

# Alternative REST API

## Alternative REST API

⚠️ Aaron Birkland pointed out a severe, and unrecoverably problem with this proposal. For a versionable datastream, a new version is created for each property or content change. As such, to not make 10 versions with a datastream update, a proper transaction system, or methods that allow you to change all the properties in one invocation is necessary. For that reason, a modifyDatastream method like in the current API is still required.

In this I will propose an alternative REST api to the one in the Fedora Documentation. It is made to support CRUD (Create, Retrieve, Update, Delete) workflows more natively than the current Fedora APIs. It is based around the idea that every conceivable url should be gettable, and probably puttable. There should not be big methods with lots of parameters, but rather a bunch of small resources with very clear purpose.

For CRUD purposes, foxml is not the format of Fedora. Foxml is a very useful and well designed storage format, but it is intricate. There will be no ingest or exportToXML methods in this api, as the user should not have to understand foxml. Rather, the Fedora objects is decomposed into resources, available through through URLs.

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      - Purge a literal relation from a datastream

## General principles

Content	Location
Objects	/objects/
Object presentation	/objects/{pid}

Object properties	/objects/{pid}/properties
Object relations	/objects/{pid}/relations
Object content models	/objects/{pid}/contentmodels
Datastreams	/objects/{pid}/datastreams
Datastream	/objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dslID}
Datastream content	/objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dslID}/content
Datastream properties	/objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dslID}/properties
Datastream relations	/objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dslID}/relations
Datastream versions	/objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dslID}/versions
Object Methods	/objects/{pid}/methods
Method invocation	/objects/{pid}/methods/{sdef}/{methodName}?params

## Create methods

### Object resources

#### Create new object with given pid

PUT /objects/{pid}

Return: Nothing or pid of the new object

Creates a new, empty object

#### Create new object with autogenerated pid

POST /objects/

Return: pid of the new object (/objects/demo:newObject2)

Creates a new, empty object

### Datastream resources

#### Create a new datastream

PUT /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dslID}/{withControlGroup/{cg}}

Creates a new datastream in the object with controlgroup X or {cg} if specified. Datastream is empty.

## Retrieve methods

### Object resources

#### Present Object

GET /objects/{pid}

Return: XML that presents the object....

Undetailed

#### Get the object properties

GET /objects/{pid}/properties

Return: list of property names (/object/demo:myPid2/properties/label)

Provides a list of property names that can be queried

#### Get a specific object property

GET /objects/{pid}/properties/{property}  
Return: The value

Give the value of the specific property, or 404 if property not found

Example: /objects/demo:myPid2/properties/label

### **Get content models for a object**

GET /objects/{pid}/contentmodels  
Return: Get the content models of the object (/objects/demo:contentmodel)

Get a list of the content models of this object

### **Get all the relations of an object**

GET /objects/{pid}/relations  
Return: Return a list of relation names

### **Get a specific relation from an object**

GET /objects/{pid}/relations/{rel-name}  
Return: List of pids of objects referred by this relation

### **List the methods on an object**

GET /objects/{pid}/methods  
Return: a list of objects

### **Invoke a method on an object**

GET/POST /objects/{pid}/methods/{sdef}/{methodName}?params

## **Datastream resources**

### **Get Contents of a datastream**

GET /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}

### **Get the properties of a datastream**

GET /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/properties

### **Get a specific property of a datastream**

GET /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/properties/{prop}  
Return: The value

### **Get the relations of the datastream**

GET /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/relations

The RELS-INT block "about" this datastream

### **Get version timestamps of a datastream**

The idea is that the old version of the datastream should support the same getter methods as the current version

GET /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/versions

### **Get the contents of a specific version of a datastream**

GET /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/versions/{timestamp}/contents

### **Get the versioned properties of a specific version**

GET /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/versions/{timestamp}/properties

### **Get a specific versioned property of a specific version**

GET /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/versions/{timestamp}/properties/{propertyname}

## Get the relations of a specific version

GET /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/versions/{timestamp}/relations/

## Update methods

### Object resources

#### Write a specific property

PUT /objects/{pid}/properties/{property}

Contents: The new value

Return nothing, or 404 if property not found. New properties cannot be created.

#### Add a relation to an object

PUT /objects/{pid}/relations/{rel-name}/to/{objpid}

#### Add a content model to this object

PUT /objects/{pid}/contentmodels/{cmpid}

Contents: Nothing

Add cmpid to the list of content model for this object

#### Add a literal relation

PUT /objects/{pid}/relations/{rel-name}/toLiteral/{value}/{withType/{type}}

### Datastream resources

#### Update the contents of an Inline Datastream

POST /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/contents

Contents: The new content of the datastream

#### Update a datastream property

PUT /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/properties/{prop}

Contents: The new value

examples: versionable, state and so on.

#### Update an External, managed or Redirect Datastream

ContentLocation is just a property of these datastreams

PUT /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/properties/contentLocation

Contents: The URL to the contents of the datastream

#### Add a relation to the datastream

PUT /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/relations/{rel-name}/to/{objPid}

#### Add a literal relation to the datastream

PUT /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dsID}/relations/{rel-name}/toLiteral/{value}/{withType/{type}}

## Delete methods

### Object resources

#### Purge object

DELETE /objects/{pid}

#### Remove a content model from this object

DELETE /objects/{pid}/contentmodels/{cmpid}

Contents: Nothing

Remove cmpid from the list of content models for this object

### **Purge a relation to an object**

DELETE /objects/{pid}/relations/{rel-name}/to/{objpid}

### **Delete a literal relation**

DELETE /objects/{pid}/relations/{rel-name}/toLiteral/{value}

## **Datastream resources**

### **Delete a datastream**

DELETE /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dslID}

Purge the datastream from the object from the repository

### **Purge a relation from the datastream**

DELETE /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dslID}/relations/{rel-name}/to/{objPid}

### **Purge a literal relation from a datastream**

DELETE /objects/{pid}/datastreams/{dslID}/relations/{rel-name}/toLiteral/{value}