

RECOMMENDATION ITU-R BR.1574

**Archival of sound-program material in the form of files
recorded on information technology media**

(Question ITU-R 216/10)

(2002)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that storage media based on Information Technology, including data disks and tapes, are expected to permeate all areas of audio production for radio broadcasting, including the archival of sound-program material;
- b) that the use of Information Technology offers significant advantages in terms of operating flexibility, production flow and station automation and it is therefore attractive for the up-grading of existing studios and the conversion of sound-program archives to automated digital operation;
- c) that the adoption of a single file format for sound-program interchange is already recommended in Recommendation ITU-R BR.1352, and the adoption of the same file format for sound-program archival would greatly facilitate the interoperability of equipment and studios, and the desirable integration of editing, on-air play-out and archiving;
- d) that Recommendation ITU-R BR.1352 also provides specifications for a minimum set of broadcast-related information, which must be included in the sound-program file as metadata to document the audio signal: the availability of such metadata is essential to the smooth automated operation of digital sound-program archives;
- e) that, for the exchange of audio programs on Information Technology media, the audio signal parameters sampling frequency, coding resolution and pre-emphasis is specified in the relevant parts of Recommendations ITU-R BS.646 and ITU-R BR.1352,

recommends

- 1 that the specifications given in Recommendation ITU-R BR.1352 for the broadcast wave format (BWF) file format should also be used for the storage of sound-program material on Information Technology media for archival purposes¹;
 - 2 that the specifications given in Recommendation ITU-R BR.1352 for metadata carried in the BWF file format should also be used for the storage of sound-program material on Information Technology media for archival purposes².
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¹ The BWF is based on the Microsoft® WAVE audio file format which is a type of file specified in the Microsoft® “Resource Interchange File Format” (RIFF).

The BWF applies some restrictions to the original WAVE format specification. The adoption of the BWF is a desirable solution for users both as the file format for the recorded medium and for the purpose of programme interchange. There is no overhead in terms of either time or temporary storage space that would be required for conversion when transferring audio signals from equipment to equipment. It is recognized however that it might penalize some developers that use some computer platforms.

² Further metadata is under study, intended to provide all the information that is required on archived digital sound-program material to completely and unequivocally identify its content.