

Re: Archiving very old paper diagrams, drawings and text

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2005-06/msg00108.html>

- *From:* Ian Stirling <root@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 01 Jun 2005 11:29:31 GMT
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In sci.physics Robert Latest <boblalatest@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

> ["Followup-To:" header set to sci.electronics.design.]

> On 2005-05-31, Isaac Wingfield <isw@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

>

>>> Chances are the paper will live longer than the e-image. Paper lives a
>>> **long** time. Disk drives? CDs? The idea is good, but I'm not so sure
>>> about the implementaion.

>>

>> Doesn't matter how far into the future you can get a CD drive. Once the
>> images are digitized, it's trivial to migrate them from one storage
>> medium to another as each becomes obsolescent. That's just impossible
>> with paper. And, whatever "quailty" loss is experienced due to the
>> digitizing process, **that's all**. It'll never degrade further the way
>> paper would.

>

> So much for theory. The brief history of digital storage has
> taught us, however, that digital data has a much shorter life
> than paper -- either because of physical deterioration of the
> media, or because the regular transfer to modern media has been
> neglected.

>

> People are not that disciplined. Important data --both in private
> households and companies-- will continue to be stowed away in
> cartons on attics and forgotten about; a process that "analog"
> media (paper, records, films) are known to survive with no great
> (but of course some) loss.

>

> The big advantage of "analog" media is that the contents are
> always human-readable with no or little technical effort, even
> when they have sustained considerable damage.

>

>> Plus, once the documents are digitized, it's possible to have several
>> **identical** copies in disparate locations, which adds even more
>> durability to the documents.

>

> This is only a plus if all these copies are continuously
> maintained -- stored properley, checked frequently for integrity,
> and re-copied regularly. This just multiplied the time and effort

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- > required to keep them around.
- >
- > To sum it up: Things that need permanent attention just to stay
- > extant aren't going to be around for long. Digital data is one
- > such thing.
- >
- >> Indexing, cataloging, accessing and so forth are also far easier with a
- >> set of computer files.
- >
- > Of course.

I dunno.

I've got 3 CDs with all my early floppies on them.

And a DVD with all 3 CDs on (actually 2, one in a safe place if the house burns down).

With the rise of storage media capacity, keeping stuff older than the last generation tends to be almost free.

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• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: Archiving very old paper diagrams, drawings and text**

◇ *From:* Ted Edwards

- ◆ **Re: Archiving very old paper diagrams, drawings and text**

◇ *From:* Kryten

- Prev by Date: **Re: PWM for noiseless cooling fan**
- Next by Date: **Re: How to choose drill size with known pin diameter?**
- Previous by thread: **Re: OT: Airline Security???**
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