# Webinar DCAT-AP Major Release – 26 September 2019 – Meeting Minutes

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| Abstract | This document presents the minutes of the DCAT-AP major release 4th webinar held on 26 September 2019. |

# Document History

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# Table of Contents

# 1. AGENDA

1. Opening
2. Review of major changes
3. Comments and proposals by participants
4. Next steps

# 2. MINUTES

## 2.1. Opening

The SEMIC team opened the webinar, the participants were welcomed, and the agenda was presented. The meeting took place in the context of the SEMIC action supporting the maintenance of DCAT-AP and the main reason of the webinar was to review the changes proposed during the previous meetings to the DCAT-AP 2.0, by taking into account all comments received.

This will be done with a view to publishing DCAT-AP 2.0 for public review on 4 October 2019. The date might be slightly delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. The discussion on the new changes during the webinar will affect the artifacts to be shared for review before the publication of DTAC-AP 2.0.

## 2.2. Review of proposed changes

### 2.2.1. Property changes: mandatoryness, ,cardinalities additions

- dcat:Dataset, dct:temporal → recommended DCAT-AP-64
- dcat:Dataset, dct spatial → recommended DCAT-AP-9
- dcat:Catalog, dct:spatial → recommended DCAT-AP-3

DCAT-AP-40: **New property** dcatap:availability added to dcat:Distribution as recommended.

DCAT-AP-49: **Change of property cardinality**:

- dcat:accessURL, Cardinality: 1..n →1..1 (mandatory property)

- dcat:downloadURL, Cardinality: 0..n → 0..1 (optional property)

### 2.2.2. Improvement changes

DCAT-AP-57: **Check existence of URIs**

- http://labs.mondeca.com/vocab/voaf has been updated to http://purl.org/vocommons/voaf

DCAT-AP-58: **Cleanup unused prefixes**. The following namespaces were not used and have been removed from the rdf/xml.

- v=http://www.w3.org/2006/vcard/ns#

- xh=http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml

- sf=http://sourceforge.net/api/sfelements.rdf

DCAT-AP-55: in **SHACL shapes** dct:language was pointing to skos:Concept, has been corrected to point to dct:LinguisticSystem

### 2.2.3. Vocabulary changes

DCAT-AP-45: The **ADMS change type vocabulary** http://purl.org/adms/changetype/ (:created, :updated, :deleted ) does not exist and has been removed from the specification.

DCAT-AP-53: This issue is related to DCAT-AP-45, and cannot be solved directly.

DCAT_AP-86: **New issue** posted related to DCAT-AP-45 and DCAT-AP-53: the same property is linked to two different classes, with different definitions.

- adms:status in dcat:Distribution (status property) -> This property refers to the maturity of the Distribution. It MUST take one of the values :Completed, :Deprecated, :Under development or :Withdrawn (http://purl.org/adms/status/) [0..1]
- adms:status in dcat:CatalogRecord (change type property) -> This property refers to the type of the latest revision of a Dataset's entry in the Catalogue. It MUST take one of the values: :created, :updated or :deleted depending on whether this latest revision is a result of a creation, update or deletion [0..1]

### 2.2.4. Issues marked as "won't fix":

DCAT-AP-10, DCAT-AP-39, DCAT-AP-44, DCAT-AP-52

### 2.2.5. Issues related to DCAT 2

- DCAT-AP-35: support for data integration (qualified-relationship, qualified attribution)

- DCAT-AP-38: temporal granularity (temporal properties)

- DCAT-AP-39: in Dataset add record maintainer (qualified-relationship, qualified attribution, qualified-forms)

- DCAT-AP-42: in Dataset , add dct:contributor (qualified-relationship, qualified attribution, qualified-forms)

## 2.3. Proposed changes from DCAT 2 to DCAT-AP.

All the proposals for adding new properties and classes were posted in GitHub repository and feedback was expected on those issues. The proposed changes in this respect were the following[1]:

### 2.3.1. New Properties in existing classes

New properties for class dcat:Catalog

| URI | Mandatoriness/optionality | Cardinality |
|---|---|---|
| dcat:service | Optional | 0..n |

[1] Mandatoruness/optionality and cardinalities have been updated based on comments received during the webinar.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| dcat:catalog | Optional | 0..n |
| dct:creator | Optional | 0..1 |
| | | |

New properties for class dcat:Dataset

| URI | Mandatoriness/optionality | Cardinality |
|---|---|---|
| prov:qualifiedAttribution | Optional | 0..n |
| dct:creator | Optional | 0..1 |
| prov:wasGenerated | Optional | 0..n |
| dcat:temporalResolution | Optional | 0..n |
| dcat:spatialResolutionInMeters | Optional | 0..n |

New properties for class dcat:Distribution

| URI | Mandatoriness/optionality | Cardinality |
|---|---|---|
| odrl:hasPolicy | Optional | 0..1 |
| dcat:accessService | Optional | 0..n |
| dcat:temporalResolution | Optional | 0..n |
| dcat:spatialResolutionInMeters | Optional | 0..n |
| dcat:compressFormat | Optional | 0..n |
| dcat:packageFormat | Optional | 0..n |

New properties for class  dct:PeriodOfTime

| URI | Mandatoriness/optionality | Cardinality |
|---|---|---|
| dcat:startDate | Recommended | 0..1 |
| dcat:endDate | Recommended | 0..1 |
| time:hasBeggining | Optional | 0..1 |
| time:hasEnd | Optional | 0..1 |

New properties for class dct:Location

| URI | Mandatoriness/optionality | Cardinality |
|---|---|---|
| locn:geometry | Optional | 0..1 |
| dcat:bbox | Recommended | 0..1 |
| dcat:centroid | Recommended | 0..1 |

### 2.3.2. New classes

No need to add dcat: Resouce directly in DCAT-AP 2.0

New optional dcat:DataService with properties:

| URI | Mandatoriness/optionality | Cardinality |
|---|---|---|
| dct:title | Mandatory | 1..1 |
| dcat:endpointURL | Mandatory | 1..n |
| dcat:servesDataset | Recommended | 0..n |
| dcat:endpointDescription | Recommended | 0..n |
| dct:description | Optional | 0..n |
| dct:licence | Optional | 0..1 |
| dct:accessRights | Optional | 0..1 |

New class optional dcat:Relationship as with properties:

| URI | Mandatoriness/optionality | Cardinality |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------|
| dct:relation | Mandatory | 1..n |
| dcat:hadRole | Mandatory | 1..n |

New class optional dcat:Role as optional

### 2.3.3. Other DCAT 2 related changes:

• Relax domain of dcat:keyword (DCAT-AP-68).

• Relax the domain of dcat:contactPoint (DCAT-AP-69).

• Make dcat:Catalog subclass of dcat:Dataset (DCAT-AP-70).

• In dcat:Catalog, relax the range of dcat:themeTaxonomy and make it rdfs:Resource (DCAT-AP-71).

• In dcat:Dataset remove relation of sub-class of dctype:Dataset since the scope of dcat:Dataset is more general than the DCMI Type 'dataset' (DCAT-AP-74).

• In dcat:Distribution, tighten the range of property dcat:mediaType from dct:MediaTypeOrExtent to dct:MediaType (DCAT-AP-80).

## 2.4.    Comments and proposal by participants

**A participant initiated the discussion by making** the following two comments:

(1)    The first one concerned the fact that the relationship between a distribution and a data service.

(2)    The second one concerned the *non-mandatoryness* of the two properties in the *relation* class. See DCAT-AP-81.

As regards the comment (1), there is already a way of expressing the relationship between a distribution and a data service (dcat:DataService), and from the data service point to the dataset . Even though they are not inverse, it is excessive to have both of them, and would be more relevant to have the relationship from the distribution to the data service, which would also allow connecting to data transformation service . The SEMIC team explained that this property was suggested by many stakeholders during previous webinars to solve issues they were facing, but it could be made recommended or optional. The participant added that it would be more important to make the dcat:endpointDescription mandatory, depending on use cases. SEMIC team commented that the mandatory character of the dcat:endPointDescription should trigger a reflection on the implications in terms of data and information to be provided. The participant added that an option would be to provide a title, but there is no way of doing it without inheriting resource properties, which is not present in the proposal. He added that when one presents the distribution, it makes sense to show URL. However, the dct:title should be added as recommended. This is because if one does not have a title, he/she has to find a way to present information in a handy way to the user, and although the dcat:endpointURL make this possible, from the data service perspective it is not user friendly. The SEMIC team explained that the rationale was that the URL describes quite well the service, and then the dct:description provides more information. This is why the title was omitted, but it can be reconsidered if it is to be of added value. Two more participants agreed on this point.

On the same topic, another participant mentioned that a discussion was initiated in Belgium on distribution levels, concerning whether or not to make title and description mandatory, or rather user groups should be free to decide. He suggested that the dct:title should be "recommended" and the dct:description "optional". In Belgium, the title was proposed as "mandatory" to make data suppliers provide more data. The SEMIC team then proposed to make dcat:endpointURL and dct:title 'mandatory' and then the rest recommended or optional. Apparently, the description is less valuable than the rest. The participant commented that description should be made 'recommended' because it tells something valuable about the end-point URL.

Another participant added that licenses are 'optional' but in most cases it was previously ensured that licenses be available on the distribution dataset, and therefore the question is why they are optional. The SEMIC team answered that it is straightforward to see which licenses are connected to a data service, so whenever one adds a data service it is going to be more complex if we make the licenses no longer optional. A participant commented on the Swedish experience, delivering one service through which one can access many datasets, with different licenses on datasets. Therefore, one single license for the data service is not that straightforward, and as we are going to point to distribution, it is perhaps more important to have a license on the distribution than to the data service. It was mentioned that this argumentation will be useful for those stakeholders that are going to use new specifications and match the use cases. SEMIC team suggested that the dcat:endpointDescription should be made 'recommended'.

As regards to comment (2), the participant noted that there are only two recommended (not mandatory) properties. He suggested that they be mandatory because there would never be any relation otherwise. The SEMIC team replied that, apart from the Data Service class, the idea was to introduce every other property in a conservative manner (i.e. 'optional' or 'recommended'). The participant added that the proposition is not to make the whole class mandatory, but only the internal fields whenever the class is used, otherwise one would have an empty relation. Another participant agreed, even though looking at the technical specifications it might not enter in the DCAT 2 (since they are currently declared as *at risk features*). The SEMIC team added that it is not first time that DCAT-AP is developing faster than DCAT, and a 'chicken and egg' situation is being experienced with interdependencies between the two. The SEMIC team agreed with former participants on the proposal of optional class and mandatory properties.

Another participant commented on issue DCAT-AP-83, noting the plan to add property time:hasBeginning and time:hasEndend in addition of dcat:startDate and dcat:endDate. The question was therefore if three different ways (including schema:startDate and schema:endDate)of expressing the start and end of a period will be available? Another participant agreed that dcat:startDate and dcat:endDate would be enough, and not even needed that with schema:startDate and schema:endDate. The SEMIC team recalled that in previous webinars it was mentioned that the semantics of those two fields were more complex. The participant proposed that they could just be optional whereas dcat:startDate and dcat:endDate would be recommended. The SEMIC team asked whether it is better to wait for next release to introduce these properties, although they were supposed to ensure alignment. The participant replied that it depends on the complexity, but that one should try and push for backward compatibility whenever possible. The SEMIC team agreed with the participant and suggested that these properties should be currently introduced without waiting for the next release.

A participant from DCAT-AP-NO (Norway) asked whether it is possible to solve data service formats series within this release, as DCAT 2 will not solve it. Another

participant referenced a very long discussion on DCAT 2 ([w3c/dxwg#1055)](), but the issue is not settled within the community, although it is very much in line with RDF semantics. He noted that there are recommendations from DCAT 2 to set datasets in hierarchy, but that was a totally different approach. Another participant added that it is difficult to use and combine one dataset with two distributions (API and downloading), because the model would crash. The issue should be solved in DCAT 2 or 3. The former participant that initiated this thread, pointed to a misuse of distribution due to the absence of any recommendations, although the other participant did not see any incompliance with the current specifications. The SEMIC team clarified that it is too late to tackle this issue in the current process since this the 4ᵗʰ and last webinar. It is more a matter for DCAT-AP 2.1.

Another participant commented that new algorithms will come into place within SPDX, so Member States other than Germany may also benefit. He therefore asked whether the new DCAT-AP will refer to the new version of SPDX. He suggested that the new version could introduce the new features and refer to the old version when needed. The SEMIC team replied that one needs to reflect on data management and compatibility implications. Another participant added that it would make sense to enable users to use a license within SPDX if they cannot find a common license. This would make life easier to stakeholders. It would also be good to have very clear guidance especially for the European data portal.

The SEMIC team reminded that the public consultation is open to everybody including webinar participants, that are free to review and comment on the outcomes of the discussions. The discussion could also be extended after the public release.

Another comment was made with regards to the dct:Location, locn:geometry property, which points to an expression that may be a box or a point. He suggested that locn:geometry property is more flexible, as it can allow to point to blank node and with more options available. Therefore, when the dcat:bbox is available, he suggested that the purpose of locn:geometry be made clear, and possibly made 'optional' rather than 'recommended'. The SEMIC team agreed and noted that this issue is linked to the one pointed above on allowing several expressions but recommending one, and confirmed that it is rather easy to take into consideration.

Another participant asked when the DCAT-AP is going to be out in public review. The SEMIC team answered that it is expected to be out 4 October, then a one month period would start and anybody can provide comments. Depending on the extent of comments, a new webinar may be organised; however, if simple or no comments are received, the official release will occur in the beginning of November 2019 without another meeting. This is the current timeline from now on according to DCAT-AP's release management policy. The SEMIC team added that it is advisable to decouple this procedure from the DCAT 2, while maintaining a lot of compatibility with DCAT and allowing DCAT-AP solution implementers to provide input for DCAT-AP. DCAT 2 may not be complete before the first quarter of 2020, and the EC cannot afford delaying DCAT-AP 2.0 more, especially as there would not be many extra changes in DCAT 2 to be taken into account.

Another comment was made regarding the mandatoryness to point to a data service from the catalog level, explaining that if one introduces data services in catalog (e.g. to describe in detail an API connected to a dataset), then creates a distribution and points to a data service. The question was about whether also the inverse 'pointing' (i.e. from catalog level to data service) should be mandatory, as in most use cases this would not be necessary and pointing to data services from dataset level is enough. A participant from Belgium mentioned that there are cases where also the inverse relationship would be useful (i.e. number of data sharing services combining

number of datasets coming from other government level where there is no dataset description). The participant who raised the issue, replied that it is valid to have this as optional, but not necessary in all cases, as in most cases the distribution level is sufficient. He added that it should be specified as a rule, as it is important from the building tool perspective: one needs to see if this is an expected behavior, especially crucial in European data portal. He concluded saying that the inverse relationship could be useful from the presentation perspective to highlight certain stand-alone services (to be pointed to from catalog level), but not mandatory as the majority of data services ('slave services') only need to be pointed to from distribution level.The SEMIC team agreed and commented that the solution would be putting it as optional.

A question was addressed to a participant from the European Data Portal about their plan for the implementation of DCAT-AP 2 in the European Data Portal. He replied that it will be implemented as soon as possible, expected next year, with a new release soon available not supporting DCAP-AP 2. The next release will support DCAT 2. The participant required a clarification, whether this will mean that data services will be showed as top-level objects on the side of datasets, or should this be one distribution oriented way. The participant from the EDP distinguished between making data services searchable, on the one side, and showing them on the front end. He added that they can receive any kind of DCAT-AP and store the information in triple store, and the question is how to introduce and present the services. He confirmed that this will mean that DCAT-AP services will be included without being showed.

Another question was about whether there are conferences slots foreseen for DCAT-AP at the SEMIC conference. The SEMIC team answered ithat there are are not any slots as other topics have filled up the agenda (e.g. new technologies, information exchange, etc.). Participants were invited to the SEMIC conference on 21 October 2019 in Helsinki. The programme was expected to be updated the day after the webinar.

## 3. NEXT STEPS

As next steps:

- The new version of DCAP-AT (2.0) will be open for review on 4 October.
- An open public consultation will run for one month.
- The official version is expected to be released in November 2019.

The SEMIC team thanked the participants for the useful discussion towards the publication of DCAT-AP. Next week a communication will be released announcing that DCAT-AP 2.0 is open for review and comments. All participants were invited to review it and keep providing comments and feedback. Another webinar could be organised at the beginning of November 2019, and that next year the group will work together on the new technical specifications.

## 4. CLOSING REMARKS AND DISCUSSION

The SEMIC team thanked everyone who participated in this webinar and expressed their satisfaction regarding engagement of participants in the process.

# Annex I. DOCUMENT METADATA

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