

# Disk image decision factors

**Exploring the role of disk imaging in digital archives workflows**

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# Disk Image

- Perfect copy of entire storage device
- May include:
  - Empty space
  - Hidden files
  - Deleted files

# Logical Copy

- Individual files only
- Does *not* include:
  - Empty space
  - Hidden files
  - Deleted files

# The rise of disk imaging

- Starting in the 2000s **disk imaging** was **positioned as best practice** and quickly **became the de facto standard**
- Benefits include (but are not limited to):
  - Efficiency and efficacy
  - Allows for emulation and forensic analysis
  - Appropriateness for data capture from certain legacy media formats

# The rise of disk imaging

- A disk image is **not a silver bullet**
- In recent years, the conversation has become more nuanced and the **default practice of disk imaging media has been called into question.**
- Concerns include (but are not limited to):
  - Appropriateness for specific storage media
  - Privacy concerns and ethical issues
  - Environmental sustainability concerns

# Who we are and how we want to solve it

- Disk image discussions at BUF 2019
  - **“What disk image format is best?”**
  - **“What about logical disk images?”**
  - **“Is it okay if I don’t create disk images?”**
- Ad hoc group formed around these questions

# Who we are and how we want to solve it

- Small, ad hoc group → **DANNING**
  - Digital Archival traNsfer / iNgest / packagiNg Group
  - Mission:
    - Demystify disk images and alternatives
    - Provide framework for approaching disk imaging as a practice
    - Establish shared vocabulary

# What we've done so far

- Disk Imaging Decision Factors
- Glossary
- Github repo and Pages site
- Recruitment and Google Group

# Factors and Glossary

- Years of experience, knowledge, & discussions
  - Group members
  - Community feedback
- Learning and relearning things
- Synthesized in a single set of resources



# Practical use

- Not a decision tree, checklist, Either/Or
- Iterative project, not a standard
- Can't slow down or stop the inevitable changes related to working with digital materials or the need to make decisions

# Practical use

- Implement workflows & processes specific to **institutional and collection context**
- Better communicate with donors and staff
- Make more informed decisions to address issues of privacy, ethics, and sustainability

# Next Steps

- Release a draft (circa July 30)
- Tackle new projects
  - Imaging/transfer field guide
  - Disk image feature matrix
- Take on new members who are interested in this work
  - If you're **interested in getting involved**, please fill out the survey on our website: <https://dannng.github.io/>

# Questions?

<https://dannng.github.io/>

