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DROID, PRONOM and Preservation Planning

Anyone can do it!

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Key message:

Here are some useful tools that anyone can use – they will help you take the first steps to preserve your digital information



File formats

If you don't know what you've got, how can you preserve it?



What format?

Q: How do we know what format it is in?

A: File extension

Actually, this doesn't always help!



What format?





Identification

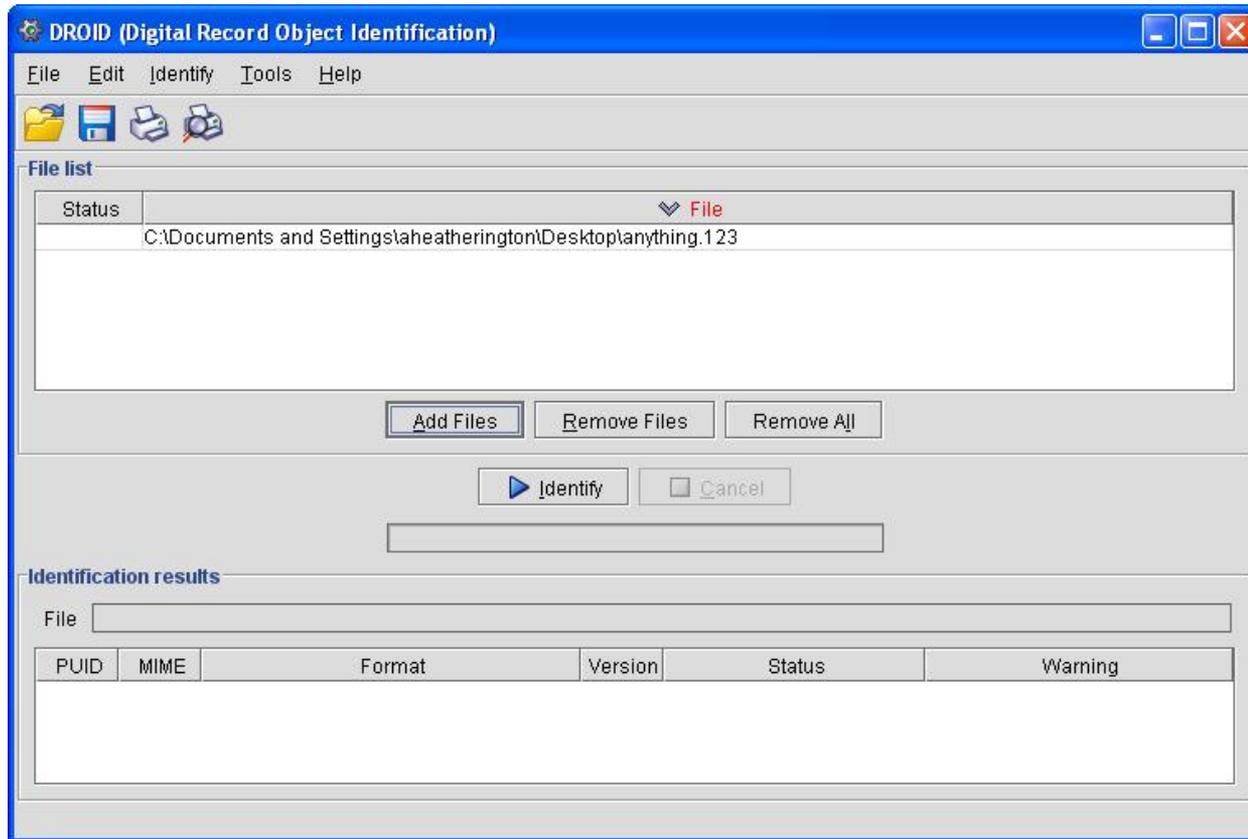
The first step in digital preservation is to identify what you have.

Free tool, developed by The National Archives

DROID

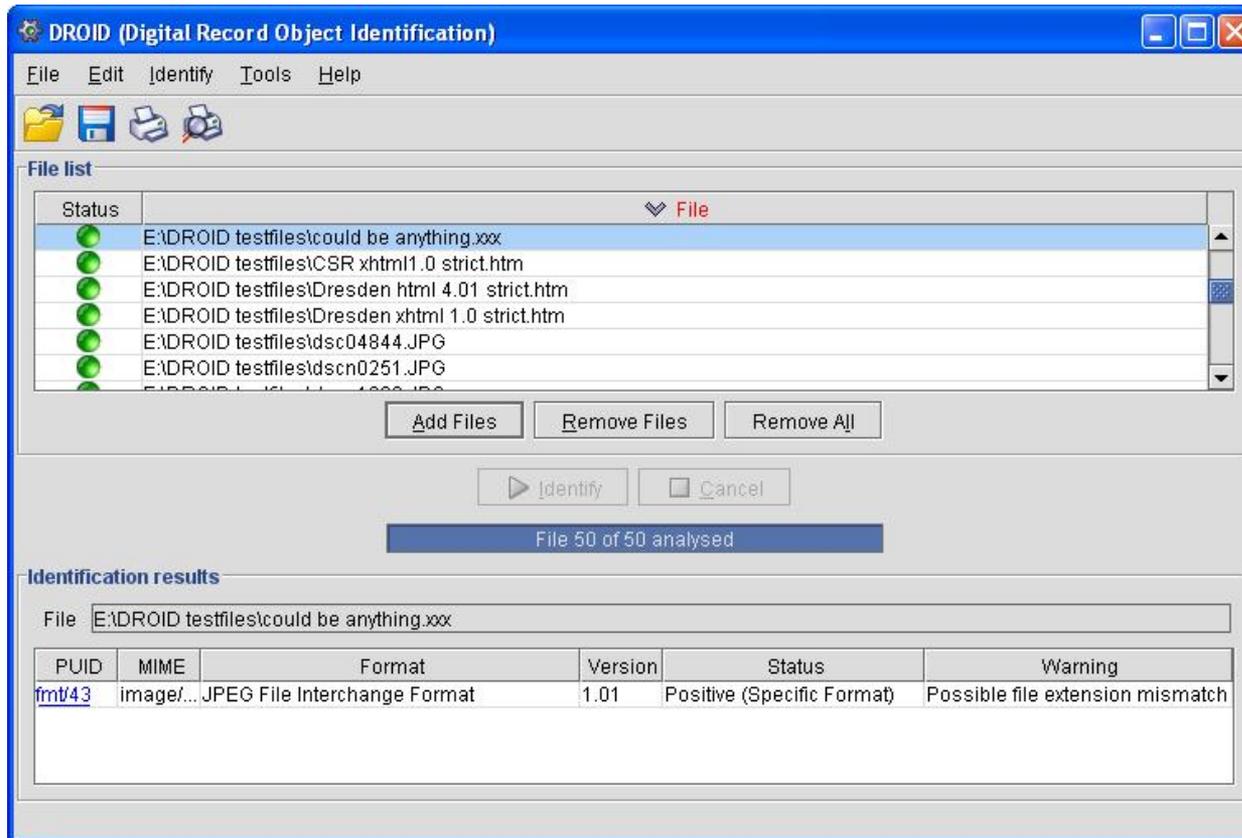


DROID – add files





DROID - Identify





PRONOM

Once we've identified files, what next?

PRONOM, made freely available by The National Archives, provides information about file formats, and can help you prioritise preservation actions



PRONOM - search

PRONOM | Welcome - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by National Archives

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites

Address <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/PRONOM/Default.aspx> MyPage (not signed in)

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The technical registry
PRONOM

Welcome to PRONOM

[Announcement of planned upgrade of PRONOM unique format identification, to remove x-PUIDs](#)

The online registry of technical information. PRONOM is a resource for anyone requiring impartial and definitive information about the file formats, software products and other technical components required to support long-term access to electronic records and other digital objects of cultural, historical or business value. Find out about the future of PRONOM on our [Information resources](#) page.

▶

Tools and Services
Free PRONOM tools and services to support digital preservation, including DROID, the automatic file format identification tool, together with links to relevant external tools and services. [Tools and Services](#) ▶

Contribute to PRONOM
Contribute new information to PRONOM via our online [submission form](#). ▶
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Done Local intranet



PRONOM – file format information

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the PRONOM website. The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/PRONOM/Format/proFormatSearch.aspx?status=detailReport&id=616>. The page title is "Details: File format summary".

The page content includes a navigation menu with tabs: "Simple search", "File format", "PRONOM Unique Identifier", "Software", "Vendor", "Lifecycles", and "Migration Pathways". Below the menu, there are options to "Save as...", "XML", "CSV", and "Print".

The main content area is titled "Details for: Portable Document Format 1.3". It features a breadcrumb trail: "Go to: Summary | Documentation > | Signatures > | Compression > | Character encoding > | Rights > | Reference files > Properties >".

The "Summary" section contains the following information:

Name	Portable Document Format
Version	1.3
Other names	PDF (1.3)
Identifiers	MIME: application/pdf Apple Uniform Type Identifier: com.adobe.pdf PUID: fmt/17
Family	
Classification	Page Description
Disclosure	Full
Description	Portable Document Format is a platform-independent format for representing formatted documents, developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated. It is the native format of Adobe's Acrobat family of software products, version 1.3 corresponding to the release of Acrobat 4.0. PDF is based on, and shares the same imaging model as, the PostScript page description language. A PDF file comprises a Header section, a Body section containing the objects which make up the document, a Cross Reference Table, and a Trailer section. PDF files can contain a wide variety of content, including text, images, video and audio.
Orientation	Binary
Byte order	Big-endian (Motorola)
Related file formats	Has lower priority than Portable Document Format (1.4) Has lower priority than Portable Document Format (1.5) Has lower priority than Portable Document Format (1.6) Is previous version of Portable Document Format (1.4) Is subsequent version of Portable Document Format (1.2) Is supertype of Portable Document Format - Exchange 1:2001 Is supertype of Portable Document Format - Exchange 1a:2001

The footer of the page includes "PRONOM - File and Product: Report Generator" and "Local Intranet".



PRONOM – file signature

The screenshot displays the PRONOM website interface. At the top, the National Archives logo and name are visible. Below the navigation menu, the breadcrumb trail reads: "You are here: Home > Services for professionals > Preservation > PRONOM > Search by format > Details: Signatures". The main heading is "The technical registry PRONOM". A search bar and navigation links are present. The current page is titled "Details for: Portable Document Format 1.3". A breadcrumb trail for the current page is: "Go to: Summary > Documentation > Signatures | Compression > Character encoding > Rights > Reference files > Properties >". The "Signatures" section is expanded to show "Internal signatures" for the file extension "pdf".

Internal signatures	
Name	PDF 1.3
Description	Header and footer
Byte sequences	
Position type	Absolute from BOF
Offset	0
Byte order	
Value	255044462D312E33
Position type	Variable
Byte order	
Value	2525454F46



Next steps

Using information from DROID and PRONOM, evaluate risk scores of formats in your collection

Prioritise preservation action (eg migration) based on risk score

TNA will be producing documentation about how we manage our own risks – each organisation's risk will be different

Good luck!



The National Archives

THANK YOU!

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