Benefits of eArchiving

A common set of specifications and software for packaging and preserving digital information over the short-, medium and long term has some real benefits.
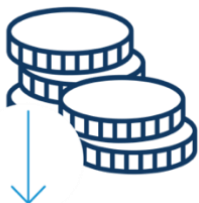
Main benefits

Interoperability by default	A common set of specifications for packaging digital information guarantees:
	- Robust packaging and transmission of documents and data for short-, medium- and long-term storage, independently of platforms and across borders. - Coverage of the different aspects of the information lifecycle, including sending data to an archive, storing them there, then accessing and re-using them. - Any cross-border request for information can be tackled using the Information Packages. For example, using common geodata specifications to respond to the EC INSPIRE directive concerning cross-border geographical data.
Trustworthiness and Security 	A common set of specifications for packaging digital information guarantees trustworthiness among users: - The data and documents are packaged securely thus ensuring their integrity and confidentiality. - Access rights can be managed to safeguard sensitive data.
Openness and Transparency 	A common set of specifications for packaging digital information promotes: - Transparency and confidence among all participants in the information lifecycle chain. - The implementation of compliant open-source digital archival systems using reusable modular components or the development of a bespoke application. - The use of open specifications and open-source software which can be used in conjunction with open source or proprietary preservation systems.

Sustainability and Legal Compliance	A common set of specifications and software for packaging digital information allows:
	• Setting up the digital archiving system in a way that data and documents are packaged according to a particular legal framework. • Preservation planning to dispose of documents and data after a prescribed period of time according to a retention schedule. • The latest developments in sustainability for digital archives to be implemented.

Further benefits

Besides the above-mentioned benefits, there are some others that are interesting to know if you are planning to implement the eArchiving specifications or to use compliant software.

Reduce risk	A common set of specifications and software for packaging digital information allows you to:
	• Reduce the learning curve of all members of the digital archival ecosystem, thus reducing the risk of mistakes. • Use reliable, secure, and robust tools and software components with the support of the eArchiving Initiative. • Use a common set of specifications and open-source software for packaging digital information that gets bigger as we use it.
Reduce costs	A common set of specifications and software for packaging digital information allows the reduction of costs by:
	• Creating, maintaining, and operating new open-source digital archival systems across Europe. • Reducing the learning curve of all members of the digital archival ecosystem thus saving money on training. • Encouraging the creation of compliant commercial software across Europe at a competitive cost. • Facilitating the use of Big Data techniques to analyse large quantities of data, thus producing competitive advantage.
Improve quality	The user community is a very important part of eArchiving, allowing us to improve the quality of the eArchiving specifications and

| | compliant open-source software. The feedback and collaboration from our stakeholders benefit users, solutions, and service providers, and indeed all potential users.

The widespread use of the specifications allows further improvement and an increasing quality in the specifications and software for packaging digital information. |
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