Archiving Email
Under the Presidential Records Act (PRA)

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Kenneth Hawkins, Ph.D
Digital Preservation Division / Office of Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Archiving Email under the PRA

Technical and Legal context

- Growth of electronic records transferred to NARA
- Requirements of the Presidential Records Act of 1978 (PRA)

NARA policies to make PRA email actionable

- Data acquisition and integrity
- Managing for preservation and access
Digital Files Transferred to the National Archives and Presidential Libraries, 1970-2009

*Kenneth Thibodeau, “Preserving Digital Memory at the National Archives and Records Administration of the U.S.” Workshop on Conservation of Digital Memories Second National Conference on Archives, Bologna, Italy, 20 November 2009
Transfer and Management under 44 USC 2201-2207

- PRA, FOIA, Privacy Act, FAR, etc., drive policies; physics drive the rest
- White House owns email until Jan 20 @ 1200
- NARA owns email @ 1200:01
- NARA’s mandate is to provide authorized access ASAP while implementing preservation controls for the long-term
- Rapid ingest, indexing, search, case management, output
- Access demand drives Extract/Transform/Load level of service
- Email sources and data quality may vary due to system changes, litigation, and export decisions over two terms of an administration
Electronic Records Archives EOP
System Architecture

Processing Steps
- Data Type Analysis & Profiling
- Data Export
- Transport & Sterilize
- Adaptation & Metadata Generation (ACE)
- Archive Ingest and Index Generation
- Search & Retrieve

Applications
- Ingest Workbench
- Hitachi Data Discovery Suite
- Hitachi Content Platform
- Archivist Workbench

Archival Services
- Anti-Virus & Security Screening
- Inventory & Fixity
- Diagnostics & Analytics
- Content Adaptation
- Metadata Extraction & Generation
- Archival Storage
- Search & Retrieval
- System Validation

Data Analysis and Transport (DATR) Infrastructure (every four-to-eight years)
- Compute platform - dynamic scaling / private cloud
- Storage platform - brocade SAN and block storage

*some archival services may take place prior to legal and physical transfer*
the mark of success...

Current Status is Green - all systems are operational

January 20, 2009 12:00:06