

CoreTrustSeal 'crash course'

CLARIN Centre Meeting
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Mari Kleemola

Finnish Social Science Data Archive, Tampere University & CESSDA
CoreTrustSeal Board Secretary



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In this presentation...

- CoreTrustSeal goals and history
- Certification process
- Requirements
- Compliance level
- Overview of changes 2022 => 2023
- Practical guidance
- Ongoing community discussions
- 2024 Board elections



CoreTrustSeal: Building Trust to Support Open Science

- Not for profit and community-based
- Global and domain agnostic
- Low barrier to entry
 - evidence based on the information needed to run repository services
- Objectives
 - enable repositories to safeguard data
 - ensure high quality
 - guide reliable management of data for the future



More information: <https://www.coretrustseal.org>

CoreTrustSeal: A brief history

2008/2009

WDS Certification of Regular Members



Data Seal of Approval Certification of Trusted Data Repositories

2013

RDA Repository Audit and Certification
DSA–WDS Partnership WG



2017



Expectation or prerequisite for, e.g.

- [WDS Regular Members Accreditation](#)
 - [CLARIN B Centres](#)
 - [CESSDA Service Providers](#)

2023

Latest revision of Requirements



CoreTrustSeal Requirements 2023-2025

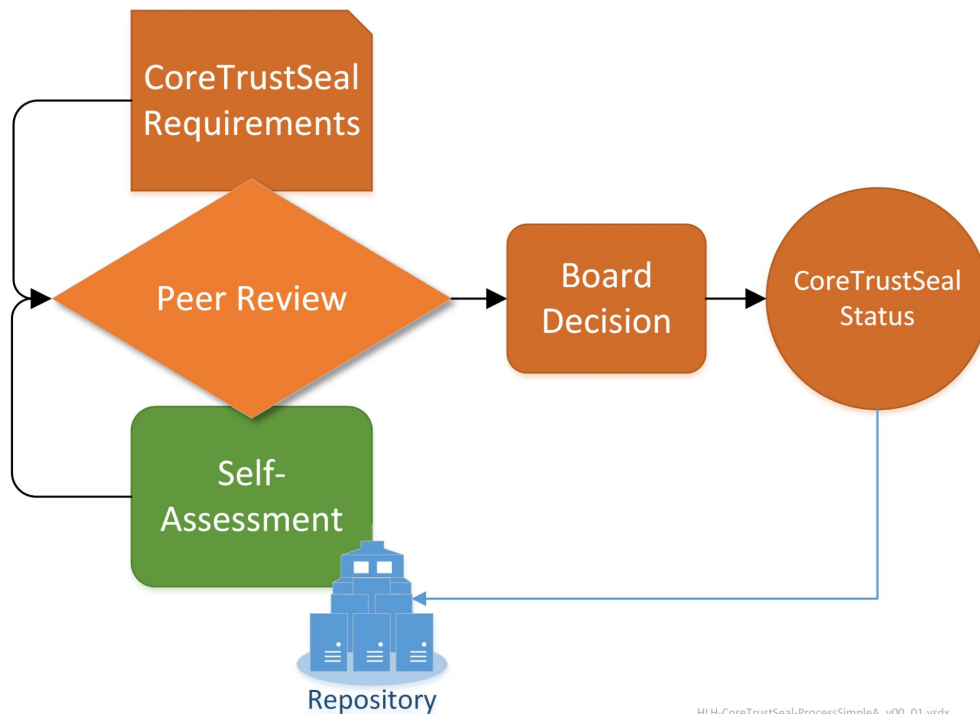
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7051012>

New AMT tool

This slide adapted and updated from Jonas Recker, Mari Kleemola, & Hervé L'Hours. (2021, May 20). What's new, CoreTrustSeal? Changes and expected developments 2020-2022. Global Virtual Conference (IASSIST 2021), Online. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5181079>



Certification process



HLH-CoreTrustSeal-ProcessSimpleA_v00_01.vsdx

- Self assessment based on 16 Requirements + R0
- Peer review by two expert and independent reviewers under the responsibility of the CoreTrustSeal Standards and Certification Board
- Successful applications are made publicly available ([list of certified repositories](#))
- Administrative fee of 1,000 euro
- Certification valid 3 years

- [CoreTrustSeal Board 2021-2024](#)
- [Assembly of Reviewers](#)
- [CoreTrustSeal Requirements 2023-2025](#)
- More information on governance: [Statutes and Rules of Procedures](#)

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Requirements - R0

- Provide background information and context of repository that allow the reviewers to understand your repository and its key characteristics
- Context of the repository: free text option & request to select either 'specialist' or 'generalist'. Specialist repositories are asked to clarify their specialist scope.
- Describe clearly:
 - Designated Community
 - Levels of curation



Requirements - Organisational Infrastructure

- Mission & Scope (R01)
- Rights Management (R02)
- Continuity of Service (R03)
- Legal & Ethical (R04)
- Governance & Resources (R05)
- Expertise & Guidance (R06)



Requirements - Digital Object Management

- Provenance and authenticity (R07)
- Deposit & Appraisal (R08)
- Preservation plan (R09)
- Quality Assurance (R10)
- Workflows (R11)
- Discovery and Identification (R12)
- Reuse (R13)



Requirements - Information Technology & Security

- Storage & Integrity (R14)
- Technical Infrastructure (R15)
- Security (R16)



Compliance level

The applicant must indicate a compliance level for each of the Requirements:

- In Progress: the repository is in the implementation phase.
- Implemented: the requirement has been fully implemented by the repository.

- The reviewer will assess compliance level against:
 - Response statement
 - Supporting evidence
- Reviewer may propose a lower Compliance Level than selected by the applicant. In that case, they should explain the reason.



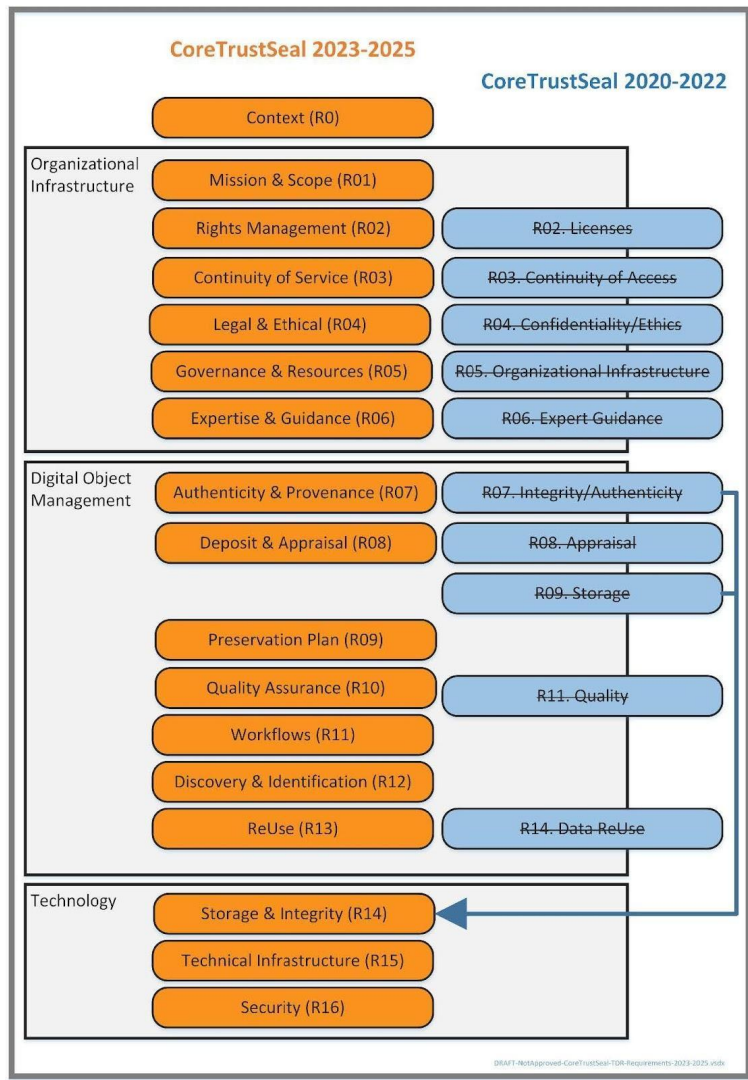
Overview of Changes in Requirements

Overview of changes video:

2022 Changes to the CoreTrustSeal Requirements
2023-2025 <https://youtu.be/THpQ158qKIo>

Change log document:

CoreTrustSeal Revision Working Group Change Log
and Associated Materials (v01.00). Zenodo.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7051237>



Practical

- Focus on describing your practices
- CLARIN-wide common supporting evidence benefits all
 - Be clear on how you comply with e.g. CLARIN common practices or requirements
- Continuity plan is important
- Peer-to-peer discussions before submitting have proven helpful



Start with a triage



Is the definition of the Designated Community clear enough?

Check R0 to ensure that you have described the scope, knowledge base, and methodologies of the group(s) of users at whom the curation and preservation measures are primarily targeted.



Do you offer active preservation?

Check Preservation Plan (R09) and ensure that you have described your preservation actions.

Check Deposit & Appraisal (R08) and that you have described what kind of preservation actions your digital objects receive.



Are the outcomes of the curation aligned with the needs of the Designated Community?

Check Reuse (R13) that you have included information on how appropriate information is available to support understanding and use of digital objects over time.

CoreTrustSeal Levels of Curation 2019-2025

From CoreTrustSeal Guidance

Level	Description
A.	Content distributed as deposited.
B.	Basic curation – e.g. brief checking, addition of basic metadata or documentation
C.	Enhanced curation – e.g. conversion to new formats during ingest, enhancement of documentation and metadata
D.	Data-level curation – as in C above, but with additional editing of deposited data

2019-2021, 2020-2022

- Curation understood as “adding value by enhancing content”
- Initial deposits unchanged, edits only on copies

2023-2025

- Curation as prerequisite for “assuring long-term accessibility and understandability of data as the needs of the Designated Community change”
- Initial deposits unchanged, edits only on copies
- Sufficient metadata for independent use by Designated Community
- Measures for active preservation in place



This slide adapted from Recker, Jonas, Hervé L'Hours, and Mari Kleemola. 2023. "Modelling curation and preservation levels for trustworthy digital repositories." PV2023 - Adding value (to) and preserving research data, CERN, Genf (CH), 2023-05-02. <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1188041/contributions/5309462/>

Re-certification?

- For re-certification, check feedback received in the previous application
 - Address earlier comments
 - Describe how you have fulfilled the promises of improvement
- When CoreTrustSeal certification is renewed, The expectation is to see a move from 'in progress' to 'implemented' or clear explanations as to why this is not possible.



Guidance

CoreTrustSeal Trustworthy Digital Repositories Requirements 2023-2025 Extended Guidance (V01.00).

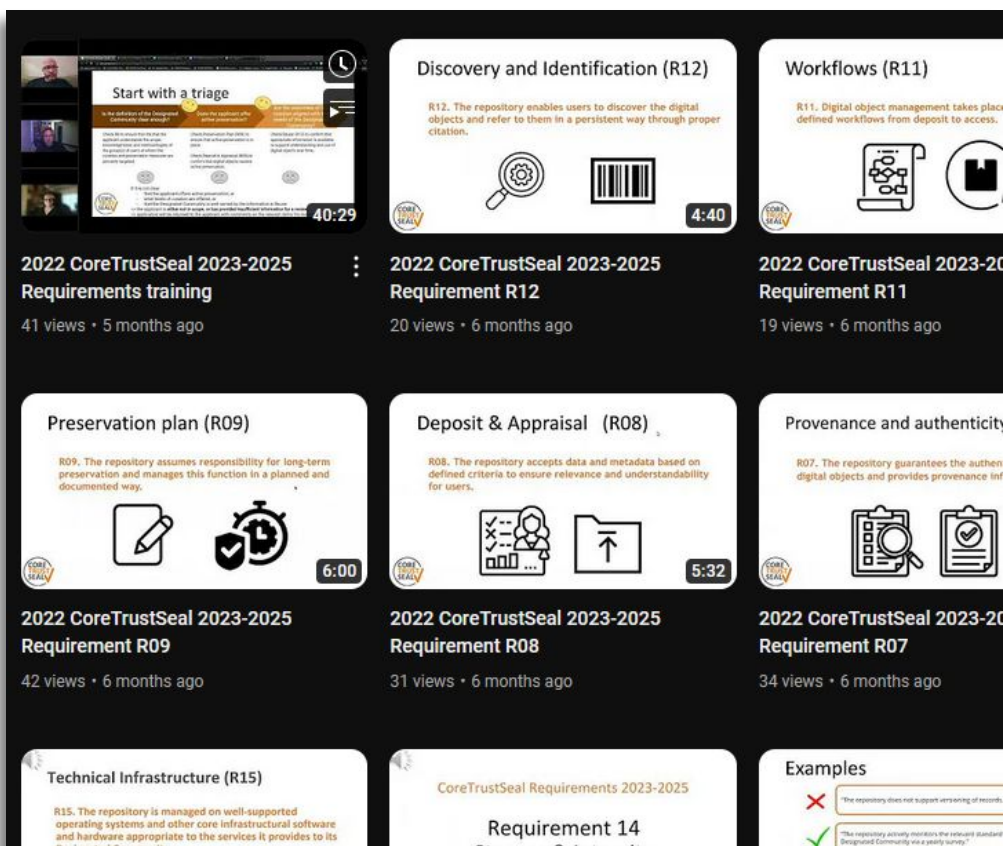
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7051096>



CoreTrustSeal Trustworthy Digital Repositories Requirements 2023-2025

Extended Guidance

V01.00



Videos explaining all Requirements (training for Assembly of Reviewers)

<https://www.youtube.com/@CoreTrustSeal>

Ongoing community discussions

- Curation & Preservation Levels: CoreTrustSeal Discussion Paper <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6908019> (to be updated soon)
- Towards a European network of FAIR-enabling Trustworthy Digital Repositories (TDRs) - A Working Paper (v2.0). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7034315>
- RDA CoreTrustSeal Maintenance Group <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/coretrustseal-maintenance-wg>
- Long Term Digital Preservation Task Force (EOSC)
- RDA Tiger



2024: CoreTrustSeal Board elections

- Elections in spring/summer 2024
- New Board will start in ~August 2024
- 12 elected members, 3-year terms
- Members of Assembly of Reviewers are eligible
 - Must have completed 2 reviews annually
- Become a member of AoR now!!!



Thank you!

