

# Making a move:

The how, the why, and the NTTW  
effect

Disclaimer



# The NTTW effect – Part 1

- I first attended NTTW in Vienna, Austria in 2017.
- I do not have an AV background, but NTTW gave me some background knowledge and encouraged me to be braver in exploring the command line. ;)
- I learned about and tried out some of the scripts on `ffmprovisr`.

# Know your collections

- By chance, I became the primary person responsible for the AV collections
- A colleague who moved to another job first alerted me to the fact that we had these odd files, claiming to be “NSV”
- In their original form, they could not be opened or played by conventional players. Based on this fact and their value for the organization, it was clear that they should be migrated.
- After some initial discussions with the creators and testing of files, I realized the files were complex and would be more challenging to migrate than expected

## The NTTW effect – Part 2

- By 2019, I made my first attempts to transcode some “quirky” NSV files, myself. I quickly realized it would not work using basic FFMPEG scripts. This was out of my league.
- I went to NTTW 4 in Budapest, Hungary looking for further information.
- I did not find an immediate solution, but I did learn enough to know what I needed to look for in a potential solution, including from service providers.
- I also learned that other institutions were paying for specific support in FOSS projects, which then benefit the wider community

# If you stay ready, you ain't got to get ready

- In 2020-2021, I surveyed digital holdings, creating a digital asset registry, including the StarDiva files
- I also performed a risk assessment on the holdings, and identified the StarDiva files as some of the most at risk
- These files were at high risk and also of considerable value within the institution
- Whenever there was the opportunity to nominate a project for funding, I suggested converting the files – and I could justify it based on the assessments
- It took years in total, but the project finally received funding in 2021

## The NTTW effect – Part 3

- Thanks to the knowledge I gained from attending previous NTTW conferences, I made sure that the Statement of Work included wording to target open solutions:
  - Well-documented and commonly used file formats and codecs
  - Use free open-source software wherever possible
  - Provide documentation of scripts and customizations
- We were able to produce a SoW and evaluate a procurement because we were prepared – by knowing our collections and armed with knowledge from the NTTW conferences