

XCRI-CAP

Developer's Guide

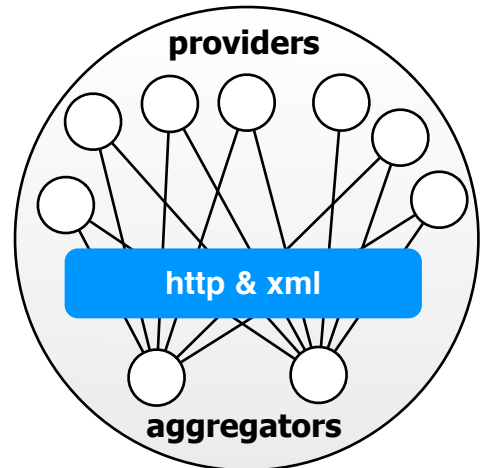
The XCRI **Course Advertising Profile** is a specification for producing and aggregating collections of courses offered by providers

Architecture

The technical architecture of XCRI-CAP is a very simple web-based approach.

Providers (such as universities, colleges and training providers) each offer an XML document formatted according to the XCRI-CAP specification using a standard web server.

Aggregators (such as discovery and guidance services) periodically poll each provider to obtain the latest version of their catalog using a standard HTTP GET request. The aggregator combines the results to create a combined catalog to use for searching and for adding features



Producing XCRI-CAP Data

Providers create XCRI-CAP **catalog** documents by collecting together their courses and offerings and describing them in a **single XML document**.

XCRI-CAP catalogs can be hosted using any webserver as a single static document, or can be generated dynamically, or can be offered through a content management system.

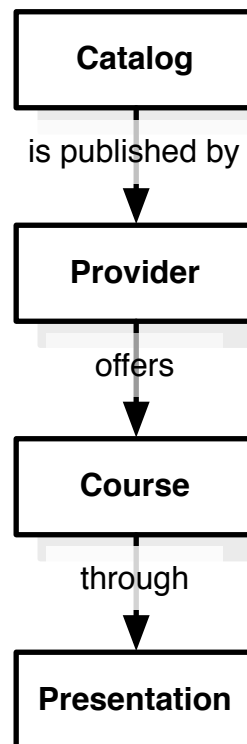
XCRI-CAP catalogs can contain a "generated" date attribute to enable aggregators to quickly check whether a catalog has been modified

Existing tools can be used generate XCRI-CAP catalogs - no new software is necessary. A script can generate the necessary XML from the combined data view.

A single XCRI-CAP catalog can be used to supply course information to multiple aggregators. By using **encoding schemes**, a single catalog can contain special data collection elements needed by particular agents (such as proprietary codes and identifiers) without affecting its use by other services.

Validating and testing XCRI-CAP Data

To help providers XCRI offers an **online test aggregator** that you can use to view your data and compare it with the XCRI-CAP data offered by other providers. There is also an **online validator** that you can use to check whether your XCRI-CAP catalog conforms to the specification.



An XCRI-CAP document has a very simple structure, similar to an RSS feed. Sometimes an XCRI catalog is also called an XCRI feed.

Each catalog has a root <catalog> element, containing typically a single <provider> element, which describes the provider organisation. Within the <provider> are one or more <course> elements.

Each <course> contains descriptive information, including the qualification the course leads to, and one or more <presentation> elements that describe the specifics of a particular offering of the course.

Most descriptive text within an XCRI document uses standard XHTML.

XCRI-CAP is simple to extend, either using custom elements or through qualification of existing elements using syntax or vocabulary encoding schemes.