Practical Experience of Digital Preservation

Public-Private Partnerships

Digital Preservation Coalition

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Practical action to nurture your knowledge base
Agenda

- Current digital preservation practice
  - Industry
  - Private individuals
  - Suppliers

- What should we be doing?
  - R & D partnerships
  - Good records practices
Current Practices in Digital Preservation

- Industry
  (banking, engineering, pharmaceuticals)
- Private individuals
- Suppliers
What is industry doing? (1)

- E-mail migration
  - VMS to ccMail to MS Outlook
- Document and data migration
  - Word documents
  - CAD drawings
  - Scientific data
- Database migration
  - Version to version
  - Platform to platform
What is industry doing? (2)

- Standards
- netCDF for scientific data
- ASCII formats
- Now XML
What do people do at home?

- Migration
- MS Word, and other packages
- MS Excel and other packages
What are Software Suppliers doing?

- Improved backward compatibility
  - Word, WordPerfect, RTF
- Increased commitment to standards
- Viewers
What should we be doing?

- R & D Partnerships
- Good record creation practices
- Good metadata practices
R & D Partnerships

- Continue projects like the Testbed Digitale Bewaring in the Netherlands
- Communicate: share results and advice
- Examine actual preservation from a Record-Keeping angle
- Work with software suppliers

Practical action to nurture your knowledge base

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Good Record Creation

- Be sure records can be preserved
- Avoid automatic fields
- Be careful of fancy formatting
- If possible, store in an open format (PDF, XML)
- Plan preservation early and carefully
**Good metadata practices**

- Add metadata at creation
  - Author
  - Title
  - Dates
- Include metadata in the record
- Arrange records well (folders, sub-folders)
Thank you.

Questions?