

#### **Testbed**

#### Maurice van den Dobbelsteen

Senior advisor digital longevity

National Archives of The Netherlands







# □ What can the Testbed do for you?







#### Questions

- What file formats do I have in my collection?
- □ Some file formats are becoming obsolete. I want to migrate them. But to what file format? And with which migration tool?
- Can I preserve the original with an emulation service?















### Example 1 – Original document

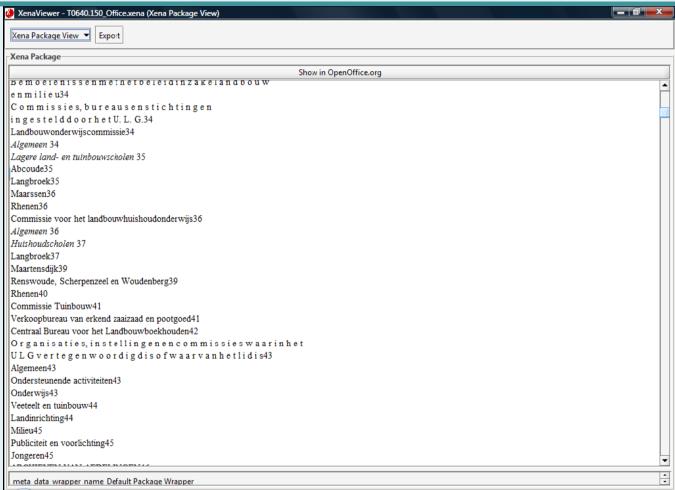
```
\blacksquare \square X
 Dioscuri - modular emulator for digital preservation
Emulator Edit Media Devices Configure Help
Bestand Wijzigen Zoeken Indeling Markeren Speciaal Lettertype Grafisch Help
    en milieu
    Commissies, bureaus en sticht
    інусн
    ingesteld door het U.I.C.
        Landbouwonderwijscommissie
            Algemeen
            Lagere land- en tuinbouwscholen
                Abcoude
                Langbrock
                Maarssen
                Rhenen
        Commissie voor het landbouwhuishoudonderwijs
C:\WF51\DART\T0640.150
                                               Dok 1 Pg 4 Rg ZZ.Z3c Pos 3.6c
```







### Example 1 – Migrated file

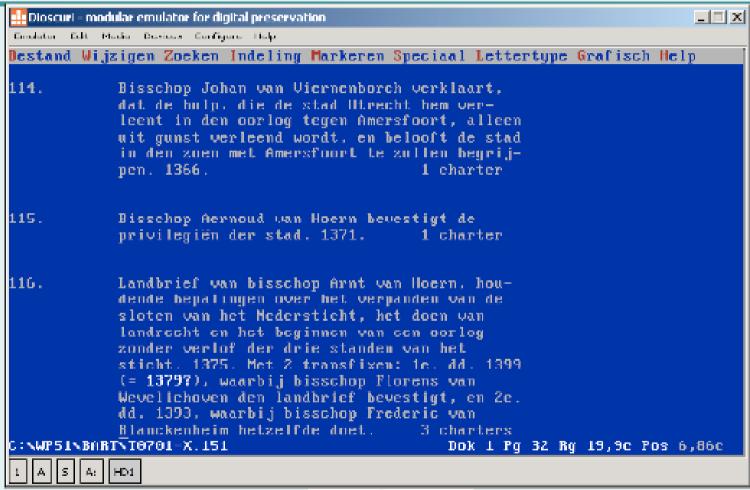








### Example 2 – Original file

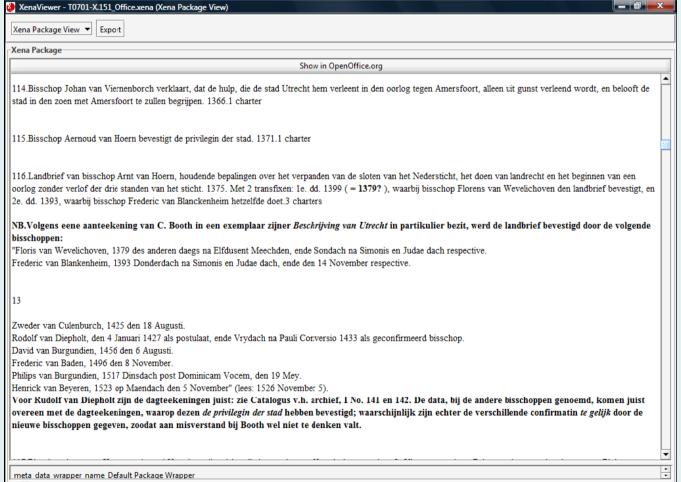








### Example 2 – Migrated file









#### Goal of the Testbed

- □ You will need tools
- □ Tools have different performances
- □ Find out in the Testbed
- Many experiments give a good average!
- Information on tools enriched with experimental information







### Objective - No value judgements

- Whether it is useable for you in your specific situation, is up to you to decide
  - Is it ok to keep the text but lose the layout?
- □ In the Testbed, the performance of the tool is captured "objectively"
  - You can use your neighbor's results







## **□ What is the Testbed?**

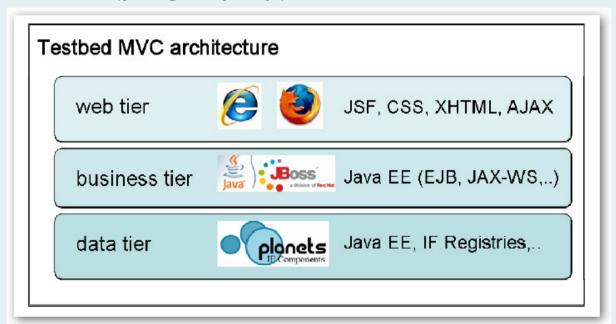






### Testbed components - Application

- □ Web application, software
- □ PLANETS runs a Central Instance which you can access online (plug & play)



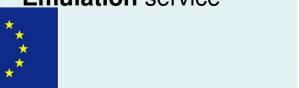






### Preservation questions and services

- What file format is this file?
  - pdf, .xls etc.
  - Identification service
- □ Is this file well-formed?
  - yes, no
  - Validation service
- What are the values of certain properties?
  - font size = 11, image height = 135
  - Characterisation service
- □ Migrate this file for me into another file format
  - .doc >> .pdf/a
  - Migration service
- □ I want to see this file; emulate an old environment for me
  - Emulation service







### Testbed components - Services

- □ Wrap tools into services Services, put them up in the IF and use them in the Testbed
- □ Examples:
  - JHOVE
  - PS2PDF
  - ImageMagik
  - Sanselan
  - MSWord migration
  - HTMLCleaner



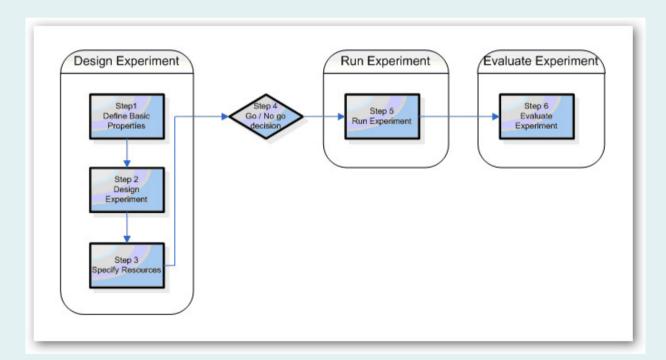






### Testbed components - Workflow

□ Every experiment follows a fixed experimentation workflow that consists of six steps:









### Testbed components - Ontology

- Collection of digital object properties that might be of interest (making them 'significant' properties):
  - Image
    - Height
    - Width
    - Color space
  - Text
    - Font
    - ...
- Compare particular objects before/after treatment (evaluation criteria, benchmark goals)







### Example – Use of properties

Example: test of migration tool Y height of Our original object Characterise/ original is an image Define image image = 10 height Score: How alike is 11 Run experiment "quite migrate with tool Y cm. to 10 cm.? similar" height of Characterise/ Migrated image migrated Define image image = 11 height cm.







### Testbed components - Extractor

- Automatic extraction of properties of input and output files
- □ Using Planets XCDL language
- Developed by University of Cologne







### Testbed components - Corpora

- □ Constructed "known" files (annotated)
  - Supported and maintained by UzK Cologne
  - Wide range of different files and formats
- "Real" files provided by all partners







#### Testbed benefits

- □ Controlled hardware & software environment
- □ A consistent methodology
- Structured processes for arrangement and evaluation of experiments
- Structured properties ontology
- Structured test data corpora
- □ Experiments reproducible







#### The Testbed and who?

□ Through its extensible structure and tight connection to practitioners and research Testbed is a valuable application for a wide range of partners,

□ such as...







#### The Testbed and ...

- □ ... heritage institutions and content holders
- □ Have a look into representative simulation of problems without exposing own material by using Corpora
- □ Get information on behaviour of tools at a "one-stopshop"
- May use a set of readily available digital content for experiments
- Upload own files for special needs







#### The Testbed and ...

- □ ... tool and service providers
- □ Helps to understand needs of user community.
- □ Test tools and see if they behave the way expected







#### The Testbed and ...

- □ ... the digital community
- □ Find knowledge, expertise and people involved in digital preservation
- Become a practical and active part of the preservation community







#### Testbed time scale

- □ 2nd half 2009: Involve external institutions
- □ Peer2peer system of experiments
- □ Together evaluate new functionality
- Incorporate feedback into the Testbed
- □ Q1 2010: Testbed external release







#### Who to contact?

- □ Register without any obligations on Planets website
- www.planets-project.eu/community
- □ Central contact: The Testbed Helpdesk
- helpdesk@planets-project.eu

Maurice van den Dobbelsteen Nationaal Archief of The Netherlands maurice.van.den.dobbelsteen@nationaalarchief.nl





