FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Cubes | Immutable Archive of VOC Heritage

# How The Corts Foundation protects VOC heritage against deletion and makes it accessible worldwide

**Together with the National Archives of Indonesia, The Corts Foundation digitised unique VOC documents in Jakarta. The scans were made accessible online, but the temporary storage allowed deletion, was reaching capacity and did not provide a replicated copy at a second location. Silent Cubes provided the project with immutable storage and a second copy; Comex supported the migration and management.**

## Scanning only once makes data loss particularly costly

The Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia (ANRI) preserves a large part of the VOC archive in Jakarta. The Corts Foundation began digitising the collection in 2011. By 2017, approximately one million manuscripts had been scanned, according to the original case study. The foundation made the collection accessible to the public and researchers through a website in English and Bahasa Indonesia, including users in Indonesia itself.

The scans were initially stored on temporary storage in a RAID 5 configuration. This provided space for the ongoing scanning work, but offered limited capacity and no permanent protection against deletion: multiple users could modify or delete files. The foundation also wanted to store the scans at two locations. With 16 TB already scanned and the support contract for the temporary storage coming to an end, a more sustainable archiving solution became urgently necessary.

## The experience?

**“We were convinced that we had made the right choice with the FAST Silent Cubes system, particularly because it requires so little management.”**

Marco Roling, Information Analyst and ICT Advisor at The Corts Foundation



Photos: ANRI, 2017

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## Immutable storage and verification during copying

The Corts Foundation selected Silent Cubes with WORM storage. Once files are stored, they cannot simply be modified or deleted. The selected configuration replicates data to a second system at another location and can be expanded modularly. The archive needed to require little management because a failure in Jakarta could not always be resolved immediately on site.

Comex assisted with the setup and developed a program for the migration that compares source and destination files using checksums. This was important because network or power interruptions could occur during the transfer. Approximately four months were planned for copying the volume of data at the time. ANRI employees received instructions on using the system, while Comex could monitor its status remotely and a local partner could handle minor issues.

## The collection remains accessible and gains a stronger foundation

The website made the digitised sources accessible worldwide. Silent Cubes addressed a different requirement: protecting the scans on which that access depends. Automatic status notifications helped those involved determine whether action was needed, without requiring constant on-site checks. An additional Cube could be added as the collection grew.

The joint heritage project thus gained an archive better suited to long-term preservation and remote management. An additional copy for the reading room of the National Archives in The Hague was still planned at the time.