The Software Heritage Acquisition Process (SWHAP) motivations and overview

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September 30th 2022



Outline

Tackling the challenge



Limitations of popular approaches, revisited

A - Since the 1970's 1990's

.zip or .tar file on:

- ftp server
- web page
- document archive (+ DOI)

B - Since the 2000's

Rely on *software forges*

- institutional or project ones
- free commercial ones: BitBucket, GitHub, GitLab, ...

Assessing pros and cons of forges

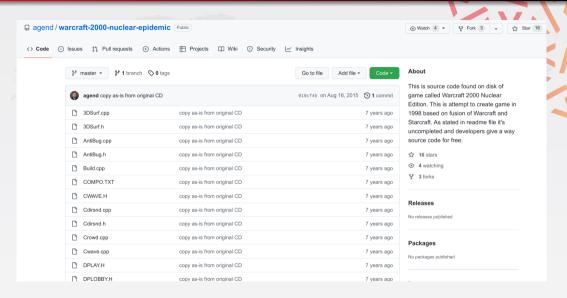
Pros

- better user experience
- version control is built-in

Cons

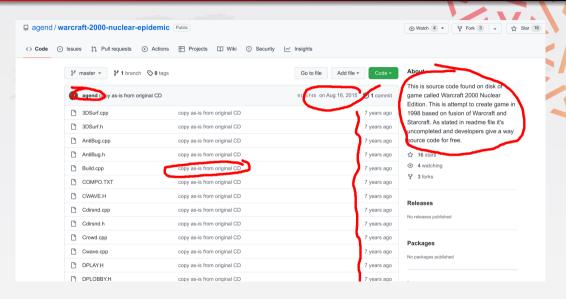
- no preservation guarantee
- can be easily misused

An example is worth a thousand words



(CC-BY 4.0)

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Back to the drawing board

Collect

- find source code and related materials
- gather in a physical and/or logical place for later processing

Curate

- analyze, cleanup and structure the materials
- identify *authors* of *versions* of source code, with its *dates*

- identify *owners*, obtain *authorizations*
- add quality metadata, in a standard format

Archive

save the curated materials to appropriate *archives*

Present

make the materials accessible to a wide audience

a key requirement: traceability all along the way

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Tackling the challenge

2 The SWHAP approach

Conclusion





Paris Call on Software Source Code

"[We call to] support efforts to gather and preserve the artifacts and narratives of the history of computing, while the earlier creators are still alive"

SWHAP: Software Heritage Acquisition Process

Paris Call on Software Source Code

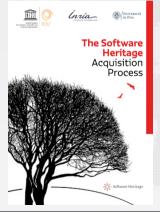
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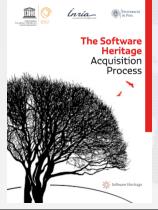


- Detailed process for Legacy Software
 - curation
 - reconstruction of the development history
 - collecting metadata
 - archival
 - in Software Heritage

SWHAP: Software Heritage Acquisition Process

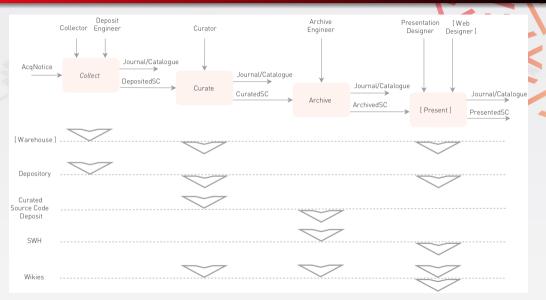
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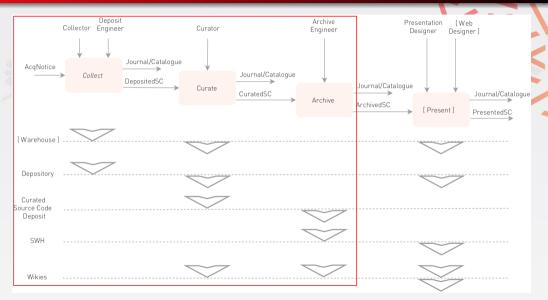


- Detailed process for Legacy Software
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 - in Software Heritage
- Traceability of all process phases
 - using modern version control tools

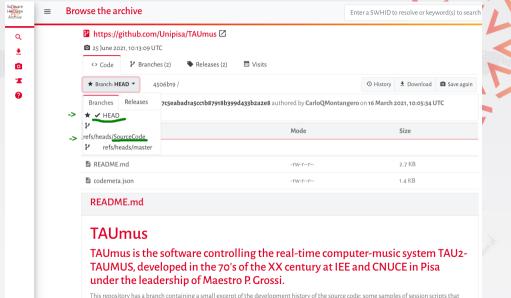
SWHAP in a nutshell: four phases workflow



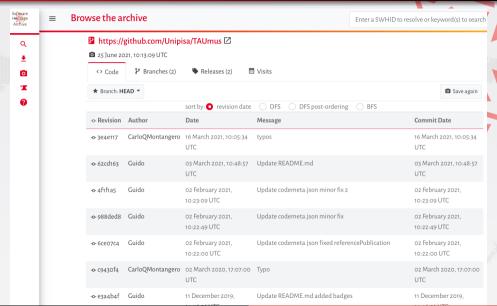
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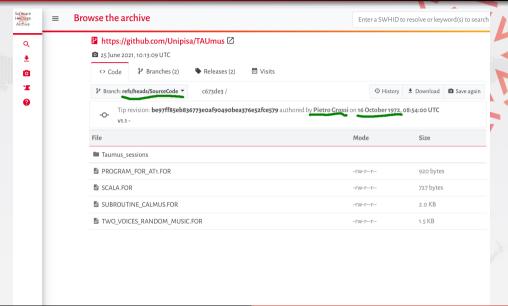
An example SWHAP outcome: TAUMus - curator and source code branch



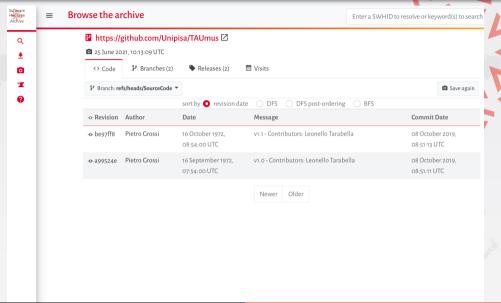
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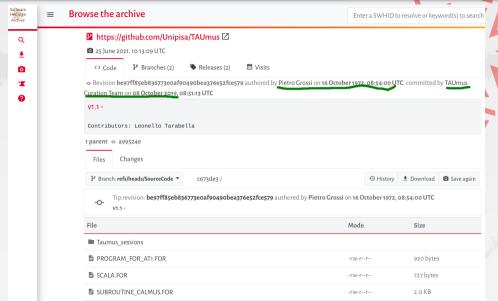
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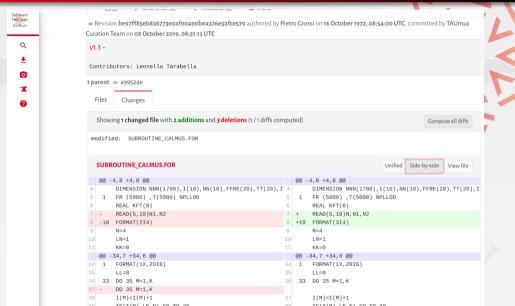
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An example SWHAP outcome: TAUMus - separate author and curator



An example SWHAP outcome: TAUMus - view source code evolution



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Leverage modern forges and version control tools

- clear separation of software authors from curators
- traceability of all the curation process
- reconstruction of the evolution of software



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let's see this in action!