DDEX Standard

Release Notification Message Suite Standard

(Version 4.1.1)

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1 Introduction

This standard was developed by the member organisations of the Digital Data Exchange, LLC (DDEX) and provides a suite of messages that give a uniform mechanism to enable Release Creators (usually record companies) to inform DSPs about Releases — whether they are newly created or "back catalogue" — that are available for distribution to consumers.

This standard also enables Release Creators to inform DSPs in a standardised way the terms and conditions under which such Releases can be made available.

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2 Scope

2.1 Introduction

The suite of messages contained in this Standard provides a mechanism for Release Creators (usually record companies) to inform their distribution partners (herein called Digital Service Providers (DSPs) about Releases that can be made available to the public as electronic Products. Such Releases can include, amongst others, Releases for mobile use, Releases for download under pay-as-you-go, advertisement-supported and subscription models, streaming models and audiovisual Releases.

The messages will allow such standardised information flow about the Releases themselves (i.e. Release metadata) as well as information about the commercial terms under which such Releases can be made available.

Sending or receiving a message using this standard cannot be presumed to indicate, however, that all legal obligations are met for the Releases to be legitimately made available.

2.2 Organisation of the Document

This standard has six clauses and one annex. Clause 1 and 2 provide a general introduction and the scope of this standard. Clauses 3 and 4 give a set of normative references as well as terms, definitions and abbreviations that are used in this Standard.

Clause 5 provides an overall choreography for sending and receiving the messages defined in this standard. Clause 6 then specifies the messages defined in this standard, and their descriptions as they appear in the DDEX Data Dictionary.

Annex A then provides informative notes about this version of the standard, indicating the features new to this version of the Electronic Release Notification Message Suite Standard.

3 Normative References

The following normative documents contain provisions, which through reference in this text constitute provisions of this Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. For undated references, the latest version applies.

- DDEX: Data Dictionary Standard. Latest Version.
- DDEX: Party Identifier (DPID) Standard. Latest Version.
- IFPI: Global Release Identifier (GRid) Standard. Latest Version.
- IETF RfC 5646: Tags for Identifying Languages. Latest Version.
- ISO 639-1988: Code for the representation of the names of languages.
- ISO 3166-1:1997: Codes for the representation of names of countries and their sub-divisions – Part 1: Country codes.
- ISO 3901:2001: Information and documentation – International Standard Recording Code (ISRC).
- ISO 4217:2001: Codes for the representation of currencies and funds.
- ISO 7064:1983: Data Processing – Check Character Systems.
- ISO 8601:2004: Data elements and interchange formats – Information interchange – Representation of dates and times.[1]
- W3C: XML Schema Part 1 - Structures. Second Edition. 2004
- W3C: XML Schema Part 2 - Datatypes. Second Edition. 2004

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[1] Information on ISO 8601 can be found in Annex D of Part 2 (Datatypes Second Edition) of the XML Schema standard (http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/#isoformats).

4 Terms and Abbreviations

4.1 Terms and Definitions

Contractually Mandatory

An entity in a DDEX Message that has the technical cardinality of 0-1 or 0-n but that is mandatory when a DDEX message is sent in a specific commercial context.

Contractually Mandatory fields may, however, be mandatory when a DDEX message is sent in a specific commercial context. In such circumstances, a message is deemed conformant only if and when it contains all the "contractually mandatory" fields as agreed by Message Sender and Message Recipient.

Digital Service Provider (DSP)

A Digital Service Provider (DSP), a Party making Releases available to Consumers or other DSPs over a public Telecom network. This includes MSPs (Mobile Service Providers) and ISPs (Internet Service Providers).

Main Release

A Release, communicated in a Release notification that represents the main purpose for sending the `NewReleaseMessage`. When communicating an album, the Main Release would be said Album Release. A typical `NewReleaseMessage` contains, besides the Main Release, one or more Track Releases.

Musical Work

A Work intended to be perceivable as a combination of sounds, with or without accompanying text.

Any words that are intended to be expressed with a MusicalWork (often termed Lyrics) form part of that MusicalWork; not all MusicalWorks have Lyrics.
A MusicalWork may be expressed and fixed to become part of a SoundRecording or a Video Recording, or may be used to create notated music (sheet music, scores, instrumental parts) or sound generation codes (such as MIDI files).
In some cases, the MusicalWork comes into existence simultaneously with its expression. This is common in extemporised forms such as jazz music.

Product

A Manifestation of a Release (or another Resource) which is made available to Consumers, by sale, loan or other means. The attributes of a Release in its digital manifestation as a Product may be technical (e.g., the codec or bit rate); a mode of distribution (e.g., downloading or streaming); or a commercial term (e.g., price).

Profile

A subset of a DDEX standard. Profiles define how to use the capabilities of a DDEX standard in a specific commercial context.

Release

A Release is an abstract entity representing a bundle of one or more Resources compiled by an Issuer. The Resources in Releases are normally primarily sound recordings or music audio-visual recordings, but this is not invariably the case. The Release is not itself the item of trade (or "Product"). Products have more extensive attributes than Releases; one Release may be disseminated in many different Products.

Release Creator

Release Creator is an organisation which is the owner of copyrights in sound and/or music audiovisual recordings and/or exclusive licensees of copyrights in sound and/or music audiovisual recordings.

Release Distributor

Release Distributor is an organisation, which is duly authorised by a Release Creator to offer Releases manifested in the form of Products to consumers. Release Distributors include Digital Service Providers (DSPs) and Mobile Service Providers (MSPs) as well as other organisations.

Resource

A digital fixation of an expression of an abstract Work (such as a sound recording, a video, an image, software or a passage of text). Resources are individual assets that make up a Release. Typical Resources are sound recordings, video clips and cover art images.

Track Release

A Release, communicated in a Release notification that does not represent the main purpose for sending the `NewReleaseMessage`. When communicating a 10-track album, a typical `NewReleaseMessage` would contain, besides the Main Release, ten Track Releases (i.e. one for each sound recording that together make up the album).

4.2 Abbreviations

AMEP	Automated Message Exchange Protocol
ACA	Appointed Certification Agency
AVS	Allowed Value Set
BP	Business Profile
CISAC	Confédération internationale des sociétés d'auteurs et compositeurs, the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (see cisac.org)
CA	Certification Agency
CT	Conformance Tester
DAW	Digital Audio Workstation
DDEX	Digital Data Exchange
DSIG	Digital Signature
DSP	Digital Service Provider (incudes Mobile Service Providers)
DSR	Digital Sales Reporting
ERN	Electronic Release Notification
FTP	File Transfer Protocol (FTP specifically includes SFTP)
GRid	Global Release Identifier
HTTP	Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTP specifically includes HTTPS)
HTTPS	Secure Hypertext Transport Protocol
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission (see iec.ch)
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation (see iso.org)
MIME	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
MLC	Music Licensing Company
MWL	Musical Works Licensing
MWN	Musical Works Notification
MRBV	Multi-Record-Block Variant
PCA	Private Certification Agency
PDF	Portable Document Format
REST	REpresentational State Transfer

RIN	Recording Information Notification
SFTP	Secure FTP
SRBV	Single-Record-Block Variant
TIS	Territory Information System (a CISAC Standard)
TLS	Transport Layer Security
UGC	User-generated content
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
XML	eXtensible Markup Language
XSD	XML Schema Definition
W3C	World Wide Web Consortium (see w3c.org)
WS	Web Service

5 Message Choreography

Figure 1 shows the choreography of the processes that the Electronic Release Notification Message Suite Standard enables. The specific means by which these messages are communicated not defined here.
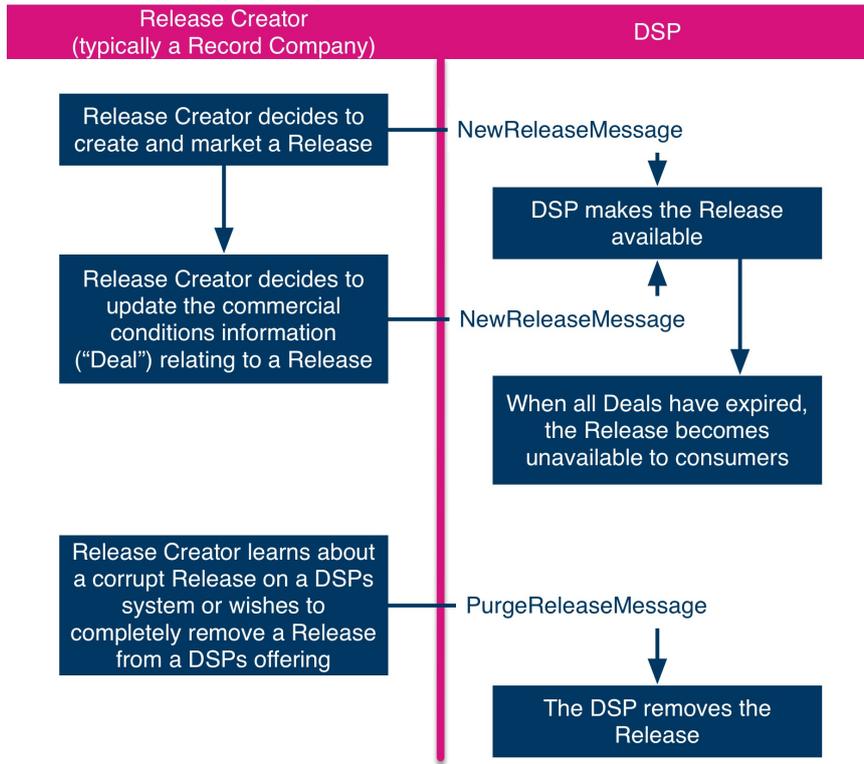

Figure 1 — Choreography of the Electronic Release Notification Message Suite

Table 1 below summarises the point in the release cycle when each message is sent. The table also indicates who sends which message to whom and which of the messages are defined in this Standard.

Table 1 — Messages in the Electronic Release Notification Message Suite

Message Name	Initiating Event	Sender	Recipient
1 NewReleaseMessage	The Release Creator decides to make a Release available to the market and collates all necessary information about the Release. This does not necessarily include information about the commercial conditions under which the Release may be made available.	Release Creator, typically a record company	Release Distributor, typically a DSP
	The Release Creator has decided on the commercial conditions under which the Release may be made available.		
	The Release Creator wishes to communicate updates to the metadata about the Release and/or commercial conditions.		
2 PurgeReleaseMessage	The Release Creator gains knowledge of a corrupt Release in the systems of a DSP that cannot be taken down simply by using the NewReleaseMessage.	Release Creator, typically a record company	Release Distributor, typically a DSP
	A Release Creator wishes to completely remove a Release from a DSPs offering.		

6 Message Definition

6.1 Namespace

The full namespace for the XML Schema document for this standard is

```
http://ddex.net/xml/ern/411
```

All messages developed within DDEX are based upon a common set of elements and their definitions. These are contained in the DDEX Data Dictionary available from kb.ddex.net.

6.2 Allowed-value Sets

All messages defined in this standard make intensive use of allowed-value sets. These allowed value sets are shared between all DDEX standards and DDEX provides a XML Schema Definition file for all of these allowed values. These values are also contained in the DDEX Data Dictionary available from kb.ddex.net.

The full namespace for the XML Schema document for the allowed-value sets is

```
http://ddex.net/xml/avs/avs
```

DDEX may regularly extend this list of allowed-value sets. Any such extensions to this list are issued on a date later than the date on which this Standard is issued but still may form part of this Standard. Thus the list of allowed-value sets provided Clause 6.6 contains the list of allowed-value sets valid on the data of issuance of this standard.

The allowed values are listed, defined and provided through the DDEX Data Dictionary Standard in accordance with its latest version. Other values are not possible unless by using the mechanism described below.

Some of the allowed value sets contain a provision to either use a User Defined Value instead of a DDEX-defined value (in that case the message sender has to select the value `UserDefined` from the AVS and provide its own value in the XML attribute `UserDefinedValue`), or to augment a DDEX-defined value (in that case the message sender may not select the value `UserDefined` from the AVS but shall provide its additional information in the XML attribute `UserDefinedValue`). In either case the Namespace attribute shall be used to indicate by whom the `UserDefinedValue` is defined and where it is maintained.

6.3 Describing Exploitations of Releases

In DDEX messages, message senders can use three allowed value sets to describe how Releases can be (or have been) exploited. They are:

- `ReleaseType` (of the Main Release);
- `UseType`; and
- `CommercialModelType`.

The `ReleaseType` categorises the Release from the point of view of the Release Creator. For example, a Release Creator may create a Release for use as a ring-back tone on a mobile phone. This is distinct from the `UseType` which describes what a consumer is allowed to do with a Release. For example, a Release created as a "normal" digital album, might still be used as a ring tone.

The third dimension, the `CommercialModel` type describes how consumers pay for the Release, whether the transactions are based on subscriptions or whether the consumer pays directly for each Release received.

6.4 General Conformance Rules

6.4.1 Schema Validation

A message is conformant to this specification only when it validates against the set of XML Schema files provided.

6.4.2 Namespace Attributes

The `Namespace` attributes can be used to enable message parties to use proprietary values or identifiers.

The recommended value to be used for the `Namespace` attribute of an allowed value set field is the DDEX Party Identifier (as defined in, and administered in accordance with the latest version of the DDEX Party ID Standard) of the party controlling the proprietary allowed value deletion.

The recommended allowed value to be used for the `Namespace` attribute of a proprietary identifier is the DDEX Party Identifier of the party controlling the proprietary identifier.

6.4.3 Indicating Unknown Values

When the Message Sender is required to provide a data element but cannot do so, the following values shall be entered:

1. In fields of type xs:string: "`#unknown#`" ;
2. In fields of type xd:date: "`9999-01-01`";
3. In fields of type xs:datetime: "`9999-01-01T99:01:01`"; and
4. In fields of type xs:duration: "`PT99H01M01S`".

The circumstances under which such behaviour is permissible may be limited in the specific business relationship between message sender and message recipient.

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6.4.4 Contractually Mandatory

The messages defined in this standard contain fields with cardinality "0-1" or "0-n". Therefore these fields are in respect of this standard itself, optional. Such fields may, however, be mandatory when a DDEX message is sent in a specific commercial context.

In such circumstances, a message is deemed conformant only if and when it contains all the "contractually mandatory" fields as agreed by message sender and message recipient.

6.4.5 MessageID

The `MessageID` element shall be, in combination with the DDEX Party ID of the message sender, globally unique. Thus, a message sender shall never re-use a `MessageID`.

6.4.6 TIS TerritoryCodes

The use of TIS `TerritoryCodes` is not permitted when communicating `TerritoryCodes` unless specifically agreed by message sender and message recipient.

6.4.7 Validity periods for Deals

Validity periods for deals can be communicated either with a `StartDate` and/or `EndDate` (in which case the `Deal` starts at midnight at the beginning of the start date end/or ends at midnight at the end of the end date) or as a `StartDateTime` and/or `EndDateTime`.

6.4.8 Preview Dates

6.4.8.1 Preview Dates for Releases and TrackReleases

The four preview dates (`ReleasePreviewStartDate`, `TrackListingPreviewStartDate`, `CoverArtPreviewStartDate` and `ClipPreviewStartDate`) can be linked to an album `Release` as well as a `TrackRelease`.

If a preview is provided, for the same Resources, on both album `Release` as well as a `TrackRelease` level, the date provided on the `TrackRelease` level shall prevail.

If, for example, a `TrackRelease` has a `TrackListingPreviewStartDate` that is later then the `TrackListingPreviewStartDate` of the album, then the track corresponding to the `TrackRelease`, must **not** appear in the album's track listing until the `TrackRelease`'s `TrackListingPreviewStartDate` has passed.

The same applies to datetime elements.

6.4.8.2 Album-level Preview Dates for Streaming Deals

To communicate preview dates in a streaming-only scenario (where no Dealis provided for the album Release), the Release Distributor that wishes to display the album Release shall make use of the preview dates from the TrackReleasesfor the Resources that make up that album Release.

If conflicting preview dates for `ReleasePreviewStartDate` and `CoverArtPreviewStartDate` are provided, the Release Distributor may use the earliest date.

The same applies to datetime elements.

6.4.8.3 Absence of Preview Dates

If no `Deal` containing any of the four preview datetimes is found, the Release Distributor shall use the earliest `StartDateTime` from the Deals for the corresponding country as the relevant preview datetime.

This means that as soon as a Release without any preview datetime may be made available to consumers, **all** relevant data and **all** relevant Resources also may be shown to consumers.

The same applies to datetime elements.

6.4.9 Price Information

Price information shall be communicated via the `PriceInformation` composite within the `Deal` composite. The following rules shall be applied:

1. `PriceRangeType` is meant to contain rough price band information such as "budget" or "front line". It is *not* meant for sending instructions on the price to be used when offering the relevant Releases to consumers.
2. `WholesalePricePerUnit` and `BulkOrderWholesalePricePerUnit` contain a price that a DSP can use to determine its sales price.
3. `WholesalePricePerUnit` and `BulkOrderWholesalePricePerUnit` may not be combined with a `PriceType`.
4. `SuggestedRetailPrice` is not meant to be used by the DSP to determine price.

6.4.10 Extra Fields for PurchaseAsPhysicalProduct

Unless a `PurchaseAsPhysicalProduct` is communicated, the use of the following fields is not allowed:

1. `BulkOrderWholesalePricePerUnit`;
2. `CarrierType`;
3. `PhysicalReturns`; and
4. `NumberOfProductsPerCarton` .

6.4.11 Generic and specific UseTypes

It is not permitted to combine generic and specific `UseTypes` (e.g. `Stream` and `InteractiveStream`) in a single `Deal`.

It is not permitted to signal all specific sub-`UseTypes` (e.g. all `*Stream UseTypes`) defined by DDEX in a single `Deal`. In such cases the generic `UseType` shall be used.

At the same time, message senders are encouraged to only send multiple specific sub-`UseTypes` if really necessary. The preferred method is to use the generic `UseType` instead.

6.5 Life Cycle Changes

6.5.1 Common Rules for Life Cycle Changes

Common rules for life cycle changes are:

1. New deal terms received in an update `NewReleaseMessage` completely replace all existing deals for the Release, effective on the `MessageCreatedDate`.
2. As such, message senders must always supply an explicit list of all valid `Deals` for each Release in each new `NewReleaseMessage`. If existing deals remain valid, they must be carried over into that `NewReleaseMessage`.
3. All life cycle changes are communicated for a specific Release or set of Releases.

6.5.2 Granting Additional Territorial Clearances

This life cycle update applies when a message sender wishes to extend the rights granted to the message recipient on an existing Release or set of Releases to cover additional territories:

1. The message sender must provide a `Deal` for the additional territories starting on the date the grant should be applied. The message recipient should apply the grant and make the content available in the new territories in the message on the start date provided.
2. The territories covered by the `Deals` in the previous `NewReleaseMessage` s must also be included, with an active validity period, as this original deal is already applicable in the update message.

6.5.3 Take-downs and Reduction of Rights

This life cycle update applies when a message sender wishes to reduce the rights granted to the message recipient. This includes "global take-downs", "territorial take-downs" and the cancellation of a `RightsClaim`:

To signal that a Release needs to be taken down it is sufficient for the Release Creator to send a new `NewReleaseMessage` for that Release, albeit, with no `Deal` composite. If wanted, the Release Creator may communicate a `Deal` with an `EndDate` set in the past.

To signal that some deals for a Release cease to apply (i.e. a reduction in the rights available), the `Deal`(s) that have ceased to exist may simply be omitted from the new `NewReleaseMessage`. If wanted, the Release Creator may communicate the ceased `Deal`(s) with an `EndDate` set in the past.

 If a take-down or reduction in rights happens in the future, an appropriately end-dated `Deal` needs to be sent.

6.5.4 Territorial Price Change

If a message sender wishes to permanently change the price within one or more territories they have granted to the message recipient for a Release and its related content it shall issue a price change `Deal` for the territory with an open period starting on the date the price change should be applied. The message recipient shall apply the price change on the start date provided. A `Deal` covering the existing prices shall also be supplied with an end date equal to a day before the new price start date.

Note: if such a territorial price change is communicated on the date the new deal comes into effect, no "bridging" `Deal` needs to be communicated.

6.5.5 Purging/Removing a Release

In some cases a Release may become corrupt over time. This may make it complicated for a Release Creator to ask for such a Release to be removed (or "purged") from a Release Distributor's database.

In order for a Release to be removed, the Release Creator shall send a `PurgeReleaseMessage` and the Release Distributor shall act by ceasing to make this Release available if it can ascertain that the message sender has the rights to ask for a Release to be purged. This may be done by checking that the Release Distributor has received the active Deal(s) from the same message sender.

The same approach may also be used when a Release Creator wants to permanently remove a Release from the catalogue of a Release Distributor.

6.5.6 Take-down before Street Date

To signal that a Release needs to be taken down before the street date has arrived, it is sufficient for the Release Creator to send a new `NewReleaseMessage` for that Release, albeit, with no `Deal` composite. If wanted, the Release Creator may communicate only a `Deal` with an `EndDate` set in the past.

The same approach can be used to reduce the rights before a street date. In that case, the `Deal` that is not to become active may simply be omitted from the new `NewReleaseMessage`.

6.5.7 Pre-order Business Models

A pre-order is a product offering by which consumer purchases are permitted prior to release date.

The Release may take the same form as that which is available after the pre-order period or it may have exclusive elements only available as part of the pre-order offering, during the pre-order period. It may also have tracks that are fulfilled upon purchase during the pre-order period, while the rest of the Release is fulfilled on release date at the end of the pre-order period. A pre-order can have a mix of bonus and instant gratification tracks and it is also possible for a track to be both instant gratification and bonus.

Such pre-orders business models, if supported, shall meet the following rules:

1. The `isPreorderDeal` flag in the relevant `Deal` shall be set to true.
2. The `ReleaseDisplayStartDate`/`ReleaseDisplayStartDateTime`, `TrackListingPreviewStartDate`/`TrackListingPreviewStartDateTime`, `CoverArtPreviewStartDate`/`CoverArtPreviewStartDateTime` and `ClipPreviewStartDate`/`ClipPreviewStartDateTIme` shall be communicated if necessary. Note: if one of these dates needs to be communicated, all of them need to be communicated.
3. If only a subset of these four dates or date-times need to be communicated, the others need to contain the start date of the entire `Deal`.

6.6 Syntax and Semantics of Messages

The syntax and semantics of the messages defined in this standard are provided in an XML Schema Definition file and in tabular form provided in a separate document. Both, the XSD and the tabular form are an integral part of this standard. They are available from the blue box here. These include the allowed value sets as specified in Clause 6.2.

The hierarchical structure of the messages is provided through indentation. On the `MessageHeader` for example, the `PartyName` is a child of `Sender`. Thus, a `Sender` contains a `PartyName` (plus a `PartyId`). A second example from the `MessageHeader` is the `MessageAuditTrail` that contains `MessageAuditTrailEvents` which, in turn, contains a `MessagingPartyDescriptor` and a `DateTime` element. All elements that have sub-elements are printed in bold. The `MessageAuditTrailEvents` element also shows a second structural feature of the tabular message summary: the cardinality. In the case of `MessageAuditTrailEvents` the entry "1-n" means that each `MessageAuditTrail` contains one or more `MessageAuditTrailEvents`.

Other possible cardinality entries are: "1" (for: exactly one), "0-1" (for none or one) or "0-n" (for none to multiple). Elements shown in italics are represented in the XML Schema as XML Attributes. In several places within the messages, the message sender may need to make a choice between using two or more XML elements. These instances are marked in the tabular representation of the messages below with the keyword `XmlChoice`. This keyword is not part of the messages. Instead exactly one of the "branches" below the `XmlChoice` keyword has to be used.

Annex A (informative) Release Notes

Version 4 of the Electronic Release Notification Message Suite Standard offers a significantly simpler way to communicate Release Notifications compared with ERN-3.

Version 4.1 has been developed in response of testing with version 4. It further streamlines the communication of Releases from Release Creators to Release Distributors. The major changes include:

- Simplified process to the reduction of rights and takedowns (Note: this approach has also been adapted for ERN-3);
- Support for accompanying a `NewReleaseMessage` with an additional XML file containing information in addition to what has, traditionally, been sent from a Release Creator's supply chain to support, for instance, voice activated music services;
- Ability to for a Release Creator so signal to a Release Distributor how it wishes artist information should be displayed as part of a title;
- Ability to communicate display credits;
- Ability to provide track sequences using letters; and
- A series of smaller changes to closer align the NewReleaseMessage with messages defined in other DDEX Standards, particularly RIN and MLC.

Version 4.1.1 corrects a number of small errors in the XSD (ensuring that `Synopsis` and `Keywords` are available on `Release` and `TrackRelease`, adding a flag to indicate whether a `Contributor` is a credited artist, aligning the `ResourceRightsController` and `WorkRightsController` composites, enabling the communication of label hierarchies, add the ability to differentiate "covers" from "originals") and adds rules for the communication of Preview Dates.