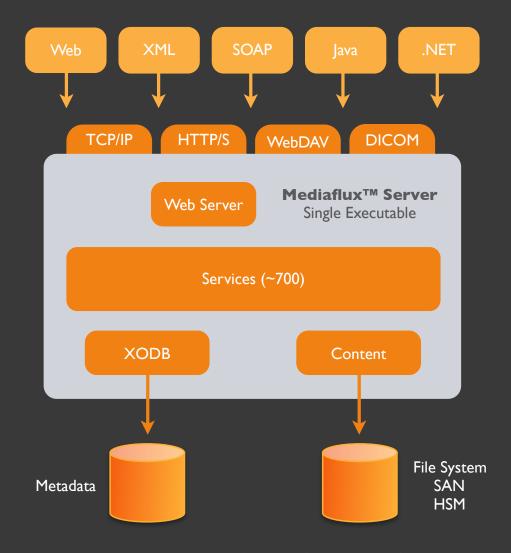
Target Problem Spaces



- Keeping track of intellectual property:
 - Structured information
 - "Unstructured" information:
 - o Images, video, audio...
 - Documents, software
 - Research
 - o Data sets, models, processed data
- Collaboration
- Auditing
- Quality Assurance



MEDIAFLUX ARCHITECTURE



Axis: Operating System



- Everything is a service
- Services can be extended (plugins)
- A service may:
 - Consume or produce information locally or remotely
 - Retrieve or compute information
- Can be scripted
- Callable from any other system
- Can call any other system

Services



Asset Firewall Authentication Triggers Management Replication Citeable IDs Authorization Dictionaries Classification Auditing Logging **Events** Schemes Transcoding $\bigvee\bigvee\bigvee\bigvee$ Notification Automation Scheduler Scripting Plugins E-Mail

Axis: Digital Asset Management



- An asset is the combination of metadata and content
- Metadata and content are independently versioned
- Metadata:
 - Can be easily evolved
 - Automatically extracted from content
 - Manually added
 - Can conform to any schema
 - Can be queried using structured and unstructured ("free text") searching

Content:

- Can be anything
- Centralized, referenced and distributed heterogeneous storage

ANATOMY OF AN ASSET







Axis: Distributed Systems

Distributing Data

Replication

- Data can be replicated between two or more Mediaflux servers
- + Replication can be uni- or bi-directional
- Replication can be asynchronous or synchronous
- Multiple replication policies per peer are supported.



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Axis: Distributed Systems

Distributed Services

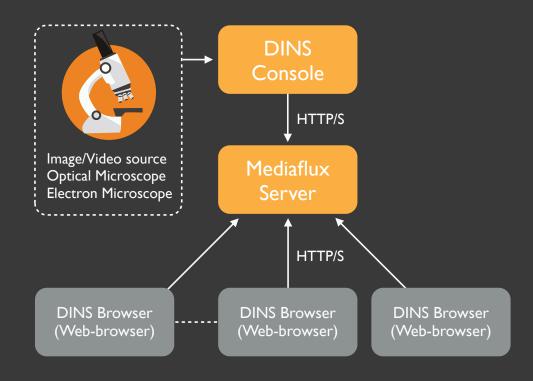
Federation + Searches may be federated across two or more Mediaflux servers + A federated search is conducted across all servers in the Federation, and results consolidated + Servers can participate in multiple Federations

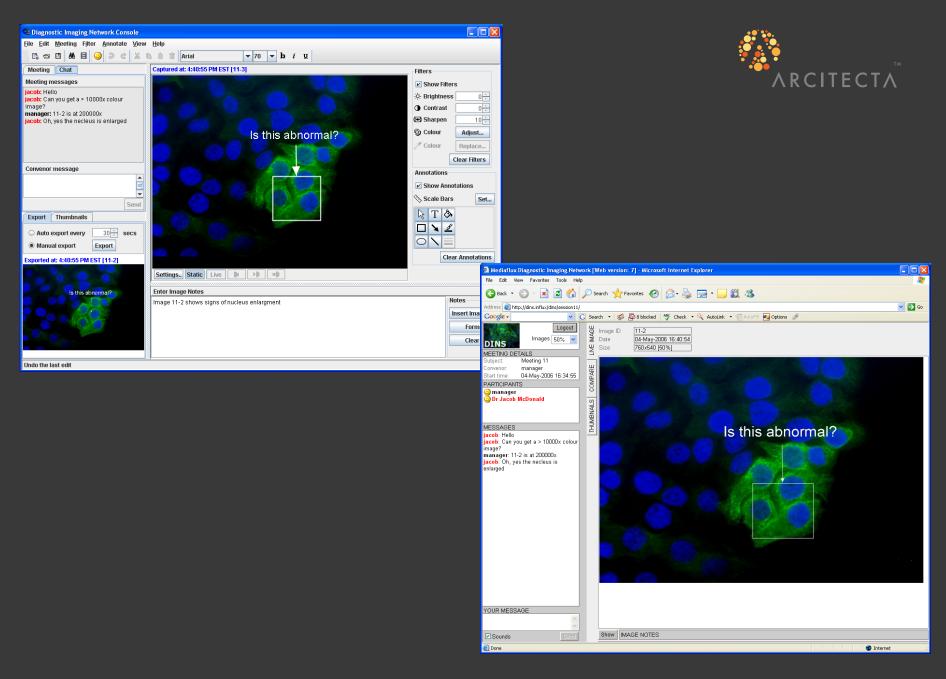


Customer Examples Applied Mediaflux

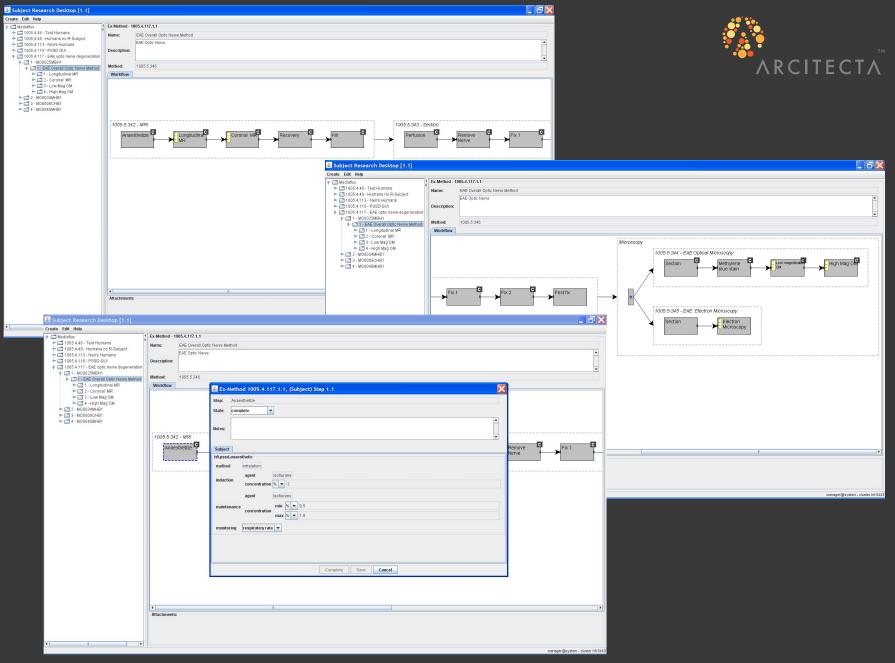


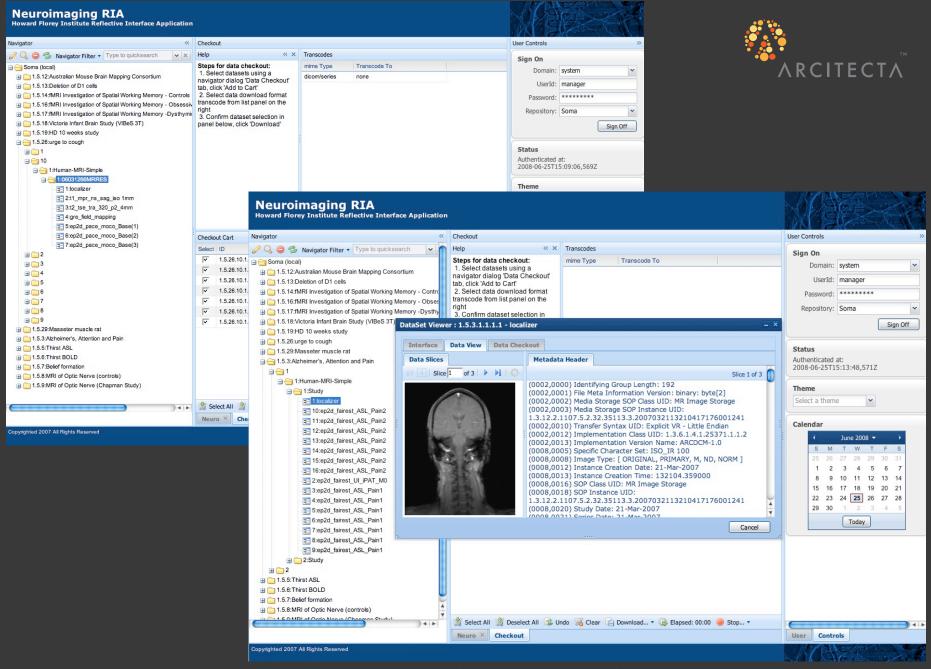
CSIRO – AAHL Diagnostic Imaging System





University of Melbourne . ΛRCITECTΛ Center for Neuroscience Mediaflux Server Mediaflux MR Scanner DICOM Server Replication (DICOM) (Remote) Server Project **DICOM Patient** MR Scanner (Bruker Paravision) DICOM Study Analyze or NIfTI **DICOM Series** Transcode

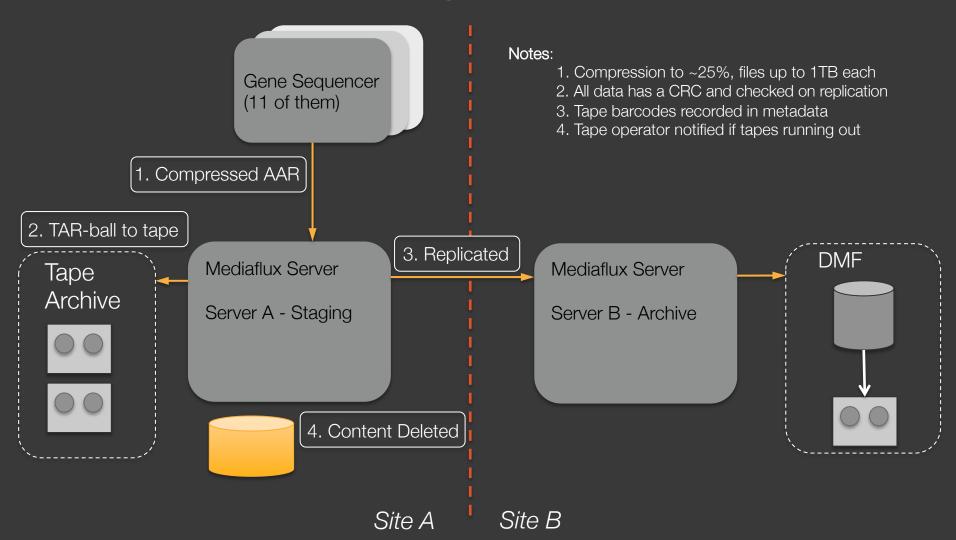




University of Queensland Institute of Molecular Bioscience



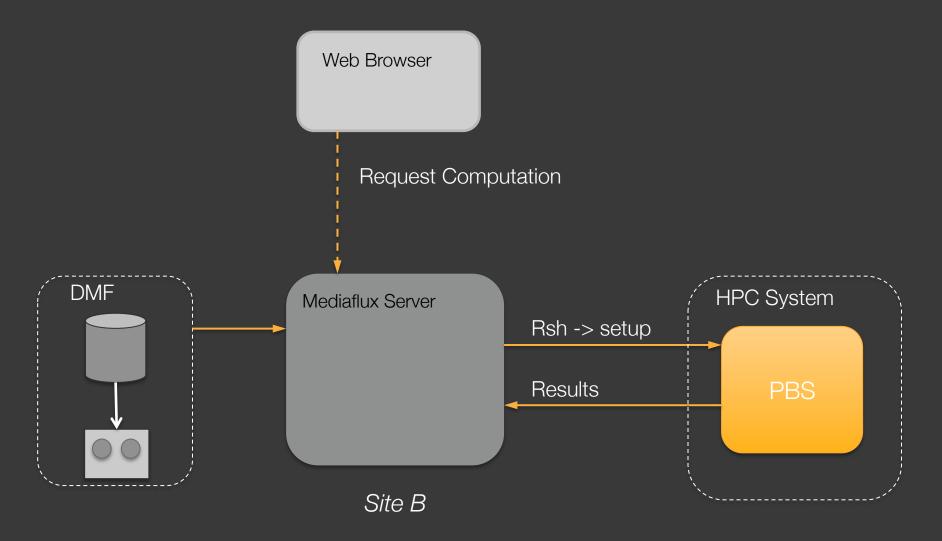
Ingestion



University of Queensland Institute of Molecular Bioscience



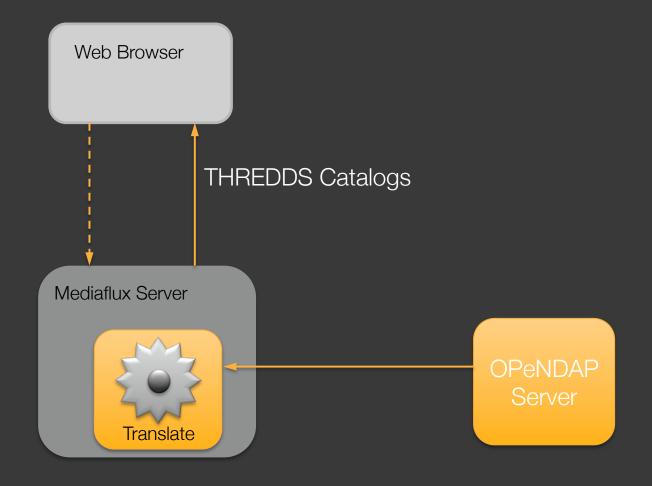
Processing/Computation

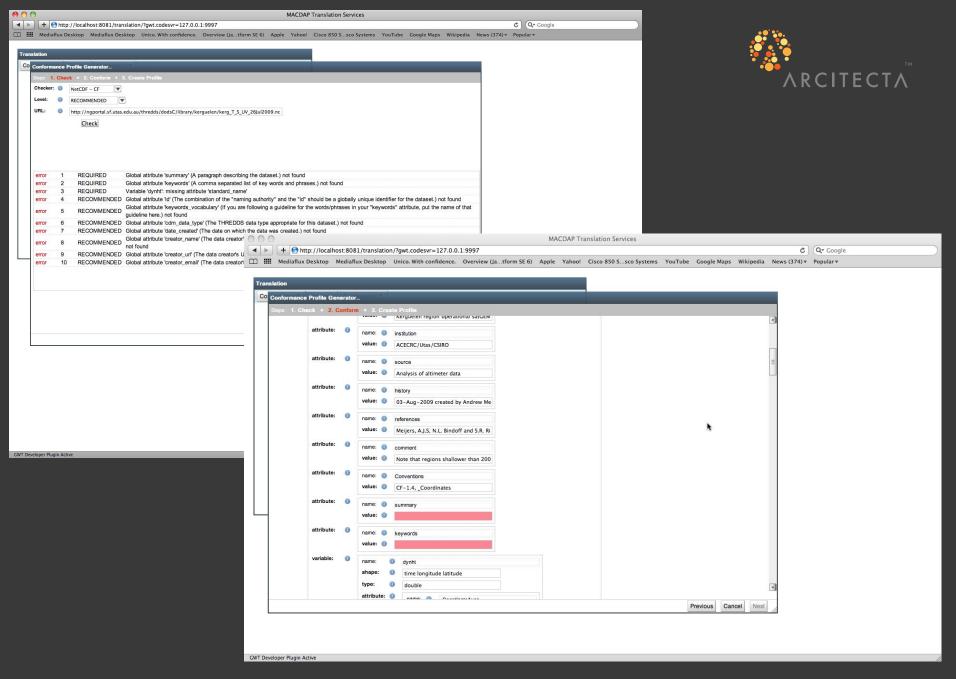


University Of Tasmania



Translation Services

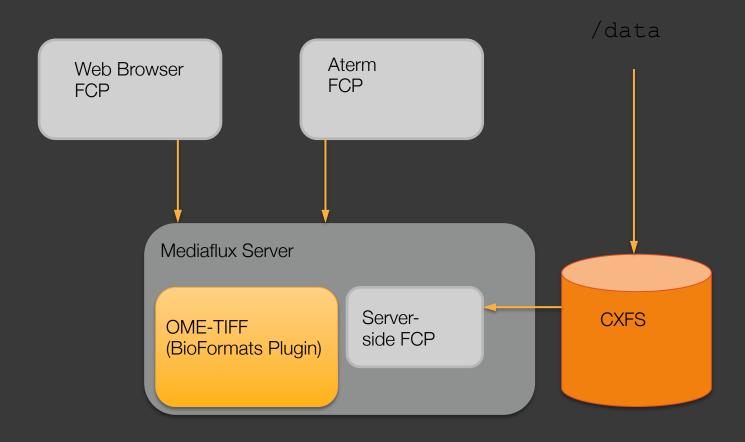




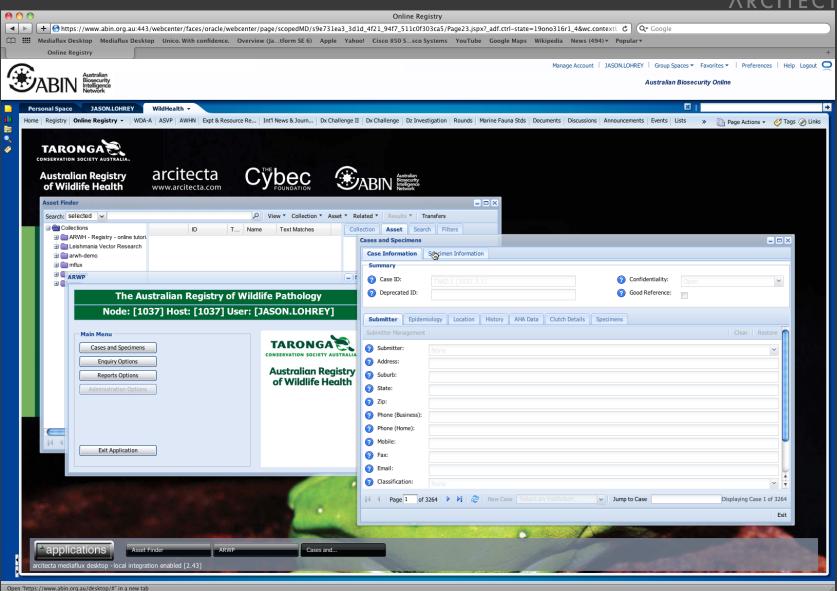
National University Of Singapore



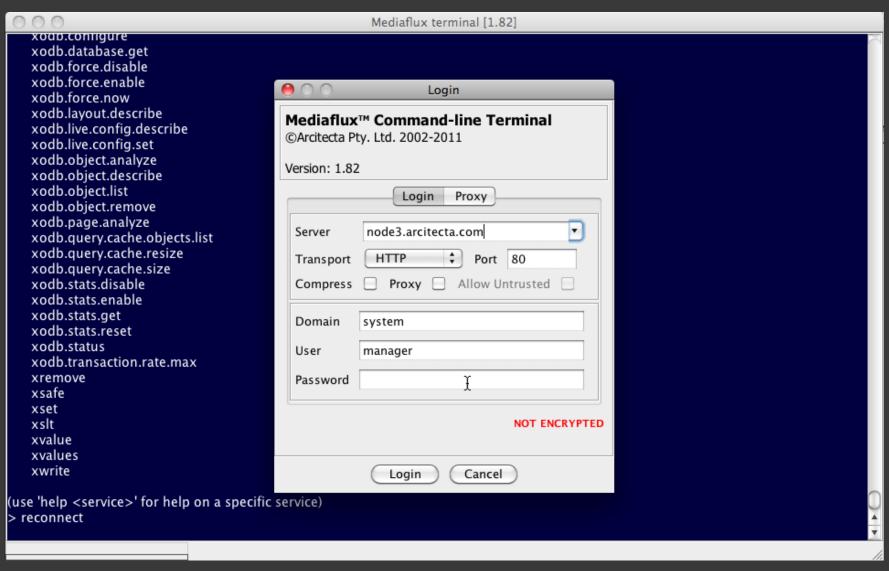
Microscopy Images













"Under the Hood"

Some of the Building Blocks ...

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Ingesting

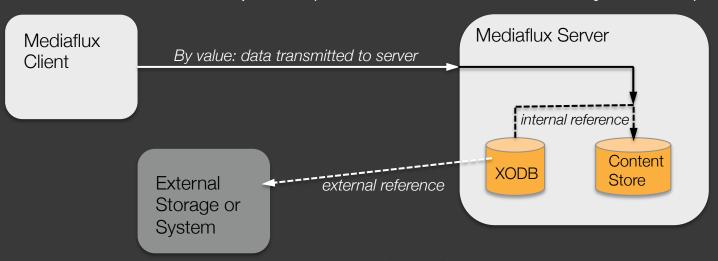
Methods for Getting Assets "In"

Ingest by "value":

- From a Mediaflux Client:
 - Browser (background applet, parallel I/O, AAR packaging)
 - Aterm
- From a custom application (Java, .NET)

Ingest by "reference":

Data remains in place (server must have visibility to data)





Egesting

Methods for Getting Assets "Out"

Egest by "value":

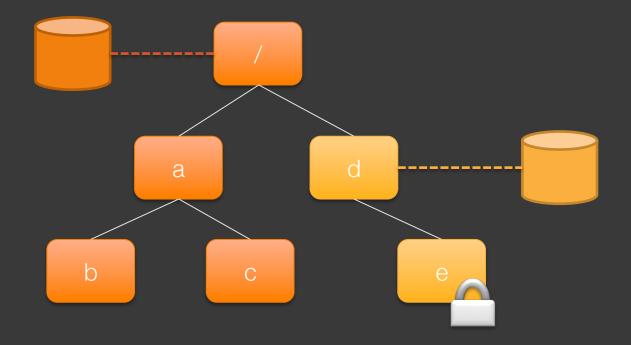
- By a Mediaflux Client:
 - Browser (background applet, parallel I/O, AAR unpacking)
 - Aterm
- From a custom application (Java, .NET)

The client need not know where the data comes from (in a federation)

Namespaces



- Assets are stored in a namespace
- Namespaces have associated storage (data stores)
- Access controls and default metadata (templates)



Data Stores



- The place where asset content is stored
- Extensible
- Support for:
 - Database (XODB)
 - File System
 - DMF (HSM)

Metadata



Information about.. information

- Information about an asset (that may not be in the content)
- Stored as binary XML
- Automatically generated:
 - Revision history (audit trail: who, when, what)
 - Plug-in meta data generation
- User generated
- Validated against a Mediaflux document definition
- Server-side manipulation & merging
- Unstructured and/or structured querying

Applying Metadata

At Any Time..

- Metadata simply "attached" as required to an asset
- Can attach any number of different fragments of metadata

```
asset.query :where \
xpath(revision/status) = 'ACCEPTED'
```

asset.query :where \
text contains 'spotted quoll'



Revision: status: ACCEPTED by: Bill Smith

Note: Very fine example of a Spotted Quoll

Evolving Metadata



At Any Time

- Who knows what metadata might be required in 2/5/10 .. years?
- Can evolve by:
 - Adding to existing definitions
 - Defining and "attaching" new definitions
- Evolve incrementally or by direct update

```
Revision:
status: enumeration {
    ACCEPTED,
    REJECTED
}, max-occurs 1

by: String, max-occurs
1
```



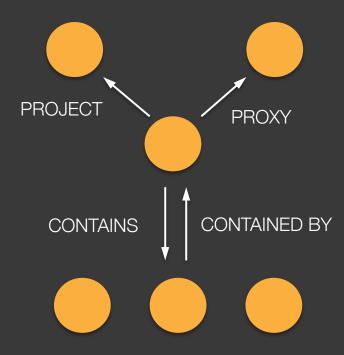
```
Revision:
status: enumeration {
    ACCEPTED,
    REJECTED
}, max-occurs 1

by: String, max-occurs 1
    publish-date: Date, max-occurs
1
```

Relationships



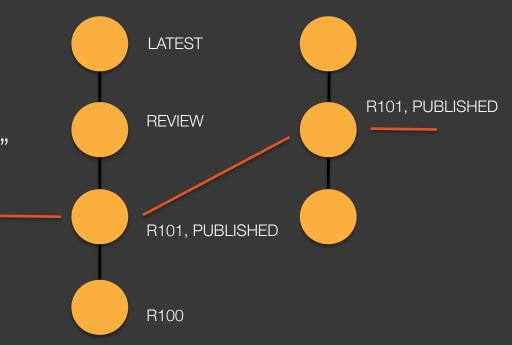
- Established between assets
- Arbitrary definition:
 - Name
 - Description
 - Uni- or bi-directional
 - Cardinality of each arc
 - "Contains" or "associative" binding



Labels



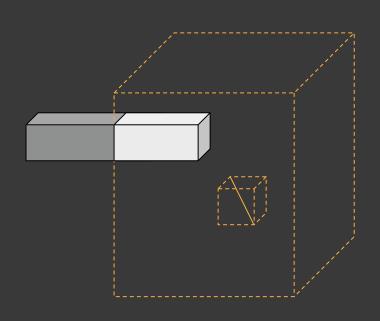
- Applied to asset versions
- Arbitrary definition:
 - Name
 - Cardinality
- Used to create a "matched set"



Finding Things



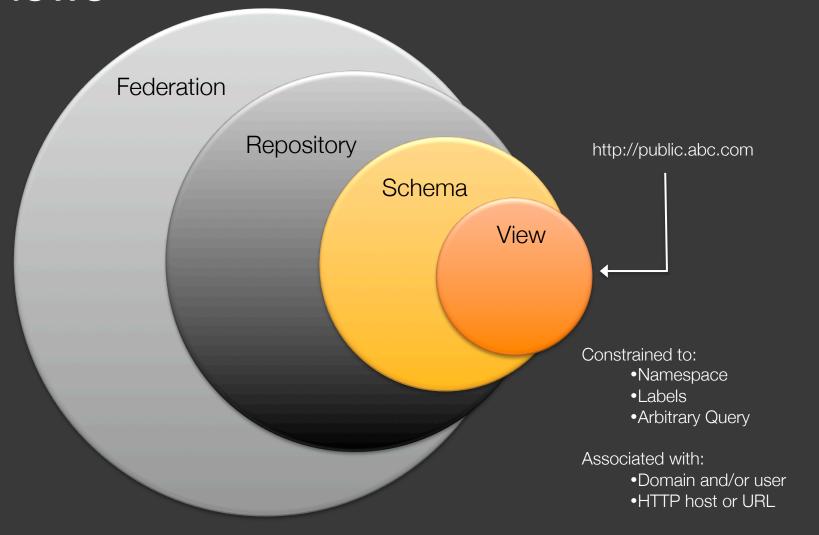
- Unstructured queries:
 - Meta text, content text, name text, annotation text, or all
- Structured queries:
 - Metadata specific, type, time, relationships
 - Locks, labels, collections, etc.
- Spatial queries:
 - o Inside, Outside, Intersects
 - < N-D search criteria
 - Search by arbitrary polyline/polygon later
- Restricted to what you have access to
- Classification schemes
- Text suggestions







Views



Authentication

ARCITECTA

Identity Management

- Triplet: Domain/User/Password
 - Local
 - External (LDAP, Kerberos, Active Directory)
- SSO:
 - Oracle

Authorization



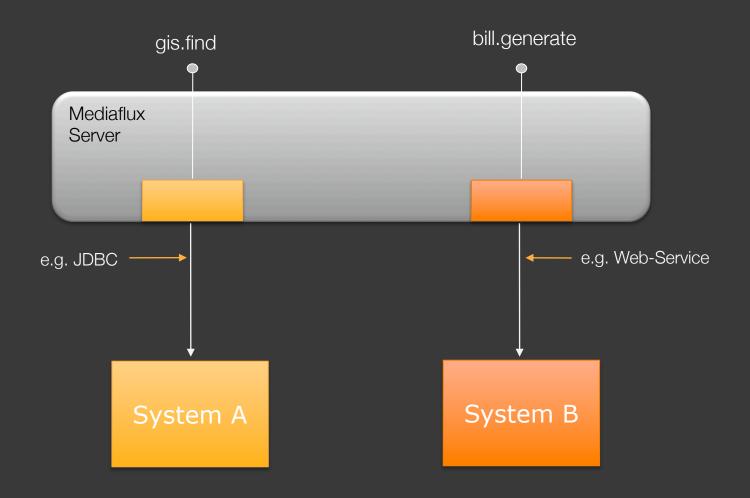
Access Control

- "Actor" based (Domain, User, Role, View, Plugin, ...)
- Hierarchical
- Control (access, update, publish, delete, ...) for:
 - Namespaces
 - Assets
 - Services
 - Metadata
 - Schemas
 - Authentication domains
 - Views
 - Etc.



Integrating With Other Systems

Adding Services



AAR



Arcitecta Archive Format

- Up to 2⁶³ byte total file size
- Up to 2⁶³ bytes per entry
- Uncompressed, or Deflate compression
- Streamed or random access
- Created/Read by:
 - Aterm
 - Web-clients
 - Stand-alone AAR.jar tool

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File System Compiler

Pattern Matcher for Files

File Systems are full of "patterns". The file system compiler uses a profile to interpret the structure of the file system and package at ingestion time.

```
profile test.profile.two {
     construct text.file {
      match {
            file extension "txt"
         logical type "application/gene-sequence"
      encapsulation type "text/plain"
         consume no
    construct spatial.image {
      match {
            file name ignore case "spatialimage.jpg"
       encapsulate as archive level 0
         logical type "application/my-type"
         encapsulation type "image/jpg"
         consume yes
```

```
construct esri.shape {
     match {
        group {
         file extension "shp"
         file extension "dbf"
         file extension "shx"
         optional file extension "prj"
     logical type "application/esri-shape"
   consume no
construct GIS FILES {
   match {
       file name "GIS FILES" and
      directory contains construct esri.shape
    encapsulate as archive
    logical type "application/gis"
    consume yes
```



Hierarchical Content Store

SGI Data Migration Facility (DMF)

DMF



Higher Order Semantics

Mediaflux[™] has specific support for DMF:

- Retrieving status to:
 - Inform end-users of potential delays
- Migrating data between tiers

These capabilities are exposed via services:

DMF



Higher Order Semantics

These services can be combined with a query:

To utilize arbitrary metadata to control migration

```
asset.query :where \
"geoshape intersects rectangle [(16,143),(16.56,144.89)]" \
:action pipe \
:service -name asset.content.migrate
< :destination online >
```

This allows migration policies based on *any* metadata (including information extracted from the content).

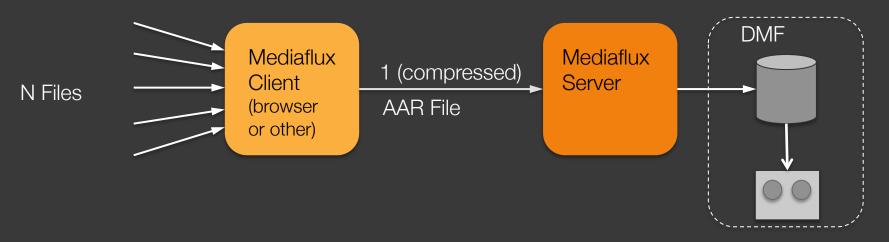
As with all Mediaflux services, these can be scripted and automated with the scheduler.





Mediaflux can coalesce many files into a single Arcitecta Archive (AAR), and automatically re-inflate on extraction. This:

- Significantly reduces the number (and potentially size) of files managed by DMF
- Significantly reduces the number of files transmitted versus other mechanisms such as Windows Explorer, etc.





The Future The Return of The File System...



File Systems are Dead?

Not Quite..

Arcitecta and the SGI DMF and CXFS teams are working closely to create an "archive file system" with Mediaflux and DMF.

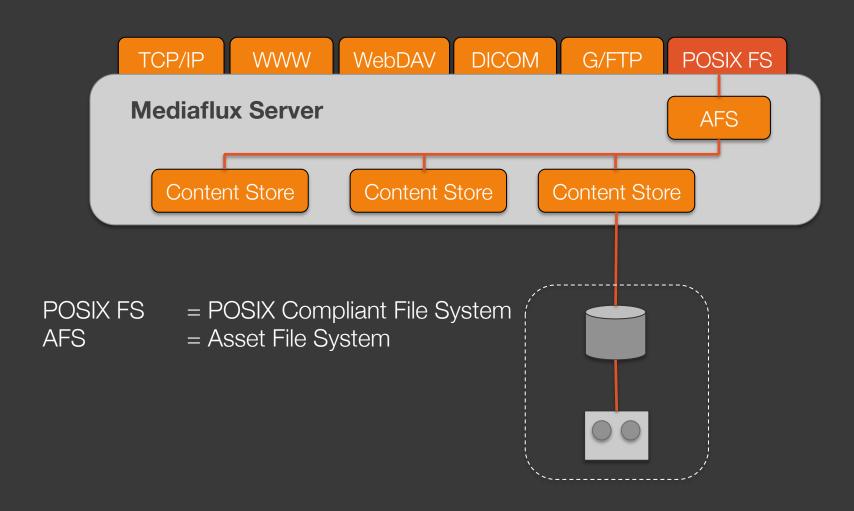
Mediaflux will provide a POSIX compliant file system interface:

- Allowing data to be written and read directly to/from Mediaflux using standard applications without the need for subsequent ingestion
- Mediaflux can directly drive DMF based on arbitrary metadata based policies. E.g.:
 - Data is immediately migrated, but must remain on disk until analyzed
 - Scheduled retrieval
 - o Etc.
- Operations are journalled, removing the need for many file-system scanning operations, significantly improving scalability.



File Systems are Dead?

Not Quite..







The Underlying Storage..

Can be:

- A regular file system
- A clustered file system (CXFS)
- A HSM managed file system (DMF)



File Systems are Dead?

Now For the (really) Fun Stuff...

The Mediaflux File System will:

- Be able to change "shape" depending on:
 - Your authority
 - View configuration (e.g. only PUBLISHED data)
- Provide data in transcoded form. E.g.
 - Provide low resolution JPEG images (even through the original data is high resolution JPEG 2000)
 - Display metadata in JP2064 format in virtual XML files
- If configured to, transparently pack/unpack data to/from archives for replication and HSM optimization.



The Future

Better Archive Format...





Arcitecta is working on the next generation AAR format:

- Multi-threaded compression/decompression
- Tables of Contents generation for sequentially written archives

This will:

- Significantly reduce the compression and ingestion times for multiterra byte files (e.g. 10-20TB per gene sequence file)
- Ensure all archives are random-access making it easier to selectively extract individual files.



MediafluxTM OPERATING SYSTEM FOR META+DATA

www.arcitecta.com