A Framework Enabling the Preservation of Electronic Records

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The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) supports digital preservation in a comprehensive manner, including an agency digital preservation strategy, guidance for record creators and record transfers, tools for processing archivists, services for copying records from legacy media, and the cloud-based ERA 2.0 processing and preservation repository. A NARA cross-agency team has developed an extensible Digital Preservation Framework, which was publicly released in 2020 for adaptation and use across the digital stewardship community. The Framework combines file format risk analysis, documentation of digital preservation community resources, prioritization for action, and recommended preservation actions. Formats are contextualized within NARA’s established categories of electronic record types (email, still images, audio, etc.), including identification of significant properties for preservation. The complete Framework is publicly available on GitHub at https://github.com/usnationalarchives/digital-preservation for community use and adaptation.

About the authors:

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