



Guidelines to the IPTC Common Directory Tree and the File Naming Convention

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At the Autumn 2003 Meeting of IPTC a "Common Directory Tree" was introduced as structure for file systems to hold all files provided by IPTC. This Guideline introduces to the outline and specific naming convention of the directory tree and the files stored there.

The basics:

1. The IPTC Common Directory Tree is valid for all standards of IPTC
(At the time of this writing not all file packages created by IPTC in the past are updated to comply with this new structure but it is IPTC's intention to do this in the near future.)
2. The names of the directories and files have to be considered as case sensitive even if used by a file system that does not make this distinction – as the Windows file systems do.
3. The IPTC Common Directory Tree defines no absolute path for any directory or file. For this reason the root directory of this tree can be stored anywhere in a file system and is also independent from the path syntax of the underlying operating system.
The absolute path where the root directory of this IPTC tree goes is solely subject to the discretion of the user and restrictions imposed by the file system or operating system.
4. The naming convention used by IPTC for files pertaining to a specific standard complies with this structure:
 - first the name of the standard, see names defined by IPTC below
 - then – delimited by an underscore – the version of the standard
 - IF this is a file providing specifications:
 - a delimiter of "-spec-" followed by a short name for the specification like "functionalspec", an underscore as delimiter and the version of this document.
 - The only exemption to this rule are the DTD and XML Schema files: for these files this part of the file name could be suppressed as it's use is clear and the short file name is more convenient.
 - IF this is a file providing supplementary documentation:
 - a delimiter of "-doc-" followed by a short name for the documentation like "VersionChanges", an underscore as delimiter and the version of this document.
 - Finally: a file name extension like ".xml" or ".pdf" or something else.

The structure of the IPTC Common Directory Tree:

IPTC ... root directory of the tree

catalog ... holds catalog files, primarily for NewsML

topicset ... holds topic set files

tools ... holds all software tools provided by IPTC in specific subdirectories

metadata ... holds files for metadata managed by IPTC like the Subject Reference System

[StandardName] ... this is the root directory of an IPTC standard, see current names below

[Version Number] ... this is a MajorVersion.MinorVersion number for the version

specification ... holds all specification files for this standard's version like DTDs, XML Schema files or Functional Specifications.

documentation ... holds all supplementary documentation for this standard's version like graphic overviews, guidelines or background information.

examples ... holds examples, could be in specific subdirectories



[**StandardName**]s currently defined by IPTC in alphabetic order:

EventsML (under development)
IIM (Information Interchange Model)
IPTC7901
NewsML (News Markup Language)
NITF (News Industry Text Format)
ProgramGuideML (under development)
SportsML (Sports Markup Language)

File maintenance for the IPTC Common Directory Tree:

IPTC will provide compressed file packages (ZIP, TAR) that unpack the files to their specific places in the directory tree.

The requirement for this is:

1. Save/move/copy the IPTC package to the **parent** directory of the IPTC root directory in your file system.
2. Unpack the package only from there. The package requires to have a subdirectory named "IPTC" to the directory where the package is stored. If this "IPTC" directory can not be found a new one is created and the tree is created from there.

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