

DROID: a free file profiling tool

Profiling your file formats gives you the information you need to:

- manage your information more effectively
- identify risks (and therefore plan mitigating actions)
- save money, for example by supporting data reduction.

What does DROID do?

DROID can scan individual files or directories, or entire repositories holding millions of files. It recognises files using 'signature' information provided by digital preservation researchers at The National Archives. This includes over 200 different formats, including most document, audio, video and image files in common usage. Sample DROID reports include:

- a full list of everything you've got, where it is and what format it is in, including the version of the format used, age, size and when last changed, and data to help you find duplicates
- summary reports, for example to see how many different file formats you use, and how many files are in each format
- files listed according to the year they were last modified.

Using DROID to manage digital continuity

You can use the information DROID gives you to:

- assess whether you hold a lot of information in formats that are no longer supported by your existing technology
- identify formats that may require active intervention to ensure digital continuity
- assess the business value of files that haven't been modified for over five years.



Are we still managing our digital files as if they were paper?

digital information **matters**

Installing DROID

DROID is open source, and can be installed with minimum impact on your systems. You may need to ask your IT provider to set up appropriate permissions on your repositories so that DROID can access them.

DROID is a software tool that will help you to automatically profile a wide range of formats. It is available from: nationalarchives.gov.uk/droid