



iPres 2025

Bryony Cavallaro

Digital Archives Assistant

bryony.cavallaro@sl.nsw.gov.au





Beyond the Image: Examining the Overlooked Variability in Floppy Disk Imaging Practices

Leontien Talboom, Cambridge University Library and Chris Knowles, Churchill Archives Centre

- There is no commonly agreed 'best practice' that ensures accuracy and reliability for floppy disk recovery.
- A one size fits all solution is simply not possible due to the variability of disk types.
- Different institutions require different disk imaging approaches tailored to their specific needs.



❑ Flux Stream Images

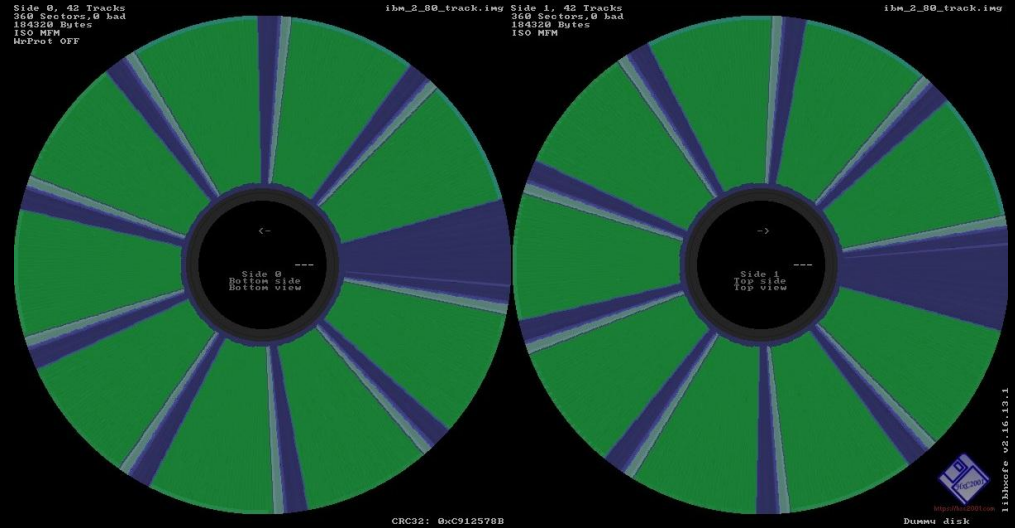
Larger file sizes than the original content and require further processing before they can be used. Useful in recovering non-standard or obscure disk types.

❑ Bitstream Images

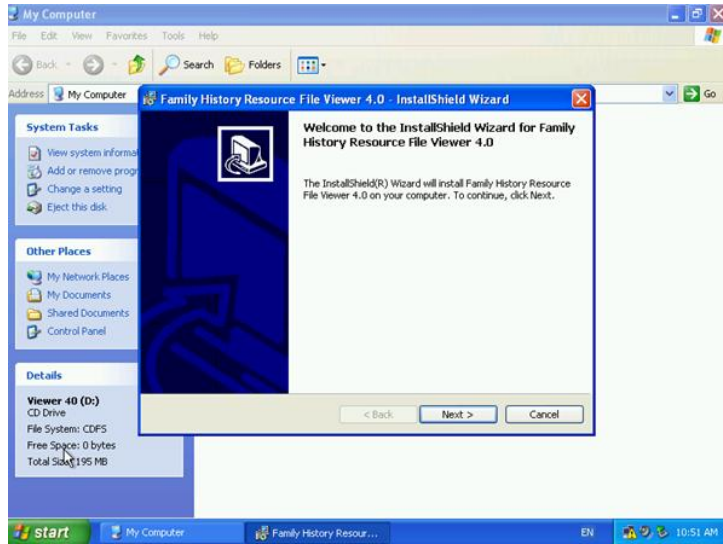
Lower file size than flux stream images but still need further processing before they can be used.

❑ Sector-Level Images

This format is frequently used for creating accessible and easily emulated disk copies.



Source: www.digipres.org/the-floppy-guide



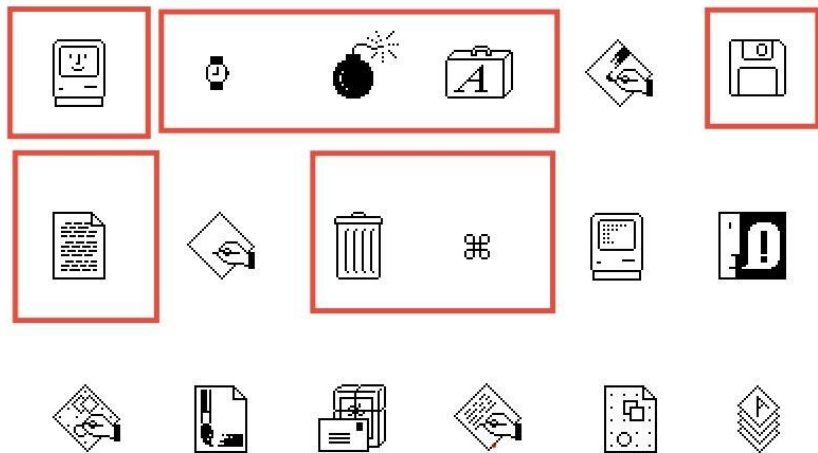
AusEAASI in Practice: Emulation Use Cases from Australia

- Panel included multiple institutions across Australia who have used the EAASI (Emulation-As-A-Service Infrastructure) platform.
- I presented a case study about the library's Family History CD collection, many requiring the installation of software that is no longer compatible with modern computers.
- I discussed challenges like ensuring future users understand how to navigate older computer interfaces.



Lessons Learnt

- Sharing what went wrong can be just as helpful as sharing what went right, such as Ali Hayes-Brady's anecdote on her runaway bot in her lightning talk, *"A Peek Behind the Firewall - Intranet Preservation at Monash University."*
- Avoid the expert's paradox: what feels obvious to you may be invaluable to someone else as discussed in the short paper, *"Don't Disk-Ard the Past: Preserving Floppy Disk Knowledge for the Future"* by Leontien Talboom, Andrew Jackson and Jenny Mitcham.



Nail art by nailart.nhu @ instagram

