

SWORD v2.0: Deposit Lifecycle

<http://www.swordapp.org/>

SWORD is a hugely successful JISC project which has kindled repository interoperability and built a community around the software and the problem space. It explicitly deals only with creating new repository resources by package deposit - a simple case which is at the root of its success but also its key limitation. This next version of SWORD will push the standard towards supporting full repository deposit lifecycles by using update, retrieve and delete extensions to the specification. This will enable the repository to be integrated into a broader range of systems in the research environment, by supporting an increased range of behaviours and use cases.



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Limitations

- External systems have to do some of the work of a repository
Managing structured files and metadata
- Users must know when an item is archivable
May not always be possible
- Full AtomPub profile for SWORD is unclear
Usage of update and delete semantics is subjective
- Dependence on structured packages
A barrier to general interoperability

Opportunities

- The repository as a content service provider
- The repository as a useful peer in the information environment
- Earlier access to content in its lifecycle due to easier integration into other systems
- Increased usage and holdings

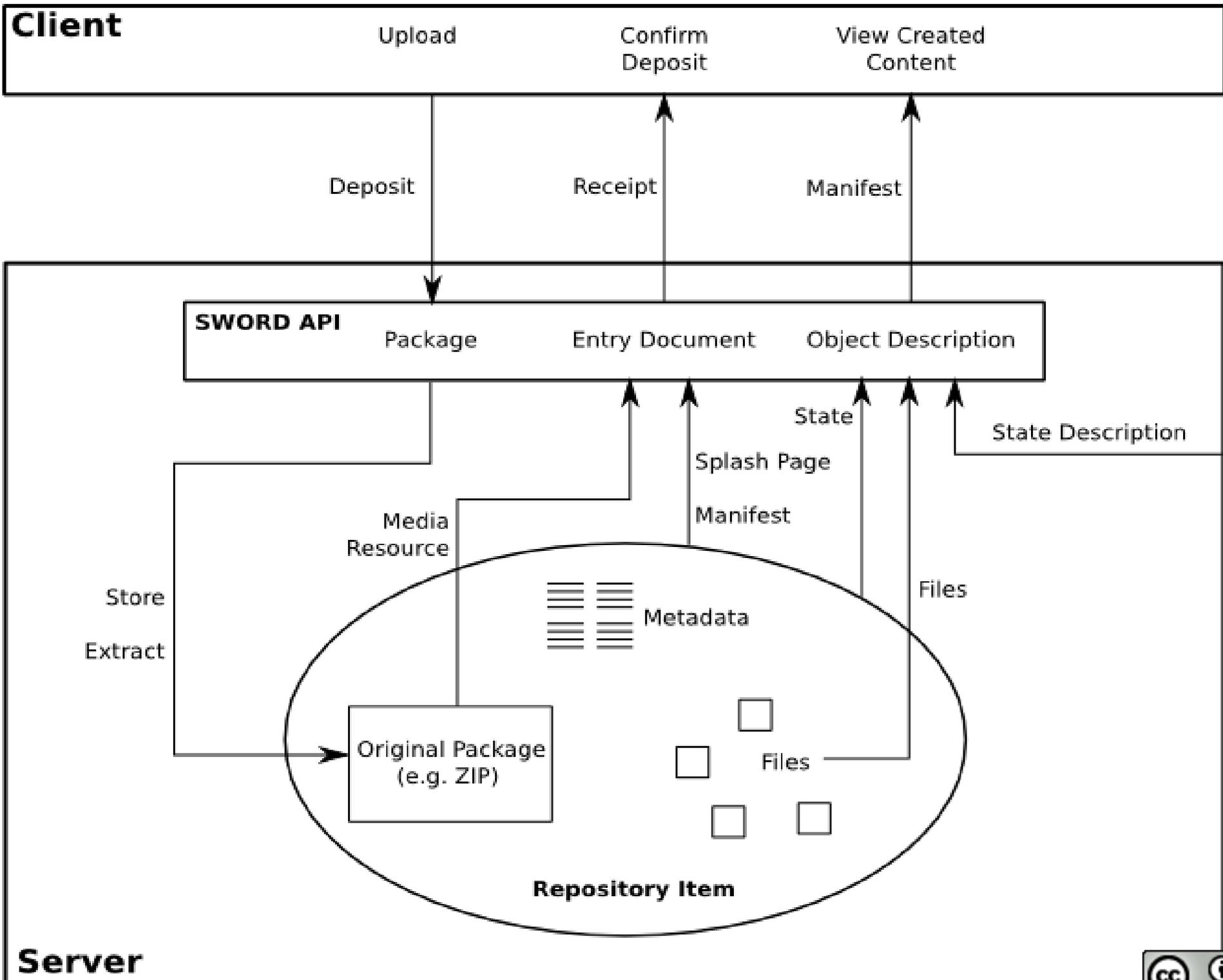
Enhancements

1. Better treatment of identifiers in deposit receipt

- i. Strengthen the existing identifier declarations, bringing them in line with standard AtomPub
- ii. Add a link to a manifest document for the repository item
- iii. Add a link to a splash page for the repository item

2. A repository item manifest document

- i. An OAI-ORE description of the repository item's components (i.e. its files)
- ii. An indication of the state of the item in the repository (e.g. in preparation, under review, archived, etc.)



Process

- Modularisation of the specification into a series of smaller specifications and a profile document: Atom extensions, HTTP extensions, packaging, OAI-ORE profile and manifest document
- White paper soliciting community feedback
- Symplectic example implementation made open source