

ERA 2.0: A Cloud-Based Preservation Repository at the National Archives

Leslie Johnston, NARA Designing Storage Architectures for Digital Collections Meeting September 9-10, 2019



What is ERA 2.0?

- The United States National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Electronic Records Archives, or ERA, encompasses a set of the operations for scheduling, transferring, reviewing, and storing electronic records received from U.S. government agencies.
- The environment includes multiple systems handling different types of electronic records: unclassified and classified Federal, Presidential, and Legislative, each with its own regulatory management and access controls.
- ERA 2.0 is the new cloud-based electronic processing environment and preservation repository that launched in October 2018.





Recent Work: BOM

- The Business Object Management (BOM) workflows for Federal, Presidential, Legislative and Judicial records, digitized analog records, and donated materials, with a mechanism to easily update workflows or create new workflows as requirements change.
- The work to integrate a new workflow engine using Alfresco started in October 2018 following a several months long Business Process Re-engineering project.



Recent Work: Cloud-to-Cloud

- Agencies do their work directly in the cloud, in their own cloud enclaves and in systems hosted by vendors. Their records need to move from their cloud environment to the NARA environment without the added risk of numerous file copying actions in and out of local and cloud environments
- The initial implementation of a direct cloud transfer is in Amazon GovCloud, where files can be made available for a transfer process. This has been successfully tested but is not yet in production.



What Else Has NARA Done This Year?

- Implemented both Snowball and Direct Connect workflows for transferring and moving files for ingest.
- Completed an ISO 16363 self-assessment using the Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorisation Body (PTAB) instrument.
- NARA will release its digital preservation framework a risk assessment matrix and electronic record preservations plans—on September 16 for public comment and discussion through the National Archives Github account.



Thank you!

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