



Delivery Notification for

Deliverable D12.2 Storage Calculator

The SAM Website Storage Calculator

DOCUMENT IDENTIFIER PS_WP12_BBC_D12.2_Storage_Calculator_v1.0

DATE 15/03/2005

ABSTRACT The Storage and Archive Management (SAM) part of PrestoSpace has produced a general introduction to storage technology, presented as a website. The website will include various online and downloadable support tools. The first is a very simple tool to convert items of media into (giga) bytes of required digital storage.

KEYWORDS website storage calculate

WORKPACKAGE / TASK WP12.2

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NATURE Other (website calculator)

DISSEMINATION Public

INTERNAL REVIEWERS David Jordan, BBC; INA

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Release	Date	Reason of change	Status	Distribution
0.1	14/03/05	First Draft	Living	Confidential
1.0	15/03/05	Final Delivery Notification	Published	Public

1. Document Scope

The Storage and Archive Management (SAM) part of PrestoSpace has produced a general introduction to storage technology, presented as a website. The website will include various online and downloadable support tools. The first is a very simple tool to convert items of media into (giga) bytes of required digital storage..

2. Summary of Deliverable

The website contains the following introduction to this deliverable:

The SAM analysis tools allow an archive to estimate the costs involved in a digital preservation project. They address different approaches to storage management and the costs involved in the digital preservation exercise itself. A further tool estimates the potential return on investment for various business models. Taken together they provide the basis for costing and putting forward a funding case for a preservation project.

The tools require you to enter data relevant to your archive. In the early stages this may be difficult to do so they can also provide typical data as the basis of an initial calculation. You can refine the data at a later stage. The tools are backed by tutorials which provide the background information you need to provide the information for the analysis.

Storage "Ready Reckoner"

Understanding and managing modern storage is a complex issue. Media can be digitised in various qualities and formats. Costs vary according to a large number of factors, including volume of storage, access requirements, level of redundancy and the content management system in place. Prices change over time. Media migrate from media with smaller per-unit volumes to media with larger capacities.

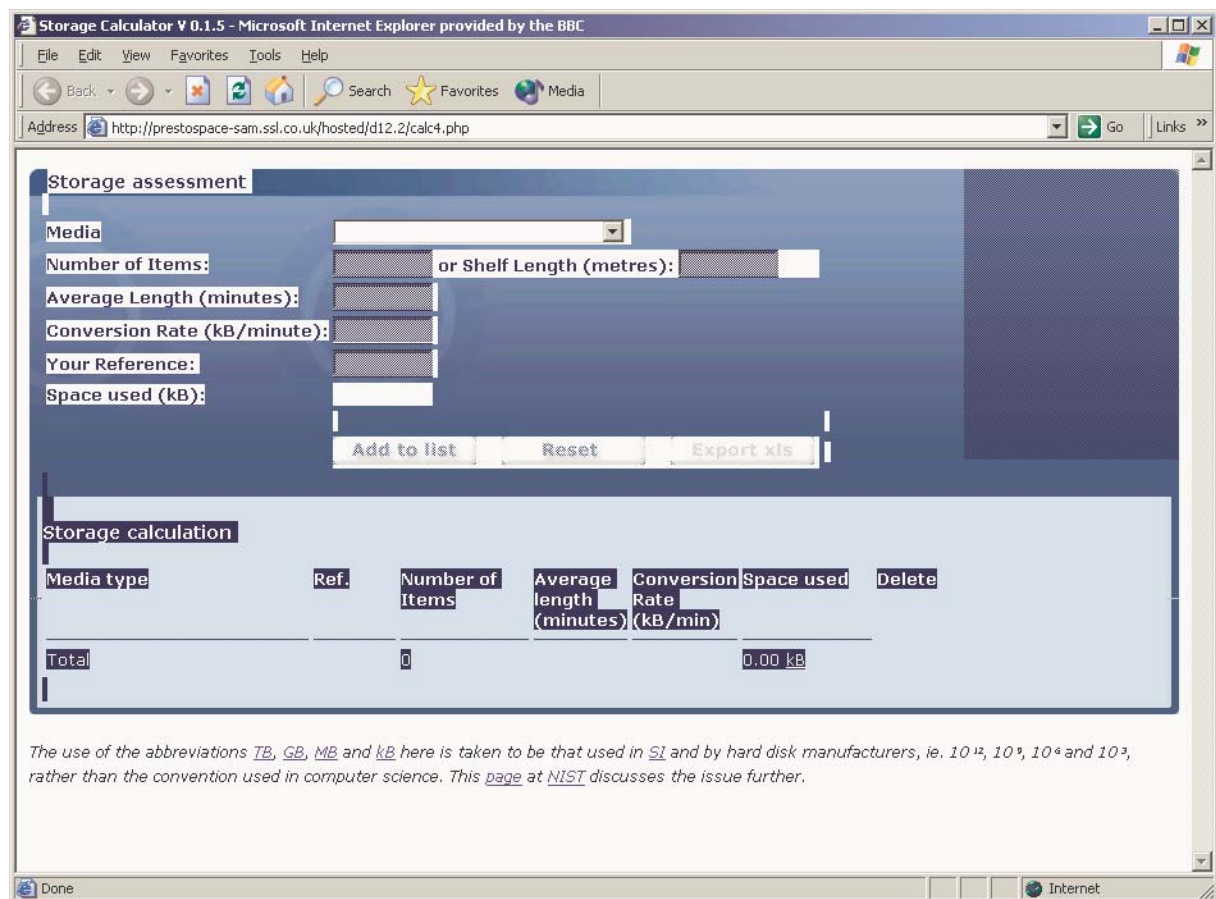
The Storage Ready Reckoner draws on the experience of audio visual archives together with relevant information from manufacturers. It is a simple piece tool to allow archivists to get answers to the basic how much, how many questions concerning both physical and electronic storage management. It can provide the basis for calculating total cost of ownership of various storage options over at least a twenty-year timescale.

3. Notification of Delivery

The URL for the first version of the website was made available to the PrestoSpace project in early February 2005. It has been reviewed at a SAM meeting (02.03.2005) and at a meeting of the storage industry (01.03.2005). Initial responses have been favourable.

Problems: The site includes description of future components of the site: future deliverables. This 'advertising of what we haven't done yet' may cause user frustration. We will monitor feedback and adjust the site as needed.

4. Detailed Description of Deliverable



The application allows the user to specify:

- The format of the media: various kinds of film and video formats (audio will be added, along with more video formats)
- The number of items, or number of metres of shelves; an option for supplying feet or meters of film, or supplying hours of material, will be added
- Average duration of items

- Desired quality (this should be in megabits/second). We will probably have to add non-numeric ways to express quality, like VHS, DVD, DV, uncompressed, high-definition.

The tool then works out how much digital storage is needed for that format. The user can input as many specific formats as required. The user can specify different versions of the same physical format, such as numbers of 30, 60 and 90 minute videotapes.

This tool just scrapes the surface of the computations required for archive digitisation projects, but it does introduce the basic concepts and complexities. Further developments will allow the user to delve into these complexities as needed. The important design issue is that there is a simple 'way in' which does not discourage the user who is not terribly familiar with digital technology and nomenclature. These are the people PrestoSpace needs to reach, so it is important that they are encouraged to use the site – not discouraged by needless complexity at the first stage.

5. Related Documents and Links

The current (March 2005) URL for the storage calculator on the SAM website is:

<http://prestospace-sam.ssl.co.uk/hosted/d12.2/calc4.php>