EIDR
Entertainment Identifier Registry

BEST PRACTICES AND USE CASES FOR EPISODIC RECORDS
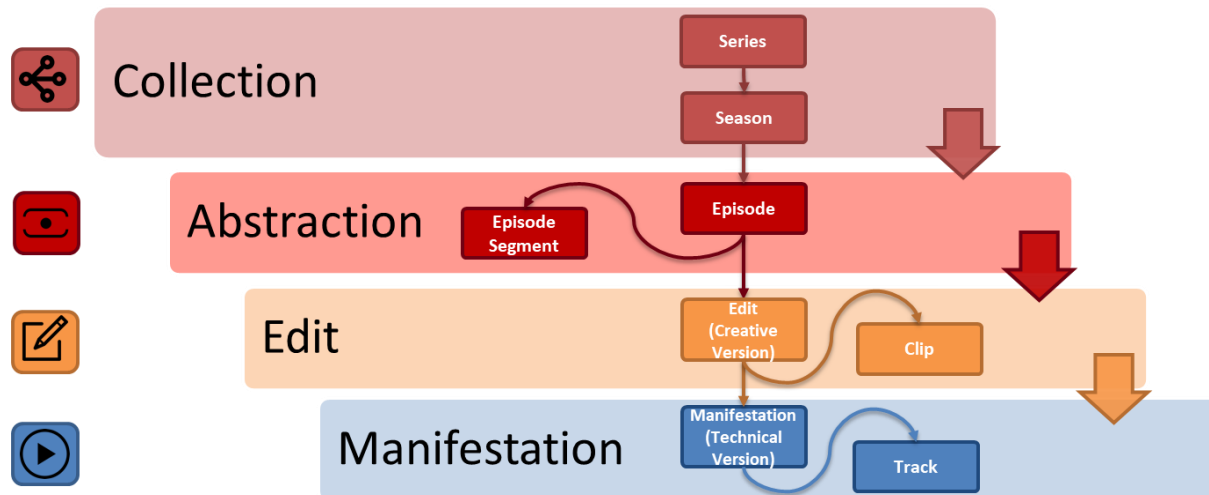
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Introduction

Episodic works differ from stand-alone works in that they are produced and presented as part of a set of related programs; they share a common production entity; and under presented to the public under a common brand name. EIDR uses the North American naming convention[1] for episodic programs that start with a Series that is an abstract collection of Seasons and Episodes. The Seasons are abstract collections of Episodes. The Episodes are the Abstract program that is ultimately viewable via derived Edits and Manifestations.

As discussed in ***Introduction to the EIDR Data Model***, the EIDR Content ID Registry implements a simple registration tree structure with four basic record types:

- Collection – a grouping record such as a Series, Season, or Compilation.
- Abstraction – an abstract work in its most general form, including movies, episodes, and TV specials.
- Edit – creative changes to a work, including both complete versions and clips.
- Manifestation – technical representations and encodings, including language versions ("subs and dubs").

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[1] In the UK, an EIDR Series may be known as a "programme" or "brand," while an EIDR Season may be known as a "series."

In addition to the different record types, there are also record relationships such as isPackagingOf and isSupplementalTo to link related records.

Episodic registration for the first broadcast version is reasonably straightforward and follows the basic rules for Abstraction records covered in *Best Practices and Use Cases for Abstraction Records*. In initial release, the major difference between an Episode and other Abstraction records is that Episodes may not have unique titles and may instead be identified primarily by distribution sequence number or original broadcast date. Episodic content is not static following its initial release. There are subsequent edits, syndication and foreign distribution packages, and a variety of edge cases not addressed by standard Abstraction registration practices. For the most part, these fall into three general categories.

- **Changes to individual episodes:** In this case, the changes do not have any impact on other episodes in the Season or Series. Please see *Best Practices and Use Cases for Edit Records* for the standard way to manage this with EIDR Edit objects.
- **Recut Seasons:** In this case, episodes are re-edited so that a distributed Season has a different number of episodes spanning the same narrative arc. This is especially common with mini-series. This is done using the Recut SeasonClass.
- **Distribution Bundles:** (These are sometimes called Packaged Seasons.) In many distribution models, the items being distributed are identified with EIDR Edit IDs rather than Episode Abstraction IDs. For these use cases, it is convenient to have an identifier for the collection of Edits. This is done using EIDR Compilation objects.

For more information on when to use an Edit or a Manifestation ID in episodic distribution workflows, please see *How to Use EIDR to Identify Versions for Distribution Purposes (FAQ)*.

Creating Episodic Records
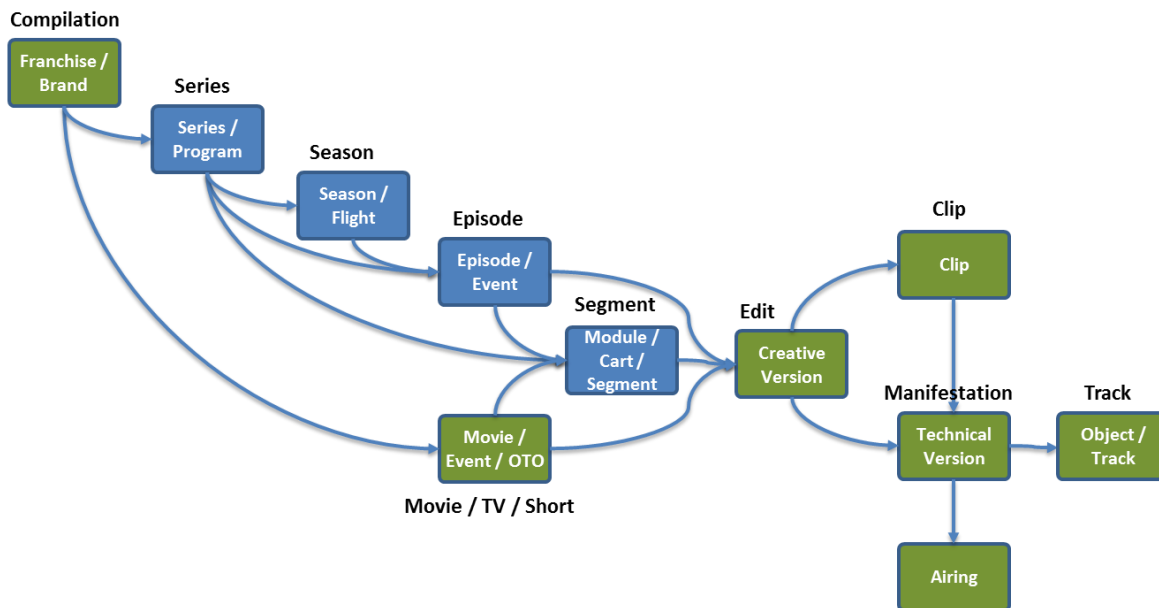
Episodic Object Types

Episodic records are a type of Abstraction record that are produced as part of an ongoing series of programs. They include two grouping records (Series and Season) in addition to the Episodes themselves (typically TV, but also of other types).

EIDR Representation	Definition	Derived From
Series[2]	A collection of Seasons or Episodes.	n/a
Season[3]	A collection of Episodes.	Series
Episode	An installment in a Series.	Series or Season

NOTE: Many of the same practices and all of the same data elements from standard Abstraction records also apply to Episodic records. See "Creating Abstraction Records" above.

Like stand-alone EIDR Abstraction Records, EIDR Episodic records exist within the EIDR Registry as part of a family of records, including Edits, Clips, Manifestations, and Compilations. Unlike root Abstraction records, Episodic records are registered as part of a two- or three-level hierarchy where child records can inherit selected data from their parent. This simplifies the registration of the child records and ensures greater consistency within the Series.

Most (but not all) Episodic programs are produced for television, where they are part of a larger ecosystem, as shown below. This document covers those records shown in blue.

The most common Episodic structure is a Series with one or more child Seasons where each Season has one or more child Episodes.

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[2] May be called a "programme" or "brand" in the UK.
[3] Called a "series" in the UK.

It is also possible to have a Series with no Seasons, where the Episodes are direct children of the Series record, as is the case for theatrical serials and many television mini-series.

The two structures can also be combined, where most Episodes are contained within Seasons, but there are occasional Episodes that are direct children of the Series. Such "season-less" Episodes are often Specials and occasionally Pilots, when the Pilot is not considered part of the first Season.

When creating Episodic records,[4] start at the top of the tree and work down:

- Create the Series
- Create a child Season
- Create the child Episodes of the Season

Follow the same workflow when matching, starting with the root Series and working down to the Episodes.

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[4] Every registration is preceded by a match. This may be a separate process (e.g., as recommended for bulk or catalog work). Even if the user does not perform a separate match before submitting the registration, the Registry automatically begins every register with a match. Either way, if the record already exists, the current EIDR ID will be returned. Otherwise, a new EIDR ID will be issued.

Overview of Series in EIDR

An EIDR Series is a collection record that provides a single brand or title for a set of related Episodes. Within a Series, Seasons may be used to create sub-groups of Episodes. The Seasons and Episodes in a Series may be ordered with distribution or sequence numbers, sequenced chronologically by original broadcast date, or unordered and identified primarily by title.

Series need not be scripted fiction programs with continuing characters played by a cast of regular actors. Any type of program produced and presented in an ongoing, multi-installment format is considered a Series. This includes games shows, daily news programs, home shopping programs, anthology programs with different characters and cast in each installment, comedy and variety programs, etc.[5]

A long-form program presented in multiple parts is not necessarily a Series, such as a two-night presentation of *Gone with the Wind*. Mini-series exist in a gray area between movie-presented-in-parts and traditional Series. The distinction is that the mini-series is produced with the intention of a multi-night, multi-part presentation while the movie is conceived as a single program that may later be cut into smaller parts. There may be later versions of the mini-series cut down to movie length for single-night presentation, but this does not change its initial form of episodic presentation.

Standard rules apply for edited, dubbed, and subtitled Episodes (they are Edits and Manifestations); remakes (they are separate Series); and multiple shows presenting the same topic, such as different national broadcasts of the Olympics, sequels, prequels, and reboots, which are all registered as separate Series or stand-alone programs.

Since Series are presented over time, there is a chance the program name will change part way through the run: e.g., *Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern* became *Bizarre Foods America* while *Valerie* became *The Hogan Family*. This does not constitute a new Series, just a new name for the existing Series, added to the existing Series record as an Alternate Resource Name. Similarly, the Series *Survivor* names each of its Seasons (*Survivor: Africa*, *Survivor: Cook Islands*, *Survivor: Micronesia - Fans vs. Favorites*, etc.), but they are still registered under the overarching *Survivor* Series record.

See **EIDR Required Data Fields for Abstractions, Episodics, and Edits** for a quick summary of the Required, Conditionally Required, and Optional but Recommended fields in a Series record.

Series Metadata

The first step in registering a Series record is to create a base object (<BaseObjectData> in EIDR XML) followed by a series-specific data object (<SeriesInfo> nested inside <ExtraObjectMetadata> in EIDR XML).

1. Series Base Object Data

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[5] There is an exception for "sequenced events" – traditionally annual programs that are each produced as one-off ventures and are registered in EIDR as stand-alone TV specials, such as the annual Oscars telecast or Royal Variety Performance.

The Series base object has the same values and follows most of the same rules as an Abstraction record, with the following exceptions:[6]

Field	Value
StructuralType	Required. Use "Abstraction".
Mode	Required. Set to match the Mode of the included Episodes. If the Episodes are a mix of silent and sound programs, use "AudioVisual".
ReferentType	Required. Use "Series".
ResourceName	Required. This is the title of the Series, not the included Seasons or Episodes. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. This field has the following attributes: • lang: Required. • titleClass: Optional.
Alternate ResourceName	Optional. These are alternate titles of the Series, not titles of the included Seasons or Episodes. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May be repeated 128 times. This field has the following attributes: • lang: Required. • titleClass: Optional.
OriginalLanguage	Required. Set to match the Original Language of the included Episodes. May be repeated 32 times. This field has the following attributes: • mode: Required. Set to match the Mode in the included Episodes. • type: Optional. Set to match the Type in the included Episodes.
VersionLanguage	Not allowed for Series records. Only valid for Edit and Manifestation records.

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[6] See "Base Object Metadata" above before creating a Series.

Field	Value
AssociatedOrg	Conditionally Required. See "Participants" above. May include the commissioning Broadcaster or the original first-run Distributor. Limit to Associated Orgs who performed the identified Role across a clear majority of the included Seasons or direct child Episodes. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May be repeated 16 times. This field has the following attributes: • idType: Required. • organizationID: Required if there is an idType or there is no DisplayName. • role: Required. This field has the following sub-elements: • DisplayName: Required if there is no organizationID. • AlternateName: Optional. May be repeated 32 times.
ReleaseDate	Required. The date or year of the first released Episode, even if it has not yet been registered in EIDR.[7] Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records.
CountryOfOrigin	Required. Follow the same rules as for Abstraction records.
Status	Required. Use "valid". Consult with EIDR Operations before using any other value.
ApproximateLength	Required. Set to match the Length of a typical Episode.[8] For mini-series and theatrical serials use the cumulative runtime of all the Episodes. If Episode lengths vary or are not known, use zero (0). Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records.
AlternateID	Optional. Limited to IDs related directly to the Series, not the included Seasons or Episodes.[9] Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May be repeated an unlimited number of times. This field has the following attributes: • type: Required. • domain: Required if Type is Proprietary, otherwise not valid. • relation: Optional. Most relationships are IsSameAs, even when not specified.
Registrant	Required. The Party ID of the entity that created the record.

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[7] Outlying Pilots or Specials, excluded.

[8] The actual runtime is always preferred, but the time slot duration is acceptable.

[9] Note that ISAN simulates a "series header" by extracting the fixed prefix from an Episode ISAN. This may be applied at the EIDR Series or Season level, depending on how the ISAN records are structured. An ISAN serial header is registered with type Proprietary and domain isan.org/serial

Field	Value
Credits	Conditionally Required. See "Participants" above. Limit to Directors and Actors responsible for a clear majority of the included Seasons or direct child Episodes. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May include up to 2 directors and 4 actors, selected in first billed order. **NOTE:** It is unusual for a scripted fiction series to have the same director for most of the episodes, so such Series records rarely have Directors. This field has the following sub-elements: • Director: May be repeated 2 times. • Actor: May be repeated 4 times.
Description	Optional. Should relate to the Series, not the included Seasons or Episodes. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. This field has the following attribute: • lang: Required.

For further details on the various fields and their attributes, see *EIDR Data Fields Reference*.

2. Series Extra Object Metadata

In addition to the base object data common to all EIDR Content ID records, Series also have the following ExtraObjectMetadata/SeriesInfo fields and values:

Field	Value
EndDate	Optional. The date or year of the final released Episode, even if it has not yet been registered in EIDR.[10] Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Release Date. **NOTE:** A Series' End Date must be ≥ its Release Date. **NOTE:** Include whenever known, as this is valuable for data validation of child records, particularly when there is more than one series with the same name.
SeriesClass	Optional. The general type of Series. If not provided, assumed to be "Episodic". Special de-duplication rules apply to "Anthology" and "Mini-series". See the **EIDR Data Fields Reference**.
NumberRequired	Optional. Boolean value (true/false). If true, then all direct child records must have a distribution or sequence number. Used for data validation of child records.

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[10] Assuming the Series has ended its run. Outlying Specials, excluded.

Field	Value
DateRequired	Optional. Boolean value (true/false). If true, then all direct child records must have a full Release Date (not just a year). Used for data validation of child records.
OriginalTitleRequired	Optional. Boolean value (true/false). If true, then all direct child records must have a user-supplied Resource Name. Used for data validation of child records.

For further details on the various fields and their attributes, see *EIDR Data Fields Reference*.

NOTE: A future EIDR release will include a flag for "Series Sequential" indicating that the Episode numbers do not re-start from 1 with each new Season, but instead run continuously Season to Season and year to year. This will affect the uniqueness requirement for Episode numbers. At present, they must be unique with a Season. With the Series Sequential flag set, they will have to be unique throughout the Series.

NOTE: EIDR has a Registry data validation rule that prohibits empty XML tags. All Series must have a Series Info block, but all of the items in it are optional. To reconcile this, at least one of these Series Info values must be provided for every Series record. If none of them apply, set one of the "Required" fields to "false". This will have no impact on the child records, but will satisfy the Registry data validation requirement.

3. XML Example

Below is a sample EIDR Series record in its native XML format, structured to submit to the Registry for creation:[11]

```
<Series xmlns="http://www.eidr.org/schema"
xmlns:md="http://www.movielabs.com/schema/md/v2.8/md">
  <BaseObjectData>
    <StructuralType>Abstraction</StructuralType>
    <Mode>AudioVisual</Mode>
    <ReferentType>Series</ReferentType>
    <ResourceName lang="en" titleClass="release">Star Trek</ResourceName>
    <AlternateResourceName lang="en" titleClass="other">Star Trek: The
Original Series</AlternateResourceName>
    <AlternateResourceName lang="en" titleClass="abbreviated">Star Trek:
TOS</AlternateResourceName>
    <OriginalLanguage mode="Audio">en</OriginalLanguage>
    <AssociatedOrg idType="EIDRPartyID" organizationID="10.5237/16A3-C04D"
role="producer">
      <md:DisplayName>desilu productions</md:DisplayName>
      <md:AlternateName>desilu</md:AlternateName>
    </AssociatedOrg>
    <AssociatedOrg idType="EIDRPartyID" organizationID="10.5237/5548-1BE1"
role="producer">
      <md:DisplayName>norway corporation</md:DisplayName>
    </AssociatedOrg>
```

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[11] The wrapping <Series> tag is used only during record creation.

```xml
    <AssociatedOrg idType="EIDRPartyID" organizationID="10.5237/C188-5E42"
role="producer">
      <md:DisplayName>norway productions</md:DisplayName>
    </AssociatedOrg>
    <ReleaseDate>1966</ReleaseDate>
    <CountryOfOrigin>US</CountryOfOrigin>
    <Status>valid</Status>
    <ApproximateLength>PT50M</ApproximateLength>
    <AlternateID xsi:type="IVA">92386</AlternateID>
    <AlternateID domain="spe.sony.com/ProductID"
xsi:type="Proprietary">919007</AlternateID>
    <AlternateID relation="IsSameAs" xsi:type="IMDB">tt0060028</AlternateID>
    <Administrators>
      <Registrant>10.5237/superparty</Registrant>
    </Administrators>
    <Credits>
      <Actor>
        <md:DisplayName>William Shatner</md:DisplayName>
      </Actor>
      <Actor>
        <md:DisplayName>Leonard Nimoy</md:DisplayName>
      </Actor>
      <Actor>
        <md:DisplayName>DeForest Kelley</md:DisplayName>
      </Actor>
      <Actor>
        <md:DisplayName>James Doohan</md:DisplayName>
      </Actor>
    </Credits>
    <Description lang="en">Main series ended on June 3, 1969. Rejected pilot
aired in 1988.</Description>
  </BaseObjectData>
  <ExtraObjectMetadata>
    <SeriesInfo>
      <EndDate>1988-12-24</EndDate>
      <NumberRequired>true</NumberRequired>
      <DateRequired>false</DateRequired>
      <OriginalTitleRequired>false</OriginalTitleRequired>
    </SeriesInfo>
  </ExtraObjectMetadata>
</Series>
```

Season Metadata

Most Series have Seasons, even if only one is ever produced. Seasons are not required if they do not apply, but may be used as convenient grouping records. For example, if a Series does not have Seasons, it may still be convenient to create separate pro-forma seasons to group the Episodes of each production year; if a mini-series is re-cut into a different number of episodes, each complete collection is grouped in its own Season.

The first step in registering a Season record is to identify the parent Series, since the Series ID will be a required field in the Season record. Next, create a base object (<BaseObjectData> in EIDR XML) followed by a season-specific data object (<SeasonInfo> nested inside <ExtraObjectMetadata> in EIDR XML).

See **EIDR Required Data Fields for Abstractions, Episodics, and Edits** for a quick summary of the Required, Conditionally Required, and Optional but Recommended fields in a Season record.

4. Season Base Object Data

Since Seasons are children of Series, they can inherit values from their parent record. So, if the value is the same for both Series and Season, it can be left out of the Season record and automatically inherited from the Series. Otherwise, the Season base object has the same values and follows most of the same rules as Abstraction and Series records, with the following exceptions:[12]

Field	Value
StructuralType	Required. Use "Abstraction".
Mode	Required. Set to match the Mode of the included Episodes. If the Episodes are a mix of silent and sound programs, use "AudioVisual". **NOTE:** Since most Seasons have the same Mode as the Series, this field is normally not provided directly in the Season record and instead is inherited from the Series.
ReferentType	Required. Use "Season".
ResourceName	Conditionally Required. Very few Seasons have actual names, most are simply numbered. If the Resource Name is not included, the Registry will generate a name automatically and it should not be provided by the user. Only include unique Season names (e.g., *Survivor: Redemption Island*) or descriptive Season names (e.g., as "5-Night Version" for a set of re-cut mini-series Episodes). Otherwise, if a name is provided, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. **NOTE:** If the parent Series has Original Title Required set to "true", then the Season must include a unique Resource Name. **NOTE:** Do not use Season Names that can be derived from other metadata in the record, such as "Season 2" or "2005-2006 Season." Instead, do not include the element and let the Registry generate the name automatically. This field has the following attributes: • lang: Required. • titleClass: Optional. • systemGenerated: Optional. This attribute is set by the Registry when it generates the Resource Name. If submitted by the user, it will be ignored.

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[12] See "Base Object Metadata" and "Series Metadata" above before creating a Season.

Field	Value
Alternate ResourceName	Optional. Rarely used for Seasons. These are alternate titles of the Season, not titles of the included Episodes. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May be repeated 128 times. This field has the following attributes: • lang: Required. • titleClass: Optional.
OriginalLanguage	Required. Set to match the Original Language of the included Episodes. May be repeated 32 times. **NOTE:** Since most Seasons have the same Original Language as the Series, this field is normally not provided directly in the Season record and instead is inherited from the Series. This field has the following attributes: • mode: Required. Set to match the Mode in the included Episodes. • type: Optional. Set to match the Type in the included Episodes.
VersionLanguage	Not allowed for Season records. Only valid for Edit and Manifestation records.
AssociatedOrg	Conditionally Required. See "Participants" above. Follow the same rules as for Series records. May be repeated 16 times. **NOTE:** Since most Seasons have the same Associated Orgs as the Series, this field is normally not provided directly in the Season record and instead is inherited from the Series. This field has the following attributes: • idType: Required. • organizationID: Required if there is an idType or there is no DisplayName. • role: Required. This field has the following sub-elements: • DisplayName: Required if there is no organizationID. • AlternateName: Optional. May be repeated 32 times.
ReleaseDate	Required. Follow the same rules as for Series records. **NOTE:** A Season's Release Date must be ≥ the Series' Release Date and ≤ the Series' End Date (if any). **NOTE:** If the Series has Date Required set to "true", then the Season's Release Date must be a full date, not just a year.
CountryOfOrigin	Required. Follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. **NOTE:** Since most Seasons have the same Country of Origin as the Series, this field is normally not provided directly in the Season record and instead is inherited from the Series.

Field	Value
Status	Required. Use "valid". Consult with EIDR Operations before using any other value.
ApproximateLength	Required. Follow the same rules as for Series records, including the optional use of zero (0). **NOTE:** If the Series has a non-zero value, the Season can inherit the Approximate Length and need not include it directly.
AlternateID	Optional. Limited to IDs related directly to the Season, not the parent Series or the included Episodes.[13] Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May be repeated an unlimited number of times. This field has the following attributes: • type: Required. • domain: Required if Type is Proprietary, otherwise not valid. • relation: Optional. Most relationships are IsSameAs, even when not specified.
Registrant	Required. The Party ID of the entity that created the record.
Credits	Conditionally Required. See "Participants" above. Limit to Directors and Actors responsible for a clear majority of the included Episodes. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May include up to 2 directors and 4 actors, selected in first billed order. **NOTE:** It is unusual for a scripted fiction seasons to have the same director for most of the episodes, so such Season records rarely have Directors. **NOTE:** Since most Seasons have the same Credits as the Series, this field is normally not provided directly in the Season record and instead is inherited from the Series. This field has the following sub-elements: • Director: May be repeated 2 times. • Actor: May be repeated 4 times. **NOTE:** Directors and Actors are inherited separately, so one can be provided directly while the other is inherited.

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[13] Note that IMDb does not provide Season IDs (only Series and Episode). ISAN simulates a "series header" by extracting the fixed prefix from an Episode ISAN. This may be applied at the EIDR Series or Season level, depending on how the ISAN records are structured. An ISAN serial header Is represented in EIDR with type Proprietary and domain isan.org/serial

Field	Value
Description	Optional. Should relate to the Season, not the parent Series or the included Episodes. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. This field has the following attribute: • lang: Required.

For further details on the various fields and their attributes, see *EIDR Data Fields Reference*.

1.1.1 Season Extra Object Metadata

In addition to the base object data common to all EIDR Content ID records, Seasons also have the following ExtraObjectMetadata/SeasonInfo fields and values:

Field	Value
Parent	Required. The EIDR Content ID of the parent Series.
EndDate	Optional. Follow the same rules as for Series. **NOTE:** A Season's End Date must be ≥ its Release Date and ≤ the Series' End Date (if any). **NOTE:** Include whenever known, as this is valuable for data validation of child records.
SeasonClass	Optional. The general type of Season. If not provided, assumed to be "Main". All other types should be explicitly identified: e.g., "Recut" or "Pro Forma". See the **EIDR Data Fields Reference**. May be repeated 5 times.
NumberRequired	Optional. Boolean value (true/false). If true, then all child Episode records must have a distribution number. **NOTE:** Set to "true" if the Episodes have unique numbers.
DateRequired	Optional. Boolean value (true/false). If true, then all child Episodes must have a full Release Date (not just a year). Used for data validation of child records. **NOTE:** Set to "true" if the Episodes are identified by release date, as is often the case with strip shows (nightly news programs, game shows, etc.).
OriginalTitleRequired	Optional. Boolean value (true/false). If true, then all child Episodes must have a user-supplied Resource Name. Used for data validation of child records. **NOTE:** Set to "true" if the Episodes have unique titles, not just simple numbers or release dates.
SequenceNumber	Optional. An integer number indicating the chronological sequence of the Season within the Series, based on the original

broadcast order and starting with 1.

NOTE: If the parent Series has Number Required set to "true", then the Season must include a Sequence Number.

For further details on the various fields and their attributes, see *EIDR Data Fields Reference*.

NOTE: For Episode data validation, it is best if at least one of the "Required" flags is set to "true". Most contemporary scripted fiction Series have both Episode names and numbers, so both of those Required flags should be set to "true". Strip shows (e.g., game shows, daily news, soap operas, etc.) often have both Episode numbers and full release dates. If both are available, then both of those Required flags should be set to "true".

1.1.1 XML Example

Below is a sample EIDR Season record in its native XML format, structured to submit to the Registry for creation:[14]

```
<Season xmlns="http://www.eidr.org/schema"
xmlns:md="http://www.movielabs.com/schema/md/v2.8/md">
  <BaseObjectData>
    <StructuralType>Abstraction</StructuralType>
    <ReferentType>Season</ReferentType>
    <ReleaseDate>1966</ReleaseDate>
    <Status>valid</Status>
    <AlternateID domain="spe.sony.com/ProductID"
xsi:type="Proprietary">919008</AlternateID>
    <Administrators>
      <Registrant>10.5237/superparty</Registrant>
    </Administrators>
  </BaseObjectData>
  <ExtraObjectMetadata>
    <SeasonInfo>
      <Parent>10.5240/0C73-26CE-1E02-8827-F63C-H</Parent>
      <EndDate>1967</EndDate>
      <NumberRequired>true</NumberRequired>
      <OriginalTitleRequired>true</OriginalTitleRequired>
      <SequenceNumber>1</SequenceNumber>
    </SeasonInfo>
  </ExtraObjectMetadata>
</Season>
```

Episode Metadata

By definition, Series have Episodes, even if one has not yet been produced or if only a small number are ever produced (as when a series is not picked up or is later cancelled).

The first step in registering an Episode record is to identify the parent Series or Season, since the parent's ID will be a required field in the Episode record. Next, create a base object

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[14] The wrapping <Season> tag is used only during record creation.

(<BaseObjectData> in EIDR XML) followed by an episode-specific data object (<EpisodeInfo> nested inside <ExtraObjectMetadata> in EIDR XML).

See *EIDR Required Data Fields for Abstractions, Episodics, and Edits* for a quick summary of the Required, Conditionally Required, and Optional but Recommended fields in an Episode record.

5. Episode Base Object Data

Since Episodes are children of Series or Seasons, they can inherit values from their parent record. So, if the value is the same for both the parent and the Episode, it can be left out of the Episode record and automatically inherited from the parent. Otherwise, the Episode base object has the same values and follows most of the same rules as Abstraction, Series, or Season records, with the following exceptions:[15]

Field	Value
StructuralType	Required. Use "Abstraction".
Mode	Required. Follow the same rules as for Title records. **NOTE:** Since most Episodes have the same Mode as their parent, this field is normally not provided directly in the Episode record and is inherited instead.
ReferentType	Required. Usually "TV", but could also be "Short", "Web", etc. See *EIDR Data Fields Reference.*
ResourceName	Conditionally Required. Many television Episodes have unique titles, particularly scripted fiction programs. If an Episode title is available, include it. If the Resource Name is not included, the Registry will generate a name automatically and it should not be provided by the user. Otherwise, if a name is provided, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. **NOTE:** If the parent has Original Title Required set to "true", then the Episode must include a unique Resource Name. Regardless, if an Episode has a proper title, it is always best to include it even if not required to do so. **NOTE:** Do not use Episode Names that can be derived from other metadata in the record, such as "Episode 12" or "February 1, 1964." Instead, do not include the element and let the Registry generate the name automatically. This field has the following attributes: • lang: Required. • titleClass: Optional. • systemGenerated: Optional. This attribute is set by the Registry when it generates the Resource Name. If submitted by the user, it will be ignored.

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[15] See "Base Object Metadata," "Series Metadata," and "Season Metadata" above before creating an Episode.

Field	Value
Alternate ResourceName	Optional. Episodes are less likely to have Alternate Resource Names than other types of Abstraction records.[16] If one is provided, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May be repeated 128 times. This field has the following attributes: • lang: Required. • titleClass: Optional.
OriginalLanguage	Required. Follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May be repeated 32 times. **NOTE:** Since most Episodes have the same Original Language as their parent, this field is normally not provided directly in the Episode record and is inherited instead. This field has the following attributes: • mode: Required. • type: Optional.
VersionLanguage	Not allowed for Episode records. Only valid for Edit and Manifestation records.
AssociatedOrg	Conditionally Required. See "Participants" above. Follow the same rules as for Series records. May be repeated 16 times. **NOTE:** Since most Episodes have the same Associated Org as their parent, this field is normally not provided directly in the Episode record and is inherited instead. This field has the following attributes: • idType: Required. • organizationID: Required if there is an idType or there is no DisplayName. • role: Required. This field has the following sub-elements: • DisplayName: Required if there is no organizationID. AlternateName: Optional. May be repeated 32 times.

---

[16] In rare occasions, an Episode may have a system-generated Resource Name and a user-provided Alternate Resource Name: e.g., when an Episode does not have a name in original release (best practice dictates that the Registry generate a name based on Distribution Number or Release Date), but is given a name in foreign release (best practice dictates that this be listed as an Alternate Name).

Field	Value
ReleaseDate	Required. Use a full date whenever available, particularly for daily strip shows (game shows, daily news programs, soap operas, etc.). Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. **NOTE:** An Episode's Release Date must be ≥ the parent's Release Date and ≤ the parent's End Date (if any), except for Pilots and Specials, which do not have a date restriction. **NOTE:** If the parent has Date Required set to "true", then the Episode's Release Date must be present and must be a full date, not just a year.
CountryOfOrigin	Required. Follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. **NOTE:** Since most Episodes have the same Country of Origin as their parent, this field is normally not provided directly in the Episode record is inherited instead.
Status	Required. Use "valid". Consult with EIDR Operations before using any other value.
ApproximateLength	Required. If the Episode's true run time is not known, then its time slot duration can be used instead. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. **NOTE:** If the parent has a non-zero value, the Episode can inherit the Approximate Length and need not include it directly.
AlternateID	Optional. Limited to IDs related directly to the Episode, not the parent Series or Season. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May be repeated an unlimited number of times. This field has the following attributes: • type: Required. • domain: Required if Type is Proprietary, otherwise not valid. • relation: Optional. Most relationships are IsSameAs, even when not specified.
Registrant	Required. The Party ID of the entity that created the record.

Field	Value
Credits	Conditionally Required. See "Participants" above. Limit to Directors and Actors directly involved in the Episode. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. May include up to 2 directors and 4 actors, selected in first billed order. **NOTE:** Series and Seasons rarely have identified Directors, but Episodes should include them whenever possible. **NOTE:** If the Episode's credits are the same as the parent, do not provided them directly in the Episode record. Inherit them instead. For variety programs, talk shows, game shows, and anthologies, list the host (if any) followed by the guest stars, acts, etc. in first billed order. For programs with a regular cast, they will generally have top billing over any guest stars. This field has the following sub-elements: • Director: May be repeated 2 times. • Actor: May be repeated 4 times. **NOTE:** Directors and Actors are inherited separately, so one can be provided directly while the other is inherited.
Description	Optional. Should relate to the Episode, not the parent Series or Season. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for Abstraction records. This field has the following attribute: • lang

For further details on the various fields and their attributes, see *EIDR Data Fields Reference*.

6. Episode Extra Object Metadata

In addition to the base object data common to all EIDR Content ID records, Episodes also have the following ExtraObjectMetadata/EpisodeInfo fields and values:

Field	Value
Parent	Required. The EIDR Content ID of the parent Series or Season.
EpisodeClass	Optional. The general type of Episode. If not provided, assumed to be "Main". All other types should be explicitly identified, e.g: "Pilot", "Special", "Recut", or "Standalone". See the **EIDR Data Fields Reference**. May be repeated 7 times.

Field	Value
DistributionNumber	The original or intended order of Episode presentation, starting with 1. The Distribution Number supports a complex format intended to accommodate all common Episode numbering schemes, including: • **Season Sequential Numbering:** 1, 2, 3, … Such Episode Numbers must be unique within a given Season, but restart with 1 for each new Season. • **Series Sequential Numbering:** 1, 2, 3, … Such Episode Numbers must be unique across the entire Series. They run continuously from Season to Season and never restart. • **Season+Episode Numbering:** 101, 102, 103, … for Season 1. 201, 202, 203… for Season 2. And so on. **NOTE:** We recommend that you record Season+Episode Numbering as a House Sequence or Alternate Number and use the simple Season Sequential Number as the Distribution Number. • **Episode Segment Numbering:** Used when Episodes are composed of separable Segments and both Episodes and Segments are registered in the same Season: 3 for the original Episode, 3a for the first Segment, 3b for the second Segment, and so on. • **Combined Episode Numbering:** Used when two separate Episodes are combined for contiguous presentation: e.g., Episodes 4 and 5 may be combined as Episode 4/5. • **Omnibus/Recap Numbering:** Used when a single episode summarizes the plot lines of multiple standard Episodes: e.g., an Omnibus Episode summarizing Episodes 6 through 10 would be Episode 6-10. • **Pilot/Special Numbering:** Pilot Episodes and Specials (identified by their Episode Class) may be listed as Episode 0. **NOTE:** If the parent has Number Required set to "true", then the Episode must include a Distribution Number. This field has the following attribute: • domain: Optional, but strongly encouraged. Identifies the source of the Distribution Number: e.g., "spe.sony.com".
HouseSequence	Optional. Typically used when the Producer's production number or produced sequence differs from the Distribution Number. Allows the same types of numbers as Distribution Number. This field has the following attribute: • domain: Optional, but strongly encouraged. Identifies the source of the House Sequence number: e.g., "disney.com".

Field	Value
AlternateNumber	Optional. Any other Episode sequence number not included as the Distribution Number or House Sequence. Allows the same types of numbers as Distribution Number. May be repeated 32 times.
	This field has the following attribute:
	• domain: Required. Identifies the source of the Alternate Number: e.g., "nbcuni.com".
TimeSlot	Optional. The start time if the program's first presentation in its earliest time zone. May be used when multiple Episodes of the same Series are presented on the same day.

For further details on the various fields and their attributes, see **EIDR Data Fields Reference**.

7. XML Example

Below is a sample EIDR Episode record in its native XML format, structured to submit to the Registry for creation:[17]

```
<Episode xmlns="http://www.eidr.org/schema"
xmlns:md="http://www.movielabs.com/schema/md/v2.8/md">
  <BaseObjectData>
    <StructuralType>Abstraction</StructuralType>
    <ReferentType>TV</ReferentType>
    <ResourceName lang="en" titleClass="release">Balance of
Terror</ResourceName>
    <ReleaseDate>1966-12-15</ReleaseDate>
    <Status>valid</Status>
    <ApproximateLength>PT1H0M</ApproximateLength>
    <AlternateID xsi:type="Baseline">5410753</AlternateID>
    <Administrators>
      <Registrant>10.5237/superparty</Registrant>
    </Administrators>
  </BaseObjectData>
  <ExtraObjectMetadata>
    <EpisodeInfo>
      <Parent>10.5240/1AED-E5D9-D0E5-86AA-C583-6</Parent>
      <SequenceInfo>
        <md:DistributionNumber domain="eidr.org">15</md:DistributionNumber>
      </SequenceInfo>
    </EpisodeInfo>
  </ExtraObjectMetadata>
</Episode>
```

If an Episode is identified by its Distribution Number rather than name, then it is registered without a ResourceName element. The Registry will automatically generate a Resource Name at the time of registration.

```
<Episode xmlns="http://www.eidr.org/schema"
xmlns:md="http://www.movielabs.com/schema/md/v2.8/md">
```

---

[17] The wrapping <Episode> tag is used only during record creation.

```
<BaseObjectData>
  <StructuralType>Abstraction</StructuralType>
  <ReferentType>TV</ReferentType>
  <ReleaseDate>2013-05-16</ReleaseDate>
  <Status>valid</Status>
  <ApproximateLength>PT30M</ApproximateLength>
  <Administrators>
    <Registrant>10.5237/4C72-BE2C</Registrant>
  </Administrators>
</BaseObjectData>
<ExtraObjectMetadata>
  <EpisodeInfo>
    <Parent>10.5240/D97B-BF3A-855B-3F6C-A4CC-Q</Parent>
    <SequenceInfo>
      <md:DistributionNumber>12</md:DistributionNumber>
    </SequenceInfo>
  </EpisodeInfo>
</ExtraObjectMetadata>
</Episode>
```

If an Episode record includes a TimeSlot element to help differentiate similar programs the originally aired on the same day, it appears just before the closing EpisodeInfo tag.

```
<Episode xmlns="http://www.eidr.org/schema"
xmlns:md="http://www.movielabs.com/schema/md/v2.8/md">
  <BaseObjectData>
    …
  </BaseObjectData>
  <ExtraObjectMetadata>
    <EpisodeInfo>
      …
      <TimeSlot>13:00:00-08:00</TimeSlot>
    </EpisodeInfo>
  </ExtraObjectMetadata>
</Episode>
```

Common Episodic Registration Cases

Scenario	Registration Practice
Registering episodes of a scripted fiction program, such as a primetime drama.	Follow standard registration practice. Such programs are quite likely to have: • Numbered Seasons – set the Series' Number Required flag to "true". • Episodes that are both Numbered and Named – set the Season's Original Title and Number Required flags to "true". When a Season wraps or the Series ends its run, set the associated End Dates to cut off registrations with incorrect release dates.
Registering a nightly news program.	Follow standard registration practice. If the program does not have naturally occurring Seasons,

Scenario	Registration Practice
	create Pro Forma Seasons to group Episodes by release year as an aid to de-duplication.
	Such programs rarely have Episode titles. Instead, they are more often numbered (Season or Series Sequential) and may only be identified by broadcast date.
	• Set the Season's Required flags according to how the Episodes are identified.
	• Whenever possible, include full Release Dates.
	• If there are multiple installments per day (not just multiple airings of the same program), use Time Slot as a differentiating characteristic.
	• List the anchors/newsreaders as cast members, following standard practice for series regulars.
Registering a game show.	Game shows often shoot multiple programs on one day, then air them on consecutive days in a strip show format, so it is important to identify the original broadcast date.
	They are similar to news programs in how they are organized (often lacking true seasons) and identified (rarely by name, often by number, ideally by broadcast date).
	Occasional installments may have names (such as a celebrity edition or a tournament of champions), so long as they are also numbered/dated like the regular episodes, no adjustment need be made. However, if they do not follow the standard practice, then the Season's Required flags may have to be re-set.
	List the hosts as cast members, following standard practice for series regulars. Individual contestants are rarely identified.
Registering a soap opera.	These follow the general pattern of a scripted fiction program regarding the Participants, but are more like news programs and games shows in how they're organized (often lacking true seasons) and identified (rarely by name, often by number, ideally by broadcast date).
	They may include Omnibus programs. If these are registered as part of their own Series, then they do not impact how the soap opera is registered. If they are included in the same Series, then their identifying scheme (name, number, date) may differ from standard Episodes, requiring the Season's Required flags to be re-set.
Registering a variety program.	Variety programs often differ from scripted dramas with Episode titles make reference to the host(s), special guests, or performing acts. If this is how the program is known when broadcast, use this as the Resource Name and include the

Scenario	Registration Practice
	identified performers in the Cast list. Additional identifying information (numbers or dates) should be included as available with the Required fields set appropriately.
Registering a talk show.	Talk shows often follow the pattern of a standard strip in how they're organized (often lacking true seasons) and identified (often by number, ideally by broadcast date), except that they often have titles composed of the primary topic of discussion and/or the guest stars. If this is how the program is know when broadcast, use this as the Resource Name.
Reruns.	Reruns of a Series are not registered as a new Series. Renumbered or edited Episodes and alternative distribution packages are addressed as outlined above.
Dubbed or Subtitled Series.	The Series does not change. Instead, the Episodes have Edits (Level 2) from which are derived Manifestations (Level 3), which track the language versions. These may be collected into foreign distribution Seasons (and the Seasons into a foreign distribution Series) following the practices outlined in ***Distribution and Version Management for Episodic Content***.
A Series Remake or Reboot.	Register each as a new Series. When a series is remade (as with a format sale), rebooted (*Hawaii Five-0* 1968 vs. 2010), or re-started after a significant break (*Hollywood Squares* 1965, 1971, 1986, 1998, 2016), each incarnation is its own Series. If a series changes networks/distribution channels (e.g., *Damages*) or is interrupted by an extended hiatus (e.g., *Doc Martin*), but then comes back essentially as it was before (continuing story line, same primary cast and production team, etc.), that is a continuation of the original Series. Simply re-casting characters (*Last Man Standing* Seasons 1 to 2) does not warrant a new Series, even if the name is adjusted to reflect the change (*Valerie* morphing into *The Hogan Family* when the titular character was replaced). **NOTE:** If a clear determination cannot be made by objective means, follow the lead of the program's producer. If the show is being produced and sold as continuation, treat it as the same Series; if it is offered as a separate show, create a new Series.
Spin-Offs.	Register each as a new Series.
A Revived Series.	A new production of a previously cancelled series. The gap between production of old and new episodes along with the Participant changes that normally accompanies this all warrant treating the revived program as a new Series. This is not the same as a continuously produced series that changed first-run

Scenario	Registration Practice
	networks.
Pilots that are part of the first Season.	Register them as any other episode and set the Episode Class to "Pilot." • You may use 0 as the Distribution Number, if needed. • A Pilot's Release Date can be earlier than the official Release Date of its Season. • Pilots are often called "Pilot." This is fine and will satisfy an OriginalTitleRequired flag in the parent Season.
Pilots that are not part of the first Season.	Register them as a season-less Episode (a direct child of the Series) and set the Episode Class to "Pilot". • You may use 0 as the Distribution Number, if needed. • A Pilot's Release Date can be earlier than the official Release Date of its Series. • Pilots are often called "Pilot." This is fine and will satisfy an OriginalTitleRequired flag in the parent Series. • A season-less Episode may deviate from the identifying pattern of the Seasons: e.g., it may be named while they are numbered. If so, the Series' Required flags may need to be re-set.
Special Episodes that are part of a Season.	Register them as any other episode and set the Episode Class to "Special." • You may use 0 as the Distribution Number, if needed. • A Special's Release Date can be before the Season's Release Date or after the Season's End Date. • A Special Episode may deviate from the identifying pattern of the regular episodes: e.g., it may be named while they are numbered. If so, the Season's Required flags may need to be re-set.
Special Episodes that are not part of a Season.	Register them as a season-less Episode (a direct child of the Series) and set the Episode Class to "Pilot". • You may use 0 as the Distribution Number, if needed. • A Special's Release Date can be before the Series' Release Date or after the Series' End Date. • A season-less Episode may deviate from the identifying pattern of the Seasons: e.g., it may be named while they are numbered. If so, the Series' Required flags may need to be re-set.

Special Episodic Registration Cases

Scenario	Registration Practice
Parallel Productions.	Television series may have more than one strand in

Scenario	Registration Practice
	simultaneous production. For example, a game show may have both a daytime version and a nighttime version, with a different set of episodes produced for each time slot. In this case, register each as a separate Series, each with its own Seasons and Episodes.
Cross-Over Episodes, where the cast from one Series visits a different Series (generally, both from the same Producer or on the same Network).	This could be a one-off Episode presented under one or the other Series' program name or a set of Episodes where the story line begins under one Series and finishes under another. In either case, each individual Episode is produced by one of the Series' production teams and originally broadcast under one of the Series program names. Set the Participants to match the situation and include the show as an Episode of the Series under which it was first broadcast.

Special Considerations

Episode Numbering

Nearly all television episodes have Distribution Numbers and should be included when available. When an Episodes has a title that becomes its primary identifying characteristic.

To be useful, Distribution Numbers must be used consistently within each Series. It is perfectly fine if one Series is produced in one way and numbered accordingly while a different series follows an entirely different numbering scheme. Discovery and de-duplication only require consistency within a Series. To that end, it is best if a Series and its included Seasons and Episodes are registered as soon as possible – ideally by the producer or commissioning broadcaster – so that the pattern for Episode numbering can be established early and then followed consistently.

To register a new Episode for an existing Series, first check the existing Episodes to see how they are numbered and follow that pattern for matching and subsequent registration.

8. Episode Re-Numbering

When different parties have different number sequences or formats for the same Episodes, standard practice is applied to the Distribution Sequence (the original broadcast order) and House Number (producer's number or production sequence) and any other numbers are recorded as Alternate Numbers with a domain to identify the organization that issued the number.

NOTE: When there is a difference in the selection of Episodes, that topic is addressed below in "Typical Episodic Distribution Bundles".

Versions of Individual Episodes

Please see *Best Practices and Use Cases for Edit Records* for guidance on how to register derived versions of Episodes. Remember that:

- Different versions of a particular episode are all Edits of that Episode.

- Episodes with and without commercial breaks, or with particular commercials embedded within the episodic content, are not different Edits (they are Manifestations) unless the content of the episode itself has also been changed.

9. Syndication

Sometimes an episode has a significant content change to adhere to different airtime conventions in different markets. For example, the original UK episodes of the first seasons of *The Muppet Show* contained an extra sketch, often involving a British music hall song, which was not shown in the US broadcast to match the standard times for US commercial breaks. In this case, use the Syndication EditClass for the US Edit to distinguish it from the UK original. [18] As always, the first broadcast version should have EditClass Original and EditUse Broadcast.

10. Enhanced/Extended Episodes

Occasionally, all of the episodes of a season are re-edited to include extra or "bonus" material in each episode and the resulting package of episodes is re-branded for distribution. There is no common practice across all broadcasters in all territories for how these "enhanced" episodes are marketed and distributed, so EIDR supports several different options. You may:

- Create a new "enhanced" Series with new Episode records (and Seasons, if appropriate). Each episode may have a Composite link back to the original Episode. The Composite link is optional, but strongly encouraged.
  NOTE: This is appropriate when the extended episodes are viewed by the originator as a separately branded and distributed Series, e.g. *QI* and *QI XL* or *Have I got News for You* and *Have I got a Bit More News* for you from the BBC.
- Create new "Enhanced" Seasons of the original Series with new Episode records, each with a Composite link back to the original Episode. This Season should have the same number as the Season from which it is derived. If the Seasons are named, then the names of the "Enhanced" Seasons should identify them as such.
  NOTE: This is appropriate when the originator distributes the original and enhanced episodes separately but otherwise treats them as part of the same Series or brand.
- Create "Extended" Edits of each of the original Episodes and group them using a "Season" Compilation with the Compilation's Source ID set to the original Season ID.
  NOTE: This is appropriate when not all episodes have an extended version, or when extended versions are made for a particular market that only sees the extended versions, but the series is still marketed under the original brand.

11. Pop-Up Video Episodes

A special case of enhanced episode is the "pop-up video" version. Generally, the episode itself is not edited. Instead, additional material (text, graphics, and audio) is overlaid on top of the original program. The preferred practice is to register a pop-up track of an existing Manifestation or pop-up video Edit of each enhanced Episode (see ***Best Practices and Use Cases for EIDR Supplemental Records***). As with other types of enhanced episodes, internal practice may require registering the pop-up video versions as a new Series or a new Season within an existing Series. In those cases,

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[18] You can optionally include the "Shortened" Edit class if you wish.

following the practice outlined above for "Enhanced/Extended Episodes" with the following exceptions:

- When registering a new Series to contain the pop-up versions of an existing Series, include "Pop-Up Video" in the Description. Register the child Seasons and Episodes as normal.
- When registering a new Season for the pop-up versions of existing Episodes within the same parent Series, set the Season Class to "Recut" and include "Pop-Up Video" in the Description. Register the child Episodes as normal.

12. Omnibus

Many European serial dramas produce an Omnibus episode, containing a recut summary of all of the week's episodes. There are two common practices for this:

- Create a new episode with Episode Class "Omnibus" and an episode number of X-Y, where X and Y are the first and last episodes included in the Omnibus. If the Omnibus episodes have their own numbering scheme, include the number for that scheme as the House Sequence with the domain identifying the source of the number:[19] e.g., *Coronation Street* from ITV.
- If the Omnibus episodes are produced and released in their own Series, separate and apart from the original program that they summarize, then record them in their own EIDR Series, following the Season organization and Episode numbering practices of the original producer or commissioning broadcaster: e.g., *East Enders* from BBC.

13. Recaps

If the previous Season's episodes are summarized into a single show or short episode, the episode should be created with Episode Class "Special" in the Season to which it serves as the introduction. Include a suitable Description for the content coverage of the Special if it is not clear from the title. This Special can be given the distribution number 0, if necessary. See for example, Season 3 of *Peaky Blinders* from the BBC.

Recut Seasons and Mini-Series

Because of differing broadcast conventions, commercial arrangements, and so on, a set of episodes can be recut to be a different number of episodes. This new set of episodes may have approximately the same time total run time as the original set of episodes (e.g., a Season with 6 one-hour episodes can be sold as a Season of 3 two-hour episodes) or it may have a reduced cumulative run time (e.g., a mini-series that starts off with a two-hour premier followed by 4 one-hour episodes, with a total duration of 6 hours, that is recut into three 90-minute episodes, with a total duration 4½ hours).

NOTE: These Recut Seasons cannot be represented by Edits of Episodes because they lack a one-to-one relationship between the original Episodes and the recut Episodes. They also differ from Series with occasional split or combined Episodes (see "Split and Combined Episodes" below) because the entire Season or Mini-Series is recut into new episodes spanning essentially the same narrative arc.

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[19] If the same provider has Omnibus and non-Omnibus Alternate Number schemes, then the domains for each must be unique. Since the Omnibus case is in the minority of episodes, do this by appending "/omnibus" to the end of the identifying domain for the Omnibus Episode's Alternate Number. If only the Omnibus episodes use an Alternate Number, then the provider's domain may be used as is.

For a Series with Seasons, for each recut, create a new Season as follows:

- ApproximateLength set to the episode length for that recut Season.[20]
- SeasonClass of Recut.
- ResourceName of "Season N (M episodes)" where N is the number of the source Season and M is the number of episodes in the recut Season. Set the Title Class to "internal".
- Match the Season Number to the original Season Number N.[21]

  NOTE: The EIDR 2.1 release will expand the Season numbering format to match the current Episode Distribution Number format. This will allow complex Season Numbers. For EIDR 2.1 and beyond, the recut Season number should be Nm, where N is the original source Season Number and m is a sequential letter (a, b, c, etc.) that differentiates each of the recut Seasons. In EIDR 2.0 and earlier, add "SN: Nm;" to the RegistrantExtra field. The Registry will later convert this into a correctly formatted Season Number.

- Set the Start Date to match the original release date of the included Episodes (if known) or the original release date of the source Season (if the new release date is not known).
  - End Date is optional but recommended for identification and enforcing data consistency. Set the value to the actual release date of the last included Episode.
- Create the appropriate episodes as children of the recut Season.[22] If the recut Episodes have titles of their own, include them. Otherwise, let the Registry generate a title based on the Episode number.

For a mini-series:

- The original Episodes of the Series are registered in their own Season.[23]
  - Set the Season Class to "Main".
  - Name the Season "M-Night Version (Original)". Set the Title Class to "internal".
  - The Season does not need a Season Number, but typically is given a value of 1.
- Set the Start Date to match the original release date of the included Episodes (if known) or the original release date of the source Season (if the new release date is not known).
  - End Date is optional but recommended for identification and enforcing data consistency. Set the value to the actual release date of the last included Episode.
- Each recut Season contains its respective Episodes, even if the Mini-Series has been edited into a single episode.
  - Set the Season Class to "Recut".

---

[20] If the Episodes do not have a consistent duration, set the Season length to 0 and specify the lengths of each Episode directly. If most Episodes have a particular length and there is only the occasional outlier, set the Season length to the common Episode length and record the individual lengths of the outliers in each Episode.

[21] Season Number must be unique per Season Class, so if there are multiple recuts of the same Season, then the recut Seasons cannot be numbered under the 2.0 schema.

[22] Recut episodes are properly Composites. Following these rules, the recut episodes have built-in associations to their source materials within the common Series, so it is not necessary to include the lightweight Composite relationships linking each recut Episode back to its source materials. However, if this information is available, then it should be added to the appropriate records.

[23] When there is only one distribution cut for a program that is not produced with multiple seasons, the Episodes can be direct children of the Series without using a Season. If they are registered that way originally, then they are re-parented under their own Season when the Recut Seasons are added. (The original EIDR IDs for the first run Episodes are preserved.)

- Name the Season "M-Night Version". Set the Title Class to "internal".
- Give each included Episode a distribution number indicating the viewing order, starting with 1.
- If the recut Episodes have names beyond their simple sequence numbers, include those as well. Otherwise, let the Registry generate a title based on the Episode number.

- For single Episodes that span the entire narrative arc of the full mini-series, set the Episode Class to "Standalone" and give the Episode the title by which it will be known when presented to the public.[24]
  - If the single Episode has been cut down to near movie-length (something that might reasonably be broadcast as a single event), name the Season "1-Night (Movie) Version". Set the Title Class to "internal".
  - If the single Episode is a simple composite of a full set of episodes with intermediate credits removed (often created for on-line distribution so that the entire show can be sold and delivered as a single unit), name the Season "1-Night (X-Hour) Version". Set the Title Class to "internal".

  NOTE: If a single-episode "movie" version is registered as a root record, it will duplicate against the "Standalone" Episode(s), preventing accidental duplicate registrations. For this reason, it is important that Standalone Episodes carry the names (primary and any alternates) by which they may be known in distribution.

Each Episode in the recut Season can then have Edits created according to the usual Edit practices.

Split and Combined Episodes

14. Split Episodes[25]

When distributing episodic material, the form and content of the episodes delivered may differ from how they were originally presented. If the individual episodes have simply been edited for content or time, standard practice applies. (See *Best Practices and Use Cases for EIDR Edits*.) When episodes are later divided into pieces or multiple episodes are combined into one, standard Edit inheritance rules cannot apply. In these cases, special Split and Combined Episodes must be created as EIDR Title (Level 1) records, from which Edits and Manifestations (Levels 2 and 3, respectively) may be derived. The exact scenario will depend on how the episodes were originally registered and how they are now being divided or combined.

COMPOSED OF PARTS, PARTS ARE INDEPENDENT BUT SECONDARY

If Episodes contain discrete elements that can be viewed on their own (such as the multiple cartoons often presented in a single half-hour cartoon block, e.g., *Animaniacs*, *Phineas and Ferb*, and *Dexter's Laboratory*), then the individual segments can be registered on their own:

- Create new Episode records for each segment under the appropriate Season with a DistributionNumber of Nm (where N is the DistributionNumber of the original episode and m is

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[24] For single episodes that span the full arc of a mini-series, the title is often the same as the mini-series itself.
[25] This is different from the situation where independently produced shorts are bundled for presentation, such as the theatrical cartoons bundled in *The Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Hour* or the theatrical shorts bundled in *The Three Stooges Show*.

the sequence of the segment within the episode, such as 1a or 1b) and an EpisodeClass of Segment. Name the Episodes with the Segment title.

NOTE: If the episodes are split for distribution, it is recommended that the release date be the date they were split, if available, to help differentiate it and identify which came first.

COMPOSED OF PARTS, PARTS ARE INDEPENDENT AND PRIMARY

If the episode segments are considered the primary creative work rather than the time-slot sized block they are presented in, then the segments may be given primary distribution numbering within their Season (1, 2, 3, etc.). If this is done, then the episodes that combine the segments to fill a time slot should be numbered to indicate the segments they bundle. For example, an episode that bundles segments 1 and 2 would be numbered 1/2.

NOTE: If all the Episodes in a Season are combined in this way, see "Recut Seasons and Mini-Series," above. If this is an occasional practice, see "Occasional Combined Episodes," below.

DIVIDED INTO PARTS FOR PRESENTATION, ALL PARTS ARE NECESSARY TO THE STORY

If an episode is too long for the intended time slot (or too long for a convenient digital download), it may be broken into multiple parts. The individual parts are not independent packages and all parts are viewed as part of the same story. This constitutes a Split Edit. Please see ***Best Practices and Use Cases for EIDR Edits***.

15. Occasional Combined Episodes

If some Episodes in a Season are simply presented together in a single time slot:

- Create a new Episode under the appropriate Season with a DistributionNumber of N/M (where N and M are the DistributionNumbers of the combined episodes) and an EpisodeClass of Recut.
- Traditionally, when each of the combined Episodes has a unique title of its own, the combined presentation combines the titles ("Title A / Title B"). However, if the combined Episode has a unique title in distribution, then use that as the combined Episode Title.

See, for example 10.5240/1587-F451-29FE-8FE9-6343-Z (The Adventures of Black Beauty, Season 2, Episode 14/15) , which is a combination of 10.5240/DBE2-7426-F53B-BBD3-B596-S (The Adventures of Black Beauty, Season 2, Episode 14) and 10.5240/369E-9B32-0E00-5707-C30E-3 (The Adventures of Black Beauty, Season 2, Episode 15).

NOTE: If an entire Season (rather than just a few episodes) is recombined in this way, see "Recut Seasons and Mini-Series," above.
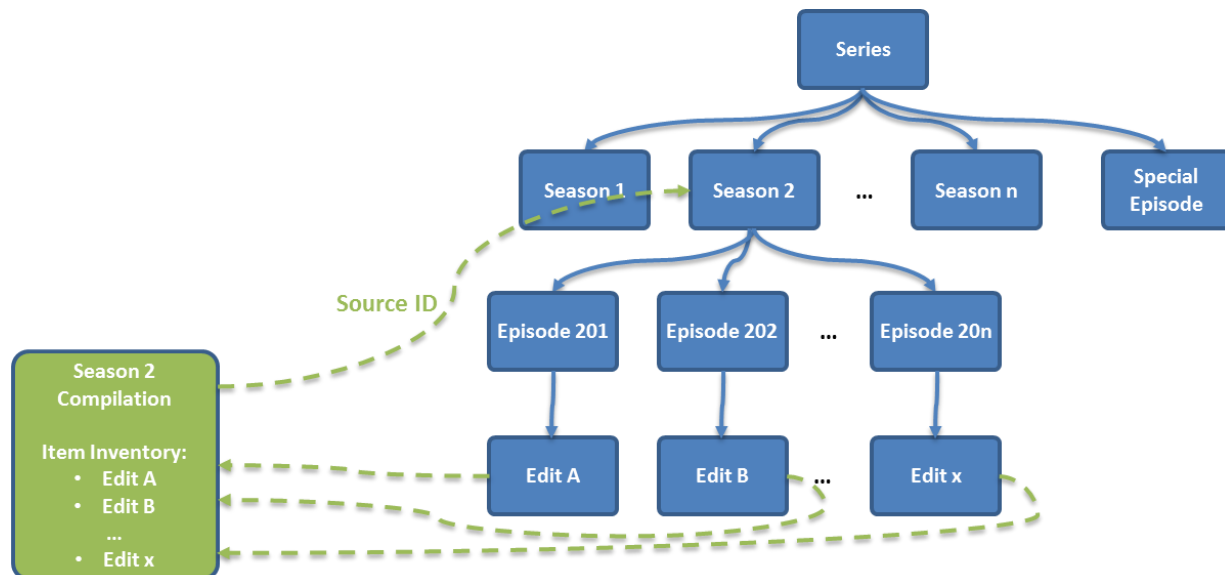
Typical Episodic Distribution Bundles

When multiple works that are separately playable are distributed as a single unit (in a distribution bundle), they are identified with an EIDR Compilation ID. For example, one could avail each Episode of a Season individually or avail all the Episodes in a Season as a single Season distribution bundle. By practice, this is a Compilation of particular Edits of the contained works. (Compilations of Title records are reserved for Franchise and Brand identification.)

Seasons

When distributing all the episodes of a Season, the Compilation's fields should be set as follows.[26]

- Create the necessary Edits (for creative versions) or Manifestations (for language versions) as descendent records of the original abstract Episode Title records. A Compilation cannot contain a mix of structural types, so it must contain either Edits or Manifestations, but not both.
- Create an EIDR Compilation with Compilation Class = "Season" to represent the distribution bundle.
  - Give it a descriptive name, such as "Poirot Season 1 – Music Edits" or "Friends Season 1 – German Language"
  - Set the StructuralType of the Compilation to match the included works: "Performance" for Edits and "Digital" for Manifestations.
- List all the included Edit or Manifestation records as Entries of the Compilation.
  - Set the Entry Display Name to the title by which the episode will be known in this distribution bundle (this may be the same as the episode's original title).
  - Set the Entry Number to the intended presentation sequence. (If there is no defined sequence, then skip this entry.)
  - Set the Entry Class = "Episode."
- Set RegistrantExtra to "Source: ID;"
  - If the compilation is of Edits, all derived from the same Season, "ID" is the EIDR ID of the Season being bundled. If the Edits are drawn from different Seasons, then "ID" is the EIDR ID of the Series from which the content is drawn. In a future EIDR version these compilations will become children of the specified Parent.
  - If a Compilation has more than one source, use multiple isPackagingOf lightweight relationships to create explicit references between the source materials and the Compilation.
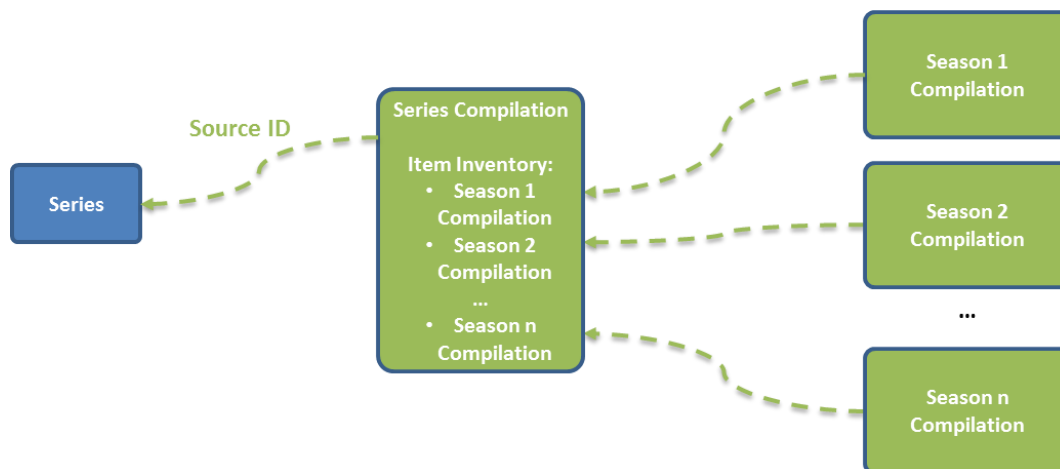

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[26] These are a narrowing of the guidelines given in *EIDR Data Fields Reference* and *EIDR Best Practices Guide*.

Series

To distribute an entire Series as a Compilation

- Create the necessary Season Compilations as noted above.
- Create an EIDR Compilation with Compilation Class = "Series" to represent the collection of distribution bundles.
  - Set the Structural Type = the Structural Type of the included Season Compilations
  - Give the Series Compilation a descriptive name, such as "Poirot – Music Edits" or "Friends – German Language"
- List all the associated Season Compilations as Entries of the Series Compilation.
  - Give each Entry a descriptive Display Name
  - Set the Entry Number to the intended Season sequence.
  - Set the Entry Class = "Season."
- Set RegistrantExtra to "Source: ID;" where ID is the ID of the original Series. In a future EIDR version these Compilations will become virtual children of the specified Source record.
  - If a Compilation has more than one source, use multiple isPackagingOf lightweight relationships to create explicit references between the source materials and the Compilation.

Mini-series

A distribution bundle for a mini-series is exactly like a distribution bundle for a Season except that the CompilationClass should be "Series".

Other Cases

Re-Broadcasting Anthology Series

Certain Series act as an umbrella brand covering the re-broadcast of material that was originally presented in another form. This differs from a simple re-run because programs from multiple sources are all presented under the same brand. This could include theatrical motion pictures packaged in a "movie-of-the-week" format or episodes from multiple series collected under a single brand (the PBS

Masterpiece scenario). In this case, the re-broadcasting series needs its own Series, Season, and Episode identifiers, but the Episodes are properly Edits of separate Title records. To accommodate this:

- Create the Series as normal.
  - Set the Series Class to "Anthology". This will trigger special de-duplication processing to catch registration of the individual Episodes as stand-alone records.
- Create the Seasons as normal.
- Create the Episodes as normal
  - Use the titles, durations, numbers, etc. as they are presented in the Re-broadcasting Series. This will differ from the original presentation.[27]
  - Add Composite link information to each Episode, pointing back to the Edit of the donor program that is being presented. This could be an Edit of the original Movie, an Edit of the original TV Episode, etc. If the necessary Edit does not already exist, register it first then add the Composite link.
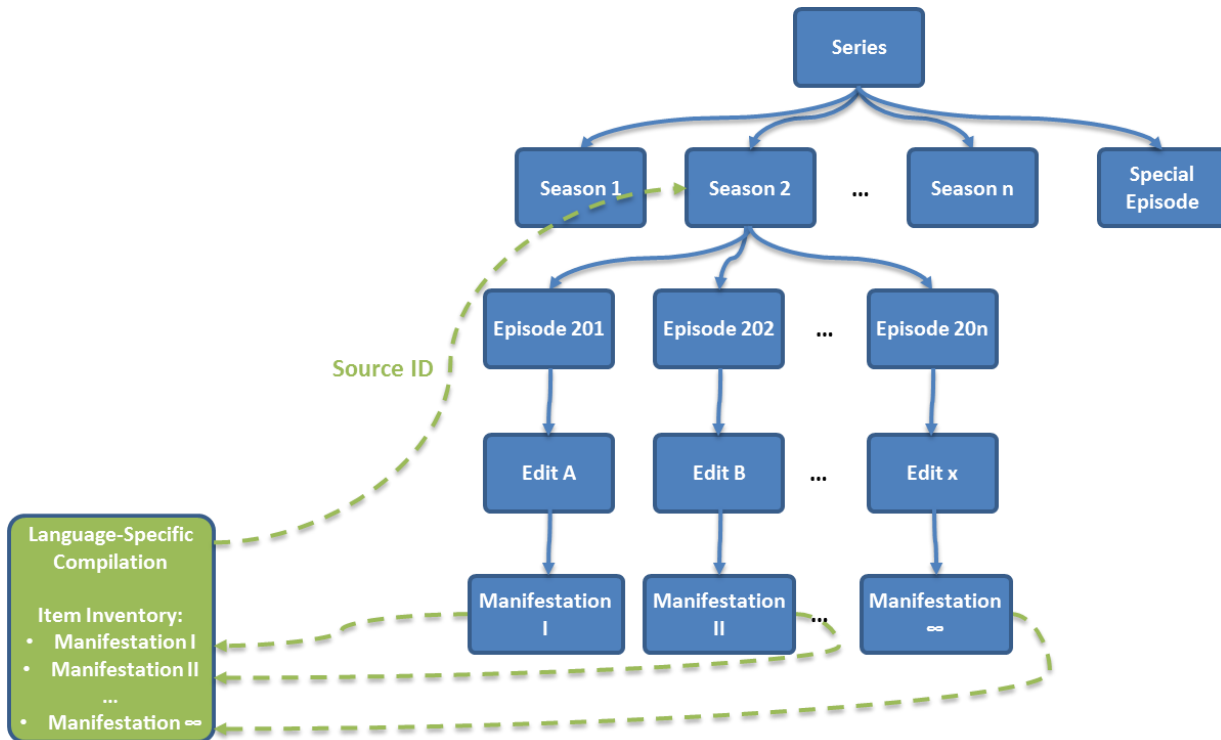
Distributing Language-Specific Bundles

In EIDR, language changes are tracked at the Manifestation level when the program content has not been changed. If there are other changes made at the same time, such as local standards and practices edits, then the new language may appear at the Edit level.

- If the program was modified AND new language material was added ("subs or dubs"), then bundle the resulting Edits following the practices outlined above. Set the Compilation's StructuralType to "Performance."
- If the program was NOT modified, and only the languages differ, then create suitable Manifestations derived from the Edit and bundle those as outlined above. Set the Compilation's StructuralType to "Digital."

The most visible difference between these two scenarios is the StructuralType of the resulting Compilation.

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[27] If nothing else, re-broadcast Episodes will have different Distribution Numbers since they'll be set based on the distribution sequence in the re-broadcast Series, not their sequence in the originating Series.

NOTE: Recipients of these distribution bundles will not be able to tell if they are bundles of Edits or bundles of Manifestations, since all EIDR IDs look alike, so these bundles can be used in workflows that might otherwise call for Edit IDs, such as EMA Avails.

Series Reboots

When a Series is remade or retooled after a significant production gap it is generally considered to be a new Series. See *Best Practices for Creating EIDR Title Records* for more information.

Special Episodic De-Duplication Rules

Given the special nature of episodic works, there are a number of unique de-duplication rules that should be taken into account when creating or modifying episodic records.

Anthology Series

The individual installments of an anthology series, by their nature, are stand-alone programs and may be distributed as such after their initial airing. To help catch (and prevent) attempts to register such programs as both an OTO (One-Time Only) TV program and an Episode, all Episodes of Series with the Series Class "Anthology" are checked against root Abstractions (and vice versa). This will force any attempt to double-register such programs into manual review and eventual resolution.

Pilot, Special, and Standalone Episodes

There are often episodes within a series that can stand on their own, such as the original pilot (particularly if it's a movie-length pilot) and special episodes (such as a Christmas special, an anniversary special, etc.). These should carry the Episode Class of "Pilot" and "Special", respectively. In addition, if there are any epoxides that could be (or in practice, have been) distributed as stand-alone programs, give them the Episode Class "Standalone". In all three cases, Episodes so flagged will be checked against root Abstractions (and vice versa). This will force any attempt to double-register such programs into manual review and eventual resolution.

Incorrect Seasons

Downstream registrants (syndicators, broadcasters, guide providers, etc.) may not be certain in which Season a particular Episode originally aired. As a result, the same Episode could be registered in multiple Seasons. To prevent this, when considering an episode with a user-supplied title (rather than a system-generated title based on Episode Number or Release Date), de-duplication will automatically check against:

- All other named Episodes of that same Season
- If the Episode's Parent Season is numbered, then all named Episodes of Seasons numbered +/- 1.
- All named Episodes (regardless of Season) where the release date is within +/- 1.

This will force all possibly double-registered programs into manual review for possible resolution.

NOTE: This will cause a problem with competition shows, since they often re-use episode titles. Each Season may have an Episode called "Final 4 Perform". In these cases, the Episodes will have to go through manual review as part of their registration process. However, the cost of this additional administrative overhead is well worth the benefit of preventing accidental Episode duplication.