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CoreTrustSeal Newsletter 08-2025

Community input needed on Revision of Requirements - deadline extended to August 31

The CoreTrustSeal Board is seeking input for proposed changes to the requirements to take effect for 2026-2028. We value our community members opinions and feel the process of updating these trustworthy data repository requirements will be most successful with as much community participation as possible.

Our community is built around a Peer-to-Peer review process. We help each other protect our data assets for future generations by challenging each other to be the best repositories we can be. We all know that the ever-changing landscape we work in requires periodic review of our requirements and procedures.

The CoreTrustSeal Board appreciates your time and effort in completing this survey and providing valuable feedback on the CoreTrustSeal Requirements. While we do not have the resources to respond to each survey individually, be assured, we value each community member's input. We will make every effort to reflect them in the revisions of the Requirements.

The following link will direct you to the survey:

https://sciencespocdsp.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8jn9vE3bfnbAKR8

The estimated duration of this questionnaire is 20 minutes. It will be active until August 31st, 2025.

Thank you for your time and feedback!

We will share progress and outcomes in the coming months.

Thanks again for being part of our peer review community.

Kind regards,

CoreTrustSeal Standards and Certification Board

CoreTrustSeal in the FIDELIS landscape analysis

The FIDELIS project executed a landscape analysis to shape their work. The [report](#) depicting all results from this activity was published in June. The CoreTrustSeal Board has read and considered this report and now shares some insights with the community on these results and the next steps for the FIDELIS project.

CoreTrustSeal mentioned in the landscape

The FIDELIS survey included reference to CoreTrustSeal in several areas of the survey. First, the newly proposed [levels of curation and preservation](#) were included in their repository characteristics section, to categorise respondents according to the levels of care they provide. What was observed there is that Active Preservation is currently being planned or in the process of implementation for quite some repositories. This shows increased attention to this level of care and aligns with our perspective that Active Preservation is essential for Trustworthy Digital Repositories. It was observed that mostly discipline-specific repositories are working towards implementing Active Preservation, which may indicate more support is needed for generalist repositories to implement such actions.

The FIDELIS survey also considered different certification schemes, CoreTrustSeal among them, and the implementation and interest in them. Results show that there are currently the most repositories certified according to the CoreTrustSeal standard and that there is most interest in obtaining CoreTrustSeal (re)certification in the future when compared to other certification schemes. CoreTrustSeal is happy to see this continued interest in our services and welcomes collaboration with FIDELIS to provide training and support on this topic.

Work has been done in FIDELIS to establish a [Transparent Trustworthy Repository Attributes Matrix \(TTRAM\)](#). This Matrix has been developed taking several different community guidelines for Trustworthy Digital Repositories into account, including the CoreTrustSeal Requirements. The landscape survey scoped existing standards and challenges on the different aspects of the Matrix, defining support needs for the community. The CoreTrustSeal Board is happy to see that CoreTrustSeal applications are mentioned as standards to create necessary internal and public documentation to clarify workflows and policies. This intended focus of the CoreTrustSeal materials to facilitate self-evaluations, and the publication of successful applications supports repositories to increase their trustworthiness. The CoreTrustSeal requirements, in turn, will be more attainable and relevant when informed by the artefacts listed in the matrix. Challenging areas such as 'Mission and Scope', 'Preservation', 'Third Party Dependencies', and 'Security' may receive additional attention from FIDELIS in training and support activities.

Taken together, the snapshot of community standards and needs provides valuable insights to all stakeholders part of the community. The CoreTrustSeal Board will amplify training and support opportunities coming from the FIDELIS project to the CoreTrustSeal community where relevant, and collaborate with the project where needed to support the strengthening of Trustworthy Digital Repositories in Europe.

AMT closed for new applicantions in November and December 2025

The online tool will be closed for new application in November and December 2025 to enable the update to the new 2026-2028 requirements, which will be valid from January 1st, 2026.

Applications that are submitted before that time will still be processed during these months and will be reviewed according to the 2023-2025 requirements.

Kind regards,
CoreTrustSeal Standards and Certification Board

Release of a CoreTrustSeal Documentation Suite

Borealis and the Digital Research Alliance of Canada's Preservation Expert Group have just launched their CoreTrustSeal Documentation Suite, which is intended to support Borealis participants and data repositories across Canada and the world with CoreTrustSeal certification and research data preservation efforts more broadly. The Documentation Suite responds to the 2023-2025 certification requirements and includes policy templates to support the management of institutional collections in Borealis, as well as an application template to support institutions interested in applying for CoreTrustSeal certification. These templates build on previous work by Borealis and the Alliance based on the 2020-2022 requirements. All the documents and more information about the project are available on SPOTDocs. The CTS Board is currently reviewing the Documentation Suite for a potential endorsement.

Feedback and comments welcome!

Please don't hesitate to contact info@coretrustseal.org if you have feedback or suggestions for us on the tool, process, website or anything else!



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