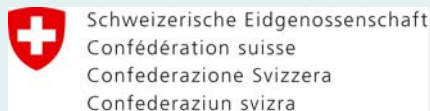


Challenges and responses in Digital Preservation: the European project Planets

Jean-Marc Comment

Planets Scientific Board Member, Swiss Federal Archives (SFA)

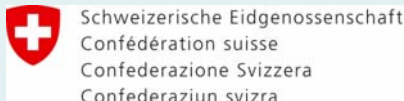


Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss Federal Archives SFA
Unit Innovation and Preservation

Challenges

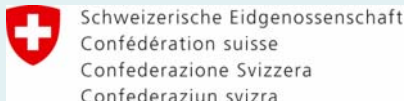
- ❑ Great amount of file formats to be preserved or migrated
- ❑ Lack of preservation practices by Libraries and Archives
- ❑ Lack of adequate migration tools
- ❑ Lack of preservation strategies (migration or/and emulation)

To address these challenges, the European Union has started different projects. One of them is called Planets.



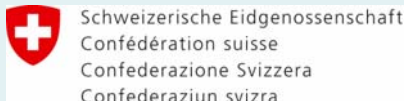
Planets overview

- ❑ A 4-year research and technology development project co-funded by the European Union to address core digital preservation challenges.
- ❑ Started June 2006 with €15m budget
- ❑ Coordinated by the British Library
- ❑ Involves 16 partners including national libraries and archives, leading technology companies and research universities
- ❑ Builds on strong digital archiving and preservation programmes
- ❑ Focuses on needs of Libraries and Archives

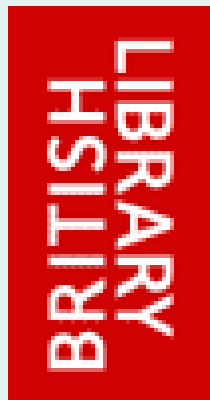


Planets aims

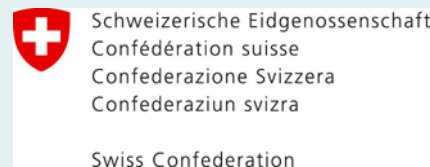
- ❑ Increase Europe's ability to ensure long-term access to its cultural and scientific heritage
 - Improve decision-making about long term preservation
 - Ensure long-term access to valued digital content
 - Control the costs of preservation actions through increased automation, scalable infrastructure
 - Ensure wide adoption across the user community and establish market place for preservation services and tools
- ❑ Build practical solutions
 - Integrate existing expertise, designs and tools
 - Deliver tools and services that can be used in an operational environment



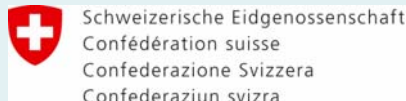
Planets partners (1)



- ❑ The British Library
- ❑ National Library, Netherlands
- ❑ Austrian National Library
- ❑ State and University Library, Denmark
- ❑ Royal Library, Denmark



- ❑ National Archives, UK
- ❑ Swiss Federal Archives SFA
- ❑ National Archives, Netherlands



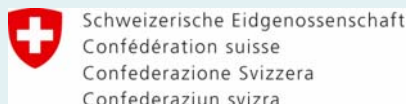
Planets partners (2)



- ❑ Tessella Plc
- ❑ IBM Netherlands
- ❑ Microsoft Research
- ❑ Austrian Research Centers GmbH



- ❑ Hatii at University of Glasgow
- ❑ University of Freiburg
- ❑ Technical University of Vienna
- ❑ University of Cologne



The Planets team



All Staff Meeting, Feb 2007



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Planets approach to digital preservation

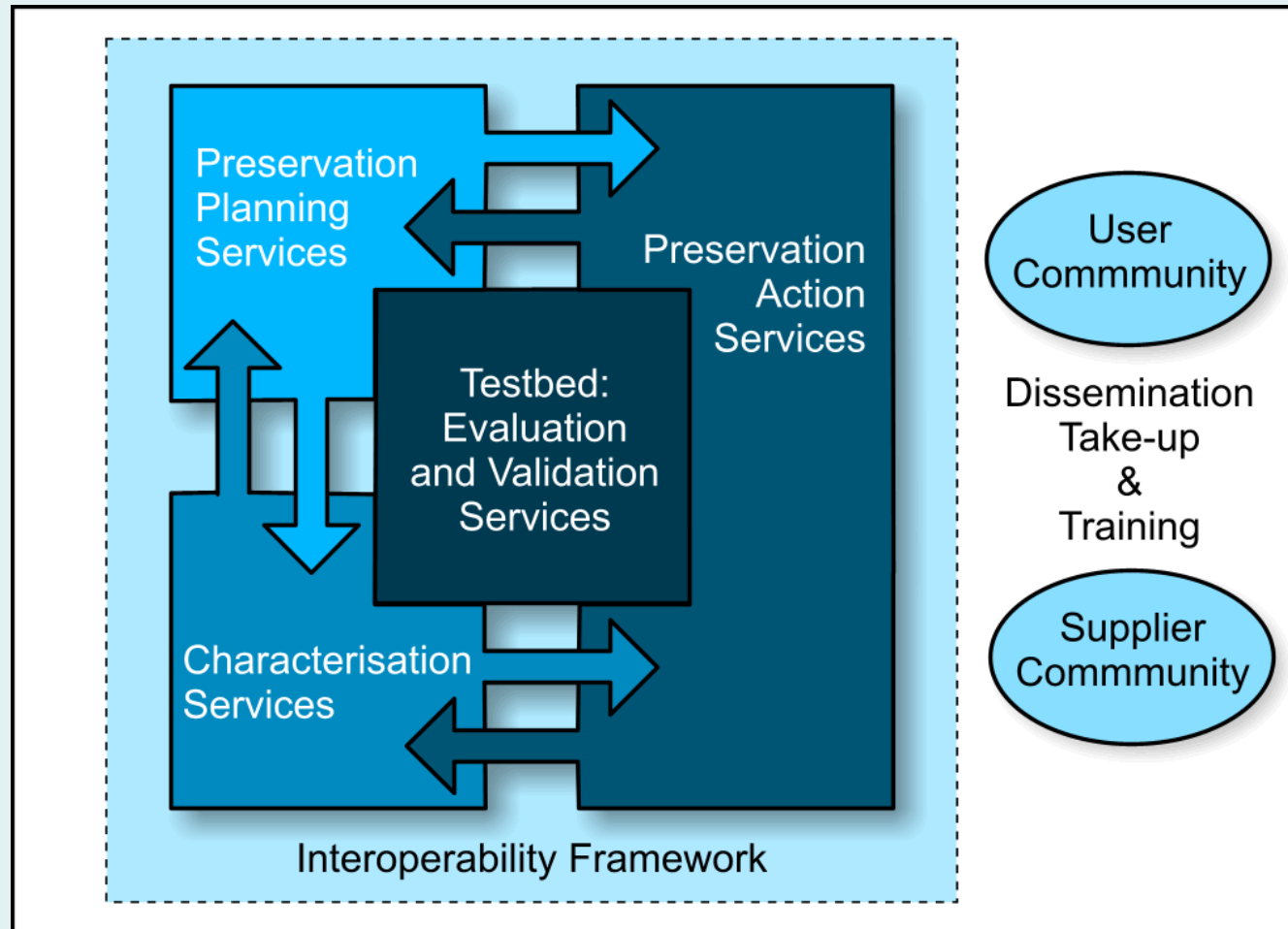
- ❑ **Planning services** that empower organisations to define, evaluate, and execute preservation plans
- ❑ Methodologies, tools and **services for Characterisation** of digital objects
- ❑ Innovative solutions for **Preservation Actions**
- ❑ An **Interoperability Framework** which integrates distributed services to provide one easily managed digital preservation system
- ❑ A **Testbed** enables objective evaluation of protocols, tools, services and plans based on scientific evidence
- ❑ **Outreach**, workshops and training to engage the user and vendor communities



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Planets architecture



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Progress to date

- ❑ Established the project team and reached consensus about the project's goals and structure
- ❑ Moved from requirements gathering into specification and implementation
- ❑ Developed prototype tools and services for preservation planning, preservation action and preservation characterisation, and started deploying these in the Test bed and the Planets IF
- ❑ Being recently reviewed by the Commission. A panel of experts were “very impressed” with the 1st year of work
- ❑ Moving into a new phase to establish framework and start to extend access, format range and scope of services



What to expect in the next 18 months – highlights of key deliverables (1)

- ❑ Planets Preservation Planning tools (PLATO®) including decision support and risk assessment modules (August 2008)
- ❑ Integrated preservation planning services including an automated collection profiling service, a technology watch service and an advice service (all design and partial deployment completed in September 2008)
- ❑ A description language for generic description of preservation action tools (August 2008)
- ❑ Next generation migration tools for digital objects (available for demonstration in November 2008)
- ❑ Emulation tools for specific environments (enhanced UVC and modular emulator) in November 2008
- ❑ Final specifications of a characterisation description and a characterisation extraction language (May 2008)



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What to expect in the next 18 months – highlights of key deliverables (2)

- ❑ Characterisation tools which extract significant properties from digital objects (November 2008)
- ❑ Characterisation registry and registry for preservation action tools
- ❑ A Test bed offering preservation plan assessment service to organisations outside Planets (November 2008)
- ❑ Planets Interoperability Framework Interoperability Framework, released as downloadable “click-and-install” software package (May 2008)
- ❑ A dissemination and take-up programme including workshops and training to engage with suppliers and the library and archive communities



Swiss Federal Archives (SFA): Mission

- ❑ The Swiss Federal Archives (SFA) are the service and competence center for sustainable information management of the Federal Government. SFA evaluates, secures, provides access and provisions of records with archival value of the Swiss Confederation.
- ❑ SFA documents the formation and development of the constitutional state and shows the traceability of national actions: this is a crucial contribution to Good Governance.



Active Participation of Swiss Federal Archives (SFA) within the Planets project (1)

- ❑ Partner in the Preservation Action subproject (PA/4): Innovative **preservation action** solutions will be developed to tackle identified gaps in support for the preservation of key formats of digital content. Existing tools will be wrapped, enabling them to be plugged into the Planets **interoperability framework**. SFA's SIARD (Software Invariant Archiving of Relational Database) will be adapted and submitted to the Planets preservation action solutions.



Active Participation of Swiss Federal Archives (SFA) within the Planets project (2)

- Partner in the Testbed subproject (TB/3):
Integrated services will be explored, evaluated and refined in the preservation **testbed**. The results of ongoing evaluation within the **testbed** will provide essential feedback to guide the development of Planets tools and services. In its second phase, the **testbed** will provide a service to external users and developers.



Active Participation of Swiss Federal Archives (SFA) within the Planets project (3)

- Partner in the **Dissemination and Take-up** subproject (DT/6,9,10):

To ensure widest possible adoption of results in the user community as well as enabling commercial tools and service providers to compete in a new market place for differentiated preservation services and tools. This includes intensive gathering of inputs from libraries and archives as well as the setup and coordination of workshops and trainings offered by the Planets consortiums.



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Thank you for your attention!

- ❑ Do you have any questions?
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