The Planets project: practical research to address digital preservation

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Abstract

The challenge of preserving digital information over time has been discussed by many people at many different places for the last two decades, but has not yet been properly resolved. Apart from understanding the issues, it requires collaboration of interested and responsible organisations, not only in the cultural heritage domain, but in every domain where computers and IT are used. One crucial aspect in this ongoing and evolutionary process of addressing the management and preservation of digital objects over time is practical research and experimentation. In 2006 16 organisations started a research project, funded by the European Commission, in order to provide practical solutions, the Planets project (www.planets-project.eu).

It brings together European National Archives and Libraries, leading research institutions and technology companies and intends to establish a distributed, interoperable network of services that will help interested organisations to address their management of digital objects. It focuses on preservation planning, which in its essence tries to get control of the still unknown and virtual world of managing and maintaining digital information
This presentation will give an overview of the main objectives and characteristics of this 4-year project and what results and deliverables can be expected from it.