What is EaaSI?

- **Emulation-as-a-Service Infrastructure**, a grant-funded program of work, hosted by Yale University Library, started in 2018

- An assembly of people and projects with the central aim of developing technology and services to enable access to digital resources using preserved/legacy software

- A platform (a particular implementation of EaaS) with a networked community of users
It is! Program goals and efforts include:

- Sponsoring further development on EaaS
- Improving available metadata to describe software and computing environments
- Providing documentation, training and support for memory/heritage orgs around emulation
- Combining all these factors into a sustainable service model for born-digital collections
Demos
On the Roadmap

- "Puppeteered" user actions
  - e.g. automated migration—via—emulation
- Improved matching of software "signatures"
- Emulating entire networks
- Incorporating a generic emulator registry
EaaS Benefits

- Supply right emulator and pre-configure common settings
- Enable multi-user access to emulated environments in a browser
- Smooth creation of new environments
- Configure convenient ways for users to interact with environments
EaaSI Benefits

- Provide hands-on support, including cloud infrastructure if needed
- Build “EaaSI networks” of cultural heritage organizations who can directly exchange software and emulated environments
- Shape UX/UI design of emulation services
Service Challenges

Copyright Law

- Hesitancy in adopting “fair use” practices (in the U.S.)
- Sharing and accessing legacy software across international borders
- Emulator limitations
Service Challenges

Search and Discovery

- Integration with existing discovery and access systems
- Aligning captured metadata with UX
- Guiding user expectations with legacy systems
Service Challenges

Capacity and Sustainability

- Balance R&D and maintenance
- “Using software to save software” paradox
- Available funding models
More About EaaSI

- Service details: https://eaasi.info
- EaaSI Community Forum: https://forum.eaasi.cloud
Thanks!

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