



## For the Attention of Commercial & Industrial Organizations

### Digital amnesia threatens the economy

Commercial, engineering and industrial organizations are called to construct a better system of data preservation to protect consumers and employees.

Physical risk to health and safety is the most serious of a line of threats facing engineering and industrial companies, where lost design data or maintenance records could lead to faulty products or unsafe infrastructure. However, all commercial industries are at risk of disruption to business continuity, loss of intellectual property (IP) and lack of compliance without robust data management systems [as has been seen in the recent case of cyber security breach at Jaguar Land Rover in the UK](#).

Consumers may also see higher prices and service disruptions in the event that companies lose critical data, or when compliance penalties are issued, even halting production and leading to layoffs or closures altogether. When this happens costs often get passed on to consumers through higher prices or reduced availability of goods and services.

Furthermore, a loss of intellectual property (IP) can mean a loss of innovation, as fewer new products or technologies can be developed as a result; with consumers seeing slower progress or fewer choices available in the market. And critically, if compliance with data regulations fails, personal data has the potential to be mishandled or exposed, leading to identity theft or misuse of personal information.

A new version of the [Global 'Bit List' of Endangered Digital Materials](#), published today by the [Digital Preservation Coalition](#), confirms that [Commercial software](#) and [Manuals, documentation, and associated materials](#) are Critically Endangered, with others such as [3D digital engineering drawings](#) listed as Endangered, underscoring the urgency of digital preservation efforts to maintain data security.

Describing digital preservation as a proven way to ensure continued access to digital materials for as long as necessary, William Kilbride, Executive Director for the Digital Preservation Coalition concludes that data loss is therefore a poor business choice, not an inevitable outcome:

“When industrial data are lost, the consequences go far beyond inconvenience—it compromises safety, halts production and creates distrust. It hampers productivity and threatens the economy. Digital preservation is not just a business exercise; it is about protecting people, sustaining innovation and ensuring business continuity in a data-driven world.”

The DPC's [Global 'Bit List' of Endangered Digital Materials](#)—or the *Bit List*—is a powerful call to action from the global digital preservation community. It highlights the digital content most at risk of being lost, based on real-world conditions and expert insight. By clearly identifying both the urgency of the threat and the value of the content, the *Bit List* shines a spotlight on the digital materials that demand immediate attention to ensure their survival.

The Bit List entries relevant to maintaining a consumer and employee safety are:

#### Critically Endangered

- [Commercial software](#)



- [Manuals, documentation, and associated materials](#)
- [Native cloud formats](#)

### **Endangered**

- [3D digital engineering drawings](#)
- [Corporate Records of Long Duration on Network Drives, Intranets and EDRMS](#)
- [Custom online databases](#)