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

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Samvera Virtual Connect, 2017
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
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
Questions or want to help?

• [www.avalonmediasystem.org](http://www.avalonmediasystem.org)
• [github.com/avalonmediasystem](https://github.com/avalonmediasystem)

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