

Single-Record Block Variant or Multi-Block Variant?

DDEX has defined some of its profiles in two forms:

- Multi-Record Block Variants (MRBV) and
- Single-Record Block Variants (SRBV).

For most profiles, the MRBV is the default.

In MRBVs the main body of the sales/usage report is made out of "Blocks" which contain multiple Records. The Blocks in the Basic Audio Profile, for instance is made up of one Record the Release that has been transacted, one or more Records for each of the Resources that make up the Release. For each of the Resource Records there may then be none, one or multiple Records describing Musical Works that are used in each of the Resources. Further Records can then be used to describe Sub-Releases and, finally, provide different sales/usage figures. This is depicted on the right.

SRBVs, on the other hand, collapse all of the above information into one single, albeit potentially long, Record. This makes the ingestion process simpler. Also, smaller SRBV files can easier be imported into a spreadsheet application. These benefits do come at the cost of potentially repeating a significant amount of information. MRBVs are therefore notably more efficient than SRBV.

The choice between MRBV and SRBV depends on multiple factors that sender and recipient need to weigh up:

- How large is the report likely to be? Is it a problem if the report is, multiple times larger because of data repetition?
- Is it important to easily import the sale/usage report into a spreadsheet application?
- Will sender and recipient be able to handle richer data structures?

