iCamp CO
Migrating to Islandora

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Introductions

I’m Danny…
   Technical team lead at discoverygarden
   More than just a programmer: scoping, client communication, general sysadminery, optimizations, and most importantly, a MASSIVE MIGRATOR

Erin couldn’t make it, but she’s…
   Worked with Islandora since 2011
   Assigned to approx 30 different Islandora projects ranging from consulting, installation, custom development, and data migrations.

Employed at discoverygarden, an Islandora Foundation partner
Anatomy of a migration

- Review Data and Requirements
- Metadata Mapping
- Run the ingest!
- Review it
Reviewing Data & Requirements

- Sample data is 10% of entire set, representative of the whole

- Do you have customizations your staff/users want to maintain

- Requirements outline detailed expectations of the migrated content
Metadata Mapping

• Islandora can handle anything, but MODS is easiest for first-timers
• Lots of community support for MODS
• It’s flexible, with lots of room for creativity with your mapping
• Lots of tools:
  • Forms!!
  • Automatic Solr indexing if using the right solr config
  • Easily mapped to DC
So you’ve made a plan...

- Double check it!
  - The devil’s in the details. Try to fill in as many gaps before the migration gets run the first time.
- Now communicate it!
  - Quite possibly the most difficult part of any migration.
- Try it out!
  - Run it on a small subset and investigate the results.
- Iterate on it!
  - It rarely is perfect the first time. Everyone needs to work together to ensure it meets requirements on the subset before unleashing a massive, multi-terabyte migration.
Let’s get down to brass tacks...

• What is a migration, really?
  • Drush!
    • A long running process to get all your archival files and their metadata into Islandora
  • Generation of all derivatives
    • Thumbnails
    • Low-res access copies
    • OCR
  • Solr indexing
• Islandora does all of this for you!
How not to migrate

• Write everything from scratch
• No error handling
• Don’t keep track of progress
  • Every time the migration dies, delete everything and start over
Tools for smooth migrations

• Islandora Batch module
  • Scans directories and associates archival binaries with metadata files
  • Builds a queue in the database
  • Completely customizable
  • Don’t recode this wheel!
  • Don’t pay to have this wheel recoded!!!
• Be consistent and thorough
  • Consistent naming conventions are powerful.
  • Consistent file locations are unbeatable
  • Otherwise, try METS!
METS is a godsend

• Despite being a standard, different people use it differently, however...
• It wraps up everything you need for a migration in a neat little XML package.
• Fantastic for when different types of files could reside on different servers.
You can do it!

- Moving large amounts of data from one system to another *is difficult*.
- Islandora eases this process by doing a lot of the heavy lifting for you. Rely on what it has to offer.
- Take advantage of community expertise.
- Don’t try to do it all in one shot
  - Migrations prove how ineffective the waterfall style of project management is.
- Remember: it’s not the hiccups that matter, it’s how you handle them. Handle them early :)
Dearest Community, Thank you!

- Because of your hard work and effort, we’ve managed to:
  - Increase adoption
  - Assert the values of open source software within our institutions
  - Improve the software so it’s meaningful to users, extensible, easy to use, maintain and upgrade
- For more information on migrating to Islandora, feel free to contact erin@discoverygarden.ca or daniel@discoverygarden.ca