Realigning Avalon:
or how we quit worrying and learned to love Hyrax

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Samvera Virtual Connect, 2017

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A Brief History

- One of the first ~~Hydra~~ Samvera Solution Bundles
- Solved a core problem (Audio and Video)
- But it only focused on time-based media
- Grew quickly but grew up alone
- Currently in production at 8+ institutions

Project Funding

- 2010-2011: IMLS Planning Grant
- 2011-2015: IMLS National Leadership Grant
- 2015-2017: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- 2017-2019: IMLS National Leadership Grant

  Partnership between libraries at Indiana University and Northwestern University

A Shift in Direction (Avalon <3 Hyrax)

- Ease adoption and expand developer base
- Break Avalon up into smaller components
- Pay down technical debt

Ease Adoption

- Many institutions have a little bit of media

- A single repository base lowers technical overhead

- Developers contributing to Hyrax will be able to quickly get up to speed and contribute

Small Components make a big solution bundle (Part 1)

- Use Hyrax as a starting point
- Hyrax/Samvera contributions vs. Hyrax Plugins vs. Hyrax Work Type vs. Custom
- Bundle all of the plugins, work type(s), and customizations

Small Components make a big solution bundle (Part 2)

- Embeddable IIIF-AV player
- Transcoding using ActiveEncode
- AV Streaming support
- Playlists including segments and annotations
- Avalon-style leases
- LTI support (e.g. Canvas)
- Batch ingest
- Bulk actions

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What The Avalon team gains

- Pay down technical debt
- Allows us to focus on our core strengths (AV) without rebuilding a modern product from the ground up
- Forces us to focus on community best practices (and acquire less technical debt)
- A wider developer community (Looking at you!)

The IMLS National Leadership Grant

- July 2017 -- June 2019 (#LG-70-17-0042-17)

- Integration of Avalon into the Samvera (Hydra) codebase

- Piloting a cloud-based version of Avalon with Lyrasis

- Improved media preservation

- Working with Artefactual Systems to integrate Avalon with the Archivematica platform

- Achieving a standardized delivery format

- IIIF AV interoperability spec and providing a demonstration implementation

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Questions or want to help?

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- github.com/avalonmediasystem

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