Read only fields

WIP

Status	COMPLETE	
Impact	HIGH	
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Due date		
Resources		

Relevant data

A11y for read only web-native fields has long been a contentious problem space. Generally there are a few reasonable approaches to displaying read-only values in a form. The read-only attribute on form fields are applied inconsistently in the browser such that they:

- only apply to inputs of type text and number (checkbox, radio, and select elements either don't have this attribute or the attribute doesn't work as expected)
- are read in inconsistent ways across the different core screen reader technologies

However the common alternatives such as the disabled attribute and plain text values all come with various a11y issues in the context of browsing a form such that an obvious superior solution is not self evident.

Background

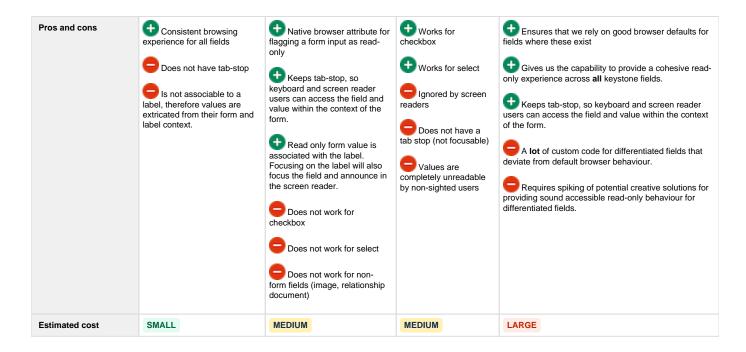
Users are given the ability to toggle field states in the ItemView of the Keystone Admin UI between editable hidden and read, the latter of which encompasses the read-only functionality we are looking to provide. At the moment, these are all displayed as plain text values, which present with a set of a11y challenges. Namely:

- These values do not have a tab-stop,
- These values are not associable with the field label

However the problem space is made complex by the fact that a variety of keystone fields are not able to ascribe to using a readOnly attribute. We have input types with read-only attributes that don't work as expected natively, such as radio and checkbox, we have form fields that don't have read-only attributes at all such as select and we have fields that are not traditional form fields such as image, relationship card, relationship list and document. This DACI aims to present and articulate the solutions and problems in this particular problem space clearly so we can come to a decision.



	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4 RECOMMENDED
Description	Label and plain text	read only input fields	disabled input fields	read only input field and custom read only fields for non standard keystone form fields.



✓ Action items

Spike out the problem space in the context of Keystone Admin UI item view, particularly in reference to differentiated field types:
checkbox
select
document
image
file
date picker
password

* Outcome

We've reached a consensus that, consistently bad is not better than sometimes good.

Engineering should lead the effort to finalise this decision, this is no longer a blocking body of work for design.