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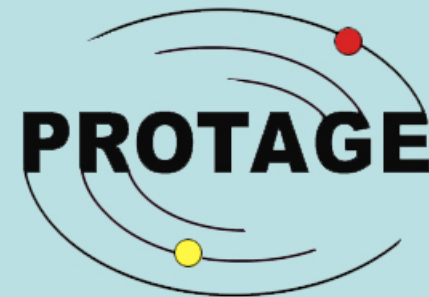
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# PReservation Organizations using Tools in AGent Environments

## The Project

PROTAGE (PReservation Organizations using Tools in AGenT Environments) is a three year project, started in November 2007. It is funded by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme.

## Mission

The volume of digital information around us is growing rapidly, and is causing an increasing pace of data transfer from active IT systems to digital repositories, libraries and archives. The diversity in size and complexity of creators of digital resources implies that digital repository systems must become highly scalable and adaptable to various types of digital objects, and their input, storage and access. Existing methods of digital preservation and curation are labour intensive and often require specialist skills. To meet the preservation needs of the on-coming “avalanche” of digital content, it is necessary to find new levels of automation and self-reliance in preservation solutions. The mission of the PROTAGE project is to initiate new approaches that make long-term digital preservation easy enough for users to preserve their own content, while reducing the cost and increasing the digital preservation capacity of memory institutions.

## Objectives

- Research about the potential of software agent ecosystems to support the automation of digital preservation tasks;
- Demonstrate the technical feasibility of such a system by means of the PROTAGE prototype;
- Analyse how this system can be implemented in various organisational environments;
- Explore the possible integration of PROTAGE solutions with other or existing digital preservation environments;
- Explore synergies with other RTD activities dealing with digital preservation.

## Approach

The PROTAGE approach to digital preservation is based on pro-active autonomous software agents that are independent of hardware and software technologies. This represents a shift of focus in digital preservation from information systems to preservation-friendly digital objects. The idea is to link these digital objects to long-term digital preservation processes by using agent-based software technology. The PROTAGE project will, based on the latest research on digital preservation strategies and on autonomous systems, build and validate flexible and extensible software agents for



software agents for long-term digital preservation and access that can cooperate with and be integrated in existing and new preservation systems.

## Expected Outcomes

The tools developed by the PROTAGE project will:

- Allow content producers to create and publish in a preservation-compatible manner,
- Provide digital repositories with means of further automating the preservation processes, and
- Facilitate seamless interoperation between content providers, libraries and archives, and end-users throughout Europe.