

MDDF 2025 Spec Updates

December 2025

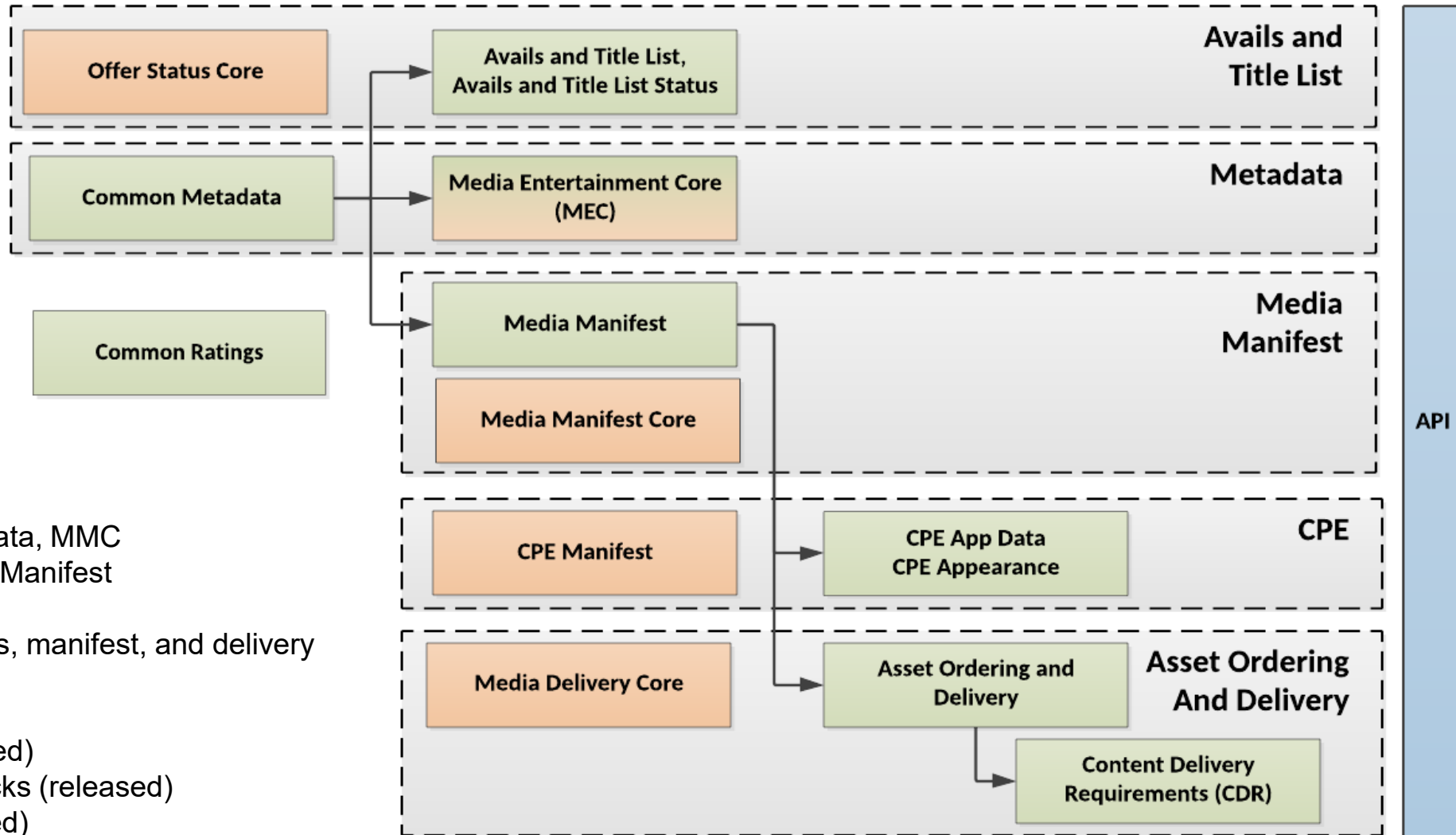
Versioning

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- All schemas and updated specs released as version 2.25
 - This makes it easier to reconcile versions
 - Previously they were not aligned (e.g., Avails v2.5, Delivery v1.4, manifest v1.9, and md v2.14)

MDDF Updates

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Spec updates

- Avails
- Common Metadata, MMC
- Common Media Manifest

Schema Updates

- md, mdmec, avails, manifest, and delivery updated to 2.25

Best Practices

- Playlists (released)
- Conforming Tracks (released)
- Dolby E (released)
- JavaScript (draft)

Best Practices promoted to “Published”

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- Best practices are promoted after a review period
- Playlists Encoding
 - Playlists are sequences of distinct works that play back-to-back, such as a promo followed by a recap followed by an episode.
 - Practice defines method for describing a Playlist in Media Manifest
 - Draft published 2/17/23
- Guidance for Conforming Tracks and Referencing Them
 - Describes what everyone one needs to know about conforming (aligning) tracks under various conditions
 - Draft published 2/17/23
- Referencing special image, video, audio, and audiovisual
 - Provide means for referencing items such as color bars, slate, commercial black, and countdown in Playable Sequences without requiring them to be delivered as assets.
 - It's a very narrow edge case that might not get used (but it's harmless)
 - Draft published 1/18/23

New Best Practices posted as “DRAFT”

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- New best practices are posted for broad review prior to publication
- Dolby-E Channel Mapping
 - This practice defines how to encode reference Dolby-E audio in Manifest Channel Mapping
 - Incorporated changes suggested by Dolby (Tom McAndrew, James Cowdery)
- Encoding MDDF in JavaScript
 - Describes how to embed XML in JavaScript
 - Describes how to translate JSON to JavaScript
 - MMC Example of “Simple movie with trailer” given in JSON here:
https://www.movelabs.com/md/mmc/examples/movies1/2019/MMC_Example1_simple.json

Playlists: Multiple Playlists (Avails and Best Practice)

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- Need to avail specific playlists against the same title
 - This can be done with ALIDs and ALIDExperienceMap but that wasn't obvious
- Avails can lose track of the original ALID when multiple ALIDs differ only in Playlists
 - Solution is to use AssociatedALID to reference the 'root' ALID regardless of the playlists
 - Add "isplaylistroot" relationship to support mapping (in Best Practice)
- XML already has these types, just add relationship to Common Metadata
- Excel (documented in Best Practice)
 - Use RefALID as AssociatedALID
 - As there is only one relationship it is implicit
- Added to Best Practice (new section)
 - Playlists are availed through ALIDExperienceMap where the ALID is in the Avail, and the Experience is the Playlist Experience. The Playlist Avail supersedes any Avails that may exist for child Experiences. Be careful.

Playlists: Skip or FF (Best Practice)

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- Manifest: Added Experience/Terms
- Added to practice the recommendation to include an instance of Terms with @termName = “skippable” and Boolean=“true”.
- Added @termName = “skipwait” with Decimal = <seconds>

Avails (Descriptive Audio)

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- XML
 - Add @descriptive (0..1 Boolean) to AllowedLanguage and HoldbackLanguage to indicate it is referring audio description (AD)
 - Add @signed (0..1 Boolean) to AssetLanguage, AllowedLanguage, and HoldbackLanguage to refer to signed language video

Common Metadata/MEC

- Add Decimal to Terms-type for better typing
- BasicMetadataParent-type extended
 - @primary added to indicate primary relationship (default if there are multiple)
 - RelationshipSubType (0..n) added to allow relationship clarification (no controlled vocab)
- DigitalAssetAudioData-type - correct cardinality of language to 1..n (correct in schema)
- DigitalAssetSubtitleData-type/FormatType – additional formats added
 - Add EBU-STL
 - Add IMSC-ROSETTA
- Added FrameRate and @multiplier to DigitalAssetSubtitleData-type to specify timing of subtitles
- MCALabelSubdescriptor-type (Audio metadata / Audio Labeling) expanded to comply with latest SMPTE specification
 - Updated 377-41 (new fields and reference): SpokenLanguageAddtribute and AdditionalLanguageAttributes
 - Added additional description in element definition for people who might not be aware of MXF audio labeling
- Rating: Added @authoritative and @origin to ContentRatingDetail-type to disambiguate ratings considered authoritative to alternatives, and to clarify the origin when applicable
- MEC: CompilationObject added to CoreMetadata
- CompliationObject/Entry has @primary attribute

Media Manifest/MMC

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- Markers
 - Added reference to IMFUG markers (<https://registry.imfug.com>)
 - Added attributes to support new IMFUG markers
 - Attribute element (0..n)
 - Optional @scope (for when scope of attribute is different than scope of Marker)
- Timed Event Sequence: Start/EndTimecode
 - TimedEventSequence/EndTimecode now optional
 - EndTimecode/@exclusive added to support exclusive end timecodes. This matches linear editors time ranges.
 - Note added that Timecodes to clarify inclusive and exclusive
- Marker added as a new element to TimedEvent-type
- TimedEventSequence/ErrorCode/ErrorTerm has a cardinality bug in the schema.
 - Fixed it in the latest version
- Added Terms to Experience to support a variety of special use cases (including Playlists)
- Fixed TimedEvent-type/ErrorCode and ErrorTerm to be optional in schema (correct in spec)

QC Vocabulary

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- Release version 1.2
- Added TRANSLATION category for localization issues related to translation
- Added terms in the following categories: VIDEO, AUDIO, TIMED TEXT, TRANSLATON
- Updated terms have '1.2' in the V (version) column
- HTML, XML, and Excel updated'