

# Software Heritage

Why and How We Preserve all of Mankind's Source Code

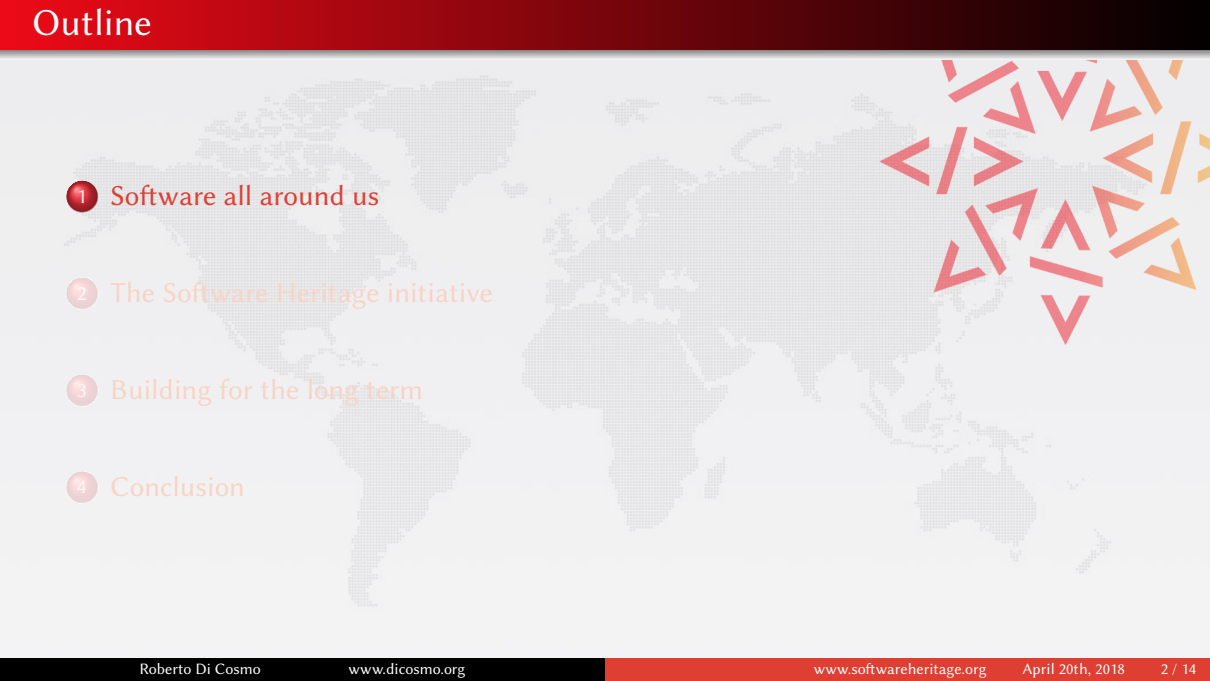
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April 20th, 2018



Software Heritage  
THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE

- 
- 1 Software all around us
  - 2 The Software Heritage initiative
  - 3 Building for the long term
  - 4 Conclusion

# Software is everywhere



Software embodies our collective **Knowledge** and **Cultural Heritage**

# Software Source Code is *special*

Harold Abelson, Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (1st ed.)

1985

*“Programs must be written for people to read, and only incidentally for machines to execute.”*

## Quake 2 source code (excerpt)

```
float Q_rsqrt( float number )
{
    long i;
    float x2, y;
    const float threehalfs = 1.5F;

    x2 = number * 0.5F;
    y = number;
    i = * ( long * ) &y; // evil floating point bit level hacking
    i = 0x5f3759df - ( i >> 1 ); // what the fuck?
    y = * ( float * ) &i;
    y = y * ( threehalfs - ( x2 * y * y ) ); // 1st iteration
    // y = y * ( threehalfs - ( x2 * y * y ) ); // 2nd iteration, this
    // can be removed

    return y;
}
```

## Net. queue in Linux (excerpt)

```
/*
 * SFB uses two B[1][n] : L x N arrays of bins (L levels, N bins per level)
 * This implementation uses L = 8 and N = 16
 * This permits us to split one 32bit hash (provided per packet by rxhash or
 * external classifier) into 8 subhashes of 4 bits.
 */
#define SFB_BUCKET_SHIFT 4
#define SFB_NUMBUCKETS (1 << SFB_BUCKET_SHIFT) /* N bins per Level */
#define SFB_BUCKET_MASK (SFB_NUMBUCKETS - 1)
#define SFB_LEVELS (32 / SFB_BUCKET_SHIFT) /* L */

/* SFB algo uses a virtual queue, named "bin" */
struct sfb_bucket {
    u16      qlen; /* length of virtual queue */
    u16      p_mark; /* marking probability */
};
```

Len Shustek, Computer History Museum

*“Source code provides a view into the mind of the designer.”*

# ~ 50 years, a lightning fast growth

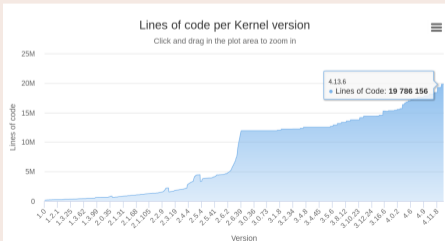
## Apollo 11 Guidance Computer (~60.000 lines), 1969



"When I first got into it, nobody knew what it was that we were doing. It was like the Wild West."

Margaret Hamilton

## Linux Kernel



... now in your pockets!

are we taking care of all this?

# Software is spread all around



A word cloud featuring various software-related terms and logos. The most prominent words are "Sourceforge", "Git", "GitHub", "CTan", "Gitlab", "GoogleCode", "Bitbucket", "Maven", "Debian", "CPAN", "Gitorious", "Inria", "BerliOs", "Adullact", and "CRAN". The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with "Git" and "GitHub" being the largest. The background includes a faint world map and a decorative starburst pattern of colorful arrows.



A word cloud centered on a faint world map background. The words are of various sizes and colors, representing different aspects of software fragility. The largest words are 'damage' (dark red), 'disaster' (purple), 'malicious' (brown), 'obsolete' (purple), and 'deletion' (dark blue). Other words include 'attack' (blue), 'dependencies' (blue), 'format' (green), 'corruption' (brown), 'dangling' (purple), 'wear' (brown), 'encryption' (blue), 'reference' (blue), 'storage' (brown), 'aging' (blue), 'media' (brown), and 'tear' (purple). In the top right corner, there is a decorative graphic of a starburst or snowflake made of many small, colorful triangles pointing outwards.

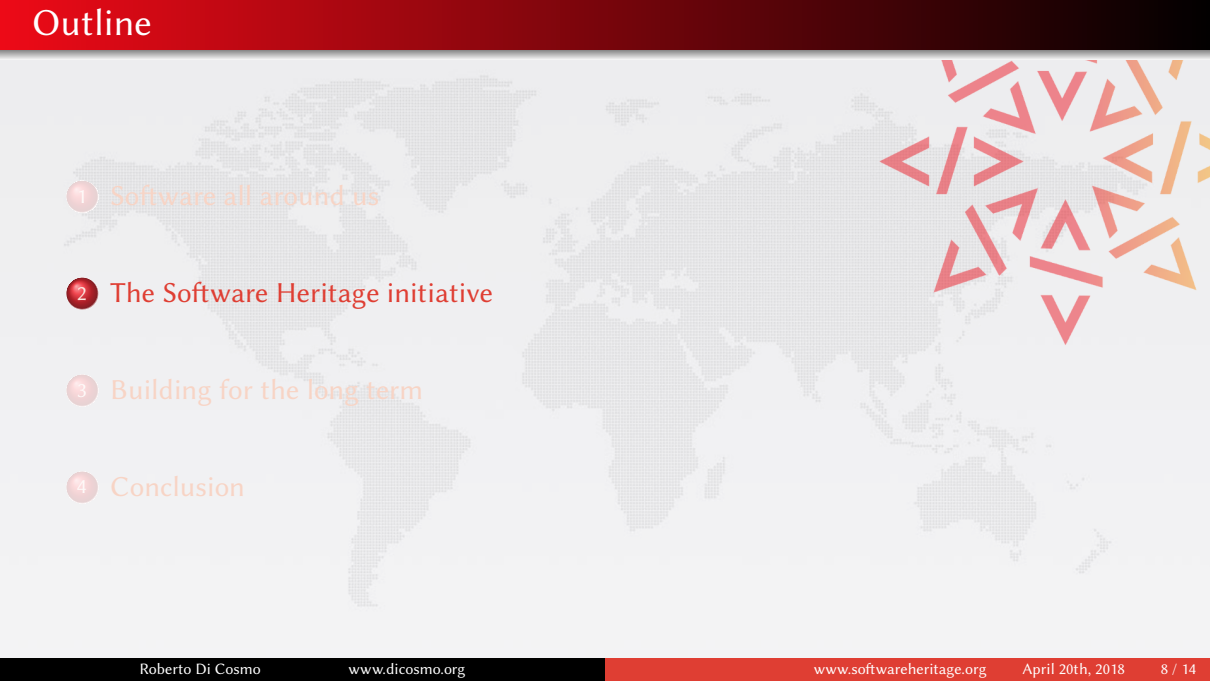
damage  
disaster  
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attack  
dependencies  
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corruption  
dangling  
wear  
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reference  
storage  
aging  
media  
tear

# Software lacks its own research infrastructure



Photo: ALMA(ESO/NAOJ/NRAO), R. Hills



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# Software Heritage

## Our mission

**Collect**, **preserve** and **share** the *source code* of *all the software* that is available

## Past, present and future

*Preserving the past, enhancing the present, preparing the future*



## Technology

- transparency and FOSS
- replicas all the way down

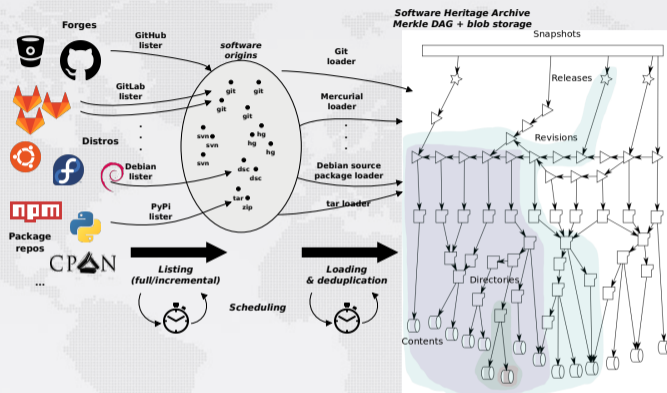
## Content

- intrinsic identifiers
- facts and provenance

## Organization

- non-profit
- multi-stakeholder

# Architecture (simplified)



- full development history permanently archived
- origins: GitHub (automated), Debian (automated), Gitorious, Google Code, GNU
- ~150Tb raw contents, ~10Tb graph (7+Bn nodes, 60+Bn edges)

## Using the archive

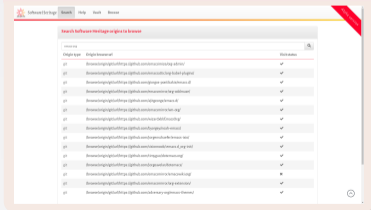
Preview *just for you:*

a "wayback machine" for archived code!

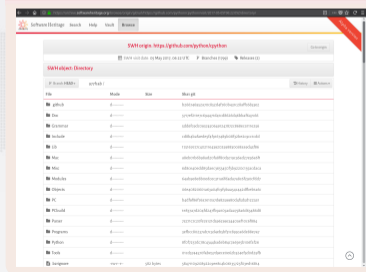
- go to <http://archive.softwareheritage.org/browse>
- use the credentials: **devoux** / **2018**

No time for a demo, let's highlight some features...

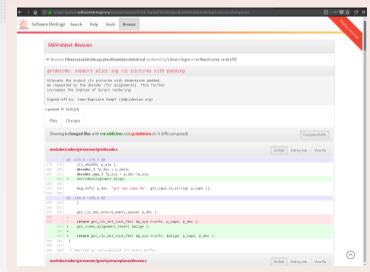
## Origin search

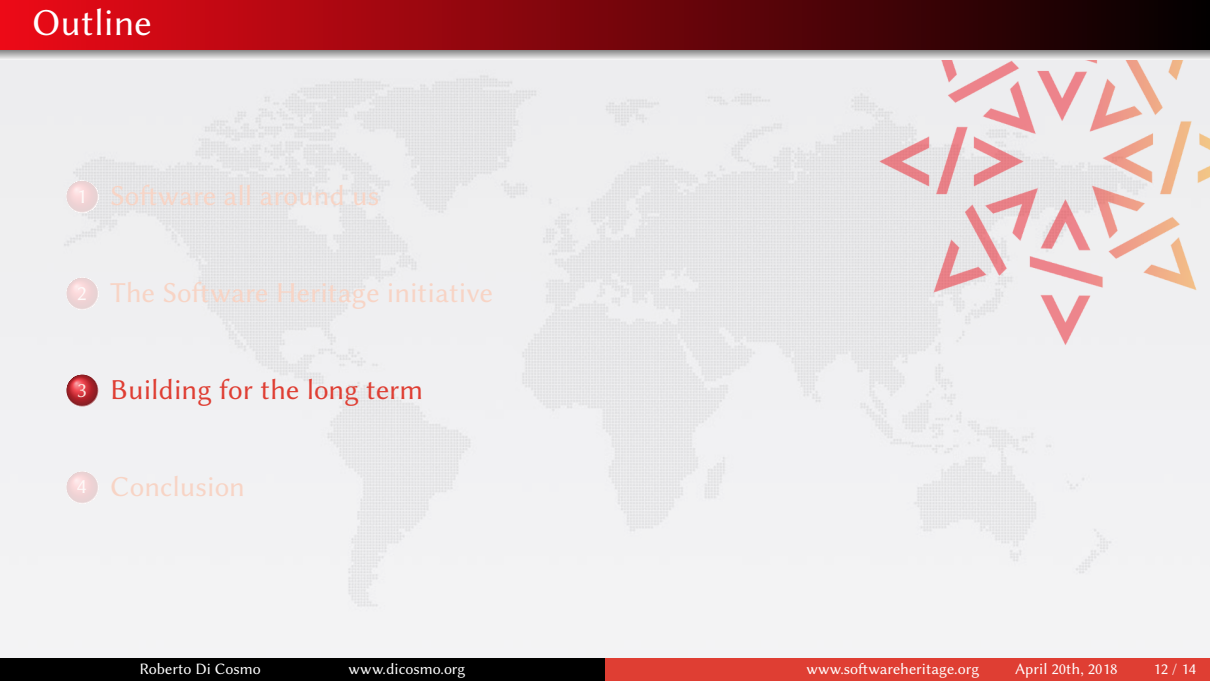


## Directory browsing



## Revisions as diffs



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## Landmark Inria Unesco agreement, April 3rd, 2017



## Sharing the vision



## Contributing to the mission



>= 100Ke/year
>= 50Ke/year
>= 25Ke/year
>= 10Ke/year



# You can help!

## Coding, advice

see [forge.softwareheritage.org](https://forge.softwareheritage.org)

## Current development priorities

... *all* contributions equally welcome!



documentation



listers/loaders for unsupported forges, VCS



Web UI improvements

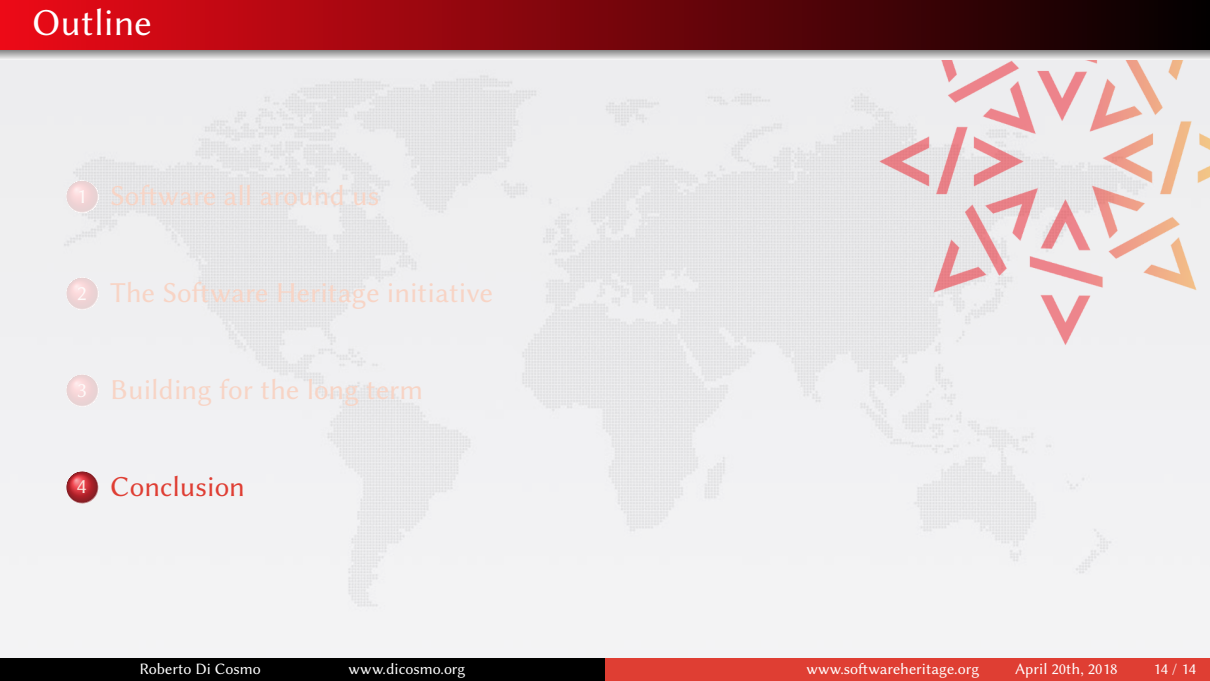
Yes, we'll be hiring, see [www.softwareheritage.org/jobs](http://www.softwareheritage.org/jobs)

## Funding

- make *your company* a sponsor :  
[sponsorship.softwareheritage.org](https://sponsorship.softwareheritage.org)
- give *your own contribution* :  
[www.softwareheritage.org/donate](https://www.softwareheritage.org/donate)

## Spread the word!

- follow and relay project news
- share the vision, tell others how to support the mission

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Come in, we're open!



# Software Heritage

[www.softwareheritage.org](http://www.softwareheritage.org)

@swheritage

## Library of Alexandria of code



- recover the past
- structure the future

## A CERN for Software



- build better software
  - for industry
  - for society as a whole