



Preserving the “**Golden treasure**” of the Czech Radio history

Czech Radio decided to use Piql’s solution to secure their most valuable and irreplaceable recording moments of radio history for future generations.

Czech Radio (Český rozhlas) is the national public broadcaster in the Czech Republic and has been operating since 1923. The radio is the 2nd oldest on the European continent and holds almost 100 years of historical content and recordings, not only from Czech Republic and Slovakia, but also from other sources in Europe and the World.

The radio archive currently keeps 220 000 hours of sound materials, millions of documents and pages of musical records such as notes and periodicals, containing a very rich and adventurous National memory. Director of IT at Czech Radio, Ing Karel Zýka is responsible for the massive archive, previously coming

from a position as Director of Czech Institute of Radio technology and has a long career within media and technology.

The sound archive consists of the recordings of speeches, interviews, historical events, broadcasting archive and various sound and music artworks recordings. Part of it is still analog, these historical recordings are being systematically digitalized since 2002, last years recordings are digitally borned.



Ing. Karel Zýka
Director of IT

“ Piql Preservation Services represents an intriguing solution for secure data storage and long-term preservation and we find the solution very relevant to us

Ing. Karel Zýka
Director of IT Czech Radio

A sophisticated system on Oracle HSM base is being used for the data storage. The system makes three identical digital prints of each recording, one placed in a robotic sound library recorded on a cartridge tapes, and two copies are kept each on a different plocation because of the security reasons.

CHALLENGE

Keeping the information alive and accessible with traditional migration methods, the Czech Radio has been looking for a super-safe “disaster” preservation solution for digital sound recording without being able to find something that can secure their assets in a desired way.

Despite the current sophisticated methods of storing this information, there is still some risk that the nation’s memory could get lost over time, due to bit rot failure during migration processes, software or hardware obsolescence or lack of money to successfully conduct the migration. Further, the challenge of ensuring the authenticity of the digital material has been of interest to the institution without any clear solution yet.

Czech Radio found great interest in Piql’s approach to preservation and decided to engage in a groundbreaking collaboration. When committing to the project of deploying true preservation method for their material, the Czech Radio decided to choose some of their most beloved and irreplaceable assets. The project was defined as the “Golden treasure” of the Czech Radio and included among others authentic recordings from Prague’s uprising in May 1945, recordings from the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, speeches from the presidents, Kings and prime ministers as well as documentation of political trials after WWII war crimes.

SOLUTION

Piql deploys an open-source, technology and vender independent solution which entitle the future access of the content. This was one of the main differentiators when Czech Radio were looking for a preservation system to rely on for the future.

After Czech Radio had defined the type of content they would like to preserve, it was evident that to be able to ensure the readability in the decades to come, there was a joint and thorough process between Piql and Czech Radio of improving and completing the metadata descriptions of the content. Further, it was advised that all sound recordings should be preserved in open source WAV format. This entitles Piql to write the format specifications in human readable text together with the content and metadata and thus makes it possible for future retrieval independent of technology development and obsolescence.

Once the content is safely written to piqlFilm, the content never has to be migrated and can thus be kept in the Czech Radio archive for centuries without the need of future resources to keep it alive.

FUTURE

Seing the results of the successful collaboration safeguarding their „Golden Treasures“, Czech Radio would like to continue protecting more of their valuable sound recordings by depositing their most irreplaceable assets on an annual basis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US:

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