DIY and Collaboration, Canadian Style: Building a Geographically Distributed Storage Array for Ontario and Beyond
Attempted answers to questions

What did we (think we) need?
What were our alternatives?
What did we build?
Can you build one, too?
The Need
OCUL* libraries have identified a need to provide archival storage capacity for digitized or born digital collections.

* OCUL = Ontario Council of University Libraries, 21 total
McMaster scenario

Digital Archive - ~7TB
Inst. Repository - ~1TB
Unprocessed archives - ~6TB
Journals - ~15 GB
Everyone has these assets
The Alternatives
Many viable services

- Duracloud
- Amazon S3/Glacier
- Rackspace
- Backblaze
- Portico
- DPN
Something in common
Location disadvantage

- Cost uncertainty
- Cost in general
- Foreign legal requirements/exposure
- Canadian statutes/opinions
- Longterm commitment
- Bandwidth
To what degree do we want to depend on commercial partners?
Our Solution: OLRC
What did we build?

OLRC (oh-lurk) = Ontario Library Research Cloud

Obligatory picture of the ‘cloud’
Times five
300 TB
Geographically distributed

5 sites
> 400km between

10 Gbps VPN
On ORION (Ontario ‘Internet2’) backbone

10/5/2015
Launch, ~3 years after first discussion
Preservation, almost
So why aren’t all partners using the OLRC?
Can you build it?
Canadian (Ontario) context

- Highly collaborative, open
- Shared phobias
- Loonie
- BC privacy statutes
But even if you could, should you?
Building the OLRC was the easy part. Sustaining it will be much more challenging.

*We need to use/sell TB, now!*
Thank you!

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