



InterPARES 2 Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

Domain 3 Research Questions

Case Study 15: *Waking Dream*

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1. **What types of entities does the diplomatic analysis identify in this case study? (i.e., records, publications, data, etc.)**

The diplomatic analysis identifies the following types of entities: the program code, the computer directories, audio files that contain both the soundtrack and the original sound samples, and power point files.

- 1a. **If there are no records, should there be records? If not, why not?**

Not applicable.

- 1b. **If there should be records, what kinds of records should be created to satisfy the creator's needs (as defined by an archivist)?**

Not applicable.

- 1c. **What characteristics of records (as defined by an archivist) are missing yet necessary to preserve these entities?**

Not applicable.

2. **Are the entities reliable? If not, why not?**

Due to the ephemeral nature of the performance the entities themselves are constantly changed and altered by the audience's interaction within each performance; therefore, the digital entities are not reliable. However, Professor Fels is concerned that future producers will alter the original intention of *Waking Dream* to the point that his work and intellectual property will not be recognizable. This said the entities are reliable in the sense that they fulfill the artist's conception and intention of the performed work.

3. **Are the entities accurate? If not, why not?**

The report does not address the issue of accuracy.

4. **To what degree can the entities be presumed to be authentic, and why?**

Benchmark Requirements Supporting the Production of Authentic Copies of Electronic Records (these apply to the creator):

Due to the lack of formal recordkeeping procedures the following benchmark requirements cannot be fully answered.

1. **Capture of identity and integrity metadata**
All digital entities are entered into the following directories with no attached metadata: a program directory, a video directory and a sound directory.
2. **Enforcement of access privileges**
Access is controlled only by limiting the software application and further what copies of files each person has on their own computer.
3. **Protection against loss and corruption**
Version control protects against the loss and corruption over the digital entities.
4. **Protection against media and technology obsolescence**
To protect against media and technological obsolescence, Professor Fels recodes the program code when it becomes necessary.
5. **Established documentary forms**
Not available.
6. **Ability to authenticate records**
Not available.
7. **Procedures in place to identify the authoritative record**
Not available.
8. **Procedures in place to properly document removal and transfer of records from the creator's originating system**
Not available.

Baseline Requirements Supporting the Production of Authentic Copies of Electronic Records (these apply to the preserver):

Again, due to the lack of formal recordkeeping procedures the following baseline requirements cannot be fully answered.

1. **Controls over Records Transfer, Maintenance, and Reproduction**
Not available.

2. **Documentation of Reproduction Process and its Effects**
Not available.

3. **Archival Description**
Not available.

5. For what purpose(s) are the entities to be preserved?

The diplomatic analysis assumes that the “purpose of preservation is to allow the piece to be performed in the future as its creators have intended it to be.”¹

6. Has the feasibility of preservation been explored?

The final reports states that little has been done in terms of a preservation strategy. Due to the ephemeral nature of the performance, only certain aspects can be captured and preserved by the use of back-up copies.

6a. If yes, what elements and components need to be preserved?

As stated above, only certain components can be captured and preserved due to the nature of the performance. However all of the directories stored on Professor Fels’s computer need to be maintained and preserved for future reenactments of the performance.

7. Which preservation strategies might most usefully be applied, and what are their strengths and weaknesses, including costs and degree of technical difficulty?

The final report states that all digital aspects of *Waking Dream* are preserved using backup copies. This is the extent of preservation strategies. Backing up systems is not without its pitfalls. To ensure that everything is captured and backed up, monitoring and testing should occur regularly, and furthermore, data recovery must be incorporated. Data recovery is the process of rescuing the original missing data directly from the damaged drives or CDs.

7a. Which alternative preservation strategies might be applied? What are their strengths and weaknesses, including costs and degree of technical difficulty?

The following lists alternative preservation strategies that could be applied to *Waking Dream*:

B1.4. Conversion

B2.3. Software Re-engineering

¹ See page 1 of the Case Study 15 Diplomatic Analysis.

B4. Data restoration

It is difficult to assert what the costs would be and whether or not Professor Fels and Sachiyo Takahashi are interested in the continual preservation of *Waking Dream*.

8. What additional information does the preserver need to know to facilitate appraisal and preservation?

The preserver should understand how the entities were created through a complete understanding of the recordkeeping procedures.

8a. If required information is missing, where should it come from and how should it be made manifest?

As stated above, there is a need to compile formal recordkeeping procedures in which should be conducted by Professor Fels and Sachiyo Takahashi.

9. Are there any policies in place that affect preservation?

At the time of the report, there were no policies that would affect the preservation of the performance of *Waking Dream*.

9a. Are there any policies in place that present obstacles to preservation?

Again, there are no policies currently in place that present obstacles to the preservation of the performance of *Waking Dream*.

9b. Are there any policies that would need to be put in place to facilitate appraisal and preservation?

One policy that does effect the appraisal of *Waking Dream* is in relation to the intellectual property rights over the work. Professor Fels and Sachiyo Takahashi must agree whether or not *Waking Dream* can retain its identity even when it is performed without Takahashi. This decision has bearings over the intellectual property rights of the work.