



The SNIA LTR TWG

➤ Mission

- ◆ The Long Term Retention (LTR) TWG will lead storage industry collaboration with groups concerned with, and develop technologies, models, educational materials and practices related to, data & information retention & preservation.

➤ Charter

- ◆ The LTR TWG will ensure that SNIA plays a full part in addressing the "grand technical challenges" of long term digital information retention & preservation, namely both physical ("bit") and logical preservation.
- ◆ The TWG will generate reference architectures, create new technical definitions for formats, interfaces and services, and author educational materials. The group will be working to ensure that digital information can be efficiently and effectively preserved for many decades, even when devices are constantly being replaced, new technologies, applications and formats are introduced, consumers (designated communities) often change, and so on.

➤ More Information

- ◆ http://www.snia.org/tech_activities/workgroups

SIRF: Self-contained Information Retention Format

Being developed by SNIA Long Term Retention (LTR) TWG

Photo courtesy Oregon State Archives

An Analogy

- ❑ Standard physical archival box
 - ❑ Archivists gather together a group of related items and place them in a physical box container
 - ❑ The box is labeled with information about its content e.g., name and reference number, date, contents description, destroy date

- ❑ SIRF is the digital equivalent
 - ❑ Logical container for a set of (digital) preservation objects and a catalog
 - ❑ The SIRF catalog contains metadata related to the entire contents of the container as well as to the individual objects
 - ❑ SIRF standardizes the information in the catalog



SIRF Properties

- ❑ SIRF is a logical data format of a **storage container** appropriate for long term storage of digital information
 - ❑ A storage container may comprise a logical or physical storage area considered as a unit.
 - ❑ Examples: a file system, a tape, a block device, a stream device, an object store, a data bucket in a cloud storage

- ❑ Required Properties
 - ❑ **Self-describing** – can be interpreted by different systems
 - ❑ **Self-contained** – all data needed for the interpretation is in the container
 - ❑ **Extensible** – so it can meet future needs



For further information

- ◆ SIRF use cases and requirements document is released for public review
 - ◆ http://www.snia.org/tech_activities/publicreview
- ◆ More information on SIRF (& other SNIA LTR activities) is available at
 - ◆ <http://www.snia.org/ltr>
- ◆ More information on ENSURE is available @:
 - ◆ www.ensure-fp7.eu