

Tessella SDB – Keeping Knowledge Alive

Tessella, the world leaders in digital archiving technology, have developed a “Safety Deposit Box” to provide services to allow you to store and preserve critical digital information in a highly reliable yet accessible manner. Whether you are driven by regulatory compliance, protection of digital property, or effective knowledge management you can rely on Tessella SDB to maintain the information for as long as you need it.

Tessella SDB can be summed up in three words:

Safety: The information that SDB manages can always be found whatever technology changes occur in the future.

Deposit: SDB is a storage system where digital knowledge is written, not manipulated. Accidental deletion or changes are not possible.

Box: Tessella SDB is separate from your existing operational systems. It is scalable from small departmental servers to vast silos.

Service Architecture

SDB delivers a range of services to link with your existing information management systems, including:

- Ingest automation
- Secure storage of digital objects
- Secure storage of metadata
- Resource discovery
- Digital preservation toolkit

You may use these as a complete solution or in part. For example, you can link the Digital Preservation Toolkit into your existing systems whilst retaining responsibility for storage, or you can delegate storage to SDB whilst maintaining your own resource discovery system.

Knowledge Management

SDB is set up to manage information in any format you want to throw at it – documents, spreadsheets, multimedia, raw experimental data, databases, emails, design information, and many more. It understands individual and hierarchical data and also maintains a wide range of flexible metadata, metadata, security and retention information.

Ingest Automation – Getting the Information In

Whether SDB is responsible for storage or not, it contains a wide range of tools that automate the identification and characterisation of digital information as it arrives. This allows the metadata to be automatically extracted and basic safety checks such as

format validation and virus checking to be performed. This needs to be performed whether the data is stored within SDB or another system.

Storage Services

SDB provides capabilities to store either or both metadata and digital objects in a highly secure manner. These data stores are highly integrated to ensure consistent storage management. The storage is also constantly crawled to ensure bit level validation of the digital objects within the store. It is also highly scalable, from small departmental systems to massive 100Tb systems, and can work with third party bulk storage management systems.

Resource Discovery

A massive information store like SDB comes with a range of tools allowing both the metadata and content to be searched and navigated. This can be used directly by users or from within a linked operational system.

Digital Preservation Toolkit

Tessella SDB contains a framework under which advanced preservation tools are being integrated. This contains both file migration tools and a policy engine to control what activities are done when using a risk based approach. All tools are available whether the digital objects are stored within SDB or an operational system. For example you could use the toolkit to upgrade the file formats within your current Document Management System.

Tessella is also working on several research projects to add the specific tools to make SDB the most advanced preservation system in the world. These will deliver the tools to enable successful file migration or to perform other activities to keep the information alive. These tools will fit easily within the Preservation Framework

Integration with operational systems.

The SDB framework can be integrated with operational systems such as document management, email, lab systems, design workflows, finance etc in a wide variety of configurations to suite individual needs. The links are always automatic to allow seamless interoperability wherever archive responsibility is delegated to. Tessella will provide full support to configure the system as required for each situation.

Trust

The most important thing with a long-term archive is that you have to be sure that what you put in you will be able to get out in a form that is readable using today's technology. Tessella SDB has proved this already and you can be sure it can be trusted with your valuable digital information management.