

PreForma Project

February 26, 2015

Artefactual Systems is a Canadian company which specializes in developing and implementing open-source, open-standard technologies for archival collections and digital repositories. Artefactual Systems is pleased to offer its support for MediaArea's application to design a toolset for the PreForma project. We feel that as audiovisual preservation and file conformance validation specialists, MediaArea is in a unique position to offer the necessary expertise and infrastructure to support the use of matroska, ffv1 and lpcm as preservation formats for audiovisual holdings. In addition to providing a reliable source of testing and feedback to the project, Artefactual Systems' contribution would take the form of integrating elements of the toolset with Archivematica, an open-source digital preservation platform, and the Archivematica Format Policy Registry, which supplies format-specific rules for format identification, validation and normalization to Archivematica and other open-source digital preservation tools.

As one of the early adopters of ffv1 and matroska for video preservation, Artefactual has had the opportunity of working with closely Dave Rice and can attest to his knowledge and expertise in digital preservation, particularly the areas of multimedia preservation and metadata standards. We are confident that MediaArea and his team are well positioned to manage the technical and logistical complexities of the proposed project. We are also pleased to note that MediaArea adopts a completely FOSS (Free and Open Source) approach to digital preservation tool development; we feel that the proposal's emphasis on open-source software and open data standards will help to ensure that effort expended now to support these formats will not be wasted due to software obsolescence, restrictive software licenses and obscure or unsupported metadata schemas. Finally, in our opinion, the underlying technical architecture being proposed will provide a flexible and durable platform for ensuring that the toolset will be usable in a wide variety of digital preservation contexts, and that users of Archivematica in particular will benefit from this work.

Sincerely,



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