The DDI Cross-Domain Integration (DDI-CDI) Specification: Overview and Implementations

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Abstract

DDI-CDI is a new specification coming from the DDI Alliance, now in its first production version. Intended to be used in combination with other specifications such as DDI Codebook, DDI Lifecycle, or SDMX, it can also function as a stand-alone specification for describing data at the variable level in FAIR data scenarios. It is a model-driven specification, implemented in both XML and RDF, but with possibilities for implementation in other syntaxes and programming languages. It is based on the GSIM model, and leverages the modelling work of the past several years in the GSIM, DDI, and SDMX communities. DDI-CDI is able to describe variables and their use is a set of different, equivalent data structures, including wide, long, multi-dimensional, and key-value arrangements. It is designed to be integrated with other specifications, including DCAT, SKOS/XKOS, VTL, SDTL, and others. It is also able to provide a Process description as the basis of data lineage, in combination with processing descriptions in programming languages or standards which perform this function.

This talk will cover three areas:

1. General background and introduction, including how DDI-CDI fits into the DDI product suite and the world of FAIR-enabling standards

2. Overview of the model: main features and functionality

3. Implementations and profiles, describing the uses to which DDI-CDI is currently being put, and the profiles/subsets being used