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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?

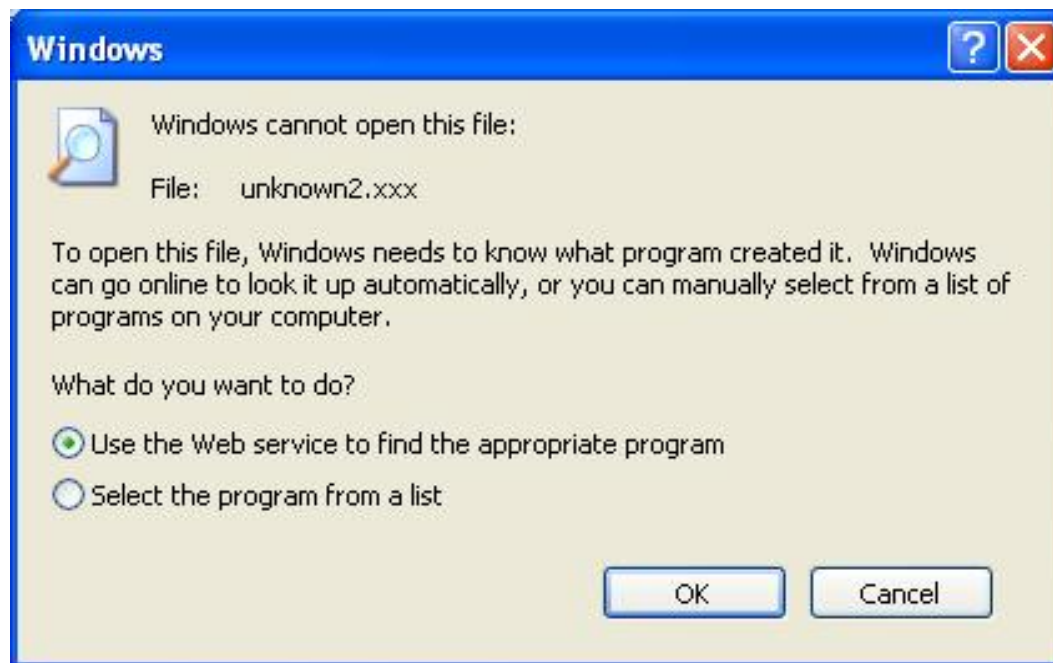
Q: How do we know what format it is in?

A: File extension

Actually, this doesn't always help!



What format?





Identification

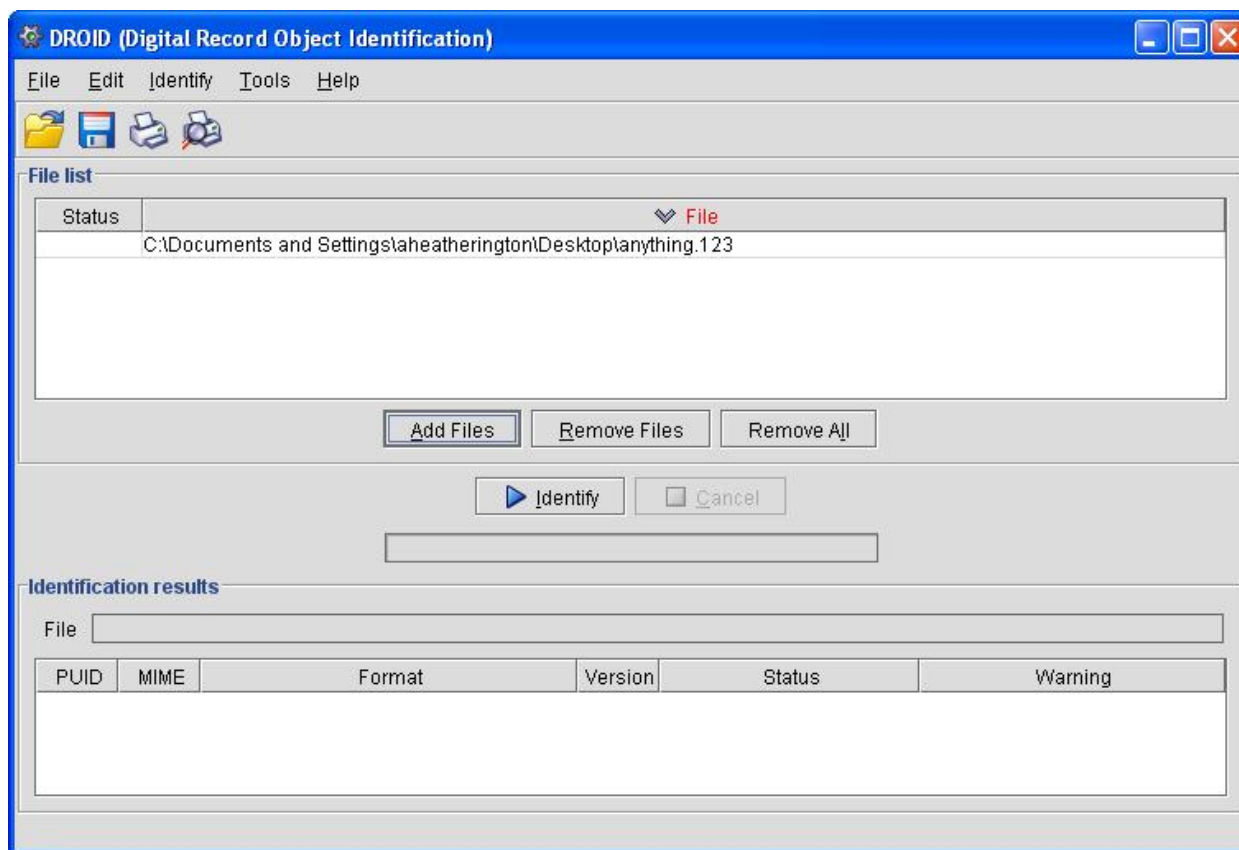
The first step in digital preservation is to identify what you have.

Free tool, developed by The National Archives

DROID

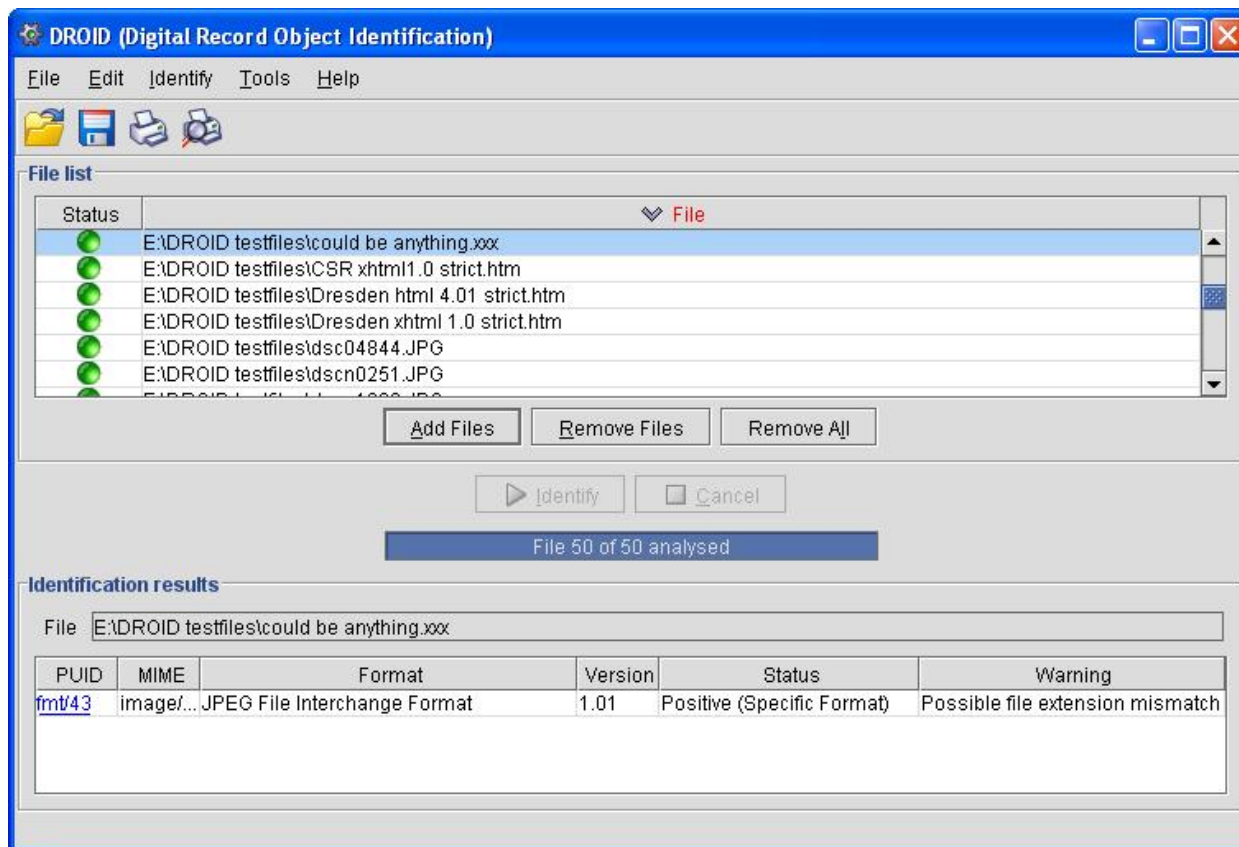


DROID – add files





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



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PRONOM - search

The screenshot shows the PRONOM website as it appeared in 2004, viewed through Microsoft Internet Explorer. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/PRONOM/Default.aspx>. The website header features the National Archives logo and a navigation menu with links: About us, Visit us, Research and learning, Search the archives, Services for professionals, News, and Shop online. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is titled 'The technical registry PRONOM' and includes a welcome message, an announcement about a planned upgrade to remove x-PUIDs, and a search bar labeled 'Search PRONOM'. Below this, there are four columns of links: '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](#). Find out more about [PRONOM's creators](#)), 'New to PRONOM?' (What is PRONOM?, How do I search PRONOM?, Who is PRONOM for?, How do I find out more?), 'Getting in touch' (Contact us, Press office, Visit us), 'Site help' (Help index, A-Z index, Accessibility), 'About us' (Jobs and careers, Terms of use, Freedom of information), and 'Websites' (Office of Public Sector Information, Learning Curve, Directgov). The footer contains the address: The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8876 3444. [Contact us](#).



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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 "PRONOM | Search by format - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by National Archives". The main content area is titled "Details: File format summary" and shows information for "Portable Document Format 1.3". The page has a navigation bar with tabs: "Simple search", "File format", "PRONOM Unique Identifier", "Software", "Vendor", "Lifecycles", and "Migration Pathways". Below the navigation bar, there are links to "Save as...", "XML", "CSV", and "Print". A breadcrumb trail shows: "Go to: Summary > Documentation > Signatures > Compression > Character encoding > Rights > Reference files > Properties >". The main content is organized into sections: "Summary", "Family", "Classification", "Disclosure", "Description", "Orientation", "Byte order", and "Related file formats".

Summary	
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

PRONOM - File and Product Report Generator



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PRONOM – file signature

PRONOM | Search by format - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by National Archives

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Print Mail RSS

Address http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/PRONOM/Format/proFormatSearch.aspx?status=detailReport&id=616&strPageToDisplay=signatures


MyPage (not signed in)

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You are here: [Home](#) > [Services for professionals](#) > [Preservation](#) > [PRONOM](#) > [Search by format](#) > Details: Signatures

 **The technical registry**
PRONOM

Welcome : About : Add an entry
Search ? Help : Information resources

? Help : detailed report on file format

Details: File format summary

Simple search File format PRONOM Unique Identifier Software Vendor Lifecycles Migration Pathways

Details for: Portable Document Format 1.3 XML | CSV

Go to: [Summary](#) > | [Documentation](#) > | [Signatures](#) | [Compression](#) > | [Character encoding](#) > | [Rights](#) > | [Reference files](#)

Signatures

External signatures		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			

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PRONOM - File and Product Report Generator Local intranet



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!



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THANK YOU!

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