Presenting…

The SPOT Model

for Risk Assessment

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What is SPOT?

Preservation threats:
- Threats to archived digital content
  - E.g. technical issues related to ingest & storage
- Threats to the custodial organization
  - E.g. economic and legal issues

SPOT: A lightweight framework for addressing threats arising from technical operations associated with preserving objects.
Desired qualities in a threat model:

Conceptual Clarity
  • Don’t mix causes with results

Appropriate detail and consistent granularity
  • Don’t mix very broad with very detailed

Comprehensiveness
  • Within professed scope

Simplicity
  • Fitness for purpose
SPOT approach

• Agree on the goals of technically successful digital preservation
• Itemize threats that could negatively impact those goals
• Assess your vulnerability to those threats and look at ways to mitigate them
Goals of digital preservation

• Availability
  • Object has been captured and is maintained in repository

• Identity
  • Object can be distinguished from other objects, discovered and retrieved

• Persistence
  • Bits are intact on media and can be read
Goals of digital preservation (continued)

- Renderability
  - Object can be used in a way that retains significant properties

- Understandability
  - Object can be interpreted by its designated community

- Authenticity
  - Object is what it purports to be
Using the SPOT model for risk assessment

• What are property-oriented threats?
• How well do you mitigate them?

E.g. Threats to identity

• Sufficient metadata is not captured or maintained.
• Linkages between metadata and the objects that the metadata describes are not captured or maintained.
• Metadata is captured and maintained but not made available to users.
Example:
Sufficient metadata is not captured/maintained

If you think about causes –

Organization can’t afford good catalogers
Has good catalogers but one is lazy
Cataloger went on leave, was hit by bus

If you think about results –

Quality control step for sufficient metadata
Sally Vermaaten, Brian Lavoie, Priscilla Caplan
Identifying Threats to Successful Digital Preservation: The SPOT model for Risk Assessment
http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september12/vermaaten/09vermaaten.html