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Out of Sight But Not Out of Mind: Using Archivematica in the Cloud

Hutchinson, Tim

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Annual Conference of the Association of Canadian Archivists, Regina, 13 June.

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Out of sight but not out of mind: Archivematica in the cloud

Tim Hutchinson – ACA Regina, 13 June 2015



BACKGROUND

Previous digital preservation efforts

- Transfer from legacy media where possible – but not systematic
- Very selective normalization
- Some documentation especially for larger scale transfers
- Hard to be proactive about accepting born digital content

About-US	11/09/2008 12:43 PM	File folder
Admin Council	11/09/2008 12:43 PM	File folder
administration	11/09/2008 12:43 PM	File folder
asppc	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
Board of Governors	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
CANARIE	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
CAnet	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
CLS	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
Colleges	11/09/2008 12:33 PM	File folder
Comp. Sc	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
Core Revitalization	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
deans_council	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
External	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
Fees Authority	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
First & Best	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
Forvest	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
general	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
handicapped	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
HSSG	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
humanities	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
IT Security Task Force	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder
ITS Org	11/09/2008 12:44 PM	File folder

**University of Saskatchewan
Office of Information Technology Services**



MEMORANDUM

To: Dean Peter Nikiforuk, College of Engineering
From: Robert N. Kavanagh, Associate Vice-President
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2014
Subject: Applications to Apple Canada Education Foundation, Engineering and Computing Science Division

There seems to be a need to clear up a few points about submissions to the ACEF. I hope that the following can be of use to you and your faculty.

1) The Apple Canada Education Foundation exists to assist development of educational applications of Apple products. This implies that the Foundation does not support projects that are exclusively of a research nature; but research projects that have a significant educational component are received favourably. It also implies (by the word 'assist') that the support from the ACEF is likely to be only part of the costs of a project. In very rough terms, the ACEF looks for roughly matching 'hard dollar' contributions from the University or from other sources that a faculty member might have developed.

2) The ACEF is not in the business of funding teaching labs. It might however contribute to the development of pilot educational projects for labs which are subsequently justified within and supported by the institution.

Organizational context

- University Archives separate from Library (sort of) until 2007
 - a) 2007: Arms-length unit reporting to library dean
 - b) 2010: “normal” library unit
 - c) 2013: Merged with Special Collections
 - d) 2014: Digital Projects added to UA&SC umbrella
- IT support provided by Library all along
- But support for digital preservation more likely if it benefits the Library too

The hook: digital projects

- Archives and Library – approx. 50 digital projects since 1995 (mostly led by Archives)
 - a) Approx. 2 TB
- Saskatchewan History Online – three-year provincial project led by library (2012-2014)
 - a) By end of project, 4TB+
 - b) Plus 10TB (and counting) - Courtney Milne site
- Consultation with Artefactual, early 2012
- Need same infrastructure to preserve digitized content or born digital



ARCHIVEMATICA AS A SERVICE: THE DECISION

Rationale

- Testing Archivematica since version 0.8 – production installation (as of 1.0) already planned
- Major digitization project – library IT resources stretched
- Similar storage costs as for local hosting
- Easy exit strategy

Rationale cont'd

- Support from Artefactual
- Extra features e.g. fixity checking
- Contribution to COPPUL capacity
- Also considered support contract (local install)



ARCHIVEMATICA AS A SERVICE: THE STORY SO FAR

Testing and deployment

- Training and sandbox launch: Apr. 2014
- Extensive testing
- But then a slow route to production. Detours included:
 - a) Islandora/Archivematica integration
 - b) pre-Archivematica workflow
 - c) Artefactual schedule; newly uncovered bugs
- Production launch: Dec. 2014
- Kept separate pipeline for ongoing testing

Islandora integration



Sask History Online

Adrian Paton discusses the early photographers in Arcola

View



In collections

- Paton Collection
 - ▾ Details

Title	Adrian Paton discusses the early phot
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archivematica




Transfer Ingest Archival storage Preservation planning Access Administration admin

Archival storage / Search

Paton Any Keyword Search archival storage Show files?

Add New

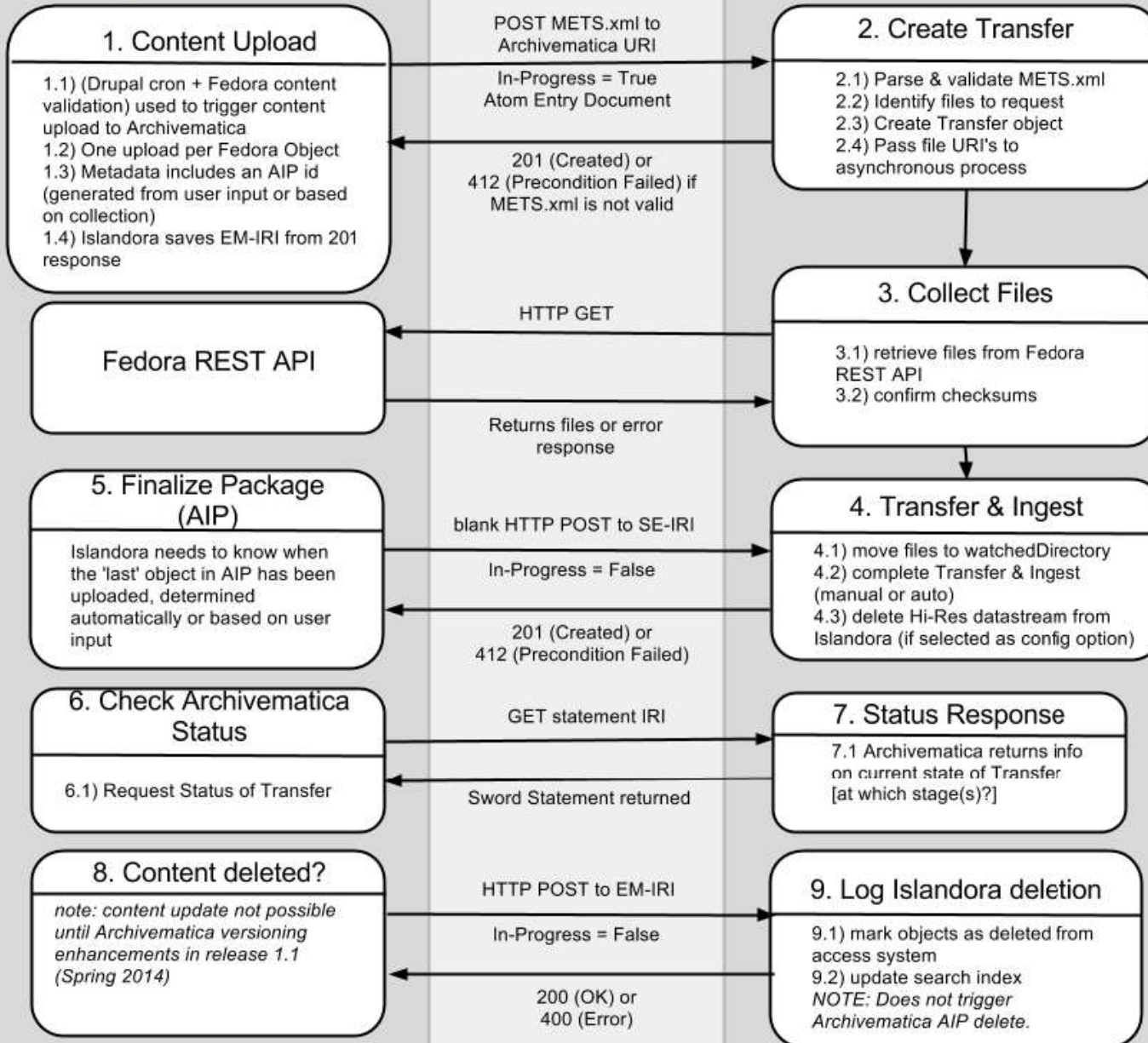
Found 3 results. Showing 1 to 3.

File(s)	AIP(s)
 paton485.tif Sad7c7b2-da74-43ff-b9ca-1abe14ede285	paton2012_05_23_01 9fa7a2d9-90ea-4c86-91b0-1c31295d33ec (view raw)
 paton2012_05_24_01.mp3.mp2 e469bcaa-e409-4e0a-91a7-26bce5655935	paton2012_05_23_01 9fa7a2d9-90ea-4c86-91b0-1c31295d33ec (view raw)
 paton2012_05_23_01.mp3.mp2 see0a908-d0a3-47c6-af24-88326ce0c4d2	paton2012_05_23_01 9fa7a2d9-90ea-4c86-91b0-1c31295d33ec

- paton2012_05_23_01.mp3.mp2
- paton2012_05_23_01.mp3-8edde266-38b3-4d13-9af6-d0fe35693d17.wav
- paton2012_05_24_01.mp3.mp2
- paton2012_05_24_01.mp3-8c472d9b-0e28-413f-8ac7-5b12416f3a51.wav

 Archivematica @archivematica [Follow](#)

Integration with @islandora has been released via @discgarden github.com /discoverygarde ...



Pre-Archivematica workflow

- Some transfers easier to put straight into Archivematica
- Legacy media
 - a) Incrementally building digital forensics workstation
- Challenge of appraisal



End of year one

- U of S has renewed for another year of the COPPUL Archivematica service
- Very good technical support from Artefactual - particularly to minimize downtime
- Additional group training
- Cost reduced to reflect limited use of “tier 3” support tickets

Future considerations

- Difficult to shift completely away from network drive storage – current limitations in DIP structure
 - a) Not yet using AtoM for born-digital records
- Dominance of Microsoft Office files – normalization not automated
- Local cost of storage/backups may change – affecting cost effectiveness of hosted service



CONCLUSIONS

Archivematica in the “cloud”

- Storage/security – inherent trust of another university
 - a) Further investigation of security policies may be needed before including university records
- Canadian servers
- More accessible support than typical cloud services
- Management of records not really outsourced – just backend
- But also doesn't fit “pay as you go” model



“It might not be perfect, but we have a plan...”

U of S College of Commerce (Hangar Building), 1951.

University Archives photo A-3057