

Frequently Asked Questions

Implementers of DDEX standards sometimes have questions regarding some of the fields (or tags). The most common issues are discussed here:

Identifiers and ISO Codes Lists

- Referencing Composites using ID and IDREF
- Communication of Identifiers in DDEX Messages
- Can a Release be Identified by an ISRC?
- Identifiers for Resources, Releases and Parties
- Should I use an ISRC as the primary key for my database?
- Avoiding the use of proprietary Identifiers
- Limitations of Proprietary Identifiers
- Opus and Composer Catalogue Numbers
- Territory Codes (ISO 3166-1, ISO 3166-3, TIS)
- Proprietary Identifiers
- Malformed Identifiers
- Multiple Proprietary Identification Systems

DDEX Party IDs (DPIDs)

- How many DPIDs Do I need?
- Do DPIDs have hyphens?
- DPID Registry

Allowed Value Sets (aka Code Lists)

- Allowed-value sets and UserDefinedValues
- User-defined Values
- Specialising DDEX-Defined Values

Release and Resource Metadata

- Track Releases
- ReferenceTitle of a SoundRecording
- Titles and SubTitles in ERN-3
- Titles and SubTitles in ERN-4
- Why is there artist information in multiple places
- Territorial variations in Release descriptions
- Metadata in different languages
- Genres
- Are ResourceGroups mandatory?
- Resource Groups and Track Releases
- Release Types for TrackReleases
- Original Release Date, Release Date and other Dates
- Resource Types
- Primary and Secondary Resources
- Can a Release contain the Same Sound Recording Multiple Times?
- Hidden Sound Recordings
- Images for Box Sets
- Sequencing Resources
- Communication of Lyrics
- PLine and CLine
- Communicating Stems
- Creation Dates
- Instrumental Music
- Linking different Releases and Resources
- Same Recording with Different Metadata

Previews

- Preview Resources
- Resource-specific Previews

Binaries

- Communicating Binaries
- Adding and Removing Specific Encodings

Contributors, Artists and Writers

- One artist with two roles

- Communicating Display Artist(s) and Display Artist Name(s)
- Band Members
- Sequencing Recording Artists and Writers
- How long can artist names and titles be?
- Artist Name changes over time
- Special Characters
- Splitting Names & the "Key" Name
- DisplayArtistNames for Releases and Resources
- DisplayArtist? DisplayArtistName? Contributor? IndirectContributor? What is this all about?
- Public Domain Works in ERNs
- Territorial RightsController Information
- Role Code Synonyms and Credits
- Rights Controller Information in ERNs to music licensing companies
- Ownership Claims for Single Resource Releases in ERN
- Displaying Artists for Remixes [ERN-4 only]
- Artist Roles and DisplayCredits
- Writer Roles
- Canonical Spellings for Names

Deals and Commercial Aspects

- Multiple Deals for one Release
- Is a NewReleaseMessage with no Deal valid?
- Avoiding "Dropouts" (or: how to signal Deal changes)
- Dates: exclusive vs. inclusive
- Product Types in Titles
- Album Streaming
- PriceInformation
- Takedowns
- No Takedown in Initial Deal
- Complex Deals can be Dangerous
- Cancelling a Deal Before "Street Date"
- Dates in Deals are being phased out (in favour of datetimes)
- Start Dates, End Dates, Start Date-Times and End Date-Times of Deals
- RightsClaimPolicy (update in v3.8.1 and ERN-4)
- Multiple consecutive Deals
- Territorial Scope of a Deal
- UseType for Fingerprinting Services
- Multiple CommercialModelTypes or UseTypes in one Deal
- ApplicableTerritoryCode vs Deal Territories
- Recommended use of CommercialModelType and UseType in ERN-4
- Territories in Deals and Release Descriptions
- Communicate Territory Information in Different Kinds of Releases
- Java Library's Date Bug for 2020
- Active Deals at Time of Sending an ERN
- Availability and Visibility
- Deals without StartDate/StartDateTime (ERN-3 & ERN 4.1)
- Handling of Tracks that are "not cleared"

Message Exchange and Choreography

- Differentiating "Inserts" from "Updates"
- Order of ERN Processing
- (No) Resources in initial delivery
- Invalid Messages
- Acknowledgements and Non-repudiation
- Generating and Processing ERN Batches

Miscellaneous

- Multiple Data Dictionaries
- Locations of XSDs
- Worldwide
- Direction of writing
- Communication of Percentages in DDEX
- Attribute Ordering
- Semantics of repeating XML tags
- Special XML Characters (and how to avoid &)
- Do not use CDATA to concatenate Data
- Comments
- Which Profile for which XSD?
- Who owns which rights?
- Field Length and Precision
- Preambles for XML-based DDEX Messages
- Time stamp for data accuracy

- Access Credentials

Validating DDEX Messages

- Namespace and File Locations for the XSD for Allowed Value Sets