

Questionnaire to Analyze Internet Art – First Step – Browser Specifications, Metadata, and Age

This questionnaire is intended to serve as a tool for the preliminary analysis of an internet artwork by professionals in cultural heritage who might not necessarily have a technical background. It addresses client-side analysis versus server-side, which refers to the examination of those elements of the website that are accessible via the browser without any further permissions being required. This form is split into two parts. The first, this form, can be completed as a standalone preliminary analysis of the works metadata and age. However, if after filling out this form more information is required regarding the work's conservation the second step concerning external dependencies can be filled out to give an idea of the work's vulnerabilities. Further, provided with this form is supplemental information that can provide insight in case anything about these forms is unclear. All questions compiled here are based on the part of the website that is publicly accessible.

In composing this form a number of assumptions have been made. These are the following:

- We assume that the website is online and that it is accessible via its URL.
- We assume that you do not have access to the web server at this moment.

Determining the browser specifications

Internet artworks are only accessible, both offline and online, using a browser. However, browsers are proprietary services that update frequently, in the process changing permissions, and affecting the use of applications, plug-ins or extensions that may be integral to the functionality of a given work.

To determine the browser of the version you are using to examine the work go to the browser specific menu and click **About *Browser Name***. For example, with Safari the directory path would look like: Safari/About Safari.

1) What is the browser being used?

- Google Chrome
- Safari
- Microsoft Edge
- Firefox
- Opera
- Other

2) What is the browser version?

Checking the metadata

This includes for instance the title of the website, the artist (and/or programmer), who owns it, when it was made, and when it was updated (if it says).

You can find this information in the source code (by pressing **CTRL U** or **command, option U** in the web browser) or on the website itself. For instance, on the imprint or the about page.

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URL	
Title	
Artist (and/or programmer)	
Owner	
Date	
Date of Last Update	

Analyzing the functionality of the Website

The older the website, the higher the risk that parts of the website are dysfunctional / “damaged”. By examining the number of pages and their characteristics for the following damages the potential losses in functionality of the website can be determined and documented:

- Missing external dependencies (links, libraries, web services, browser add-ons). These dependencies might have been deleted, changed or moved in the meantime.
- The website uses deprecated code that the web browser cannot render correctly.
- The website is based on obsolete media formats that depend on browser plugins for rendering (web browser plugins have been obsolete since 2020)
- New web browser security features that obstruct the rendering of the website (mixed content, cross origin, autoplay of video and sound deactivated etc.)

1) How many pages does the website have?

2) Do all the pages look or function as they should? ¹

* See [Questionnaire to Analyze Internet Art - Second Step](#) and [Supplemental Information](#) for more information.

¹ See [Supplemental Information](#) for examples of dysfunctional websites.