

# The conservation strategy of emulation for the preservation of computer-based art

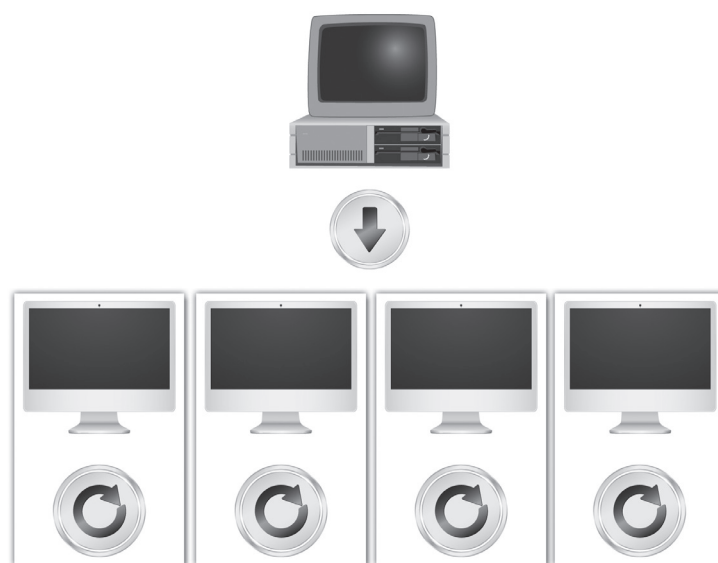
Asti Sherring

*Computer-based artworks are part of a new, rapidly expanding medium, in which the intrinsic cultural value of the work is entwined with its inherent instrumental nature. As such, the conservation approach to computer-based artworks requires an understanding of the internal structure of a computer system, an awareness of the virtual and physical principles of information technology, and a willingness to research and undertake new and emerging forms of reconstructive conservation. The poster will outline the internal structure of a computer system and how the materials and techniques relate to the artwork.*

*The relationship between software, firmware and hardware will be shown through a diagrammatical representation. The conservation strategy of emulation is an emerging tool in the conservation of computer-based art. The contemporary standards of digitisation in relation to a proposed new system of emulation will be examined*

*The successful long term preservation of computer-based art not only requires secure storage devices, functional hardware and a system of archival management, but also must incorporate an advanced system of strategies to maintain the internal systems' functions. The advantage of emulation is that the computer-based artwork can continue to function on a native interface, which provides long-term accessibility and maintains the look and feel of the original version of the work.*

Figure 1 - Diagram of the proposed conservation strategy of emulation, © Asti Sherring 2011



## Author biography

**Asti Sherring** completed a Bachelor of Media Arts with Honours from Sydney University in 2005. She completed a Masters of Materials Conservation majoring in paper and photographic materials in 2012 and a post-graduate certificate in Photographic Conservation (Melbourne University) in September 2011. Asti completed an internship at Birmingham University's Special Collections Library in the United Kingdom in 2011, as well as previously volunteering at the Melbourne Museum. Asti is currently volunteering at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Asti is interested in the conservation challenges of new media art and the preservation of digital media.

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