How to Party Like It’s 1999: Emulation for Everyone

The SPN Training & Education Working Group maintains a thorough public Zotero library of web sites and publications related to software preservation. To highlight this and other extremely helpful communal resources on the SPN site, the Community Engagement Collaborative is asking individual SPN members to pick out a particular resource that’s been important to their work!

Written by: Ethan Gates, Software Preservation Analyst, Yale University Library & User Support Lead, EaaSI program of work

"How to Party Like It's 1999" was published not too long after I left grad school and was still trying to figure out what I wanted to actually "do" as a budding audiovisual/digital archivist, and it hit me like a bolt. This was everything that excited me about working in the field in one package: innovative use of existing tooling, case studies that will only get more and more applicable as digital collections grow and age, super-accessible writing about super-technical concepts. It was basically at the exact same time that I started writing on The Patch Bay, a blog where I've tried to similarly make connections, share experiences, and give advice regarding technology and day-to-day archival practice.

Obviously I took that inspiration with me when I was lucky enough to start work on EaaSI (and it’s still wild to me that I get to think about emulation and software preservation every day, and alongside some of these very same AMAZING authors in SPN!!!) “How to Party Like It’s 1999” is still one of my go-to recommendations for any student or newcomer interested in our program of work, and it was a model for our EaaSI Case Studies. I highly recommend a read (or re-read) - it’s as good today as it was in the before-times of early 2016.

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**No Summer Break for Law & Policy**

It is safe to say that the Law and Policy world has been downright hyperactive this summer. Check out the SPN blog for significant updates on the US Copyright Office (a new study on state immunity!), the courts (fair dealing vindicated in Canada, Apple settles AND appeals in its lawsuit over emulation, and maybe the US Supreme Court just gave us a new tool to defend preservation), and the international arena (an intrepid SPN representative sat through three days of Zoom confabs so you don't have to).

Read more on the SPN blog!
The Software Preservation Network invites you to join us for the upcoming Software Curation and Preservation Community Forum taking place on Tuesday, September 21 at 3 pm PT/5 pm CT/6 pm ET. Each quarter, we invite our colleagues across professional and disciplinary communities to participate in an hour-long discussion on topics related to software curation, preservation, and reuse. The Community Forum is free and open to all (you do not have to be a SPN member to attend or participate). This Forum will feature "Unshown and Untold" - a roundtable on preservation use cases that traditionally struggle to gain attention compared to high-profile multimedia or creative works. Our discussion will be with Elena Colón-Marrero of the Computer History Museum and Vicky Rampin of New York University.

As a subscriber to the Software Preservation Network listserv, you will receive reminders, calendar invites, and call-in information for the QCF via email.

If you are interested in discussing a specific topic during future Community Forums, submit your topics and questions via Google form.

Learn about SPN affiliated project activities and milestones. SPN affiliated projects focus on specific aspects of software preservation/curation that support the strategic goals of SPN.
Somehow we are already roughly halfway through the EaaSI program of work’s second round of grant funding from the Mellon and Sloan foundations - which means the team is hard at work planning for 2022 and beyond. Our daily progress improving the functionality and service design of the EaaSI platform has been significantly boosted in recent months thanks to the SPN community and a quickly-expanding group of digital practitioners putting emulation into action!

Read the complete update here!

The Software Preservation Network (SPN) facilitates and supports software preservation efforts. SPN preserves software through community engagement, infrastructure support, and knowledge generation in five core activity areas including Law & Policy Advocacy, Metadata & Standards Development, Training & Education, Research-in-Practice, and Technological Infrastructure.

Do you appreciate the work that SPN has been doing over the last several years to broaden participation and ensure lawful preservation, sharing, and reuse of software? Would you like SPN to continue its work of coordination, research, advocacy, and capacity building? Do you have ideas or a vision for the future of software preservation that you would like to see realized through the SPN community?

If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions, then consider supporting our work through membership or sponsorship. To learn more about the benefits of membership and
Please download, complete, and submit your SPN Participation Agreement to jess.farrell@educopia.org.

Or consider volunteering for our Training & Education, Metadata, Law & Policy, Research in Practice, Technological Infrastructure, or Community Engagement Collaborative Working Groups. You do not need to be a SPN member to join a working group! To join a Working Group, fill out a new volunteer form.

Software Preservation Network

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