

Collecting Bits: Capturing and Preserving Computing History

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In 2016 the Museum launched the Center for Software History. In the span of just a single lifetime - the seven decades since computers ran the earliest programs - the lives of people everywhere are shaped by the presence of computing devices and the use of software. How do we collect, present and preserve this legacy? This talk will focus on some of our unique collecting methods for historic software, present the challenging in collecting the code along with describing and contextualizing it for future researchers and non-technical audiences. Followed by briefly describing our approach to digital preservation and the challenges we've encountered.