PROVENANCE FOR INTERNET ART:
USING THE W3C PROV MODEL IN WIKibase

WHAT IS INTERNET ART?

Internet Art is situated in between fine arts and performing arts: it is based on software artifacts that are meant to be experienced by an online audience. These artifacts often change over time into “variants” – e.g. when modified or copied to a new location, or when accessed via a new technical environment.

PROV application for an internet artwork

WHAT IS PROV AND HOW TO APPLY IT?

PROV is a standard data model and ontology developed by W3C in order to describe the entities, activities, and people involved in producing a piece of data or a thing on the Web. In the case of Internet Art, it can be applied in three “flows”:

1. The “data flow view” shows how one variant of an artwork derives from another.
2. The “responsibility view” shows the agents responsible for different events in the artwork’s lifecycle.
3. The “process flow view” shows activities, such as the “generation” of an artwork variant, who carried them out and when.

IMPLEMENTING PROV IN WIKibase

1. PROV application for an internet artwork
2. PROV implementation into Wikibase

• Concepts and properties from the PROV ontology can be mapped to custom properties and items in Rhizome’s Wikibase.
• The “data flow” and “responsibility” views can be fully represented in Wikibase via such mapping.
• It is more challenging to fully represent the “process flow”, because it relies on an event-based data model. In our implementation, this model is flattened.

CONTACTS
DRAGAN ESPENSCHIED
Digital Preservation Director, Rhizome
Email: dragan.espenschied@rhizome.org

LOZANA ROSSENOVA
PhD Researcher, LSBU & Rhizome
Email: lozana.rossenova@rhizome.org
Wiki username: Loz.ross

DR KARIN DE WILD
University of Leicester
Email: ldw15@leicester.ac.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the following colleagues for their support and contributions to this research: Dr Annet Dekker, Anisa Hawes, Dr Katherine Thornton, Rhizome’s Digital Preservation team, and Wikibase’s development team at Wikimedia Deutschland. Lozana Rosenova would like to acknowledge that her PhD research is funded by AHRC (UK) with additional support from Rhizome.