

GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON: FAILING FORWARD BY LOOKING BACK



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Introduction

Why failing forward?

- Learning from mistakes is better than the momentary happiness of a success story

Why looking back?

- Instead of looking to the future we are going to look at enduring problems from the past!

Why one good reason?

- One illustrative case study may be more convincing than a dozen arguments

Preservation requires campaigning

But is the message convincing?

How we sell preservation:

- Long-term accessibility problems that may (or may not) occur in the future
- High level principles illustrated with generic (and often theoretical) examples
- A broad range of complex technical and organizational topics

What sticks:

- Preservation is a small subset of technical maintenance actions that experts need to perform on file formats, separate from HR, finance, access etc.

Our solution: create preservation vignettes!

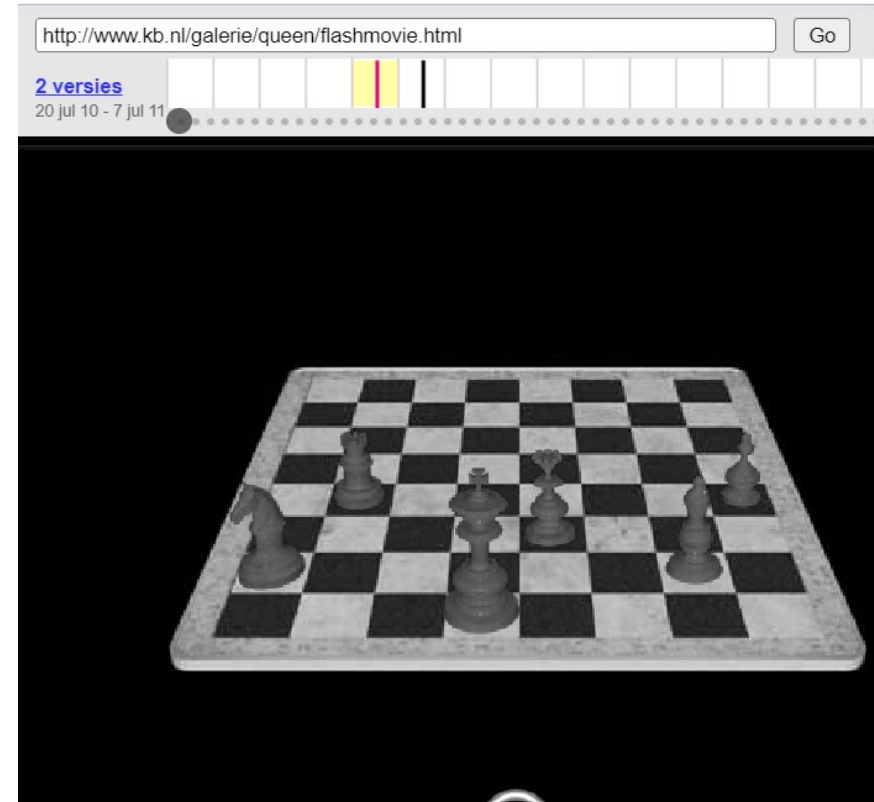
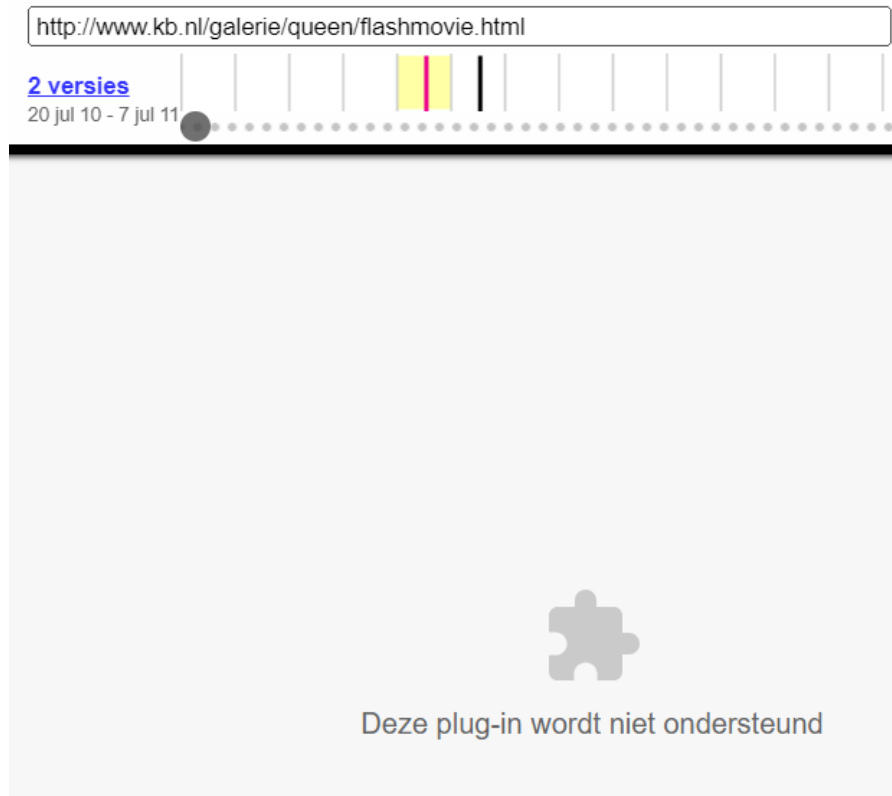
Campaigning one use case at a time

- No scenarios or risks but real problems that already exist now
- Show how preservation concepts help to solve real world problems
- Provide concrete measures of progress and a step-by-step approach that can be evaluated
- Include a broad range of use cases, both technical and organizational

Concept: Emulation

Real world example: Flash in the webarchive

Action: Experimenting with emulation to see whether this is a viable preservation strategy for some collections



Concept: Accessibility

Real world example: OCR-quality

Action: Document accessibility limitations for different collections

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Mechanics, Physics, and Chemistry.

it is charged with aqueous vapor, and on such occasions great chilling cannot occur by terrestrial radiation. Sir John Leslie and others have been perplexed by the varying indications of their instruments on days equally bright—but all these anomalies are completely accounted for by reference to this newly discovered property of transparent aqueous vapor. Its presence would check the earth's loss; its absence, without sensibly altering the transparency of the air, would open wide a door for the escape of the earth's heat into infinitude.

Proc. Royal Ins., Jan. 23, 1863.

Application by Professor Pepper and another for an injunction to restrain Myers and another from performing the Ghost Illusion.

From the London Mechanics' Magazine, November, 1863.

This was an application for an injunction to restrain the defendant from performing the celebrated "Ghost" illusion. The plaintiffs were Professor Pepper and Joseph Heath, of Liverpool, and the circumstances of the case were as follows (according to the plaintiffs' version):
—Mr. Penner, with one Henry Dircks, were the first inventors of

Application by Professor Pepper and another for an injunction to restrain Myers and another from performing the Ghost Illusion.

From the London Mechanics' Magazine, November, 1863

Concept: Organizational flexibility

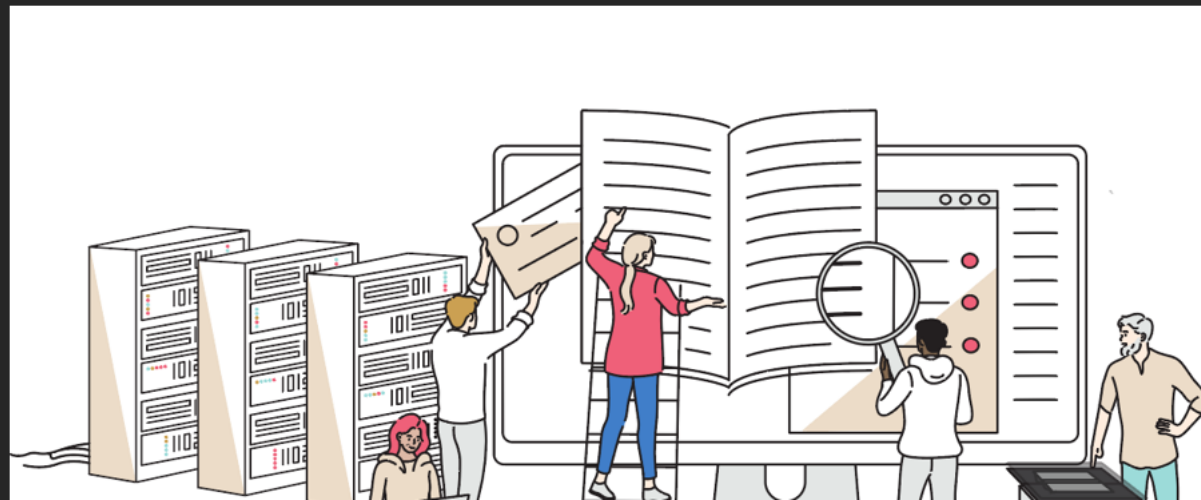
Real world example: evaluation report

Action: Implementing policy evaluation

Trots, maar niet tevreden

Oktober – januari 2024

Versie 1.0



Let's get to work!

1. Find a partner
2. Both write down an exemplary case from your own institute, link it with a preservation concept and short-term actions (5 minutes)
3. Present your case to your partner, one of you is the specialist, the other the manager/challenger (10 minutes)
4. Switch roles and discuss the other case (10 minutes)

Discussion

- Do you see benefits of this approach?
- Would you use it in your own organisation?
- Would it be hard to sell?
- How does it compare with your own preservation policy?
- Any other suggestions?



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