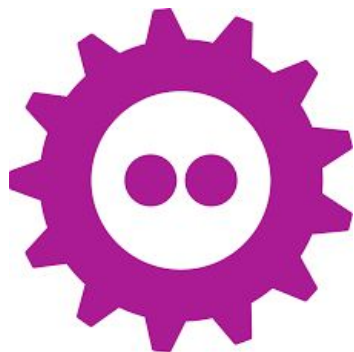




Updating open data standards (The journey of the Frictionless Specs to v2)



FOSDEM 2024

Sara Petti

3 February 2024

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Open Knowledge
FOR A FAIR, SUSTAINABLE AND OPEN FUTURE

Hi there!
I am Sara



International Network Lead &
Frictionless Data Community Manager
@ Open Knowledge Foundation



Digital Commons



Bologna, Italy



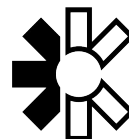
sara.petti@okfn.org



SaPe_BY



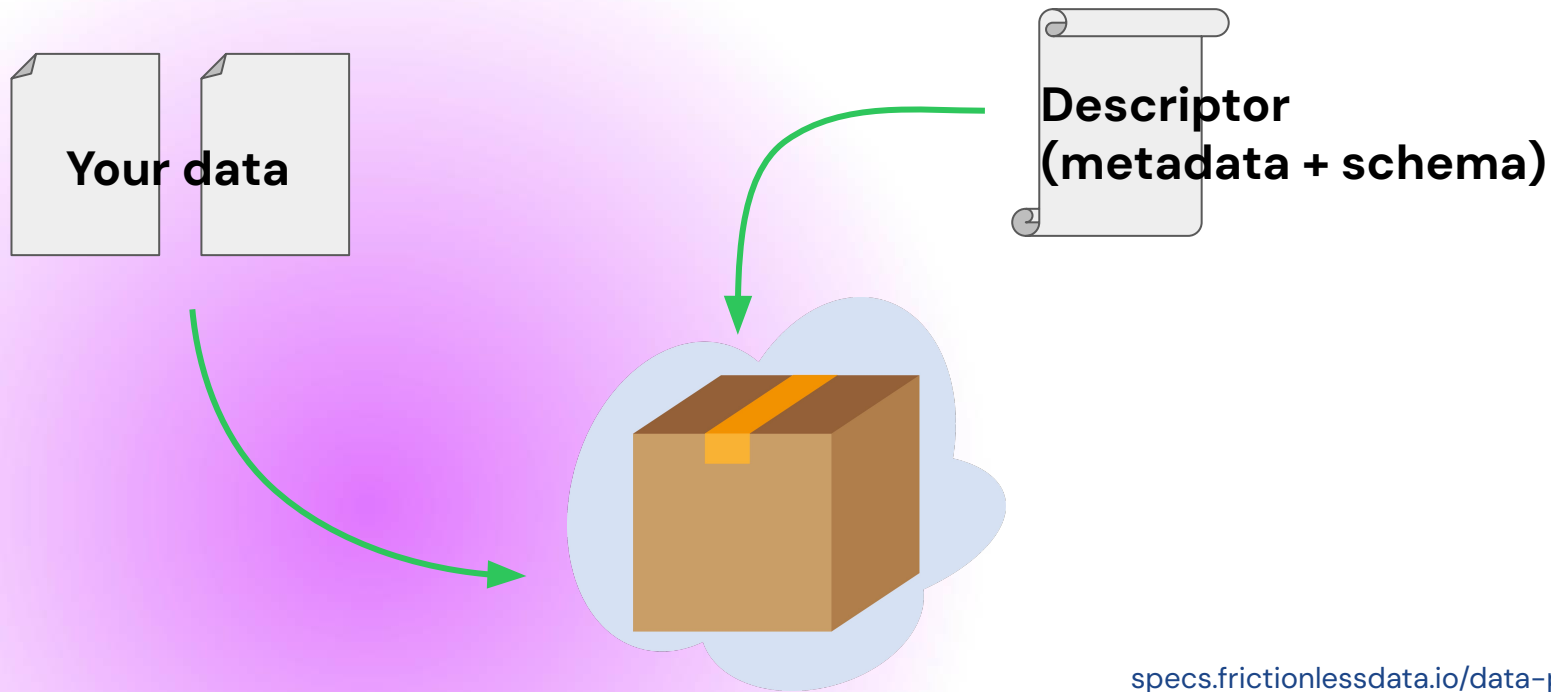
sapetti9



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Frictionless Data Package



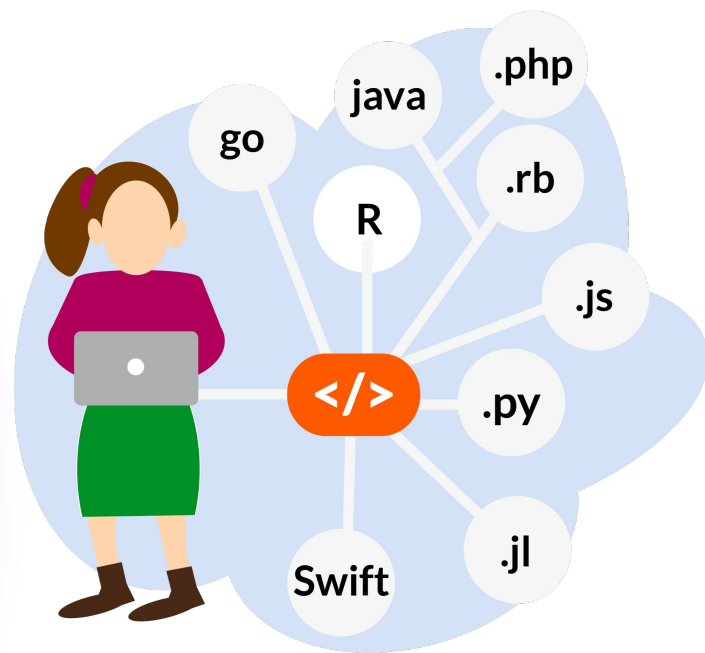
What makes a standard successful?

- Engagement with **communities**
- **Simplicity**, disrupting as little as possible existing approaches and processes
- **Extensibility** and **customisable** by design
- **Human-editable** and **machine-usable** metadata standards
- **Reusing existing standard** formats for data
- **Language-, technology- and infrastructure-agnostic**

Think about adoption

Technical implementation:

- framework.frictionlessdata.io/
 - github.com/frictionlessdata/frictionless-r
 - github.com/frictionlessdata/frictionless-js
- ...frictionlessdata.io/universe



Why an update?

frictionlessdata / specs

Code **Issues 90** Pull requests 2 Discussions Actions Projects Security 41 Insights Settings

Labels Milestones Edit milestone New issue

v2

Due by March 31, 2024 27% complete

26 Open 10 Closed

- Support groupChar for integer type** proposal Table Schema 1 pull request 0 reactions 3 comments
#498 opened on Jul 30, 2017 by rufuspollock
- Add contributors to the Data Resource spec?** Data Resource proposal 1 pull request 0 reactions 1 comment
#866 opened last month by roll
- Clarify physical/Logical representation in Table Schema** epic proposal Table Schema 1 pull request 1 reaction 10 comments
#864 opened last month by roll
- Default field type: "string" -> "any"** epic proposal Table Schema 1 pull request 0 reactions 0 comments
#827 opened on Jun 1, 2023 by roll
- Clarity around extra/non-specified fields** discussion epic Table Schema 1 pull request 0 reactions 8 comments
#367 opened on Feb 5, 2017 by pwalsh
- Allow any type for true/falseValues ?** discussion Table Schema 0 pull requests 0 reactions 10 comments
#621 opened on Sep 18, 2018 by akariv

How to coordinate the update ?



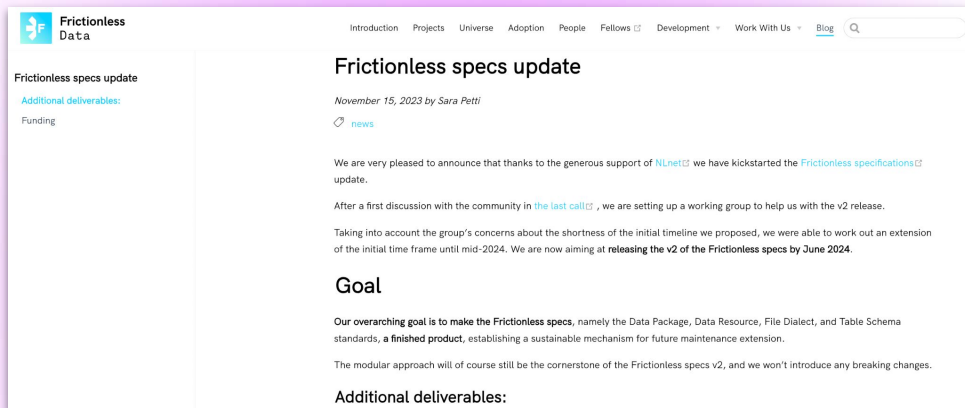
1. Don't do it alone

- Engage with a diverse group of people.
- Build a common data model that really fits the needs of everyone (or at least find some minimal common ground).
- Our Frictionless Specs working group:



2. Be clear

- Define overarching goals & roadmap of the project,
- and put them somewhere easy to find.



The screenshot shows a blog post on the Frictionless Data website. The title is "Frictionless specs update" and it was published on November 15, 2023, by Sara Petti. The post discusses the kickstart of the Frictionless specifications v2, mentioning the support from NLnet and the community. It outlines the goal of making the Frictionless specs, including the Data Package, Data Resource, File Dialect, and Table Schema standards, a finished product. The post also mentions that the modular approach will remain the cornerstone of the Frictionless specs v2.

Frictionless specs update

November 15, 2023 by Sara Petti

We are very pleased to announce that thanks to the generous support of NLnet we have kickstarted the Frictionless specifications update.

After a first discussion with the community in the last call, we are setting up a working group to help us with the v2 release.

Taking into account the group's concerns about the shortness of the initial timeline we proposed, we were able to work out an extension of the initial time frame until mid-2024. We are now aiming at releasing the v2 of the Frictionless specs by June 2024.

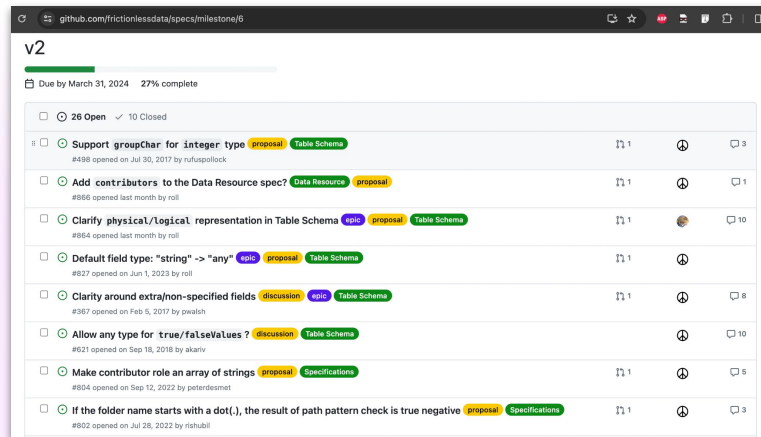
Goal

Our overarching goal is to make the Frictionless specs, namely the Data Package, Data Resource, File Dialect, and Table Schema standards, a finished product, establishing a sustainable mechanism for future maintenance extension.

The modular approach will of course still be the cornerstone of the Frictionless specs v2, and we won't introduce any breaking changes.

Additional deliverables:

frictionlessdata.io/blog/2023/11/15/frictionless-specs-update/



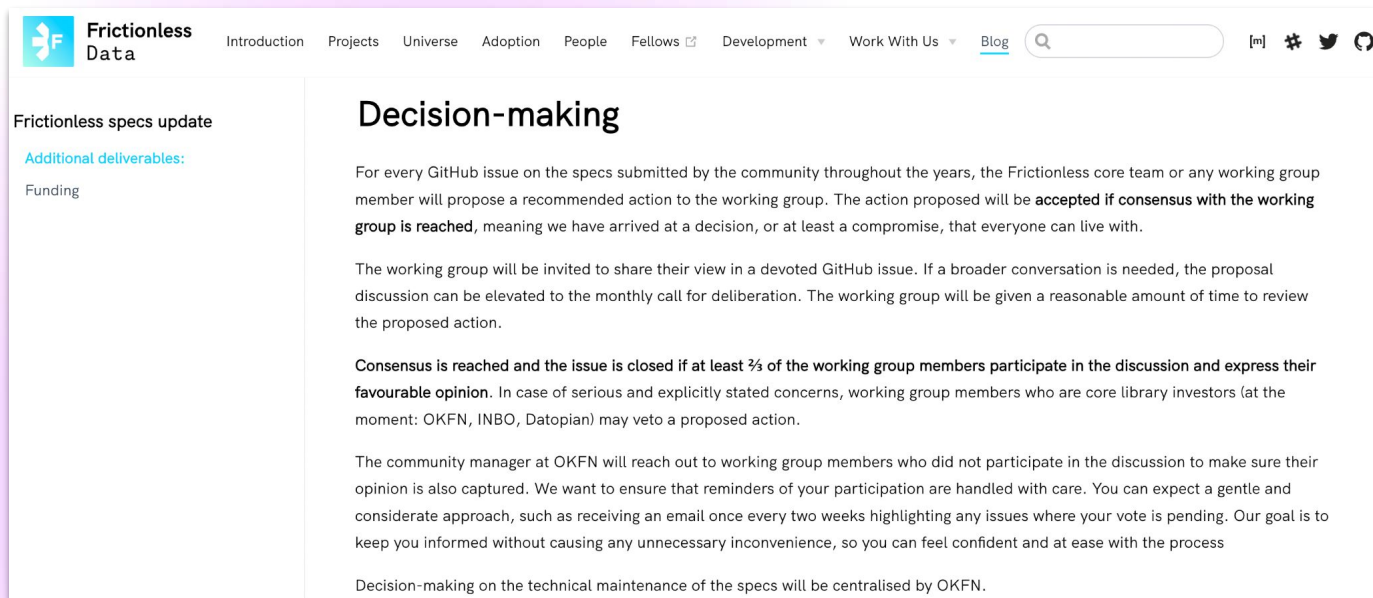
The screenshot shows a GitHub milestone page for "v2". The milestone is due by March 31, 2024, and is 27% complete. It lists several open issues with their titles, labels, and status. The issues are:

- Support groupChar for integer type (proposal, Table Schema)
- Add contributors to the Data Resource spec? (Data Resource, proposal)
- Clarify physical/logical representation in Table Schema (help, proposal, Table Schema)
- Default field type: "string" -> "any" (help, proposal, Table Schema)
- Clarity around extra/non-specified fields (discussion, help, Table Schema)
- Allow any type for true/false values? (discussion, Table Schema)
- Make contributor role an array of strings (proposal, Specifications)
- If the folder name starts with a dot(.), the result of path pattern check is true negative (proposal, Specifications)

github.com/frictionlessdata/specs/milestone/6

3. Decide how to decide

Establish a clear governance model / decision-making rules



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a blog post from Frictionless Data. The page has a navigation bar with links for Introduction, Projects, Universe, Adoption, People, Fellows, Development, Work With Us, and Blog. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. The main content area is titled "Decision-making" and contains several paragraphs of text. The left sidebar shows a "Frictionless specs update" section with a link to "Additional deliverables" and a "Funding" link.

Frictionless Data

Introduction Projects Universe Adoption People Fellows Development Work With Us Blog

Frictionless specs update

[Additional deliverables:](#)

[Funding](#)

Decision-making

For every GitHub issue on the specs submitted by the community throughout the years, the Frictionless core team or any working group member will propose a recommended action to the working group. The action proposed will be **accepted if consensus with the working group is reached**, meaning we have arrived at a decision, or at least a compromise, that everyone can live with.

The working group will be invited to share their view in a devoted GitHub issue. If a broader conversation is needed, the proposal discussion can be elevated to the monthly call for deliberation. The working group will be given a reasonable amount of time to review the proposed action.

Consensus is reached and the issue is closed if at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the working group members participate in the discussion and express their favourable opinion. In case of serious and explicitly stated concerns, working group members who are core library investors (at the moment: OKFN, INBO, Datopian) may veto a proposed action.

The community manager at OKFN will reach out to working group members who did not participate in the discussion to make sure their opinion is also captured. We want to ensure that reminders of your participation are handled with care. You can expect a gentle and considerate approach, such as receiving an email once every two weeks highlighting any issues where your vote is pending. Our goal is to keep you informed without causing any unnecessary inconvenience, so you can feel confident and at ease with the process

Decision-making on the technical maintenance of the specs will be centralised by OKFN.

Where are we now?

- 10/36 issues closed
- 11/26 open issues have a first PR proposal
- 23/26 open issues have an ongoing WG discussion

→ Public Live Tracker: github.com/frictionlessdata/specs/issues/853

By June 2024:

- Frictionless Specs v2 release
 - Metadata Mapper
- Integration in External Systems

The Frictionless Specs update is made possible
thanks to the generous support of the
NLnet fund NGIO Entrust





Frictionless Data
frictionlessdata.io/

Join the community on Slack
https://join.slack.com/t/frictionlessdata/shared_invite/zt-17kpbffnm-tRfDW_wJgOw8tJVLvZTrBg or Matrix:
<https://matrix.to/#/#frictionlessdata:matrix.okfn.org>

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okfn.org/

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[@OKFN](https://twitter.com/OKFN)

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