

National Centers for Environmental Information

Enabling an Iterative, Open Science Transformation to the Geoverse at NOAA with a Federated Knowledge Mesh

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Where To? Geoverse Semantics in Context

- A democratized 'system of systems' powered in large part by machine to machine communication
 - Systems may be 'smart agents'
- An ecosystem in which all users can both consume and contribute information
- A federated trust-based framework for realizing universally useful understanding

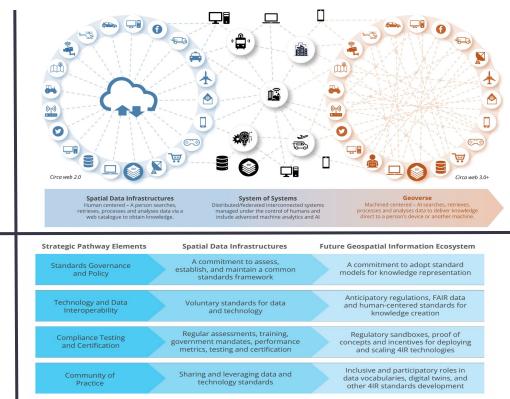
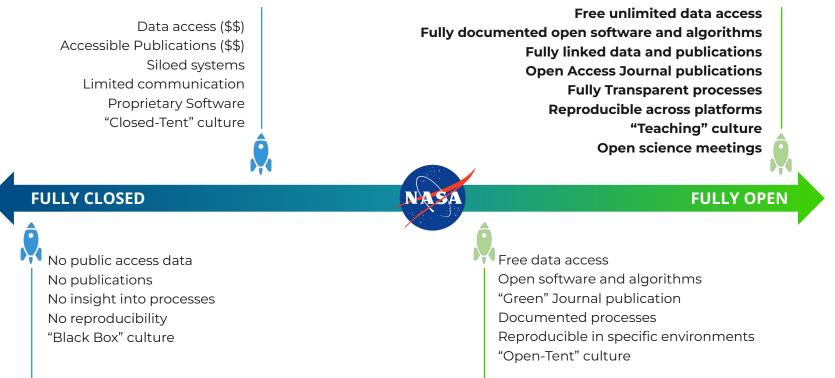


Figure 12. Standards Strategic Pathway - the Step Change



Figure 4. From data to information, knowledge and wisdom. Adapted from DIKW Model for knowledge management and data value extraction.

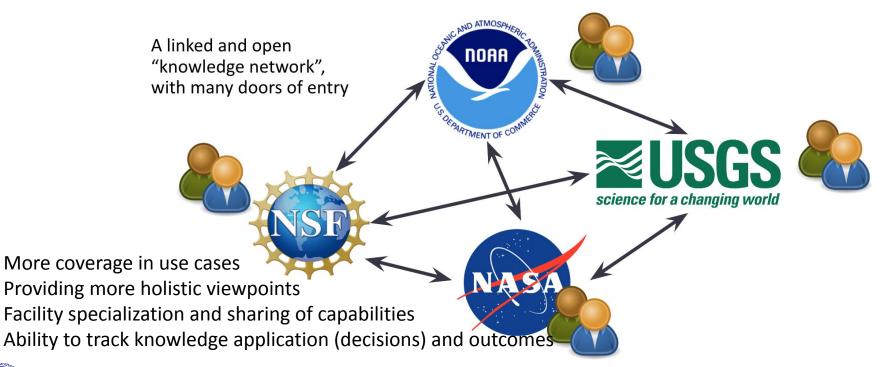
What is "Open Science"?



Source: C. Gentemann (2022, NOAA EDM Workshop presentation)



Toward an Open Ecosystem of Trusted Open Ecosystems





What success means to constituents

Meg, a Coastal Resident and Environmental Enthusiast:

Meg is a resident living on Hilton Head Island with a deep interest in the environment. She talks to the system through her Alexa to gain insights into local marine life, weather patterns, and pollution levels using real-time weather updates, satellite imagery from NASA, and environmental data from NOAA. She can report environmental concerns directly to the EPA with full provenance for investigation.

Bart, a Commercial Fisherman:

Bart relies on accurate and timely information for successful operations in the Gulf. He uses an integrated ship dashboard to make predictions and get updates that help him make informed decisions about optimal fishing locations, avoiding adverse weather conditions, and ensuring sustainable practices. The system enables Bart by combining NOAA's fisheries data, NASA's satellite-based ocean temperature maps, and USGS coastal mapping. Bart sometimes asks the system to explain predictions and give alternative assessments. When needed, Bart further uses the system for direct communication with relevant federal agencies for licensing, regulatory updates, and emergency assistance.

Gertie, an Emergency Response Coordinator:

Gertie requires immediate access to comprehensive information while monitoring wildfires in Colorado. A multi-modal system interface connects them to real-time weather updates, NASA's disaster monitoring, and USGS geological data. Gertie is enabled to coordinate evacuation plans with local and regional authorities and monitor emerging outcomes in real-time.

Holden, a Tourism and Recreation Planner:

Holden aims to create enjoyable experiences for visitors to the Chesapeake Bay. As Holden crafts tailored experiences for his clients, he converses with the system to understand seasonal trends, identify ideal locations, and, shape events accordingly.

Elias, a Public Health Researcher:

Elias is a public health researcher studying coastal communities and relies on diverse data sources. He uses a portal to access and fuse information from health, environmental quality, and satellite record databases to help identify potential health risks and patterns based on air and water quality. He uses context to understand ideal methods of engagement with local communities to provide evidence-based recommendations for improved public health outcomes.



What success means to the workforce

Buffy, a NOAA Archivist:

Buffy needs to efficiently manage and organize a vast number of heterogeneous datasets in the Archive. Through her government portal Buffy accesses and catalogs data. She uses the marketplace to add quality matrix checking, link related datasets, or create new collections and views on the data. She develops, shares, and evolves standard templates and expressions for providers to use and assesses adoption.

Munir, a NOAA Data Manager:

Munir's job is to coordinate marine data flows between providers and consumers. He uses the system API to help build, monitor, and communicate data pipelines, while ensuring data quality. He uses the API in his own software to achieve on-demand data retrieval in specific formats for generating comprehensive data reports. He contributes his techniques back to the marketplace as reusable templates for use by other data managers.

Marilyn, a NOAA Data Scientist:

Marilyn uses the system daily to access diverse datasets for research and analysis to relate societal indicators to climate change. The system provides here facilitates seamless integration of datasets from NOAA, NASA, USGS, EPA, and NIH. She leverages user and system access data to quickly develop and test new models for improving user experience; the system automatically shares what she creates for reuse by others.

Aditi, a NOAA Physical Scientist:

Aditi builds authoritative climate data records at NOAA. She leverages the system to explore what has been done before, what findings have been made, and what things might need further research. She leverages on-demand data retrieval for existing products in desired formats to try new modeling and simulation techniques. The data and products she produces are made available to the system.

Not pictured: System Administrators; Data Operators; Policy Analysts; etc.



What Does this Mean to the Enterprise?

- Working toward a new sustained model
- "Simple Made Easy" Rich Hickey (2011)
 - The model is **simple (decomplected) gives us maximum concurrency, sustainability**
 - Delivery of the model attempts to make it **easy tools that are 'near to' users**
- Full provenance of the computational enterprise
 - Data flows, agents, etc
 - Self documenting(!) processes
 - Tracking evolution
 - We can ask the machine
- Shared reference model
 - No more independent stovepipes
 - Iterative improvement (leveling framework)
 - self-sustaining model of shared resources
 - optimizing to use cases, sharing general libraries, etc
- Using advanced tools in the next-gen toolbox
- Enabling new users; user driven discovery; federated interoperability



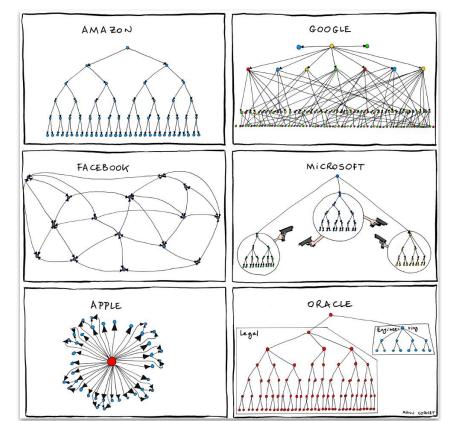
Supporting the Transformation

"The **architecture** of a **digital system** defines **flexibility**, **capability**, and **functionality**." - Chaowei Phil Yang, Director and Founder of the NSF Spatiotemporal Innovation Center



Why is Interoperability Needed? A Communications Problem

- A full resolution earth is a **system of systems**
- Lots of humanity spanning effort to measure, understand, and explain
- Data is fundamentally interoperable within scientific frameworks of understanding
- **But -** most holistic interoperability efforts fail in some way why?
- **Conway's Law:** any organization that designs a system (defined broadly) will produce a design whose structure is a copy of the organization's communication structure
 - Conway's Law implies hard limits to large efforts in terms of syntactic, schematic, semantic, and legal interoperability constraints
 - Encoded in SWEBOK 4.0



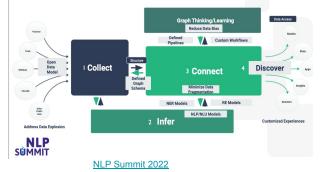
http://scrumbook.org/product-organization-pattern-language/conway-s-law.html

Major Considerations for Digital Twin Federation (Interop) Architecture

• Agree on the fact that Knowledge Sharing is a federated problem

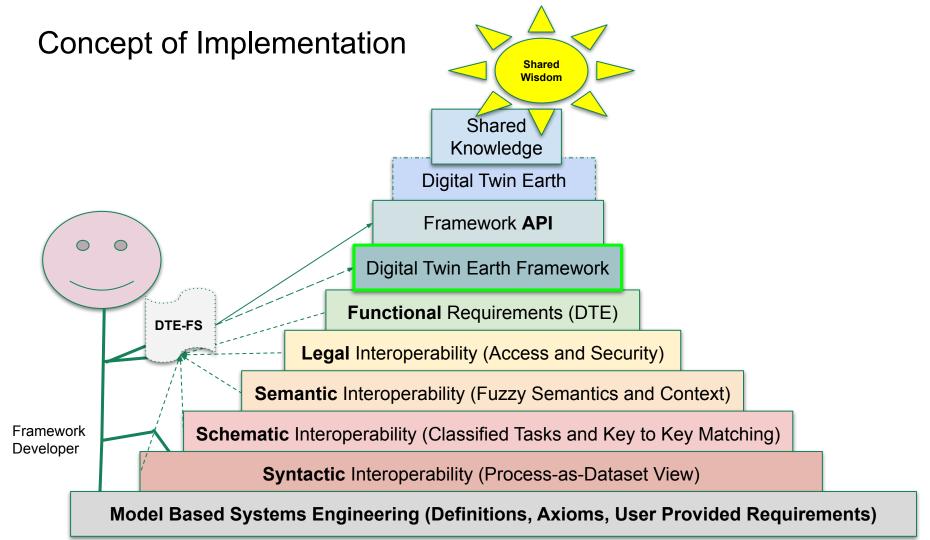
- Organizational specializations
- Domain characteristics
- Continuous innovations and reconfigurations
- Competing priorities
- Nearly infinite user concerns and use cases
- Consider intra-twin interoperability concerns, e.g.
 - How do we ensure **reproducibility**? (not science without it!)
 - How how do we **automatically combine** different timescales, units, etc.?
 - How do we capture provenance in a FAIR way?
 - How do we associate uncertainty with prediction and data?
 - How do we guarantee performance and scale?
- Consider inter-twin interoperability concerns, e.g.
 - How do we capture decisions (non-spatial-data) and associate with lineage and provenance?
 - How do we avoid limiting ourselves to a particular catalog viewpoint?
 - How do we support **pre-flight cost** simulation, aka **process shopping,** for a given describe plan?
 - How do we enable inference that helps us look for unknown connections?
 - How do we manage legal interoperability issues, CARE issues?
 - Access rights to processes?
 - Bad actors?

Contextual AI: Reference Architecture





Deconstructing Analysis-Ready Data



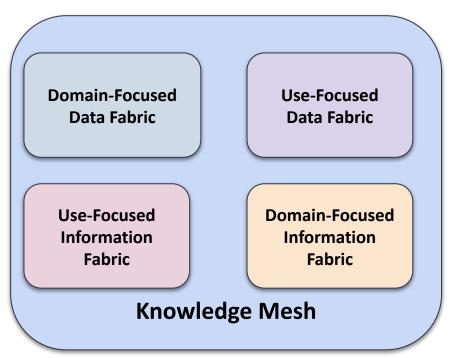
Terminology - Mesh vs Fabric?

Leveraging the Modern Toolbox

It's fuzzy, but very basically,

- **Fabric** centralized governance, focused community, focused access patterns
- Mesh decentralized control, community of communities, integrated access patterns

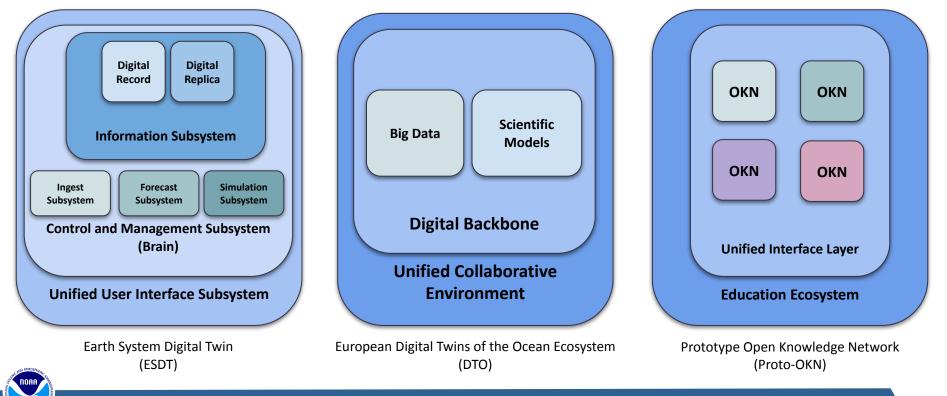
We need capabilities of both, and are seeing the interplay of these architectural strategies emerge in next-gen motifs.



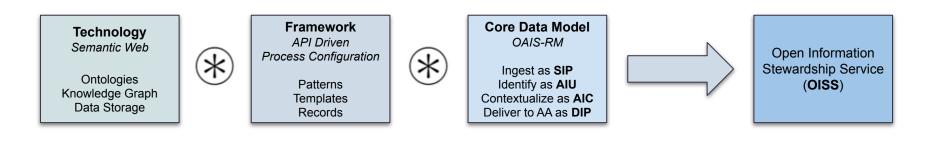


Emerging Motifs in the Next-Gen Landscape

Mapping and aligning our efforts for optimization and interoperability

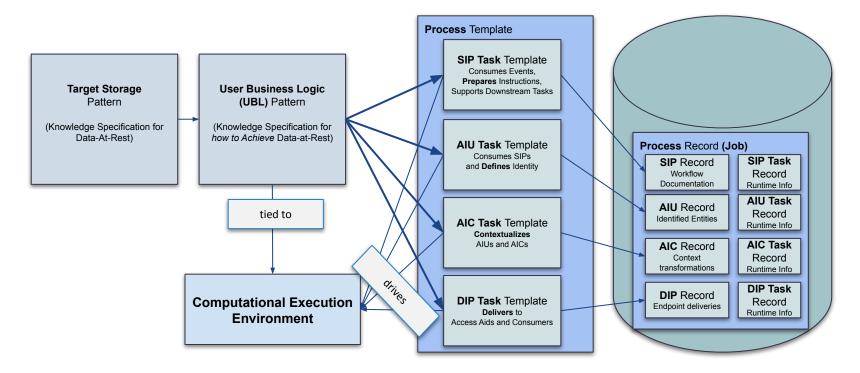


Framework Concept Convolution

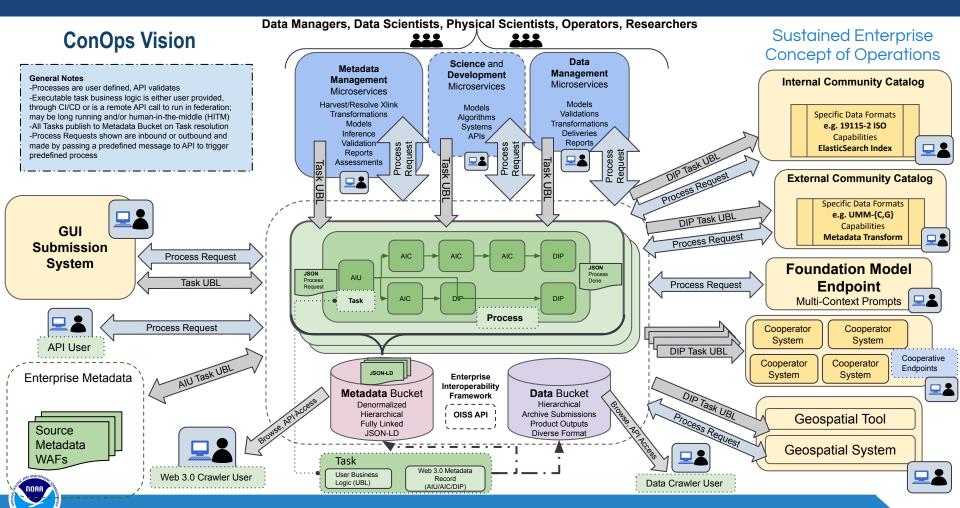




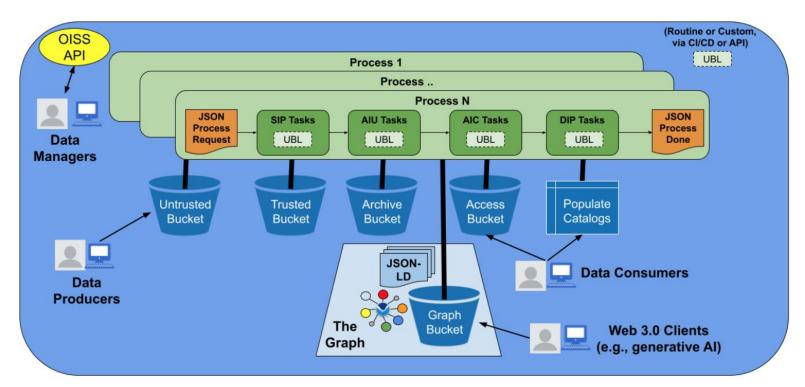
Topology







ConOps Infrastructure Topology

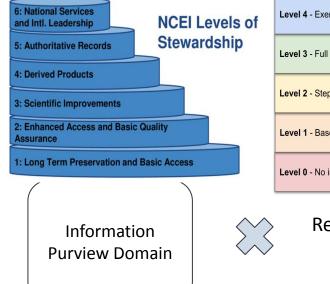




Enabling Iterative Transformation at NOAA

Working toward a sustained cooperative continuous improvement model

Open Information Stewardship Service (OISS) Integration Maturity Scale



 Level 4 - Exemplary Integration - Domain Standards Alignment

 Level 3 - Full Integration - Interoperable Information Models

 Level 2 - Step Change Integration - Interoperable Resources

Level 1 - Baseline Integration - Knowledge of Resources

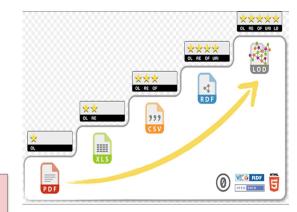
Level 0 - No integration - Baseline NCCF Sandbox Requirements

Recursive Stepwise Integration

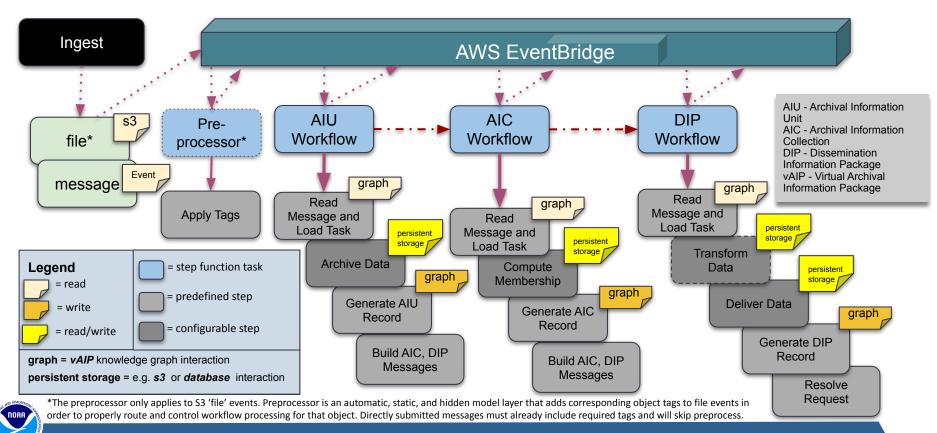


Iterative Increases to Openness

5 Star Linked Open Data

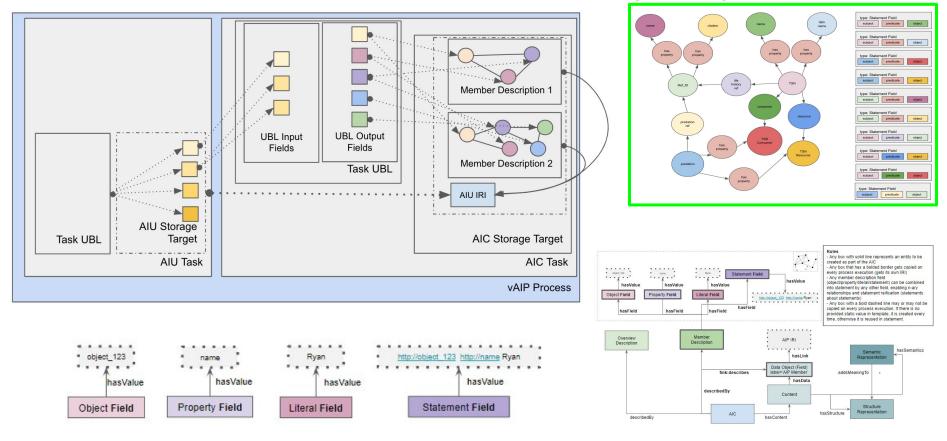


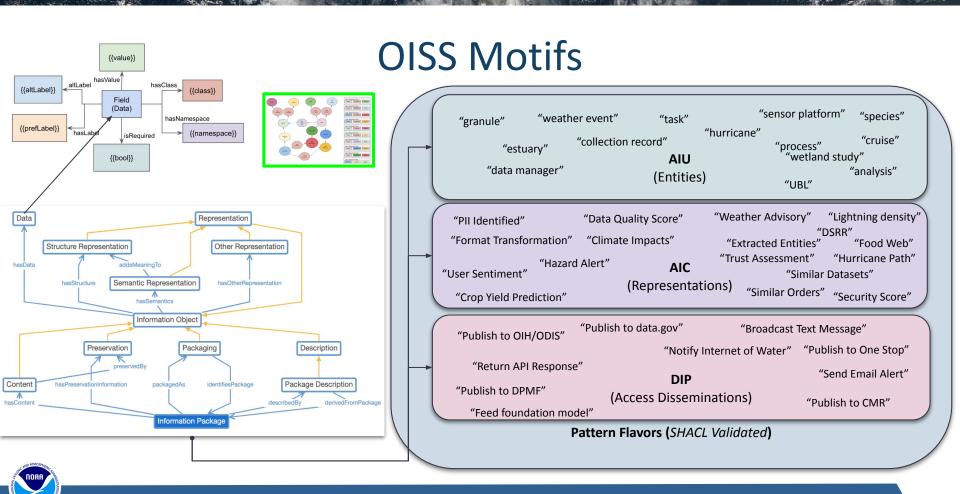
Massive Real-time Concurrency, Small Footprint



Enormous Amounts of Trusted, High Quality, Fully Contextual, and Regularized Data

Links; texts; documents; input/output parameters for functions; video; audio; biological; ecological; etc.





Motifs (subgraphs) are enablers for:

-Stable API interfaces

-Optimized searches

-Feature models

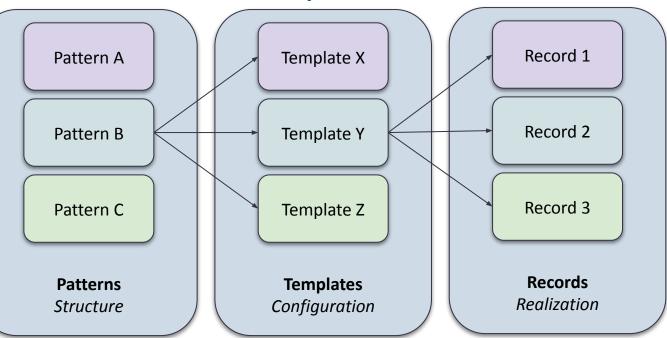
-Visualizations

All OISS **explicit motifs** are **OAIS Information Packages** Reference model defined user patterns.

Each explicit motif has different SHACL characteristics - for example, **AICs support n-ary relationships** in their member descriptions.

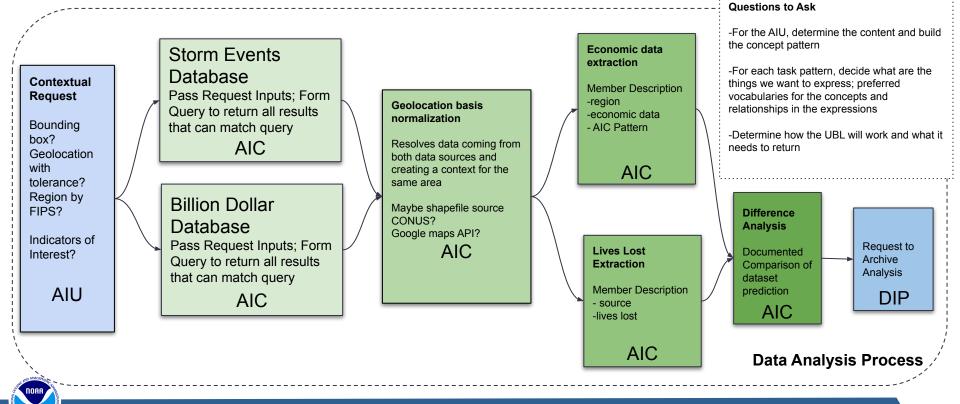
These are the motifs that are defined and known - there are other motifs emergent in the system data due to its linked data nature

Motif Search Spaces

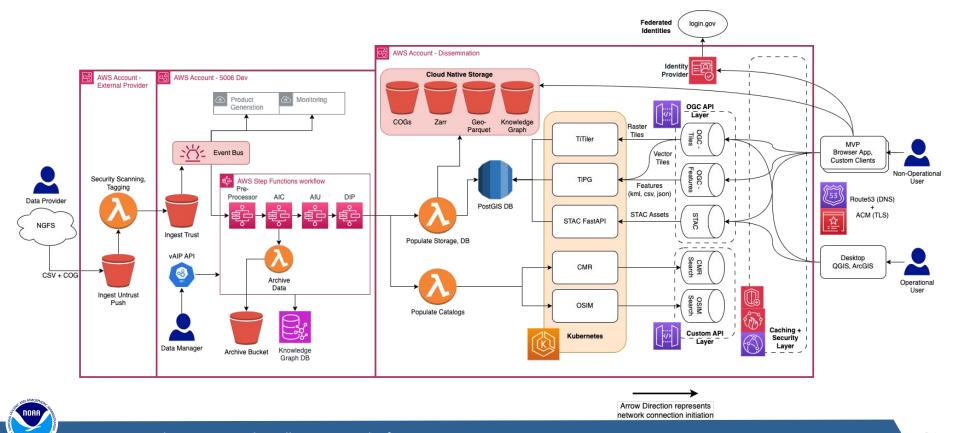




OAR-NCEI Societal Data Partnership



Multi-transform and Multi-access for Wildland Fire Storefront



Current Activities

- Seeding the mesh with early adopter processes and resources
 - Lots of data streams and system integrations being onboarded or planned - Nexrad, CCOR, OISST, Faraday Cup, Extended Continental Shelf, Passive Acoustic Data, IGRA, World Ocean Database, etc.
- Developing and delivering **educational materials** for mesh adoption and maturation
 - Jupyter notebooks; trainings; 'teaching to fish' with the API and using the JSON-LD files and various data formats that are produced
- Identifying beneficial partnerships and integration pathways
 - E.g. across NOAA LOs; with NASA AIST and CNES in Digital Twin contexts; with NSF in OKN contexts; with OIH/ODIS in specific Ocean datastream contexts
- Developing access processes using advanced AI/ML
 - E.g. use of Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) to build out conversational discovery and access Processes; automated metadata normalization
- Building out the **marketplace**
 - Working with users to build out system resources for sharing





Backups



Mesh Highlight Summary

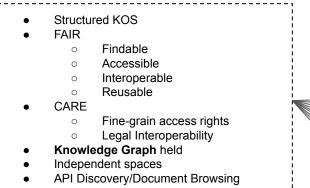
- Provides a full capability metadata layer as an enterprise orchestration service
 - Supports all Digital Twin Earth Framework requirements as specified by the DTE-FS
 - Maps as an AIST ESDT Architecture
 - o Satisfies NARA requirements, intrinsic and largely automated support for PARR 2.0, FAIR, CARE, TRUST
 - As cheap as possible cost optimized at full capability
 - As **flexible** as possible any process, entity, expression, or access pattern; any user code in any compute context; agile reference architecture for re-implementation
 - Allows evolutionary growth in all exposed aspects
 - As simple as possible no message adapters, pip install, small purposeful API
- Emphasizes facts and traceability
 - Everything is data; process is data; full provenance at the task level published in real-time on every process event
- Enables definition and contextualization of anything (entities, transformations, disseminations)
 - Inbound and outbound processes are the same; capturing use information; semantic records of function call inputs and outputs for model training; only running on request; API definition of everything
 - Provides a Motif basis for everything in larger connected context Motifs are critical for enabling analyses
- Enables easy and automatable intra-agency and inter-agency interoperability
 - Process lets us connect with (and trace) federated APIs; supports interoperability with legal and regulatory requirements; private data
 - Open participation
- Supports **exploitation by Next-Gen capabilities** multimodal foundation models, virtual reality environments, 'Spatial Computing'
- Guards against future migrations (assumes eventual sunset up front) everything is data, no 'code-lock'



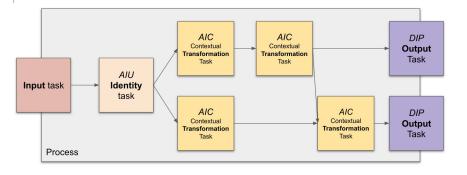


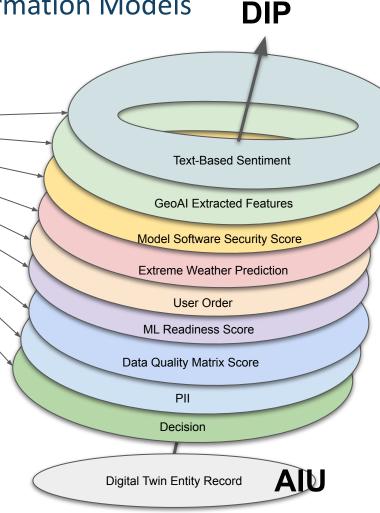
Linked Independent Information Models

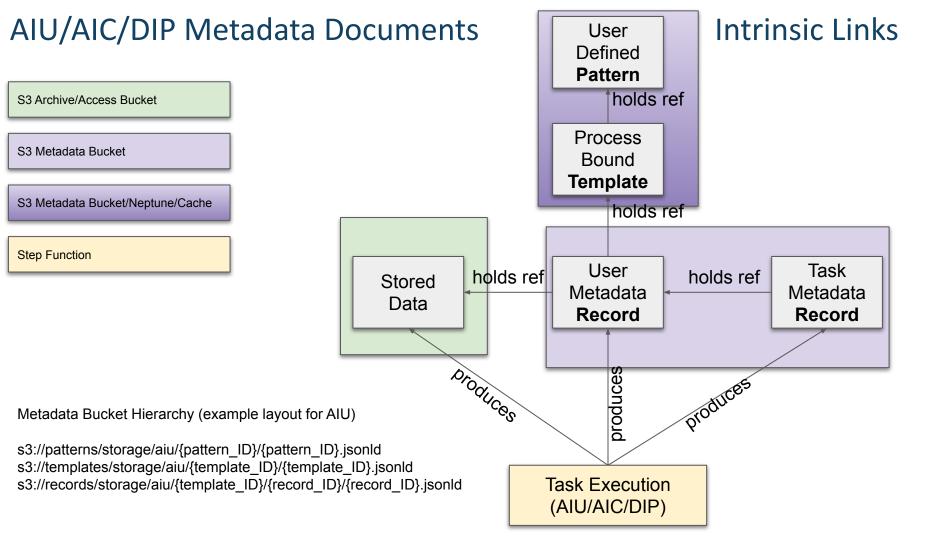
AIC



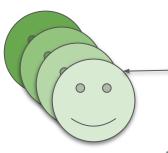
The **AIC** provides controlled access to the 'full graph' of semantically encoded data, information, and knowledge, allowing users authorized by associated Access Rights policy to define AICs that implement Patterns using one or more of any preexisting, well-defined ontologies available on the semantic web (e.g. <u>SSN</u>, <u>SOSO</u>, <u>Schema.org</u>, <u>SensorML</u>, <u>Dublin Core</u>, <u>GCMD</u>, etc.), and/or make use of newly minted, user defined ontologies that are constructed and published automatically on AIC Pattern deployment for system-wide discovery and reuse.







Direct, Immediate Metadata Access



Static Page Endpoint

https://ncei.nesdis.noaa.gov/archive/{{namespac e}}/{{type}}/{{thing_id}}/

Example:

https://ncei.nesdis.noaa.gov/archive/records/ai u/abc_123.jsonld (full document)

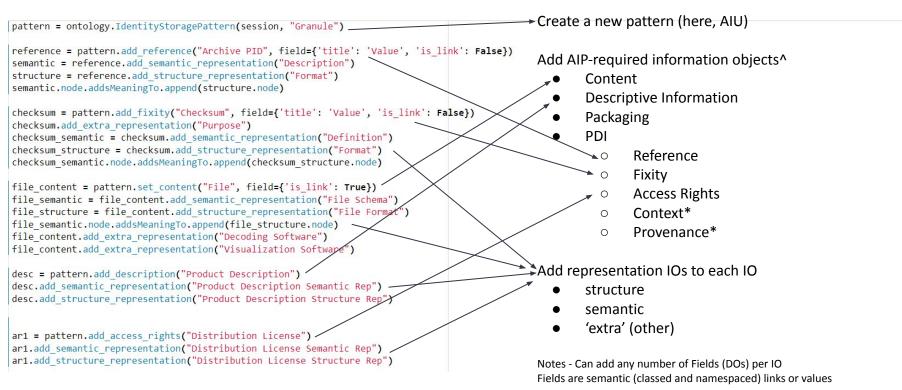
context:{"http://rdf.org",...} body: { "pattern": "http://ncei.nesdis.noaa.gov/archive/patterns/aiu/xyz 123.jsonId", ", "template": "...", "type": "AIU", "description": ..., "content": "..."

S3 Metadata Bucket Namespace = **Core** Reference Model Classes Small and immutable-per-reference-model surface. Recursive classes provide ability to compose inherently interoperable structures Namespace = **Patterns** Unvalued Schema Individuals Potential for ontologically rich augmentation via overloaded labeling and tagging Namespace = **Templates** Partially Valued Schema Individuals Serves as a fast-query inference layer at data-stream resolution of descriptions and representation networks

Namespace = **Records**

Fully Valued Schema Individuals Mesh layer, high write velocity, fully featured inferencing, rich membership content

Creating a Pattern



*Automatically satisfied, but user can extend

^Can add greater or equal to the Information Package Subtype (AIU/AIC/DIP) Requirements

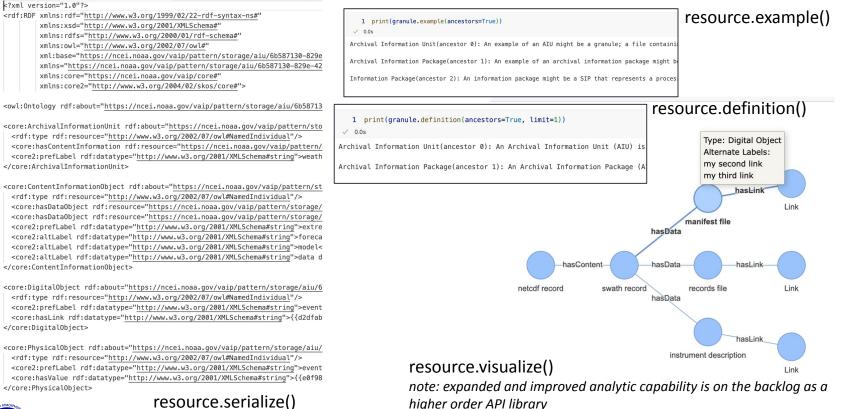


Creating a Process (Pattern to Workflow)

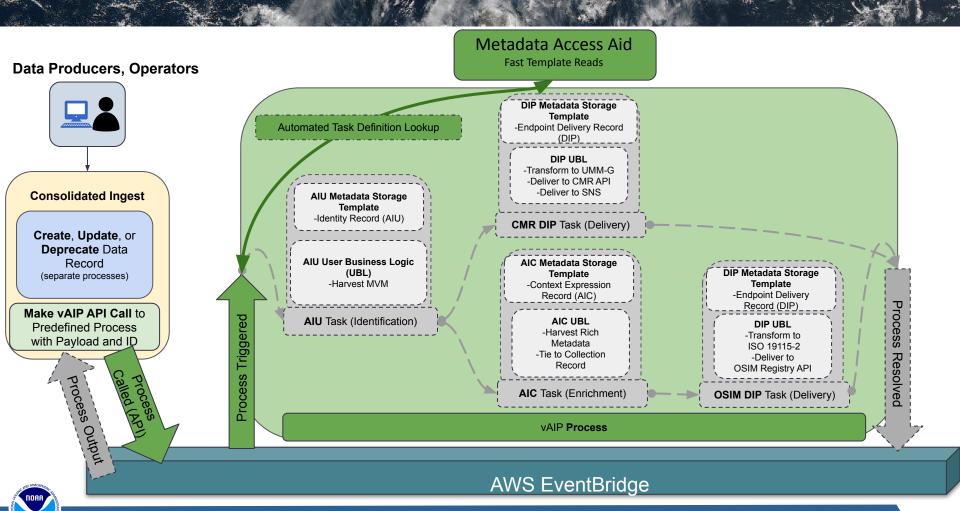


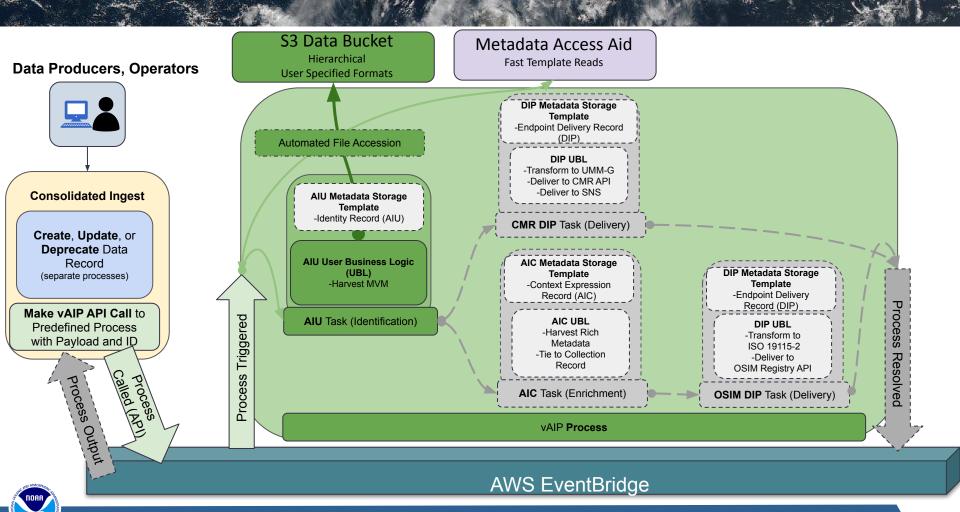


Dynamic Resource Analysis During Creation

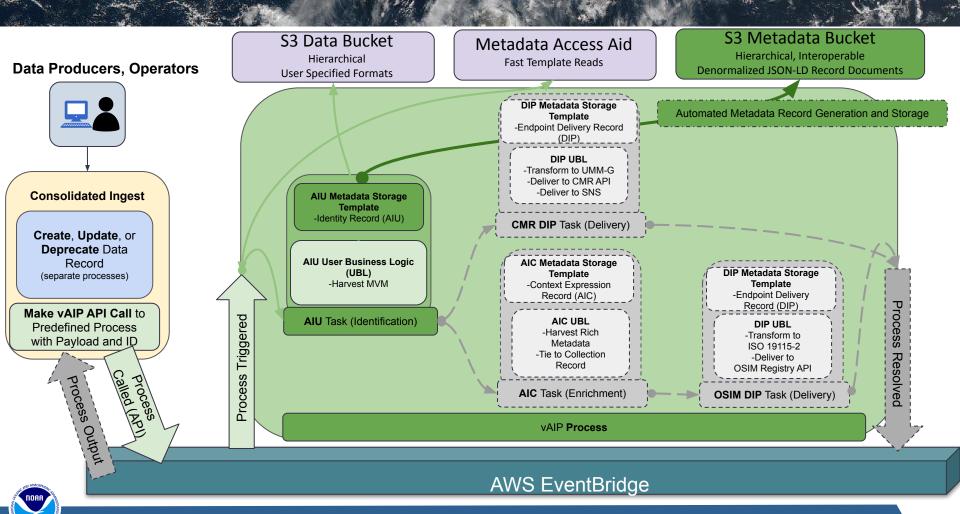


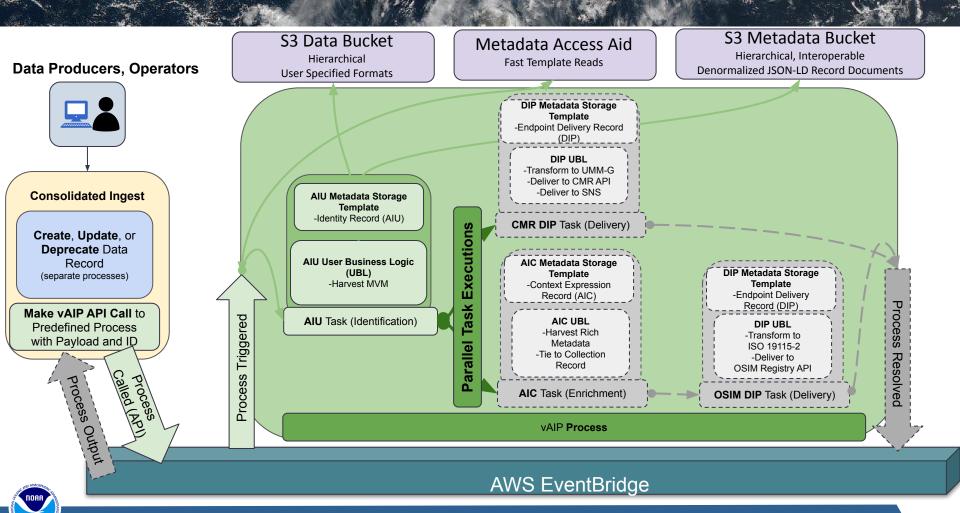




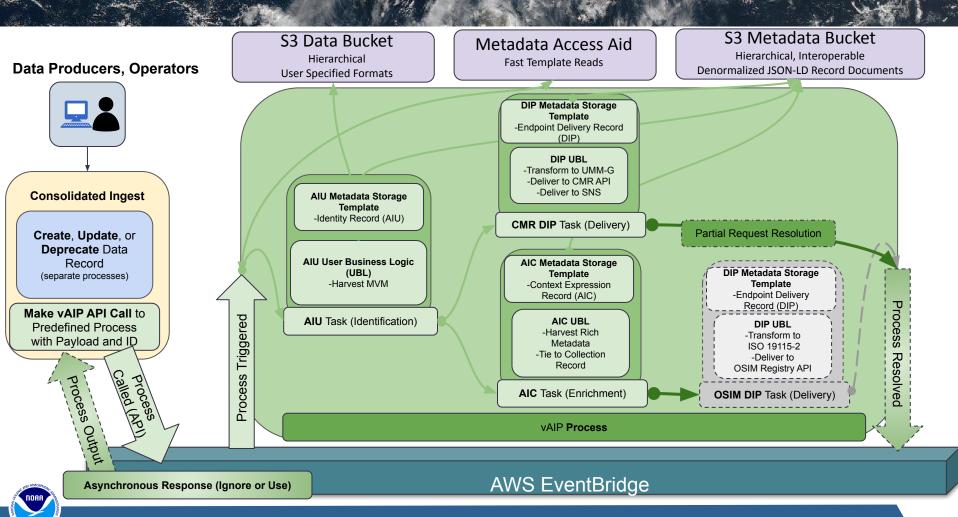


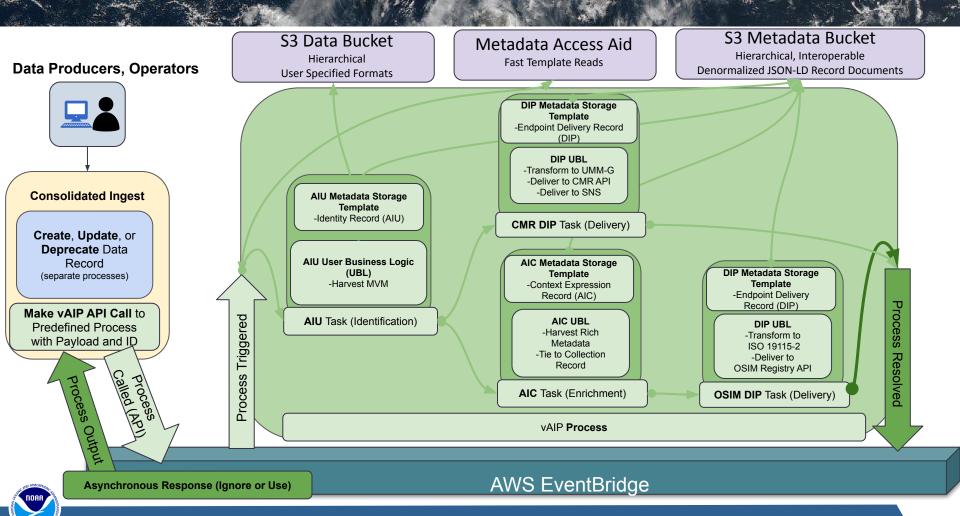
NOAA National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service





NOAA National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service





Common Service - Ordering System

Access Order Broker - Superset of Order Fulfillment Systems

