Saving Software Together

SWHAP Days
October 19, 2022
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Mission: The Software Preservation Network (SPN) is an independent, community-led membership association focused on ensuring long-term access to software through community engagement, infrastructure support, and knowledge generation.

Values:

Access  Sustainability  Community  Advocacy  Transparency
Like Software Heritage,

is focused on software longevity.

Unlike Software Heritage,

is not a source code archive.
SPN’s Core Areas of Work

- Community engagement
- Infrastructure support
- Knowledge generation
Software preservation: distinct stakeholders, similar challenges
Software preservation: stakeholders unite to solve shared challenges
SPN Community

Organizational Members

Affiliated projects:
○ Emulation-as-a-Service Infrastructure (EaaSI)

Individuals from Member and Non-Member Organizations

Sponsors

Working Groups:
○ Community Engagement Collaborative
○ Law & Policy
○ Metadata
○ Research-in-Practice
○ Technological Infrastructure
○ Training & Education

Coordinating Committee

Educopia Community Facilitation and Backbone Support

Collaborators:
○ Association of Research Libraries
○ Cyberlaw Clinic at Harvard Law School
○ Digital Preservation Coalition
○ Software Heritage
SPN Organizational Members

Australia’s Academic and Research Network (AARNet)
Canadian Centre for Architecture
Columbia University
Computer History Museum
Cornell University
Georgia Tech
Harvard Library
Hesburgh Libraries of Notre Dame
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
National Archives of Australia
New York University
Penn State University
Software Sustainability Institute
Stanford University
The Strong National Museum of Play
University of Arizona
University of Texas at Austin
University of Virginia
Yale University
recent activities
Law & Policy Working Group

Copyright guides:

United States' Section 108 and Canada's Section 30.1

https://zenodo.org/record/6949233#.Y0YpbILMJro
Coordinating Committee

The goal of the Software Preservation Network (SPN) Code of Conduct is to help create an equitable community of practice. SPN acknowledges that the history of computing and technology has been exclusionary, elevated certain voices over others, and has perpetuated inequalities. SPN specifically aims to actively dismantle these dynamics in our community. We want to level the playing field so that people from all ranges of technological skill and organizational capacities understand they are welcome. We seek to create spaces where everyone can fully contribute to the preservation of software and software heritage.

SPN recognizes that collaboration works best when participants feel safe, heard, and respected. We encourage members to take the following actions to help create this environment:

- Listen more than you speak
- Support your colleagues and be mindful of their individual and/or organizational constraints
- Remember that your colleagues may have expertise you are unaware of and have something to offer
- Respect colleagues when they share what is challenging or unknown to them
- Empathize where possible; i.e. in chat boxes or verbally to support ideas or signal that you share challenges. Help your colleagues feel that they are not alone in both their successes and their challenges.

https://www.softwarepreservationnetwork.org/spn-code-of-conduct/
Community Engagement Collaborative

Software Preservation Community Forums

Building a Video Game Collection: Legal Considerations for Preservation and Q&A


Software Metadata
Recommended Format Guide

https://www.softwarepreservationnetwork.org/smrf-guide/
Affiliated Projects

Emulation-as-a-Service Infrastructure Hosted Pilot

https://www.softwarepreservationnetwork.org/emulation-as-a-service-infrastructure/
Research-in-Practice Working Group

White paper:

Supporting Software Preservation Services in Research and Memory Organizations

Coming in November!

Access  Sustainability  Community  Advocacy  Transparency
All SPN Resources

Forums, guides, presentations, webinars, reports, templates, bibliography, and more

https://www.softwarepreservationnetwork.org/spn-resources/
Looking Ahead, Deepening Connections

Community
How can we continue to build connections among our work, nurturing the global software preservation community?

Where can organizational efforts complement and strengthen each other?
tensions we’ve observed
1. Capacity

- It’s not enough to know what we’re losing or gaining collectively...
- Our local constituents, and our local stewardship capacity shapes the nature of our commitment to software sustainability.
2. “The Squeeze”

Practitioners are often squeezed in the middle of collective action

- Inadequate institutional investment in digital curation (much less software curation)
- Increasing need to understand and engage designated user communities
- Increasing complexity and scale of collected/curated materials
While our tools have necessarily become more specialized (and therefore more difficult for any single organization to develop and maintain), they also have to be situated

- among an increasingly crowded field of tools and services competing for organizational support, and
- within the landscape of existing digital infrastructure maintained within each organization

3. Tooling
We’re learning the boundaries of collective action.

what a consortia or a service or an interorganizational community of practice is in the best position to do vs what really needs to take place locally - informed by local user constituencies and institutional realities

How do we (re) situate these collective outputs back into the very local, very specific contexts of cultural heritage institutions in ways that enable those same institutions to provide useful, sustainable emulation services?
Connect and Collaborate

Engage with @SoftPresNetwork

Join a working group: https://airtable.com/shrmNVuWVvO5Os5Bq

Subscribe to the public listserv: bit.ly/spn-listserv

Reach out with collaboration ideas:
https://www.softwarepreservationnetwork.org/contact/

Explore the community calendar:
https://www.softwarepreservationnetwork.org/core-activities/
Thank you!

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