RSW-0016 — Compatibility and Extensions

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.

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MVP — experimental normative proposal

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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. Scope and Conformance

Mandatory for the MVP. RSW has independent versions for the conceptual document (v0.02), specification revision (0.01), binary format (format=1), interpretation generation (protocol="rsw/1"), publication edition (version), and software. An editorial revision does not alter valid bytes; incompatible changes require a new generation or an explicitly negotiated profile. Do not confuse implementation version with network capability.

02. Implementation Classes

Container validator: RSW-0001, without claiming authenticity. Manifest validator: 0001/0002, without VERIFIED. Signature validator: 0001..0003 and applicable error rules. Offline reader: 0001..0004, 0011, 0013, and 0016, declared text or static profile, local library, and zero network in offline mode. Publisher: 0001..0003/0006/0013/0016 and generation of valid 0004 links. Network reader: offline reader + 0005/0006/0007. The MVP reference software must offer Text and Static and all requirements of the ten fundamental specifications, even if independent clients have a smaller scope. Tools not fully conformant may describe real capabilities, without using a full-conformance label.

03. Negotiation and Safe Failure

Identify format/protocol before interpreting specific data. For an unknown format, UNSUPPORTED_FORMAT; a well-formed unknown protocol, UNSUPPORTED_PROTOCOL; an unknown profile, UNSUPPORTED_PROFILE; a non-empty permissions request, UNSUPPORTED_FEATURE. Lexical/structural errors remain INVALID_*; do not treat unknown content as corrupted just for lack of support. An opaque object may be stored only by explicit action, without declaring it validated, rendering it, publishing it as authenticated, or promoting a version. Do not reinterpret with an old profile, do not try removing fields to obtain a valid signature. The protocol version is part of the signed manifest. A generation change requires a public migration rule, not a silent fallback.

04. Extensions

Unknown root fields are not accepted in rsw/1. extensions follows exactly RSW-0002 (up to 16 namespaces, 3..80 ASCII bytes, strict JSON, global manifest limit). Preserve all fields in JCS verification and copying; ignore unknown semantics. An extension cannot require execution, change hashes, interpret a core field differently, alter limits, or turn an invalid publication into a valid one. capabilities informs; it does not grant privileges. Post-MVP transport extensions (events/1, mirrors/1) are separate optional protocols and do not

imply a change to format=1. Do not auto-detect relays by manifest, nor activate actions through a support declaration. Interactive/Connected requires formalized profiles and manifest generation, not just a namespace. Do not reuse signing domains for different objects.

05. Evolution and Governance

Each proposal records number, title, author, revision, status, dependencies, byte/semantic changes, and vectors. States: draft, experimental, stable, obsolete. Do not overwrite historical versions without a record; publish a changelog. Interpretation changes to v1 require a compatibility assessment, review of previous documents, and regression tests. The public specification index is informational; the network does not consult a central authority to validate cartridges. License: CC0 1.0 for documents and MIT for implementation — both ratified by the creator; see CC0-1.0.txt and MIT-LICENSE.txt in the downloads area. Do not claim IANA registration, trademark, or certification without confirmation. Independent implementations are free to choose language and dependencies.

06. Tests and Stability Criteria

Publish fixtures and expected results per conformance class. Two independent implementations must agree on structure, hashes, signature, URI, index, version, and acceptance errors; presentation differences may be allowed if security and links are equivalent. Include tests for a future version, unknown root field, signed unknown extension, altered extension, non-empty permissions, false capability, unavailable profile, previous-generation cache, and regression. Test interoperability and consumption before declaring stability. Pending: RSW-0001..0016 cross-review, formal correction of inconsistencies, Go implementation, complete vectors, negative tests, audit, measurement, and a three-author demonstration. All revision 0.01 documents remain experimental. References: RSW v0.02 and RSW-0001..0015.

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