Outline

1. Software is everywhere and nowhere
2. The Software Heritage initiative
3. Architecture
4. Using the Software Heritage archive
5. Open Science
6. Science of Software
7. Building for the long term
8. Conclusion
Software is everywhere

Source code is executable and human readable knowledge a growing part of our Cultural Heritage
Source code is special

Harold Abelson, Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs

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

Quake III source code (excerpt)

```c
float Q_rsqrt(float number)
{
    long i;
    float x2, y;
    const float threehalves = 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 * (threehalves - (x2 * y * y)); // 1st iteration
    // y = y * (threehalves - (x2 * y * y)); // 2nd iteration, this can be removed
    return y;
}
```

Net. queue in Linux (excerpt)

```c
/*
 * SFB uses two B[I][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 rwhash or *
 * external classifier) into 8 subhasses 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.”
"When I first got into it, nobody knew what it was that we were doing. It was like the Wild West."
Margaret Hamilton

... now in your pockets!

are we taking care of all this?
Software is spread all around
Software is fragile
Software lacks its own research infrastructure

Photo: ALMA(ESO/NAOJ/NRAO), R. Hills
Today we are at a turning point

Looking at the past

- a lot of old software misplaced, lost, or behind barriers, but...
- most founding fathers are still here, and willing to share
- urgent to collect their knowledge

Only a few years left.

Looking at the future

- software development and use skyrockets: more programmers, and more code!
- essential to provide a universal platform for all the future software source code

Every year that goes by makes the problem worse.

it is urgent to take action!
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
A principled infrastructure

Technology
- transparency and FOSS
- replicas all the way down

Content
- intrinsic identifiers
- facts and provenance

Organization
- non-profit
- mirror network

Source files: 4,536,067,027
Commits: 1,024,675,748
Projects: 83,801,775
All the source code
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Automation (first quadrant), and storage

- full development history permanently archived
- origins: GitHub (auto), Debian (auto), Gitlab.com, Gitorious, Google Code, GNU
- ~200Tb raw contents, ~10Tb graph (10Bn nodes, 100Bn edges)
Much more than an archive!

Merkle tree (R. C. Merkle, Crypto 1979)

Combination of
- tree
- hash function

Classical cryptographic construction
- fast, parallel signature of large data structures
- widely used (e.g., Git, blockchains, IPFS, …)
- built-in deduplication
A bird’s eye view
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Reference archive for all software

A "wayback machine" for software source code … with intrinsic identifiers!

- http://archive.softwareheritage.org/browse

Demo time: let’s highlight some features…

Origin search

Directory browsing

Revisions as diffs
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## Research software: a long way to go!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICSE (Zannier, Melrik, Maurer, 2006)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>complete absence of replication studies</em></td>
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</table>

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*60% of all papers have tools: only 20% <em>installable</em></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collberg’s 2015 study</th>
<th><a href="http://reproducibility.cs.arizona.edu/">http://reproducibility.cs.arizona.edu/</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*601 mainstream papers: 508 with tools, only 40% <em>installable</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Main reasons

source code (or the right version of it) cannot be found
Supporting more accessible and reproducible science

A global library referencing all software used in all research fields

- completes the infrastructure for Open Access in science
- provides intrinsic persistent identifiers for scientific reproducibility
- enables large scale, verifiable software studies
Demo links

Paper points to lost source code on gitorious

- https://www.openaire.eu/search/publication?articleId=dedup_wf_001::cd996f0b6236b90659f84f99feb62bcc
- https://gitorious.org/parmap
- https://archive.softwareheritage.org/browse/search/?url=%22gitorious.org/parmap%22
Deposit Scientific Software

Deposit software in HAL

http://hal.inria.fr/hal-01738741

Generic mechanism:
- SWORD based
- review process
- versioning

How to do it:
- today: deposit .zip or .tar.gz file (guide)
- tomorrow:
  - provide SWH id and metadata
  - include metadata file for automatic metadata extraction
  - ...

September 2018: open to all on https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/

Roberto Di Cosmo
www.dicosmo.org

(CC-BY 4.0) www.softwareheritage.org
September 5th, 2018
The way to go to archive and reference scientific software

All features of Software Heritage for free

- **intrinsic IDs** (integrity, not dependent on resolvers!), browse, download (now)
- metadata, licenses, provenance analysis (plagiarism detection), classification (wip)
- and many more (powerful connections with SE and Industry)

Coverage and uniformity

- **one** archive for all domains (industry included)
- you can reference any software, not just the deposited one
  
  *(thanks D. Katz for pointing this out)*

- **git-compatible** identifiers greatly simplify workflows

Sustainability

... doors are open!

**one** infrastructure **independent** non profit foundation **worldwide** mirrors
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Big Code = Big data + AI

Large scale *repeatable* software studies…
- vulnerability detection
- dependency analysis
- pattern elicitation
- automatic classification …

… need a uniform representation
Software Heritage has *one data model* for all forges/VCS…
 … yes, we do *data normalization* of software evolution!

Breaking news: *soon* an Amazon public data set!
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Growing Support

Landmark Inria Unesco agreement, April 3rd, 2017

Sharing the vision

Contributing to the mission

Roberto Di Cosmo www.dicosmo.org (CC-BY 4.0) www.softwareheritage.org September 5th, 2018
The next steps

The Software Heritage Foundation
- independent
- long term mission
- multistakeholder

The community
- academia: Open Access, research
- industry: better software
- cultural heritage: all the software history

The mirror network
- resilience
- biodiversity

“Let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident.”

Thomas Jefferson
You can help!

Tackle the research challenges
- machine learning, classification, efficient graph queries, mirror protocols, ...

Contribute
- forge.softwareheritage.org
- www.softwareheritage.org/jobs

EU Copyright directive: ACT NOW to protect software development!
- savecodeshare.eu
- saveyourinternet.eu

Funding
- bring in new partners/sponsors: sponsorship.softwareheritage.org
- give your own contribution: www.softwareheritage.org/donate

Spread the word!
- use the archive and help others do
- tell everybody about Software Heritage
Software Heritage

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
Are we loosing trace of our knowledge?
URL decay disrupts the web of reference

Web links are not permanent (even permalinks)

*there is no general guarantee that a URL... which at one time points to a given object continues to do so*


URLs used in articles decay!

Analysis of *IEEE Computer* (Computer), and the *Communications of the ACM* (CACM): 1995-1999

- the *half-life* of a referenced URL is *approximately 4 years* from its publication date


Scholar roster of broken links

An example from Astronomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>links (broken)</th>
<th>.html</th>
<th>.txt</th>
<th>.dat</th>
<th>.gz</th>
<th>.tar</th>
<th>.fits</th>
<th>tilde</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

This table lists total number of links and broken links (HTTP status codes 3xx, 4xx, and 5xx) to top domains (domains with over 100 links) found within articles published in the four main astronomy journals between 1997 and 2008. The table also shows, for each domain, the portion of links to common filename extensions, as well as links that contain the tilde character. dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0104798.doi

How Do Astronomers Share Data?
Pepe, Goodman, Muench, Crosas, Erdmann
PLOS August 28, 2014
dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0104798
Example: doi:10.1109/MSR.2015.10

- to find what 10.1109/MSR.2015.10 is, go to a resolver (e.g. doi.org)

- this returns http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7180064/

- at this URL we find ...

Architecture of the DOI infrastructure

- DOI resolution can change
- content at URL can change
- no intrinsic way of noticing
- persistence based on good will of multiple parties