

THE END OF SOFTWARE

**Contemplating a Standardized
Software Preservation
Methodology**

Pompously bombastic title translation:

- Magnetic media such as tape and floppy diskette have passed their theoretical lifespan
- The bits in EPROM chips (and similar technology) are rotting
- Punched cards and paper tape are acid-based mediums
- Something needs to be done now if we are to save software

What Level of Preservation?

- Saving the bits is only part of the process
- “The Medium is the Message”
- Preserve meta information of the medium itself

FutureKeep

- A standardized, structured file specification for imaging computer data media
- Preserves the bits...
- ...by describing the physical medium

FutureKeep Features

- Well Documented
- Universal
- Extensible
- Simple
- Free (i.e. open source)

FutureKeep Simple Example

- Stored in standard text file
- Tagged format (XML)
- HUMAN READABLE – No binary data
- Work in progress