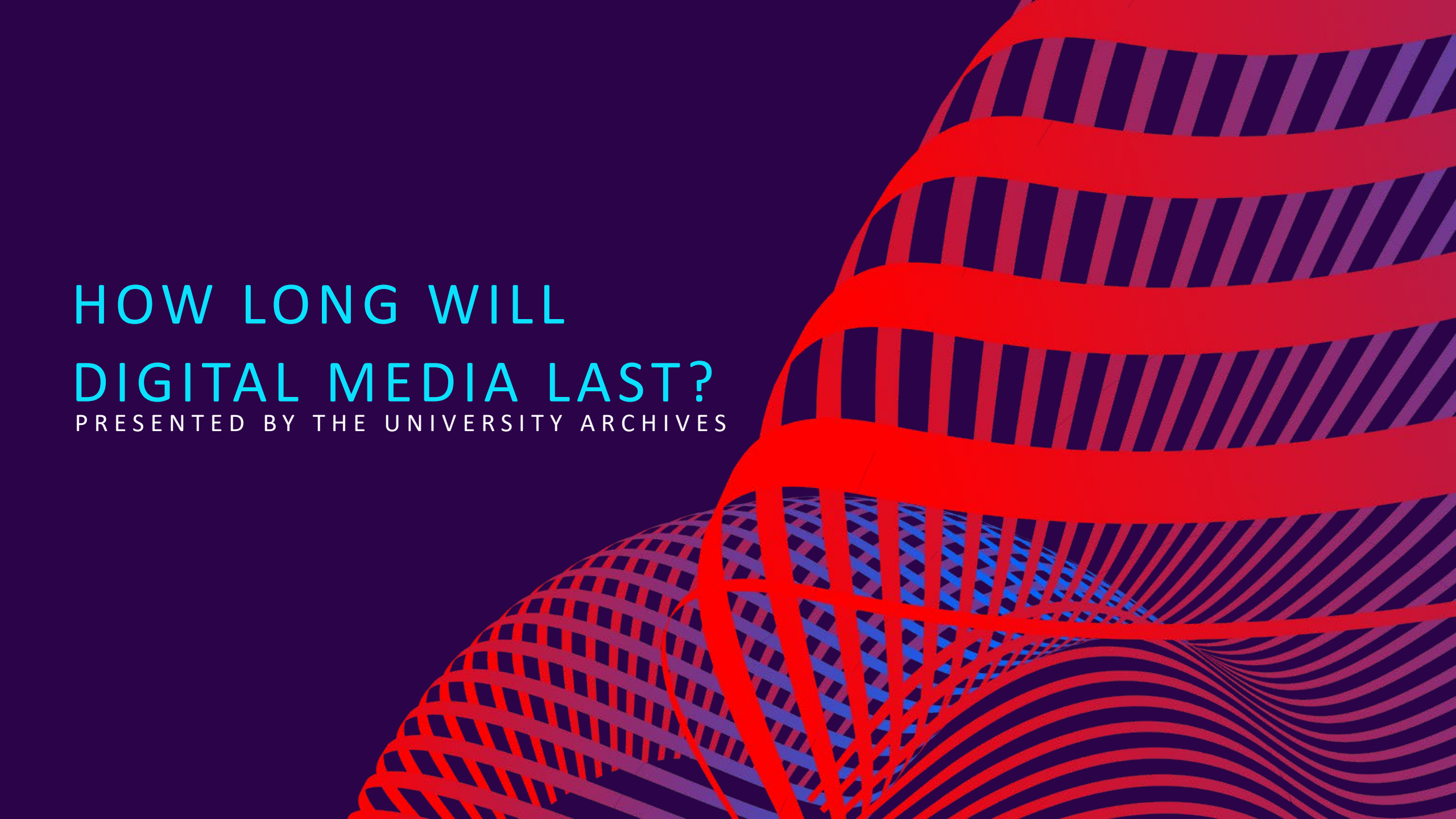
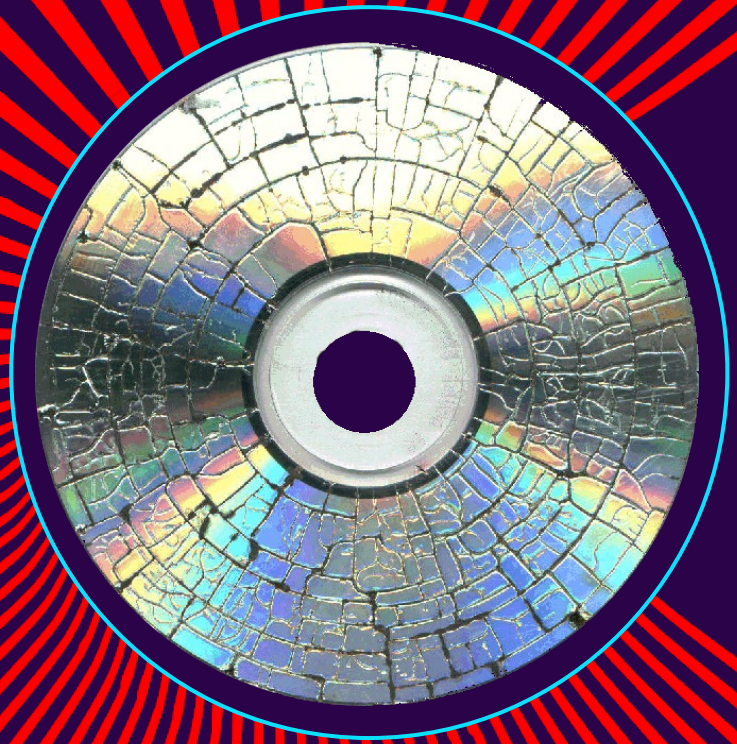
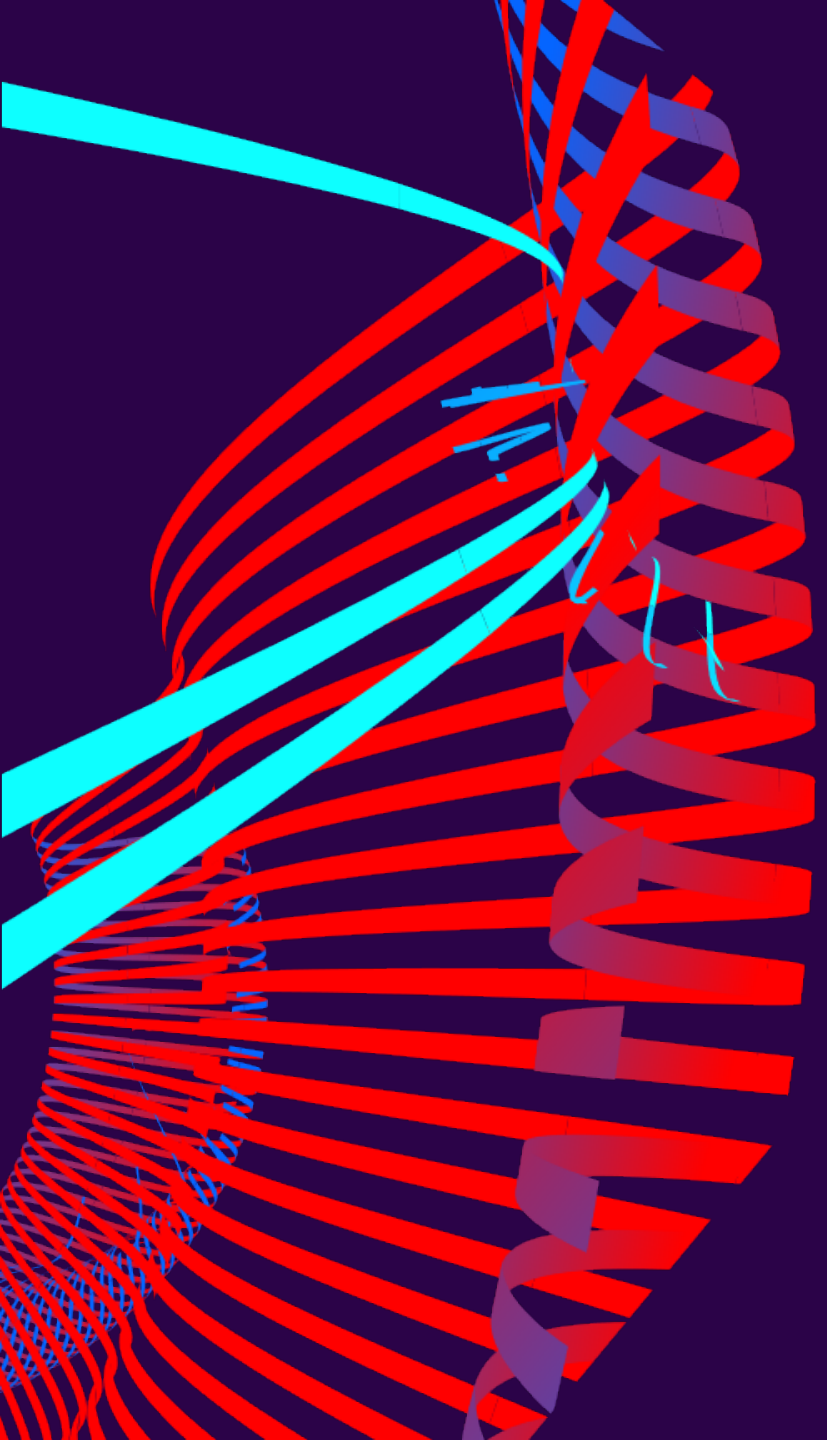

HOW LONG WILL
DIGITAL MEDIA LAST?
PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



INTRODUCTION

Digital storage media is an easy way to preserve our memories, but digital content can be lost if proper care is not taken.



WHAT FACTORS IMPACT THE LIFE OF MEDIA?

MEDIA DURABILITY

An example of “disc rot” in which the aluminum layers of a disc begin to oxidize.

Digital media comes from many manufacturers.

Finding media that is well made can impact the life of the media.

MEDIA DURABILITY

An example of “disc rot” in which the aluminum layers of a disc begin to oxidize.

For example: If the dye used in a CD-R is azo based, it will last 5-10 years. If it has a phthalocyanine dye it may last up to 100 years.

INTERACTION

USE

An assortment of media formats.

Each type of media has strengths and weaknesses.

INTERACTION

USE

An assortment of media formats.

For example: A DVD-R can store data but isn't ideal for regular access due to slow data transfer.

INTERACTION

USE

An assortment of media formats.

In contrast, an HDD works well for regular access, but lack of use can cause mechanical failure.

INTERACTION
STORAGE

When storing media, the temperature should be kept between 60 and 68°F with humidity between 35 and 45%.

Improperly labeled thumbdrives can be easily misplaced or reformatted.

INTERACTION

STORAGE

Label all media in order to locate it when needed and to ensure it isn't accidently discarded.

Improperly labeled thumbdrives can be easily misplaced or reformatted.

INTERACTION
HANDLING

An example of a damaged hard drive

The more media is handled the more likely it is to fail.

INTERACTION
HANDLING

An example of a damaged hard drive

Optical media (CDs & DVDs) can be easily scratched even during careful use.

An HDD that is bumped or dropped while being accessed may become unreadable.

MEDIA OBSOLESCENCE

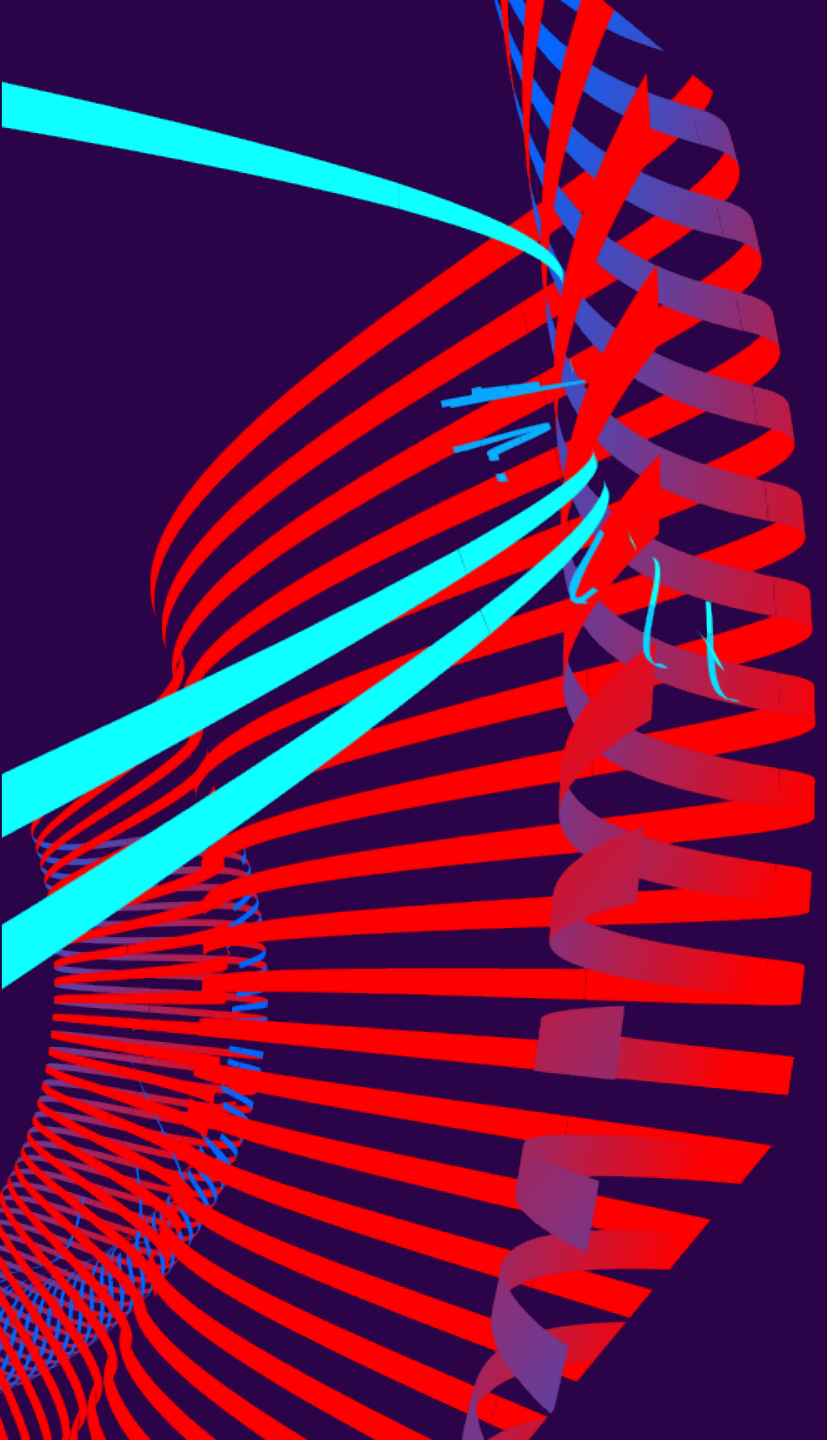
What is common today may become a rarity tomorrow.

Apple began removing optical drives from their computers in 2008.

MEDIA OBSOLESCENCE

For example: CD-Rs were used to store data in the early 2000s, but as tablets have become a go-to device there is not a way to easily retrieve data from the discs.

Apple began removing optical drives from their computers in 2008.



HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR MEDIA?

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR MEDIA?

Maintain at Least Two Copies of Content:

Keeping multiple copies of media will help protect data loss if one copy gets damaged or corrupted.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR MEDIA?

Store Extra Copies at Different Locations:

Keeping copies at different locations will protect media in case of catastrophic damage at a location such as fire or flood.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR MEDIA?

Use Different Types of Media:

Keeping content on multiple media types will assist in ensuring that no singular media type becomes unreadable or obsolete.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR MEDIA?

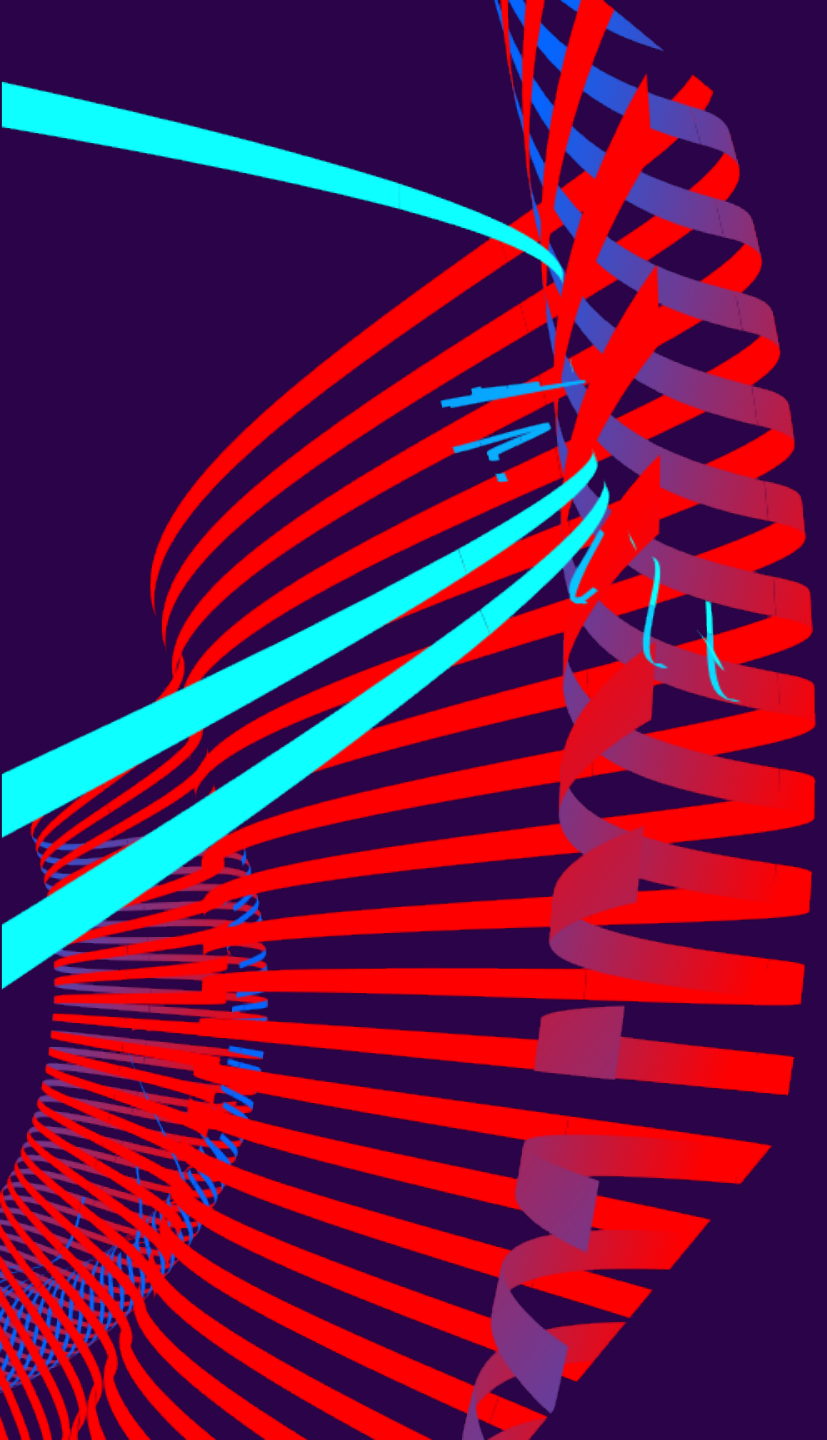
Label Media Properly:

Poorly or unlabeled media can easily be thrown away or ignored.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR MEDIA?

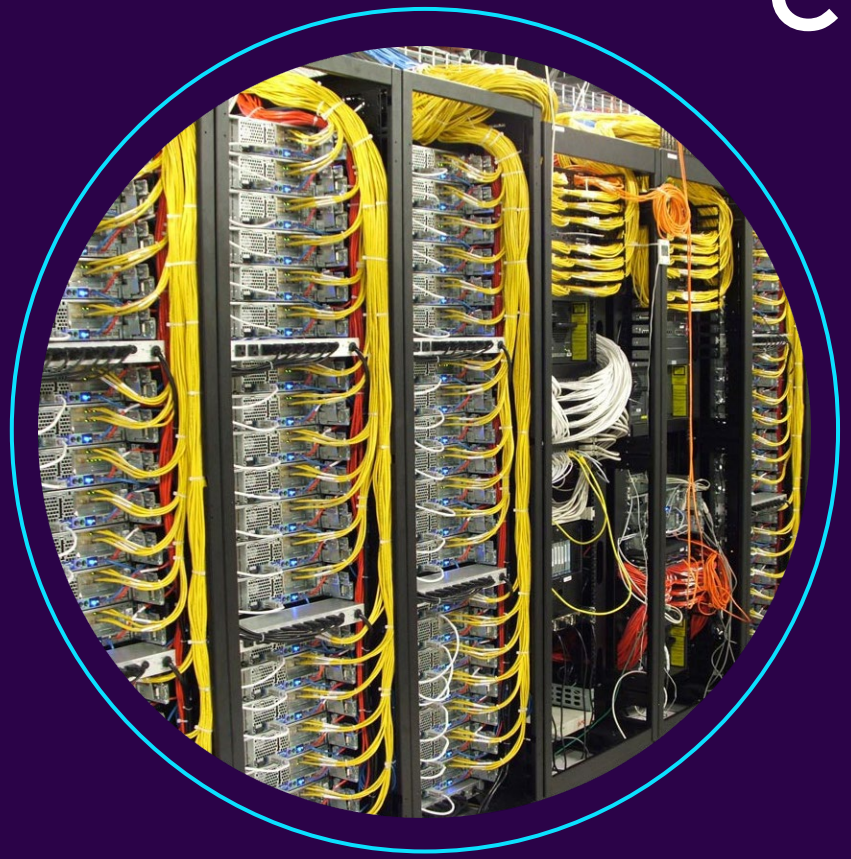
Create New Copies Every Five Years:

Media has different lifespans; using a five-year-rule will ensure that media will retain uncorrupted content on fresh media.



CLOUD STORAGE

CLOUD STORAGE



The backside of a server array.

Cloud storage has become a popular option for personal data storage, but it isn’t the perfect solution.

CLOUD STORAGE

PROS & CONS OF CLOUD STORAGE

Pros

- Convenience
- Global accessibility
- Easy Sharing
- Reliable Data Backup

Cons

- Data Privacy Concerns
- Security Breaches
- Subscription Cost
- No Internet = No Access

IN CONCLUSION

The best plan is to ensure that multiple copies exist in different locations and are refreshed every five years.

Using cloud storage as a supplement will help make for a robust personal archive.

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