

## How to use this toolkit:

First, the boring part: print, shape and assemble the cards.  
Then, you all set to combine the cards and design new speculative rituals!

### 1. Pick one of the three scenarios:

- *Who wants to live forever*
- *Another one bites the dust*
- *The show must go on*

Each scenario describes a specific context for the data loss.

### 2. Pick a card of each type:

Public, Data, Disruption.

**3. Assemble the selected cards and imagine** what could be the funerals for data in this scenario, when this public is facing the loss of this data with regard to this disruption.

**4. Write, draw, prototype the fictions** telling your funeral rites for data.

**5. Optional: Share with us your thoughts** on the toolkit, your ideas or design fiction prototypes:  
[www.datafunerals.com/contribute](http://www.datafunerals.com/contribute)



# Requiem for a data

A workshop toolkit



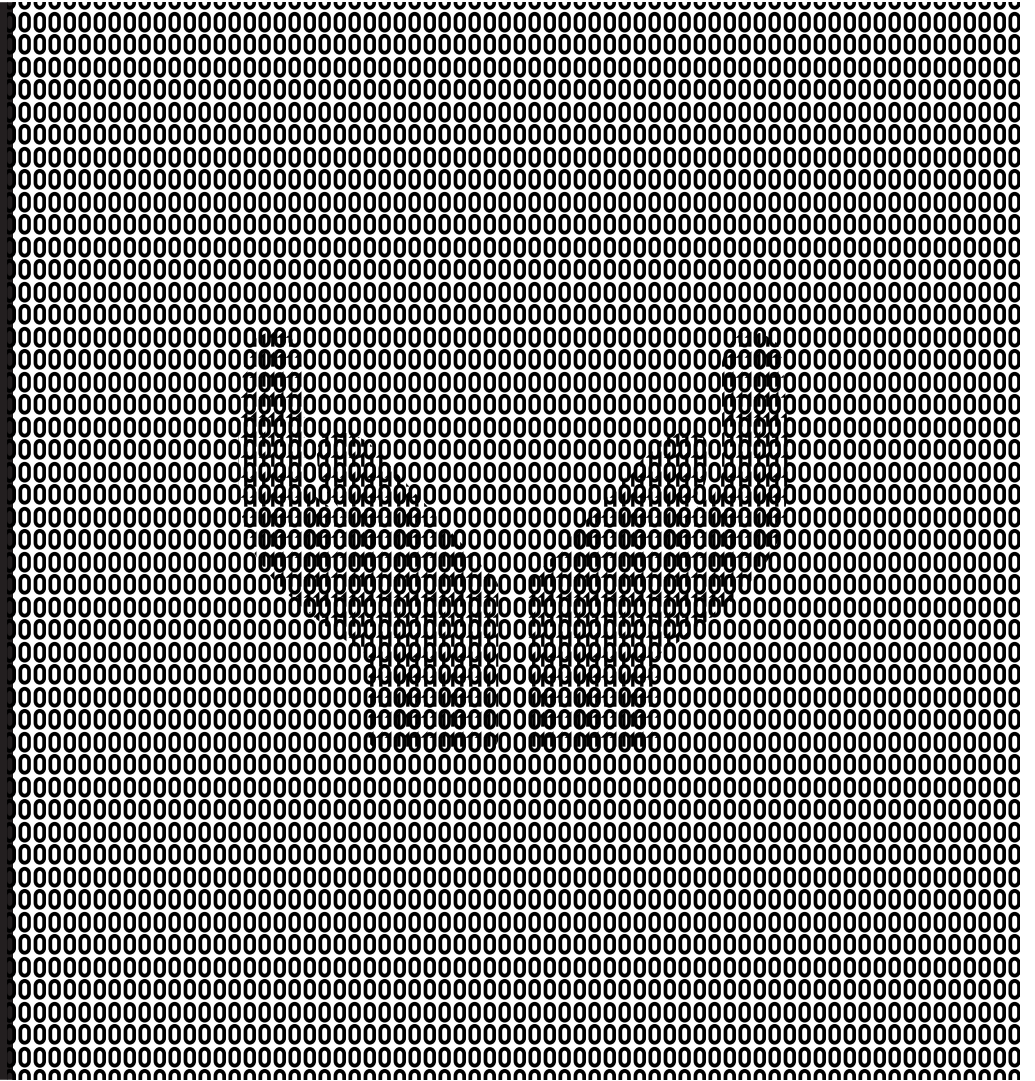
# Who wants to live forever

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Death is part of life and, and disappearance seems to be part of our precious digital content existence. Whether data have been victims of the hardware planned obsolescence, affected by our clumsiness, reluctantly sacrificed or willingly deleted, they have every chance of vanishing, and we'd better be prepared for it.

In this near future where data are at the heart of our civilisation, how do we prepare - mentally and ritually, online and offline - for this possible loss? How do we ward off the threat? How does it question our data dependency and superstition towards technologies?

- |                   |                  |                    |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Attachment</b> | <b>Fate</b>      | <b>Karma</b>       |
| <b>Devotion</b>   | <b>Omen</b>      | <b>Faith</b>       |
| <b>Ritual</b>     | <b>Placebo</b>   | <b>Paranoia</b>    |
| <b>Fear</b>       | <b>Foresight</b> | <b>Preparation</b> |



## Another one bites the dust

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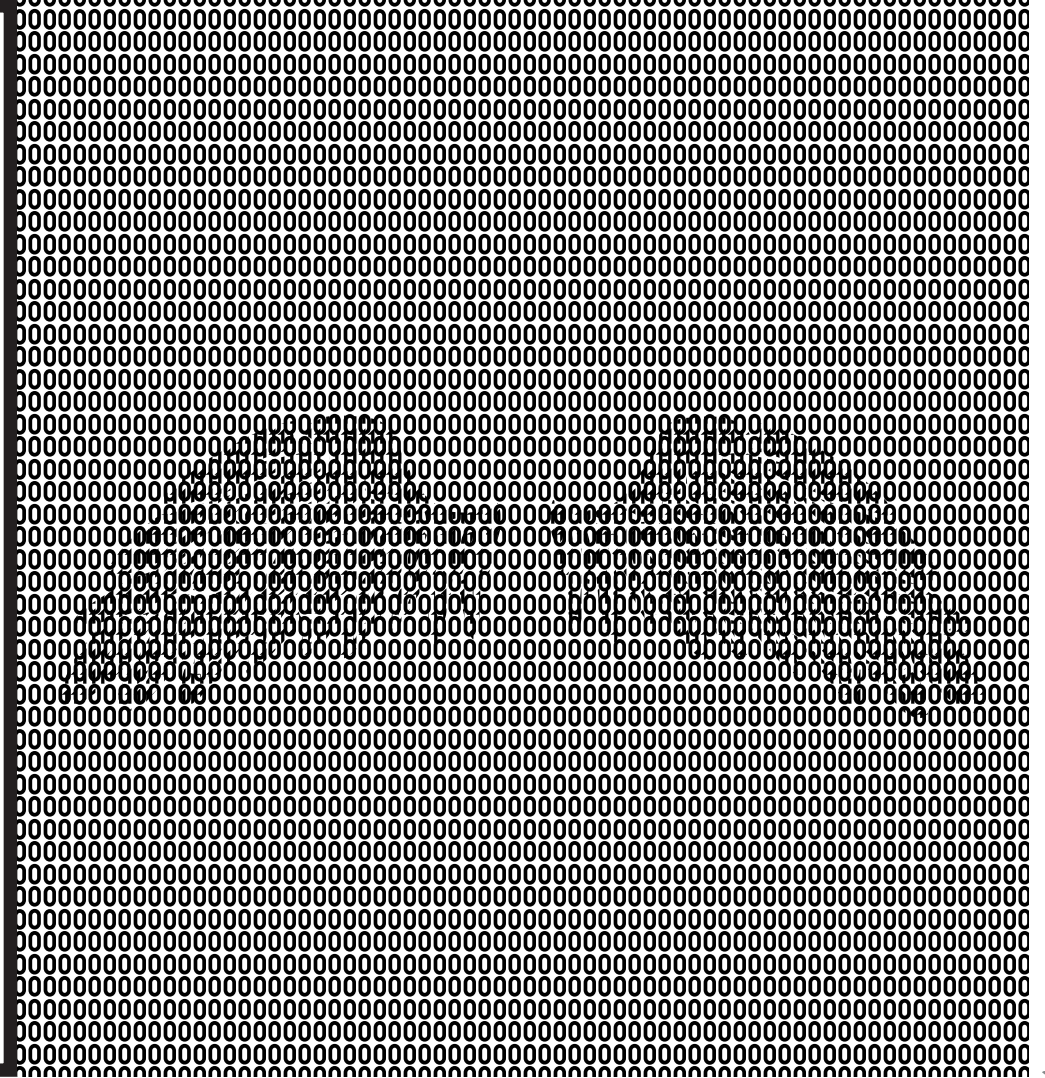
The dreaded moment has come: the precious data are gone. A doubt remains, however: are they really gone? Whether stored in the Cloud or shared multiple times to our friends and through various channels, the traces of their existence are still warm. Would they still exist somewhere? Is there such thing as purgatory for data? Could they resurrect some day? How would we face a resurrected zombie-data, especially in the case of the most private ones?

In this near future where data are at the heart of our civilisation, if our devices are extensions of ourselves, how do we deal with this loss of part of whom we are and whom we were?

**Spell**  
**Purgatory**  
**Relic**  
**Corpse**

**Afterlife**  
**Sorcery**  
**Resurrection**  
**Zombie**

**Doubt**  
**Grief**  
**Rituals**  
**Faith**



# The show must go on

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Time has passed but we have not forgotten. Whether our data are lost forever or that we still believe in their upcoming comeback, whether we are still mourning or accepting this dramatic event of data loss as a twist of fate, how has this change the way we live and interact with our technologies?

Do we still trust them?

Do we take it as a lesson and multiply back-ups?

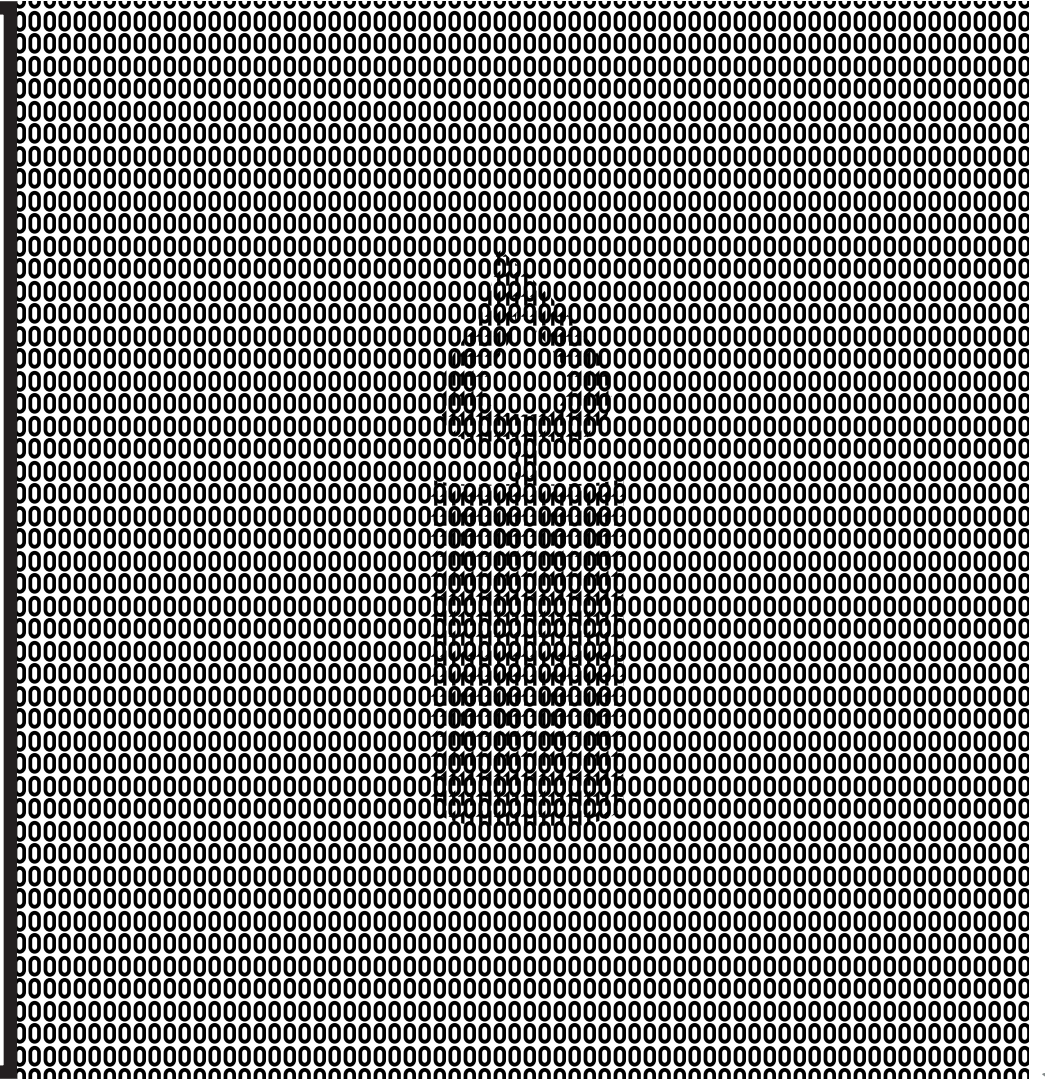
Do we carefully and emotionally keep the corpses of our beloved hard drives and other data canopic jars somewhere?

In this near future where data are at the heart of our civilisation, what rituals can we imagine to celebrate or remember the digitally vanished memories, alone or with others?

**Commemoration**  
**Sociability**  
**Memory**  
**Sharing**

**Healing**  
**Offering**  
**Recalling**  
**Newness**

**Resolution**  
**Change**  
**Trust**  
**Distrust**



## Professional

Professional documents or presentations, sensitive information located in your email threads, confidential files, your home-made-with-love computer codes or music scores, short film mockups, graphic works, your rock band's twentieth recording shot, launch code for the nuclear weapons...



Data

## Personal

Those sweet memories: photos of friends, your holiday slideshow or GoPro video, on-the-spot precious snapshots like wedding photos, longtime memo, your Instagram account or Google Photos albums, this live-recording during a once-in-a-lifetime gig, your baby's first laugh ringtone... And, of course, your passwords...



Data

## Intimate

These precious digital poems received from a friend abroad, your ex-girlfriend or deceased grandmother voice captured on your voicemail machine, sextapes, traces of your religious devotion, your undeclared sexual orientation...



Data

✕

✕

## Biometrics

Some of this data type, called soft biometrics, refer to the identification of individuals without allowing their precise identification, like weight, height, hair or eye colour. Some, on the other hand, are by essence the most personal and critic types of data (but not necessarily the most intimate): DNA, blood types, palm prints or fingerprints, vocal print, iris or face prints, operator signatures...



Data

## Progression & personalisation

Bye-bye bookmark toolbars, saved tabs, YouTube recommendations, LinkedIn network, Tinder match base, videogame backup, Spotify playlists, browsing history, recorded training achievements...



Data

## Contact information

Now that we rely almost exclusively on technological devices to outsource the effort of remembering our friends or prospects (and sometimes your own) contact information, like phone numbers, physical or email addresses or birthday dates...



Data

✕

✕

## Storage

### Local

Stored in your smartphone,  
external hard drive,  
computer memory,  
local server

Stored in  
remote  
data centers

### Cloud



Disruption

## Origin of loss

### On purpose

You wanted this  
data gone!

Oh noooooooooo...

### Endured



Disruption

## Casual carer

*"Generate and forget"* is their motto.  
A back-up every ten years should  
make it. They are not conscious  
or even attached to the data they  
generate - until the day they lost  
them. And here comes the drama.



Public

## Survivalists

Highly aware of the intrinsic fragility of data, they consider themselves ready and prepared for the very worst.



Public

## Datassisted

Your typical extreme-users heavily relying on data-driven services for their personal / professional lives; lives that would be infinitely more complex without the beloved data.



Public

## Precautious paranoid

Not a single trace is left behind. They systematically erase every data they don't want to be remembered by the system and, in the same time, they preciously care about the ones remaining.



Public

✕

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