

# Tutorial: Managing Aspects in Documentum REST Services

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In Documentum, an aspect is an addition attached to a persistent object to customize its metadata or behaviors, on both an object type and the object instances. In general, an aspect can be attached to any `dm_sysobject` or its subtype instances. It can also be attached to a custom type object when the type has no super type and allow for aspects. A persistent object can have multiple aspects attached, but for each aspect type, there could only be one aspect instance attached.

Documentum REST Services in release 7.3 adds support for aspect operations. In this tutorial, we will cover these contents for the aspect operations.

- Getting aspect types
- Attaching aspects
- Getting aspects
- Detaching aspects
- Updating aspect properties

## 1. Get aspect types/type

On the Repository resource, there is a new link relation "" added to show the aspect types. The client can make a GET request on the href of this link relation.

```
{
  "rel" : "http://identifiers.emc.com/linkrel/types",
  "href" : "http://localhost:8080/dctm-rest/repositories/REPO/types"
},
{
  "rel" : "http://identifiers.emc.com/linkrel/aspect-types",
  "href" : "http://localhost:8080/dctm-rest/repositories/REPO/aspect-types"
},
{
  "rel" : "http://identifiers.emc.com/linkrel/dql",
  "hreftemplate" : "http://localhost:8080/dctm-rest/repositories/REPO{?dql}"
},
}
```

The resource returns the feed collection of all the aspect types. The client can follow the '**edit**' link relation on each entry item and make the GET request to get single aspect types. More information about the aspect type definition is returned on the single aspect type.

```
{ "name" : "aspect-type", "type" : "dmc_aspect_type", "definition" : "http://localhost:8080/dctm-rest/repositories/REPO/types/dmc."
```

If the aspect type defines extra **attachable properties**, the properties collection in the aspect type resource contains some properties with a name prefix '**attr\_**', e.g., attr\_name, attr\_repeating. These properties describe the definitions of attachable properties on this aspect type. One additional link relation " can be found on the aspect type resource which points to the raw type definition of the underlying aspect type.

## 2. Attach aspects to an object

To attach aspects to SysObjects, the client needs to make the **POST** method the link relation "" with the aspect names in the request body.

```
{ "aspects":["my_first_aspect", "my_second_aspect"] }
```

One or more aspects can be attached in a single request. But if one aspect is already attached to the SysObject, it will be ignored.

### 3. Get aspects to an object

The client can also make a **GET** method on the SysObject to get all attached aspects on it, by the link relation "" on the SysObject resource.

### 4. Detach aspects from an object

If you follow the above instruction to get all attached aspects on a SysObject, you will get the Object Aspects resource representation as below.

```
{ "aspects" : ["my_first_aspect", "my_second_aspect"], "links" : [ { "rel" : "self", "href" : "http://localhost:8080/dctm-rest/reposito
```

In the resource representation of the object aspects, there is one link relation "" for each attached aspect, with a title indicating which aspect it is referring to. The client can perform a **DELETE** method on the href of a specific delete link relation to detach the aspect from the SysObject.

### 5. Manipulate the attached aspect properties of an object

Some aspects define attachable properties for objects. For a SysObject that contains aspect properties, the client can get and update the aspect properties on the SysObject resource as usual as normal object properties.

The name format of aspect properties on a SysObject is as **aspect\_name.aspect\_properties**. Below code snippet shows an example of a SysObject with aspect properties. The update of aspect properties is the same as the update of normal properties, as long as the aspect properties are set correctly.

```
{ "properties" : { "object_name" : "my test ocument", "r_object_type" : "dm_document", ... "i_vstamp" : 1, "rest_aspect.t
```

### 6. Demo

Please click the following picture to see the demo animation.



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