



Migration of DAT

*« DAT is not recommended for long-term storage because of concerns about the life of the format... »**

** Survey of Endangered Audiovisual Carriers – Unesco 2003*

memnon
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DAT, an obsolete recording system

During the eighties and the nineties, Digital Audio Tapes (DAT) enjoyed great success with public institutions and sound professionals for recording purposes and for safeguarding archive resources. As a result of limited commercial success amongst the general public, Sony decided in 2005 to stop the production of DAT players and associated parts.

From then on, many institutions have not been able to play their DAT and access



to sound recordings has become problematic and technically hazardous. In addition, due to the fragile nature of the media and their poor level of wear and tear, many instances of digital data loss have been reported for DAT tapes. Studies have shown that there exists a risk of deterioration in the quality of the recorded data after 5 to 10 years

Facing this problem, the Danish Public Radio Service (DR) launched an international invitation to tender which **Memnon** won in June 2008. This immense task is expected to last three years and seen as the world's biggest contract for the digitisation of sound archives. It will mean processing **175,000 DAT, or in other words, 350,000 hours of sound archives which require media migration over 3 years.**

Millions of hours of audio content on DAT tapes are today inaccessible ...

The organisational framework set up by **Memnon** to tackle this huge challenge will allow for the conversion to Wave format of almost 500 hours of audio content per day. The procedure requires reliable and effective logistical management, allowing for complete traceability of both operations and physical supports and the painstaking collection of metadata. Quality control of the finished files is based on automatic processes complemented by the analysis of samples chosen statistically.

At the end of the contract, in 2011, the archive content will be stored, on the one hand, as high resolution files (*.wav) and, on the other, be accessible on low resolution access files (mp3, wma, ogg,...). The files themselves will be matched with structured metadata files (*.xml) making both the audio content and associated information available.

Mass digitisation at a very competitive price

Memnon today can safeguard DAT tapes at **very competitive price**. This allows institutions, both public and private (radio broadcasters, libraries, museums, etc.) to cap budgets earmarked for the protection of their audio resources and, as a result, focus their investment on the indexing, research and dissemination of the digitised files.



DAT tape migration
at very competitive price

IPI © - Manager :

a new approach for indexation and documentation of audiovisual content

Indexing and documenting audiovisual archives in digital format is a major hurdle when launching large digitisation projects, as no tools exist to perform efficiently pre-indexing of the media files and documentation of the content, while allowing easy interaction with DAM/MAM or broadcast systems.

Memnon has developed an innovative solution, the IPI©-Manager, which combines automated semantic pre-indexation tools (speech to text, speaker changes, music to speech,...), highly ergonomical media files indexation and documentation tools, and the use of an original metadata architecture based on OAIS model,... within a single interface. The IPI©-Manager can save up to 80% of editorial time.

- A support with a poor level of wear and tear leading to degraded content
- Spare parts and players which are difficult to come by
- A mass digital archiving solution at a very competitive price
- Rigorous production control and quality measuring
- A fast and effective solution to the challenge of preserving document quality

Case story : Danish Radio (DR)

350,000 hours of broadcasting programs migrated

Project scope

- Largest outsourced digitisation project ever contracted
- The public Danish Radio sought an external provider able to set up a factory digitisation process in order to migrate 350,000 hours of broadcasting programs.
- 175,000 DAT tapes, the average duration of the documents is of 2 hours
- Delivery of metadata
- 3 years contract

Solution

- Non-robotic parallel digitisation : the migration line (handling several playback devices in parallel) is controlled by one operator
- Professional playback devices with constant monitoring of the BLER level
- Professional converters with constant monitoring of the AES outputs
- Robust and stable acquisition software: NOA Medialector
- 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

- 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 I.T. expertise

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



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