SSO ARTISTS ENTERTAINMENT x DDEX

Electronic Release Notification (ERN) Implementation Reference

ERN 4.3.2 | Release Profiles 2.3.1 | Carbon technical guide

SSO Artists Entertainment - DDEX standards member / committee participant

SSO participates in DDEX standards work and publicly identifies itself as a DDEX member and active standards participant.

ERN	RELEASE PROFILES	CLOUD STORAGE	WEB SERVICES
4.3.2	2.3.1	1.8.1	1.8

Based on the DDEX Knowledge Base and current standards specifications. Prepared September 2026.

Reference guide only. DDEX formal specifications, schemas and implementation licence terms remain authoritative.

01 / ERN AT A GLANCE

What ERN communicates and why it exists

The Electronic Release Notification Message Suite lets record companies and distributors communicate releases, resources and commercial availability terms to digital service providers. ERN can describe anything from a simple single to complex release campaigns with changing deal conditions.



Key implementation facts

Current baseline	DDEX lists ERN 4.3.2 as the current baseline XML standard and strongly advises new implementations to use the most recent ERN 4.3.x version.
Scope	ERN carries data about Releases and Resources, including sound recordings, music videos and images, plus Deal information defining when, where and how a DSP may make them available.
Go-live requirement	DDEX states that implementers need a DDEX Implementation Licence before going live.
Validation	DDEX provides an online validator for schema conformance and recommends validating messages before sending as well as on receipt.

Source: DDEX Knowledge Base - Electronic Release Notification Message Suite (ERN); Standards Specifications.

02 / CURRENT SUITE

The four-part ERN implementation surface

Treat ERN as a suite, not just one XML file. The message baseline, release profiles and choreography specifications work together to define what is sent and how business partners exchange it.

Part	Specification	Current	Purpose
Part 1	Baseline XML Schema	4.3.2	Defines the NewReleaseMessage and the core message/data structure.
Part 2	Release Profiles	2.3.1	Defines profile-specific requirements for common release types.
Part 3	Cloud-based Storage Choreography	1.8.1	Defines reliable exchange of ERN messages and associated files using cloud/SFTP-oriented workflows.
Part 4	Web Services Exchange Choreography	1.8	Defines REST-like request/response workflows for richer status visibility and automation.

Version discipline

DDEX advises implementers to use the most recent version of each standard. Older ERN 3 and ERN 4.0 materials were sunset from support in 2025 and removed from DDEX websites from March 2026.

Implementation licence

Before production go-live, obtain the DDEX Implementation Licence and pin the exact standards/profile versions used by both partners.

Sources: DDEX ERN landing page; DDEX Standards Specifications; DDEX What's New / sunset guidance.

03 / MESSAGE ARCHITECTURE

Inside the ERN 4 NewReleaseMessage

ERN 4 structures a release as a set of interrelated lists and references. The five main sections carry the identity, parties, resources, release topology and commercial terms. Three auxiliary sections support cue, chapter and supplementary-document use cases.



MessageHeader — Sender, recipient, DPID, creation timestamp



PartyList — Artists, writers, labels and other parties



ResourceList — Sound recordings, videos, images and binaries



ReleaseList — Album/track products, identifiers and release metadata



DealList — Territories, use types, commercial models, dates and takedowns

Auxiliary sections

CueList

Useful for audio-visual resources or embedded recordings.

ChapterList

Supports chapter annotation, such as audiobooks.

SupplementaryDocumentList

Signals that additional documents are available for the release metadata.

DDEX guidance: one NewReleaseMessage should describe one individual release and its components, not multiple releases.

Identifiers, anchors and message relationships

ERN depends on stable identifiers plus message-internal reference anchors. Understanding the distinction is critical: global identifiers identify industry objects, while anchors connect objects inside a specific NewReleaseMessage.

Industry identifiers

DPID	Identifies sender and recipient parties in the MessageHeader.
ISRC	Identifies a sound recording resource.
ICPN / UPC / EAN	Identifies a commercial release/product.
GRid	May identify releases where used.
Creation timestamp	Identifies when the message itself was created.

Message anchors

A1, A2, A3...	Resource references, often aligned with track sequence.
R0	Typically the album-level release.
R1, R2, R3...	Track releases that reference A1, A2, A3...
A11 example	On a 10-track album, cover artwork can follow as A11.

Worked album example

A 10-track album can contain A1-A10 as sound recording resources, followed by an image resource such as A11. The ReleaseList can contain R0 for the album plus R1-R10 for the track releases. Each Release references the appropriate Resource anchors, while the DealList references the relevant Release anchors.

Source: DDEX ERN 4 structure guidance.

05 / RELEASE PROFILES

Choose the profile that matches the release topology

ERN 4 uses release profiles only. The older ERN 3 business profiles were discontinued, with their requirements absorbed into the ERN 4 core. Release Profiles 2.3.1 is the current profile standard for ERN 4.3.2.

#	Profile	Primary use
1	**Audio**	One or more sound recordings plus a representational image.
2	**Video**	One or more video resources plus a representational image.
3	**Mixed Media**	A mixture of sound recording, video, image and/or text resources.
4	**Simple Audio Single**	One primary SoundRecording, commonly used for streaming services.
5	**Simple Video Single**	One primary ShortFormMusicWorkVideo, commonly used for video streaming.
6	**Ringtone**	A single audio mobile ringtone clip using a SoundRecording resource.
7	**Long-form Musical Work Video / TV / Film**	Long-form/chaptered music video, film, TV episodes, series or seasons, often with cue sheets.
8	**DJ Mix**	A primary mix resource plus secondary source recordings that comprise the mix.
9	**Audio Drama or Book**	Spoken-word book, documentary, comedy, panel show or dramatized audio content.

Profile mapping matters: DDEX defines which ReleaseTypes are expected within each profile. Other combinations are not encouraged.

06 / CHOREOGRAPHY

Two exchange patterns: storage and web services

DDEX separates message semantics from transport choreography. Business partners can exchange ERN using a cloud/SFTP-oriented storage workflow or REST-like web-service calls, depending on the level of automation and supply-chain visibility required.

Cloud-based storage / SFTP

Current formal choreography: 1.8.1. Uses secure file transfer/storage patterns for messages and associated files. Standardized foldering, timestamps and naming reduce duplicate processing and preserve order.

Web Services Exchange

Current formal choreography: 1.8. REST-like request/response calls support delivery requests, status checks, reports, acknowledgements and richer operational visibility between partners.

Storage choreography operational rules

- Create unique upload/download locations for exchange.
- Process incoming messages according to the defined timestamp ordering.
- Use standardized descriptive filenames with version and/or timestamp components.
- Protect transport with encrypted transfer and partner-specific access controls.

Web-services operational rules

- Each call is a request/response pair.
- Headers identify sender, recipient, message identity, choreography type, creation time and priority.
- Resource binaries are generally referenced by location rather than carried in the web-service call.
- Validate XML against the supplied XSDs, including namespace correctness, before sending and after receiving.

Implementation note: some explanatory KB pages still contain prose referencing earlier choreography revisions. Use the current formal standards list as the version authority: Cloud-based Storage 1.8.1 and Web Services Exchange 1.8.

07 / VALIDATION AND GO-LIVE

Conformance is a pipeline, not a final checkbox

A production ERN implementation should reject structural issues as early as possible, maintain version discipline, preserve message ordering and establish traceable acknowledgements between partners.

1	**Pin versions**	Agree the exact ERN baseline, release profile and choreography versions used by both parties.
2	**Obtain licence**	Complete the DDEX Implementation Licence before production go-live.
3	**Generate message**	Build one NewReleaseMessage for one release and resolve all internal references.
4	**Validate XSD**	Validate outgoing XML against DDEX schemas and allowed values.
5	**Transport safely**	Use the agreed choreography, naming, ordering, access credentials and binary locations.
6	**Validate receipt**	Validate inbound messages too, not only outbound messages.
7	**Acknowledge and audit**	Record acknowledgements, errors, retries and delivery state for operational traceability.

COMMON FAILURE CLASSES

Namespace mismatches, unresolved references, wrong profile assumptions, malformed identifiers, inconsistent parties/artists, out-of-order files and partner-specific processing assumptions.

DDEX validator: https://ddex-validator.ddex.net/

08 / TESTING

Use sample packs as fixtures, not as templates to copy blindly

DDEX publishes ERN sample packs to demonstrate common release topologies and choreography messages. Samples are most useful as conformance fixtures alongside XSD validation and partner-specific test cases.

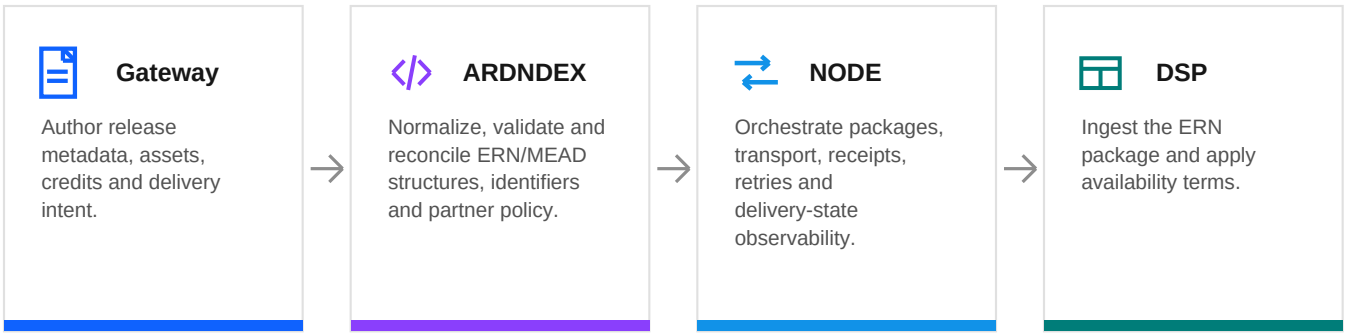
- **Audio Album**
- **Video Album**
- **Mixed Media Bundle**
- **Simple Audio Single**
- **Simple Video Single**
- **Ringtone**
- **Longform Musical Work Video**
- **DJ Mix**
- **Boxed Set Variant**
- **Classical Variant**

Recommended test matrix

SCHEMA	Valid and deliberately invalid XML; namespace and AVS edge cases.
REFERENCES	Broken A/R anchors, duplicate identifiers, missing PartyList references.
TOPOLOGY	Albums, singles, track releases, images, nested ResourceGroups and variants.
DEALS	Territories, start times, pre-orders, updates and takedowns.
TRANSPORT	Ordering, retries, duplicate-file protection, acknowledgements and large binaries.
PARTNER BEHAVIOR	Compare your generated messages against the receiving partner's supported profile and choreography subset.

How ERN fits inside the SSO system

SSO uses DDEX as an interoperability contract inside a broader release-delivery stack. The operational model keeps authoring, standards validation, orchestration and partner transport separate so that each layer can evolve without changing the canonical release truth.



DDEX™
STANDARDISING THE DIGITAL VALUE CHAIN

SSO

DDEX standards participation

SSO Artists Entertainment participates in DDEX committee work and publicly identifies itself as a DDEX member and active participant helping shape digital distribution standards.

Implementation principle

DDEX defines the external contract. SSO internal systems can add stricter validation, richer observability and automation, but partner-facing ERN output must remain conformant to the agreed DDEX versions and profiles.

Public status note

SSO public materials state that SSO Artists Entertainment is a DDEX member and active participant in standards work. This reference presents SSO committee participation as SSO-reported organizational status.

Why ERN 4 changes the implementation model

DDEX describes ERN 4 as more efficient and less ambiguous than ERN 3, with major structural changes that reduce repeated data and make parties and contributors easier to disambiguate.

Less duplication	ERN 4 greatly reduces repeated information inside the NewReleaseMessage.
Clearer placement	The structure reduces ambiguity about where specific metadata belongs.
PartyList	Artists, musicians, writers, labels and other parties are centralized and referenced instead of repeated.
Contributor model	Artist and contributor handling is better aligned with other DDEX standards such as RIN and RDR.
Better interoperability	Harmonized structures make it easier to move trustworthy metadata across studio, label, distributor, DSP and rights workflows.

Legacy-version status in 2026

DDEX announced that ERN 3 and ERN 4.0 stopped receiving support from March 2025, with their public specification and implementation materials removed from DDEX websites from March 2026. New work should target ERN 4.3.2 wherever possible.

Primary standards links and authority chain

This guide is an SSO-authored implementation reference. It summarizes public DDEX materials for practical use, but it is not a substitute for the formal DDEX standard texts, XSDs, release-profile specification or choreography specifications.

ERN implementation hub	https://kb.ddex.net/implementing-each-standard/electronic-release-notification-messa...
Current standards specifications	https://kb.ddex.net/reference-material/standards-specifications/
DDEX validator	https://ddex-validator.ddex.net/
ERN data dictionaries	https://kb.ddex.net/reference-material/data-dictionaries/
ERN implementation guidance	https://kb.ddex.net/implementing-each-standard/electronic-release-notification-messa...
ERN samples	https://kb.ddex.net/implementing-each-standard/electronic-release-notification-messa...
SSO Artists Entertainment	https://ssoentertainment.sbs/

Authority chain

1. DDEX formal specification and XSD 2. Release Profile specification 3. Choreography specification 4. Partner implementation agreement 5. This SSO reference.