Delivering on the Promise of Persistence: Testing Your Archive

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At the University of Notre Dame Hesburgh Libraries we make extensive use of Hydra, in particular Active Fedora. Our applications invariably interact with Rails, Solr, CanCan, CAS, Fedora Commons, and just about everything else – or as we like to call it "Lots of Moving Parts". And for what? So we can store files on a file system for both access and long term preservation.

With all these moving parts, we need to ensure that what we think and say is being written is actually written and retrieved properly…especially when any of the moving parts are updated.

In this talk I'll go through a few of our test scenarios and provide links to the live Github projects. In particular, I will focus on looking directly at Fedora objects via
- Data model tests that step through the life cycle of an object - Create, Read, Update, Update again, Delete
- Verifying that a file in Fedora looks "exactly" as we expect based on our ActiveFedora model
- End to end tests that step through typical, and not so typical, user tasks