Preservation Planning with Plato

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Abstract. Due to the rapid technological changes in today's information landscape the preservation of digital information has turned into a pressing challenge affecting everybody from large cultural heritage institutions, via industry and small and medium enterprises, to private users wanting to preserve their holiday photos and email communications. A lot of different strategies, i.e. preservation actions, have been proposed to tackle this challenge. However, which strategy to choose, and subsequently which tools to select to implement it, poses significant challenges.

This tutorial will introduce the major challenges that digital preservation activities face. It will then discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the various strategies that exist to tackle these problems. The OAIS reference model, an ISO standard describing the functional model as well as the information model of an archival information system will be presented, before focusing on a specific task in digital preservation, namely planning a sound strategy for preserving one's digital assets. To this end a solid workflow that leads to a profound, well-documented decision that one can be held accountable for, will be discussed. Additionally, we will present Plato, a software tool support that is supporting this workflow, automating the core steps in this endeavour.