Archiving Born-Digital Records

Fifth Laboratory History Conference

The Johns Hopkins University

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Archiving Born-Digital Records

• “Born” in stages, serve different functions
  – Communications about work
  – Investigations / Research
  – Work Product
• “Live” in different places
  – Desktop computer --PDA/Blackberry
  – Laptop computer --Cell Phone
  – Internet ---[next new thing…] 
  – External service
Archiving Born-Digital Records

Key Factors

• Evolving landscape / elements
  – Hardware (3-5 yr. life)
  – Software (5-7 yr. life)
    • COTS (commercial-off-the-shelf)
    • Homegrown Platform (documentation?)
  – Storage media (lifespan??)
  – Platform (PC, Mac, Unix …)
Archiving Born-Digital Records

INFO/DATA UNIVERSE

Records

Historical Archive

IT Archive/Storage

Archived
Archiving Born-Digital Records
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Archived =

• Maintain **usability** over time
• Economically **sustainable**
• Retain **integrity** of “original order”
• **Accurately** reflect / records work products and processes