

AN OPEN-SOURCE SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATIC POLICY-BASED COLLABORATIVE ARCHIVAL REPLICATION

The Need for Policy-Based Replication

Verified geographically-distributed replication of content is an essential component of any comprehensive digital preservation plan. The requirement has emerged as a necessity for recognition and certification as a trusted repository—in order to be fully trusted, an organization must have a managed process for creating, maintaining, and verifying multiple geographically distributed copies of its collections. This requirement has been embodied in Trustworthy Repositories Audit & Certification (TRAC), the subsequent TRAC-based ISO 16363 Audit and Certification of Trustworthy Digital Repositories, and in other best practices.

Overview of the SafeArchive System

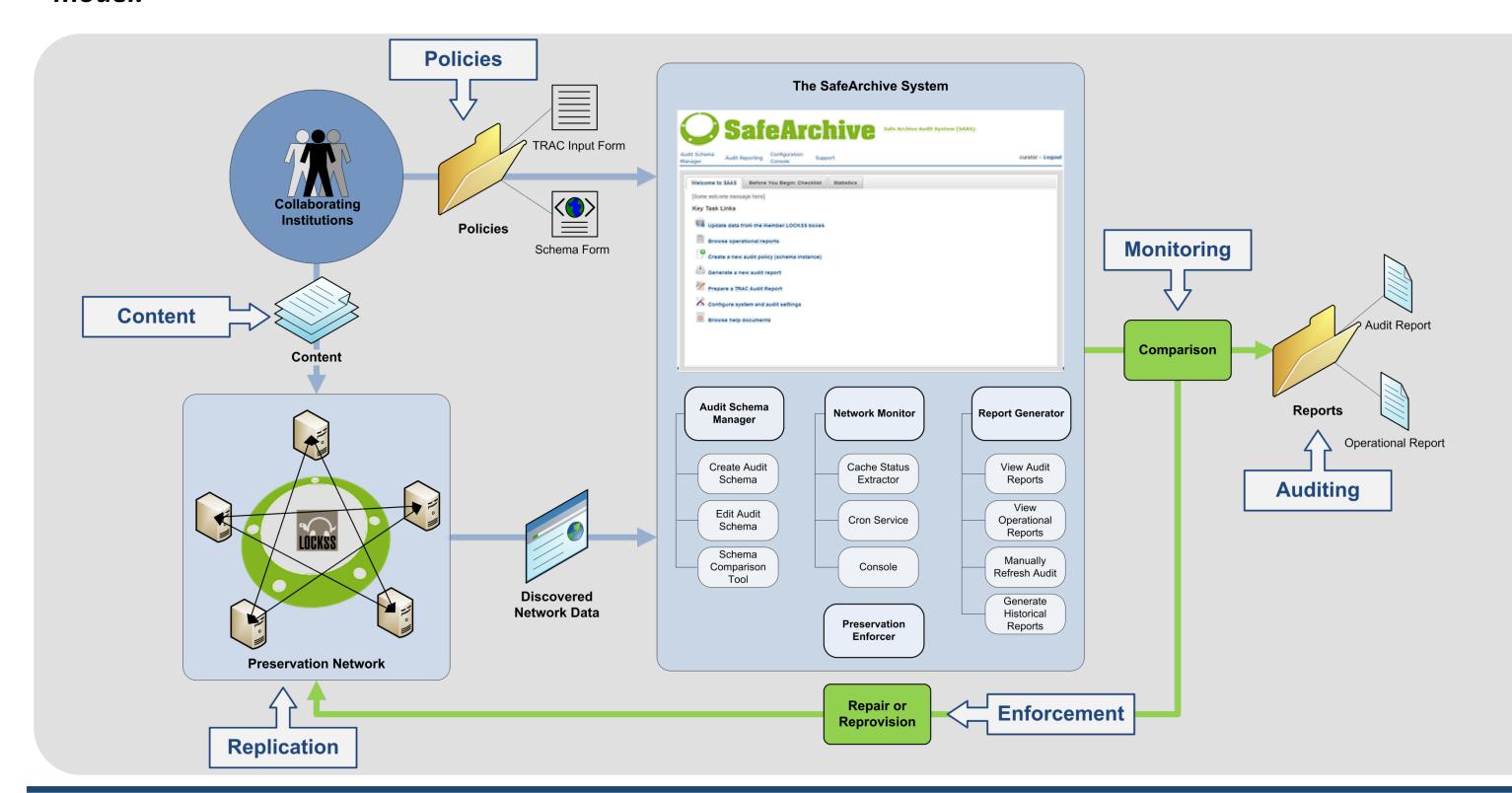
SafeArchive automates high level replication policies (e.g., TRAC/ISO 16363), and helps institutions to collaborate in preserving digital content. GUI-based tools are designed for librarians and archivists—not systems administrators.

The system coordinates and audits existing groups of public or private LOCKSS peers. Without requiring a single authority, this allows a group of institutions to establish actionable and mutually verifiable policies governing the replication of content and interest to those institutions.

Operationally, system users can:

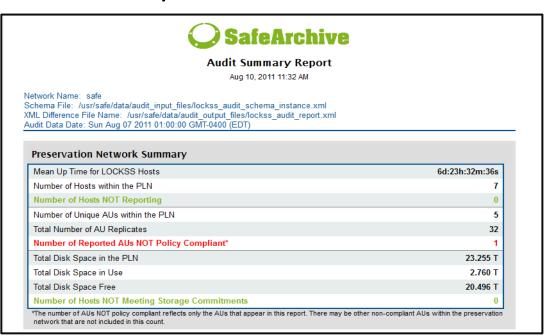
- Analyze any LOCKSS network
- Check that collections are replicated, valid, and up-to-date
- Create formal replication policies
- Replicate content from web sites or digital repository systems, such as *The Dataverse Network*™
- Audit the network for current and historical TRAC/ISO 16363 compliance
- Automatically manage and repair a LOCKSS network based on a specific replication policy

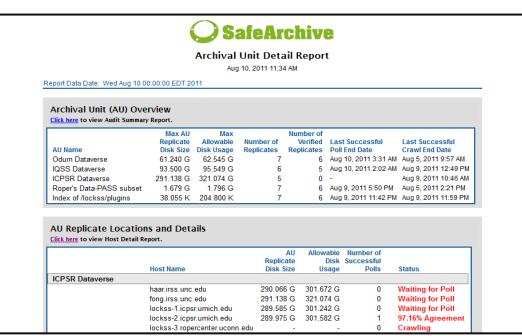
SafeArchive provides the reliability of a top-down replication system with the resiliency of a peer-to-peer model.



How the SafeArchive System Works

- The Network Monitor gathers the information on each cache necessary to support policy reporting and auditing.
- Curators specify replication policies for LOCKSS networks, which they input into a web-based questionnaire using the SafeArchive user interface. The Audit Schema Manager outputs the policies into a machine-readable XML-based schema. A comparison tool then produces a machine-readable diff.XML difference report that enumerates discrepancies between the actual and desired states. All changes to the policy schema instance and the diff.XML reports are versioned and stored permanently to provide a complete history of compliance.
- The **Report Generator** uses network and diff.XML data to create formatted reports containing both "audit" summaries that reflect policy compliance, and "operational" information used for diagnostics and performance analyses.





- The **Preservation Enforcer** initiates any of four actions to enforce compliance when policies are not met:
 - → Initiate a poll
- → Initiate a crawl
- → Add content copy → Change crawl frequency

Enforcement actions are logged by both the SafeArchive systems and the participating LOCKSS nodes. These actions become part of audit trails and reports.

Using the SafeArchive System

The SafeArchive System coordinates six (6) primary activities to give curators the ability to easily define preservation policy, examine the content of the preservation network, and generate regular audit reports that support best practices.

- Policies Collaborating institutions author a replication policy with SafeArchive tools.
- Content Institutions make collections of content available through the web.
- Replication -> LOCKSS caches harvest the collections from their original source repositories and coordinate peer-to-peer to monitor and maintain network integrity.
- Monitoring SafeArchive monitors the state of the network and compares it to the stated replication policy.
- Auditing SafeArchive produces an audit trail of operational and audit reports, and alerts collaborating institutions when formal policies are not met.
- **Enforcement** SafeArchive provisions replication as necessary to enforce policy compliance.

