How to Use EIDR to Identify Versions for Distribution Purposes: Edits, Languages, and Regional Releases

Frequently Asked Questions

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How to Use EIDR to Identify Versions for Distribution Purposes: Edits, Languages, and Regional Releases

The first goal of this document is to provide practical guidance to implementers charged with registering EIDR IDs for regional releases that may include censorship changes and/or new languages. This document is organized around a set of frequently asked questions based on the real-world experience of producers and distributors. There is also an Appendix with visual examples.

A second goal is to provide a higher degree of certainty in commercial workflows, where independent parties rely on the EIDR data model to communicate standardized relationships among IDs in order to enable automation.

This document describes the general EIDR model for managing regional versions and releases, and is especially targeted at distribution of content across multiple territories because it often requires different languages, cards, credits, and censorship changes. We have not attempted to cover here the issues and workflows related to management of archives, which also often collect films in multiple versions and languages. Best practices for archive registrations will be addressed in a separate document focused on archive use cases. Similarly, we expect to develop specific best practices for broadcast workflows and metadata aggregators in collaboration with those members.

It is important to remember that EIDR IDs for regional releases should only be created when necessary. For example, if the same cut of a film is distributed in both Australia and New Zealand, the same EIDR Edit ID should be used. And if the same release (including languages) is distributed in the U.S. and Canada, then the same EIDR Manifestation ID should be used.

Generally, releases involve a specific language or set of languages (subtitles and audio dubs) and are represented with EIDR Manifestation IDs, rather than EIDR Edit IDs, even for the release in the original language. An EIDR Edit ID represents a version independent of any particular language tracks that may be associated with it.

Examples of releases identified with EIDR Manifestations IDs include mezzanine files provided by studios to distribution partners and UltraViolet file downloads for which the UltraViolet APIDs (Physical Asset IDs) correspond to EIDR Manifestation IDs. In both of these cases, the set of languages in the file package should be provided in the metadata used to register the EIDR Manifestation ID. EIDR also allows extensive technical metadata items (such as bitrate, codecs, hashes, etc.) to be registered for a Manifestation, and many of these are used for UltraViolet APIDs.[1] The individual distributor should determine what details in addition to the languages are relevant to its use of Manifestations. If the set of languages is not relevant to the use case, the EIDR Edit ID can be used on its own.

Readers are presumed to be familiar with the general requirements for creating EIDR IDs. If not, please refer to the documents listed in Appendix A.

The Questions in this FAQ

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[1] The technical metadata used for the registration of EIDR Manifestation IDs for UltraViolet APIDs is outlined in Section 4 of "Obtaining an EIDR ID for a DECE CFF Container (DCC) APID", which can found at http://eidr.org/documents/EIDR-for-APID-v1.1.pdf.

General Questions

1. What is the general EIDR structure for versions and languages?
2. Does a regional release with new languages require a new EIDR Edit ID?
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4. Do the same ID rules apply to episodic content as to movies?
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Distribution in Multiple Territories by One Distributor

6. If I am distributing in multiple territories, do I need a new EIDR Edit ID for a new regional release of the same content?
7. What if the release consists of the same content, but the business terms or distribution channels are different for the new territory?
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9. What if the only video change is to the cards (such as a new copyright notice)? Do I need a new EIDR Edit ID?
10. Do I need a new EIDR Manifestation ID if the only video change is to the cards?

Distribution in Multiple Territories by Different Distributors

11. Another distributor handled the first release of the content. I have the rights in a new territory. Do I need a new EIDR Edit ID for a release in my territory?
12. What if I am certain that it is the same version of the content, but the business terms or distribution channels are different for my territory? Do I need a new EIDR Edit ID?
13. Does a new distributor need a new EIDR Edit ID for a regional release that adds new languages to an existing cut?
14. Does a new distributor need a new EIDR Manifestation ID for a new language release of the same content?
15. Does a new distributor need a new EIDR Edit ID if the only video change in a release is to the cards (such as a copyright notice or distributor credit)?
16. Does a new distributor need a new EIDR Manifestation ID if the only change in a release is to the cards?

Appendices

A. Further reading
B. Sample diagram showing EIDR Edits and language releases

The Answers

General Questions

1. What is the general EIDR structure for versions and languages?

The EIDR ID structure has three basic levels:

- A single top-level parent ID that identifies the film/show/episode in the abstract.
- Multiple middle-level Edit IDs that identify different cuts or edits of the film/show/episode.
- A third layer of Manifestation IDs that identify specific deliverables associated with each Edit ID. The deliverables may be specific files or a combination of language tracks and/or technical parameters such as resolution.

Applying this structure to languages:

- For identification purposes, the top-level parent ID is associated with the language(s) in which the work was originally created.
- A middle-level EIDR Edit ID is used for each specific version of a film/show that changes the video content, e.g., a director's cut of a film, a version edited for censorship purposes, the original unrated version, etc. The language associated with an Edit ID usually will be the language of the parent ID. The exception is when an Edit ID identifies a version of the work that changes both the video content and the principal language of the work, e.g., country-specific censorship edit with a new dialogue track or CGI text imagery, in which case the new language or languages may go in the "Version Language" field(s).
- An EIDR Manifestation ID is used to identify releases that include specific language tracks and is always associated with a particular Edit ID.

2. Does a regional release with new languages require a new EIDR Edit ID?

As noted above, the combination of a work with specific language(s) should always be represented as a Manifestation ID.

If the regional release also includes changes to the video of the film/show, e.g., video edits for local censorship purposes, or the addition of dubbing credits[2], then in EIDR a new Edit should be registered along with a Manifestation to indicate a particular combination of languages with that Edit.

Generally, if the regional release does not change the underlying video, you should not create a new EIDR Edit ID. Regional releases with new languages that do not change the video should be registered as Manifestation IDs that are children of the appropriate EIDR Edit ID. If you do not know the EIDR

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[2] The addition of dubbing credits typically alters the video material. By contrast, "cards" (e.g., distributor, copyright, or anti-piracy notices) appear at the beginning or end of the video and can be added, removed, or changed without affecting the video content.

Edit ID from which the Manifestation is derived and cannot identify it by reviewing the existing EIDR Edit records, then you must first create a suitable EIDR Edit record before you can create its child Manifestation.

NOTE: Cue sheets are generally associated with EIDR Edit IDs, and ratings boards may track versions with different ratings using EIDR Edit IDs. So, while Edits are primarily distinguished by differences in video, if the audio has been edited for censorship or music licensing purposes, a new Edit ID should also be created. But the application of a new rating by a ratings board does not imply a new EIDR Edit ID. Ratings from many different boards will often apply to a single Edit.

3. Does a regional release with new languages require a new EIDR Manifestation ID?

Yes. If you are using an EIDR ID to represent a specific language or set of languages in a release, including different sets of audio or subtitle languages, you need to use an EIDR Manifestation ID. You should create a new Manifestation for the release under the appropriate Edit.

NOTE: Some applications may choose to represent a release using an EIDR Edit ID plus other metadata (e.g., the set of languages, resolution, bitrate, etc.) carried outside of EIDR. That is fine. However, an EIDR Edit ID by itself should only be used to indicate the version of the work independent of any set of languages in a release. To represent the release itself, including a set of languages, an EIDR Manifestation ID is required.

4. Do the same ID rules apply to episodic content as to movies?

The general principles are the same, but applied to individual Episodes. (EIDR also has IDs for Series and Seasons, but does not support versions at these levels.[3])

The process for using EIDR episodic records is:

- Create an EIDR Series record as a top-level parent ID associated with the language of the original production.
- For each season, create an EIDR Season record as a child of the appropriate Series. Generally, the language will be inherited from the Series record.[4]
- For each episode, create an EIDR Episode record as a child of the appropriate Season (or as a direct child of the EIDR Series if seasons do not apply). Again, generally the language will be inherited from the parent record.
- Each Episode record may then have one or more Edit IDs representing specific video versions of the Episode, using the same rules and guidelines as Edits of non-episodic content.
- Each Edit ID may have one or more Manifestation IDs representing language combinations associated with a particular cut or Edit of the Episode, using the same rules and guidelines as non-episodic content.

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[3] A North American Series may be known as a Programme or Brand elsewhere, while a North American Season may be known as a Series.
[4] If particular seasons or episodes of a series have markedly different languages in their original form than other seasons or episodes, then they can be established with unique original languages. For example, a series of foreign language instruction might focus on a different language in each season.

NOTE: EIDR supports pilot episodes, out-of-season special episodes, and many other cases. See EIDR documentation in Appendix A for the best practices for registering these. Practices for versions of these episodes are the same as for any other episodic record.

5. When are new EIDR Edit IDs needed for distribution across multiple territories?

In general, you need a new Edit ID whenever there is "new" video content or an existing language track has been modified for local requirements, which in this context includes:

- A new version of an existing work that has significant changes. These include a director's cut, edits for censorship, etc., but not changes of cards and logos, as noted below.
- A version with changes to the audio to satisfy local non-linguistic requirements, such as different music, sanitized dialog, etc.
- A version of a work for which there is any uncertainty about it being the same as the version represented by another Edit ID.
- A version that contains new dubbing credits.

 "New" does not include a release with:

- Additional or different audio tracks.
- Additional or different subtitle or timed text tracks.
- Most new cards added to the head or tail of a program (for distributor, copyright, anti-piracy, etc.). See above for exceptions.
- A release with changes to the "burned-in" text that appears on screen, such as forced subtitles or new intertitle cards in an otherwise silent work.

In the cases directly above, the release would be identified with a new Manifestation ID registered under an existing Edit.

You should not create a new Edit ID for new offers (such as new business terms or distribution channels) of an existing work. Business terms and distribution channels are attributes that may change over time and do not receive a new Edit ID. Attributes external to EIDR are tracked with external metadata, not changes to the EIDR ID.

In applying these general principles, key factors to consider are:

- Whether you are changing the film/show by editing it in a substantive way, e.g., editing for local censorship reasons,
- Whether you are changing the offer for the film/show,
- If a suitable EIDR ID is available from the source providing the asset(s).

Most of the FAQs in this document offer guidance on how to apply these factors. That guidance is summarized in the table immediately below.

NOTE: As described above, a new Edit should not be created solely for the sake of a new language. A new Edit is warranted only if the new language is associated with some other change that requires a new Edit, such as censorship or the addition of dubbing credits.

Situation				What to do		
Different Edit[5]	Different Language[6]	Different Distributor	Different Offer	New EIDR Edit ID	New EIDR Manifestation ID	Notes
N	N	N	N	N	N[7]	
N	N	Y	Any	N	N[7]	Use an existing Edit ID if the new distributor is certain that their version of the film/show is the same. As a practical matter, a new distributor may not be certain that the existing EIDR Edit ID is the right one, however, so this situation is expected to be rare. Otherwise, follow the practice for an uncertain Edit.
N	N	N	Y	N	N[7]	When the distributor is the same across territories, that distributor is more likely to be certain that an existing EIDR Edit ID describes the correct version of the film/show, so is more likely to be able to use the same Edit ID.
N	Y	Any	Any	N	Y[8]	Create an EIDR Manifestation as a child of the existing EIDR Edit ID except if uncertain that the existing EIDR Edit ID is the right one.
Y	Any	Any	Any	Y	Y[8]	Create a new EIDR Edit ID, and create EIDR Manifestations for the releases under it.
Not certain	N	Any	Any	Y	Y[8]	Create a new EIDR Edit ID, and create EIDR Manifestations for the releases under it. This is likely to be the more common situation for new distributors, though it may occur occasionally for existing distributors.

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[5] Per EIDR rules for what constitutes a new Edit, summarized above.

[6] For changes to the audio or visual language tracks that do not alter the video material.

[7] A new EIDR Manifestation ID is not required based solely on the changes listed in the left hand columns, but other changes (such as different resolutions, codecs, or bitrates) or use cases (e.g., an UltraViolet APID vs. a mezzanine file) could lead to the creation of additional EIDR Manifestation IDs with the same set of languages.

[8] If a distributor is using EIDR Manifestation IDs to represent releases, then a new one is required. However, a distributor does not need to use EIDR Manifestation IDs to represent releases. As described in #3 above, a distributor could use an EIDR Edit ID plus additional metadata to identify releases.

6. If I am distributing in multiple territories, do I need a new EIDR Edit ID for a new regional release of the same content?

If the regional release includes changes to the video of the film/show, e.g., edits for local censorship purposes or dubbing credits, then you must create a new EIDR Edit ID and register any releases with specific language(s), original or otherwise, as Manifestation IDs under it.

Releases involving new languages that do not change the video should be registered as Manifestations that are children of the existing EIDR Edit ID.

For full details on when a new EIDR Edit ID is required see #5 above.

7. What if the release consists of the same content, but the business terms or distribution channels are different for the new territory?

Use the same EIDR Edit ID. A new distribution channel or territory by itself does not warrant a new EIDR ID.

8. Do I need a new EIDR Manifestation ID for a release with new languages?

Yes. You always need a Manifestation ID to represent a specific language or set of languages in a release, including different sets of audio or subtitle languages. You should create a new EIDR Manifestation ID for these under the appropriate Edit.

9. What if the only video change is to the cards (such as a new copyright notice)? Do I need a new EIDR Edit ID?

Changes to the cards (with the exception of dubbing credits) do not warrant a new Edit in EIDR. Therefore, if you are certain there are no other changes to the film/show, you do not need a new EIDR Edit ID. You can use the existing EIDR Edit ID for your new territory.

If you are not certain there are no other changes to the film/show besides the cards or languages, or if you know that the film/show is a different Edit than the original (including the addition of dubbing credits), then you should obtain a new EIDR Edit ID and use it in the new territory.

10. Do I need a new EIDR Manifestation ID if the only video change is to the cards?

Yes. You always need a new Manifestation ID for any change in the package, including a change to a card. To obtain the correct EIDR ID, create a new EIDR Manifestation ID as a child of the associated EIDR Edit ID, recording the difference in the cards as part of the new Manifestation's metadata.

Distribution in Multiple Territories by Different Distributors

11. Another distributor handled the first release of the content. I have the rights in a new territory. Do I need a new EIDR Edit ID for a release in my territory?

If the release in the new territory includes changing the work in one or more of the ways listed in section 5 above, e.g., changes to the video of the film/show such as edits for local censorship purposes, then you should create a new EIDR Edit ID and your release should be represented by a Manifestation under it. If the releases are known to have the same video, censorship cut and music rights as an existing EIDR Edit, your release should be represented by a Manifestation under that existing EIDR Edit ID. Full details on what differences trigger a new Edit are listed in #5 above.

NOTE: As a practical matter, it will be a rare case when the versions are exactly the same and the territory distributor can be certain of that fact, so the usual practice is for a new distributor to obtain a new EIDR Edit ID for the new territory.

12. What if I am certain that it is the same version of the content, but the business terms or distribution channels are different for my territory? Do I need a new EIDR Edit ID?

No, you do not. A new offer (new distribution channel or territory) by itself does not warrant a new EIDR Edit ID, so do not create a new EDIR Edit ID.

13. Does a new distributor need a new EIDR Edit ID for a regional release that adds new languages to an existing cut?

No, not unless the video has changed as well as discussed above, e.g., the addition of dubbing credits or changes for local censorship requirements. Otherwise, the language release is identified with a new EIDR Manifestation ID created as a child of the existing Edit ID.

14. Does a new distributor need a new EIDR Manifestation ID for a new language release of the same content?

Yes. You always need a new Manifestation ID for any change in the package, including a change to audio or subtitle language. You should create a new EIDR Manifestation ID for the language release.

15. Does a new distributor need a new EIDR Edit ID if the only video change in a release is to the cards (such as a copyright notice or distributor credit)?

Changes to the cards (with the exception of dubbing credits) do not warrant a new Edit in EIDR. Therefore, if you are certain there are no other changes to the film/show, you do not need a new EIDR Edit ID. You can use the existing EIDR Edit ID for your territory.

If you are not certain there are no other changes to the film/show besides the cards or languages, or if you know that the film/show is a different Edit than the original, then you should obtain a new EIDR Edit ID.

16. Does a new distributor need a new EIDR Manifestation ID if the only video change in a release is to the cards?

Yes. You always need a new ID for any change in the package, including a change to a card. Create a new EIDR Manifestation ID as a child of the associated EIDR Edit ID.

Appendices

Appendix A: Further reading

Additional documentation is available on the EIDR Web sites, including:

- EIDR Registry User's Guide
- EIDR Best Practices Guide

![EIDR - Entertainment Identifier Registry]

Appendix B – Sample diagram showing EIDR Edits and Language Variants

EXAMPLE EIDR MOVIE HIERARCHY WITH REGIONAL VARIANTS AND LANGUAGES

Titles (Abstractions)

Movie (EN)

Edits (Performances)
IsEditOf

- Theatrical (Domestic Cut)
- Home Entertainment (Regional Censored Cut)
- Home Entertainment (Director's Cut)

Manifestations (Digital)
IsManifestationOf

- Regional Cut w/ Audio (RU) UVVU APID
- Domestic Cut w/Orig Language Aud (EN) DCP
- Regional Cut w/ Aud (RU) ProRes Mezz
- Director's Cut w/ Aud (EN, FR, SP) Subs (FR) ProRes Mezz
- Regional Cut w/ Aud (EN, FR, SP) Sub (FR) ProRes Mezz
- Director's Cut w/ Audio (RU) ProRes Mezz