DONA Foundation Statement
Non-Proprietary Status of the DO Architecture

The DONA Foundation ("Foundation") is aware of assertions made by several parties that the Digital Object Architecture ("DOA" or "DO Architecture") is proprietary. These assertions are untrue. In late 2016, CNRI also posted a [statement](#) about this subject. The responsibility for evolving the DOA was transferred to DONA in 2014 by CNRI, the organization that developed it in the first place.

It is important to distinguish between the DO Architecture, as an architecture, and its various implementations. Any organization that wishes to make use of the DOA (as an open architecture) is welcome to do so without permission. Specific implementations of components of the DOA that may be undertaken by the Foundation, or by others, may be subject to proprietary considerations by such organizations, including any use of their trademarks or rights in their software. Such implementations may be based on the DO Architecture, but they do not as such remove the basic DO Architecture from the public domain.

Over several years, CNRI worked with ITU-T Study Group 17 in an effort to standardize the core DO Architecture technology. These efforts led to the approval of ITU Recommendation X.1255 in September 2013, which is largely based on the DOA. There are no proprietary claims of CNRI or the Foundation in the DO Architecture.

April 18, 2017