



Migration of audio CDs

« ... the usable life of the optical disc is finite ... »*

* IASA – TC 04 – Second Edition - 2009

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CD has a relatively short life span

In 1982, Sony and Philips launched a new music medium, the audio CD. From the end of the eighties, the new product enjoyed widespread commercial success and quickly overtook the vinyl record in importance as an audio medium.

In the nineties, the CD continued to enjoy success and became a mass audio medium. Around the world, vast CD collections appeared in libraries, radio stations, media libraries, legal deposits, etc. At the same time, the arrival and development of the CD-Recordable as a mass medium also led to many institutions transferring analog media onto CD-R for storage purposes.



Optical media were at first thought to be a storage solution that was almost indestructible in the long term. Nevertheless, from the end of the nineties, the CD and the CD-R, in reality, turned out to be very fragile,

having a much shorter life span than that of analog media (somewhere in the region of a couple of years).

In order to deal with the urgent need to safeguard the content of these collections, **Memnon** can offer a highly cost-effective alternative when carrying out internal migration projects : by implementing a unique infrastructure, **Memnon** can execute migration projects that involve large quantities of CD and CD-R (or CD data) **in the shortest possible time and at very competitive prices.**

The average life span of a CD is between 5 and 10 years.

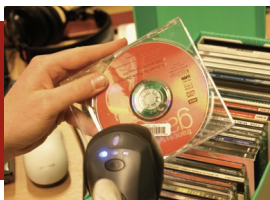
Using fast and reliable players and by analysing the data content of each file produced, this solution allows for the conversion of more than **100,000 optical discs into audio files per year**, and can match the technical and descriptive metadata to each of the files.

Once extracted from the audio CDs, the files and their metadata can be delivered on hard disks or on LTO data storage tapes, or even be automatically placed onto a « media asset management system ».

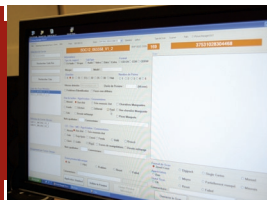
A dedicated solution

In order to achieve such high production levels (more than 100,000 discs per year), the IT team at **Memnon** has designed a dedicated data system that is capable of not only integrating but also optimising the leading-edge technology currently available in mass storage solutions.

For example, our first large-scale contract for this type of service involves the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF), where around 210,000 audio CDs (legal deposit) will be digitalized over the next three years. The Wave files, including technical metadata acquired during migration, will be delivered to the BNF on LTO tapes. The BNF will then input all the information directly into its own archiving system, resulting in a considerable time saving for the management of the audio CD collection ; in turn, the continued existence of digital data will be ensured.



Audio CD migration
at a very
competitive price



On the logistics front, **Memnon** has selected the best containers for transport and storage. A computerised system ensures that the original physical media are traceable, from the moment they are picked up from the client to their return to the client's warehouses. Each medium is individually identified and tracked throughout the process, thereby eliminating the risk of encoding and handling errors.

- A support with a poor level wear and tear leading to degraded content
- Outsourcing to an experienced partner at competitive prices
- Rigorous production control and quality measuring
- A dedicated data system aimed at enriching metadata

Case study : Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF)

210,000 CDs migrated in 3 years

Project scope


- The audio visual department of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France sought an external provider to migrate its legal deposit collection of commercial audio CDs (1983 till today) to standard file format
- 210,000 CDs, the average duration of the documents is of 60 minutes
- Delivery and structuring of metadata (various levels and formats)
- Image scanning
- 3 years contract

Solution

- Non-robotic parallel digitisation : each migration line (handling several playback devices in parallel) is controlled by one operator
- Professional playback devices able to deal with errors during playback
- Robust and stable acquisition software : NOA CD Lector
- Quality Control:
 - Human (operators are sound engineers, Quality Control supervisor)
 - Automated (NOA)
 - Statistical (samples)
 - Custom built production management tools:
 - Memnon Production Asset Management system for ongoing file flow control and metadata management
 - Memnon Calculation Farm for post-processing management

Memnon's strengths

- Proven track record with institutions like British Library (UK), Cité de la Musique (FR) and Conservatoire de Paris (FR)
- High and flexible production capacity
- Automated workflow
- Mastering of open archiving formats
- Commitment to deadlines thanks to:
 - Careful project planning,
 - Strong project management,
 - Efficiency in logistics and asset tracking, and
 - Technical and IT expertise



Memnon Archiving Services :
European leader in the
digitisation and indexation
of audiovisual archives

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