RSW-0007 — Discovery

Revision 0.01 | Protocol rsw/1 | Format 1 | Experimental proposal

Developed by Pablo Murad — November 23, 2026 — pablo@pablomurad.com — https://rsw.works

Experimental Project Specification. This document is an experimental specification of the Really Small Web project. It is a work in progress and has not been published as an RFC or approved as an Internet Standard.

License: specifications CC0 1.0 (public domain); future reference implementation and official tools MIT.

RSW-0007 — Discovery

Revision 0.01 | Protocol rsw/1 | Format 1

MVP — experimental normative proposal

Developed by Pablo Murad

Pablo Murad — November 23, 2026

pablo@pablomurad.com

MUST and MUST NOT indicate requirements of the described profile; SHOULD indicates a recommendation; MAY indicates an option. Experimental document, not yet ratified or implemented. The rules of RSW-0001 through RSW-0003 remain applicable.

01. Discovery Without a Central Directory

The MVP discovers publications through links, peers, and webrings. There is no mandatory global search, crawler, ranking, or follower protocol. Discovery is a list of references, not an execution instruction. A signed reference proves only that the author included that link, not that the destination endorses it.

02. Peers and Links

The peers field follows RSW-0002 (up to 32 unique strings, up to 512 bytes). Process in the received order; validate each URI per RSW-0004. Invalid references remain in the signed bytes and may be indicated as non-navigable; they do not invalidate a manifest that already complies with RSW-0002. Visual dedupe by canonical URI may occur after verification, without rewriting the original data. A URI with a file, version, or fragment is allowed; do not infer a trust relation. Internal and external links are classified per RSW-0004 and mediated by RSW-0011.

03. Webrings and Directories

A webring is an ordinary cartridge with type=webring, text or static profile, with an entrypoint listing RSW links; peers works as an optional summary of up to 32 links. A directory uses type=directory with the same rules, and may organize links into local pages. No additional JSON or HTML format is mandatory. A ring does not require all members to have reciprocal links. Joining, removal, and ordering are editor decisions; being listed does not prove consent or formal association. A directory may indicate sources by domain through explicit links; it grants no authority over identities or versions.

04. Client Behavior

After importing a validated cartridge, extract references from the manifest and from the page when rendered. Do not download destinations, fetch favicons, prefetch, resolve DNS, send read notifications, or track backlinks automatically. Show the real destination and the indication's origin in a trustworthy interface. When the user opens a link, forward the URI to the resolver. If a local copy exists, present it without network when possible; in offline mode, indicate absences. Links by unknown key/hash may require the user to provide a domain or an authorized URL. When adding a source by domain, follow TOFU and index verification; a suggested source is not a trusted source.

05. Local Catalog

The reader MAY keep a graph of observed references, origin H_png, destination URI, and local import date. The graph does not modify the cartridge. Local search by title, tags, name, and key is optional; do not send queries or history to third-party services. Allow removing references from the catalog without removing the original object. To limit growth, use a configurable ceiling of objects and edges; do not silently erase favorites or files marked for preservation. The reader may show peers of local unsigned cartridges with an unverified-authorship warning.

06. Moderation and Interoperability

Local filters by key, domain, hash, and user preference; block automatic navigation to blocked destinations without erasing historical bytes. Display names as text and show the real domain/key to prevent impersonation. A directory has its own curation policy; it is not a network authority. Avoid global counters, popularity rankings, and click telemetry as a requirement.

Acceptance test: publish three cartridges on three domains, each with peers to another. Open the first, follow the links explicitly, import the three, disconnect the network, and navigate among the local objects. Test an invalid peer, a circular reference, an unknown offline link, an unknown key, 32 peers, a blocked destination, and the absence of traffic before the click. Do not follow rings recursively. Pending: implement the UI and local index, create a demonstration and privacy tests. Post-MVP: discovery events, federated directories, backlinks, distributed search, and replication. References: RSW-0002/0004/0005/0006/0011; conception v0.02.

License: CC0 1.0 (public domain dedication; see CC0-1.0.txt in the downloads area). Developed by Pablo Murad | pablo@pablomurad.com END — RSW-0007

Author's Address

Pablo Murad
Independent
pablo@pablomurad.com
https://pablomurad.com
Official project website: https://rsw.works

Small files. Independent worlds.