Software (source code) and Open Science Challenges and Opportunities

Roberto Di Cosmo

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December 4th, 2018



- Introductions
- Software source code: a pillar of Open Science
- 3 An inconvenient truth
- 4 The way forward
- Conclusion



Short Bio: Roberto Di Cosmo

Computer Science professor in Paris, now working at INRIA

- 30 years of research (Theor. CS, Programming, Software Engineering, Erdos #: 3)
- 20 years of Free and Open Source Software
- 10 years building and directing structures for the common good



1999 DemoLinux - first live GNU/Linux distro

2007 Free Software Thematic Group150 members 40 projects 200Me

2008 Mancoosi project www.mancoosi.org

2010 IRILL www.irill.org

2015 Software Heritage at INRIA

2018 National Committee for Open Science, France

Software is knowledge

Key mediator for accessing all information (c) Banski



Information is a main pillar of our modern societies.

Absent an ability to correctly interpret digital information, we are left with [...] "rotting bits" [...] of no value.

Vinton G. Cerf IEEE 2011

Software is an essential component of modern scientific research



[...] the vast majority describe experimental methods or software that have become essential in their fields.

Top 100 papers (Nature, October 2014)

Bottomline: Sofware embodies our Knowledge and Cultural Heritage

It must be collected, referenced and made accessible!

The knowledge is in the source code!



"The source code for a work means the preferred form of the work for making modifications to it."

GPL Licence

Hello World

Program (excerpt of binary) 4004e6: 55

4004e7: 48 89 e5 4004ea: bf 84 05 40 00

4004ef: b8 00 00 00 00

4004f4: e8 c7 fe ff ff

4004f9: 90

4004fa: 5d

4004fb: c3

Program (source code)

```
/* Hello World program */
#include<stdio.h>

void main()
{
    printf("Hello World");
}
```

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)

```
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 = 0x5737536f · ( i >> 1); // what the fuck?
    y = y *( threehalfs · ( x2 * y * y ) ); // lst iteration
    // y = y * ( threehalfs · ( x2 * y * y ) ); // 2nd iteration, this
    can be removed
    return y;
}
```

Net. queue in Linux (excerpt)

Len Shustek, Computer History Museum

"Source code provides a view into the mind of the designer."

~ 50 years, a lightning fast growth

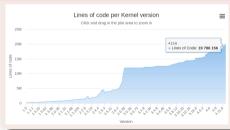
Apollo 11 Guidance Computer (~60.000 lines), 1969



"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!

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The scientific method...

The experimental method



- make an observation
- formulate an hypothesis
- set up an experiment
- elaborate a theory

And then we reproduce and verify.

Reproducibility is the key



non-reproducible single occurrences are of no significance to science

Karl Popper, The Logic of Scientific Discovery, 1934

... evolves in the digital age!

For an experiment involving software, we need open access to the scientific article describing it open data sets used in the experiment source code of all the components environment of execution stable references between all this



Remark

The first two items are already widely discussed!

... what about software?

An example from my research field, Computer Science

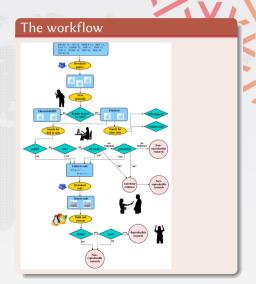
Analysis of 613 papers

- 8 ACM conferences: ASPLOS'12, CCS'12, OOPSLA'12, OSDI'12, PLDI'12, SIGMOD'12, SOSP'11, VLDB'12
- 5 journals: TACO'9, TISSEC'15, TOCS'30, TODS'37, TOPLAS'34

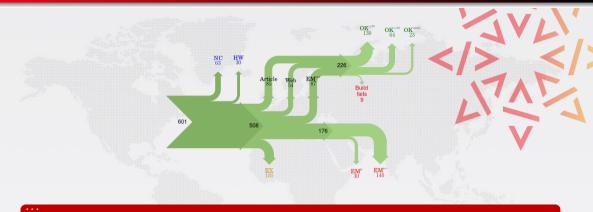
all very practical oriented

The basic question

can we get the code to build and run?



... cont'd

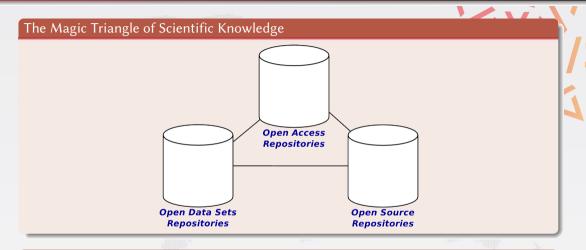


... that's a whopping 40% of non reproducible works!

The main reasons

source code (or the right version of it) cannot be found

Software Source code is an important pillar



Nota bene

The links in the picture are essential

- Introductions
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- An inconvenient truth
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A forgotten pillar of Open Science

No reference catalog



to find and reference all the source code

No universal archive



to preserve all the source code

No research infrastructure



to enable analysis of all the source code

Lack of recognition

not (yet) a first class citizen

- in the EOSC plan
- in the EU copyright reform
- in the scholarly works

Lack of guidance on how to

- choose a license
- cite a software project
- relate to industry best practices
- make source code FAIR(*)

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- The way forward
- 6 Conclusion



Raising Awareness

Inria Unesco agreement, April 3rd, 2017







Unesco Inria expert group, November 2018



Experts call for greater recognition of software source code as heritage for sustainable development

16 November 2018



Actions in the research landscape

In the Research Data Alliance

Collaboration with a variety of international partners

- Source Code Interest Group
- Source Code Identification Working Group

In the French Open Science Plan

- the GPLO group
 - software citation, reference, archival
 - software licensing
 - best practices
- support for Software Heritage



Mission

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

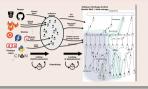
Partners

Initiator Inria

Industry Microsoft, Intel, Société Générale, Google, GitHub, FOSSID

Public sector UNESCO, DINSIC, DANS, UQAM, Bologna University

The largest software source code archive *ever*





Over 10 billions intrinsic identifiers (IDOs) for reproducibility

Must read: conceptual framework for DIOs and IDOs

bit.ly/swhpidpaper

Research software deposit

 moderated via HAL open since 9/2018

Reference archive

See for example

swmath.org

Collaboration HUB

- industry, research
- digital preservation

Now part of the French National Plan for Open Science

Reduce risk, avoid fragmentation



Thomas Jefferson, February 18, 1791

...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.

A common infrastructure

- mutualisation for sustainability
- open source, non for profit
- mirror network open to all
- may prevent a useless diaspora

A word on FAIR

Research Source Code ... is just Source Code!

FAIR for Research Software Source Code is different

For Software Source Code, FAIR has a different meaning:

reFerenced with intrinsic, verifiable identifiers

- see the iPres 2018 article bit.ly/swhpidpaper
- example:

swh: 1: cnt: 41ddb 23118f92d7218099a5e7a990cf58f1d07fa; lines = 53-82

Accessible in an archive that holds it for the long term

clted to credit authors, like all other scientific outputs

Reusable equipped with a proper Open Source license

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Challenges

Software Source code:

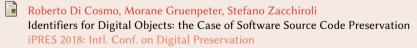
- (forgotten) pillar of Open Science
- (undervalued) key to reproducibility
- (underrated) scholarly production

Opportunities

Shared with Open Source communities

- learn from software development
- adopt proven approaches
- avoid dispersion of efforts





Roberto Di Cosmo, Publication scientifique: le rôle des États dans l'ère des TIC. Upgrade, Vol. VII, No. 3, June 2006, http://www.dicosmo.org/FreeAccessToScience.pdf

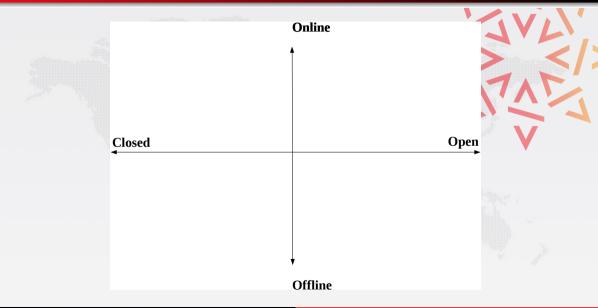
6 Strategy

1 Identifiers are not easy

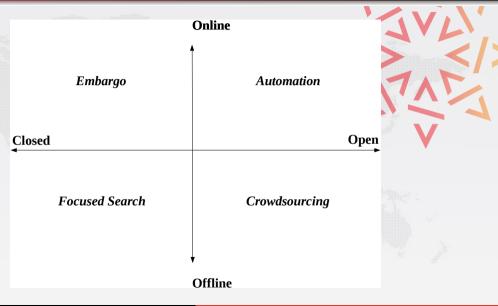
Looking for the right identifiers



All the source code



All the source code: strategy



6 Strategy

Identifiers are not easy

Looking for the right identifiers



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

T. Berners-Lee et al. Uniform Resource Locators. RFC 1738.

404

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 D. Spinellis. The Decay and Failures of URL References.

Communications of the ACM, 46(1):71-77, January 2003.

Similar findings in Lawrence, S. et al. *Persistence of Web References in Scientific Research*, IEEE Computer, 34(2), pp. 26–31, 2001.

Scholar roster of broken links

An example from Astronomy

Domain	links (broken)	.html	.txt	.dat	.gz	.tar	.fits	tilde
cxc.harvard.edu	802 (110)	336 (70)	0	0	4 (2)	5 (4)	1	0
heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov	640 (33)	423 (27)	1	0	0	0	0	0
www.stsci.edu	498 (61)	205 (29)	3	0	0	0	0	15 (10)
asc.harvard.edu	471 (152)	212 (99)	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu	427 (194)	125 (76)	3 (3)	0	0	0	0	0
cfa-www.harvard.edu	352 (68)	277 (52)	1	0	0	0	0	54 (17)
archive.stsci.edu	308 (58)	57 (9)	2	1 (0)	0	0	0	0
www.ipac.caltech.edu	285 (14)	209 (12)	0	0	0	0	0	0
www.atnf.csiro.au	211 (21)	12 (6)	0	0	0	0	0	7 (5)
space.mit.edu	193 (10)	58 (5)	1	0	0	0	0	2 (1)
www.astro.psu.edu	186 (4)	103 (1)	1	10	1	1	0	2
www.eso.org	186 (58)	54 (22)	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	4 (1)
irsa.ipac.caltech.edu	163 (5)	38	0	0	1	0	0	0
www.sdss.org	156 (2)	106 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
hea-www.harvard.edu	125 (37)	42 (17)	1	0	0	1	0	26 (16)
physics.nist.gov	125 (3)	63 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
www.nozo.edu	120 (3)	50 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
mm.vilspa.esa.es	118 (35)	23 (19)	0	0	8 (1)	0	0	1 (1)
www.astro.princeton.edu	115 (31)	43 (14)	0	0	0	0	0	53 (12)
edusno.nevy.mil	110 (27)	98 (22)	3 (3)	0	0	0	0	1 (1)

This table lists total number of links and broken links 0HTP status codes 3xx, 4xx, and 5xx) to top domains (domains with over 100 links) found within articles published in the four main astronom. The table also shows, for each domain, the portion of links to common filename extensions, as well as links that contain the tilde character.

How Do Astronomers Share Data?
Pepe, Goodman, Muench, Crosas, Erdmann dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0104798

PLOS August 28, 2014

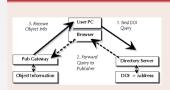
DOI limitations

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

6 Strategy

ldentifiers are not easy

Looking for the right identifiers



Systems of identifiers

A system of identifiers is

- a set of labels (the identifiers)
- mechanisms to perform :

Generation (minting)	create a new label
Assignment	associate label to object
Retrieval	get object from a label

• optionally, mechanisms to perform:

Verification	check label and object
Reverse Lookup	get label from an object
Description	get metadata of an object

Mechanisms offered in some systems of identifiers

Mech. / System	Handle	DOI	Ark	PURL
Generation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Assignment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retrieval	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Verification	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Reverse Lookup	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Description	Yes	Yes	Yes	N.A.

Our challenges in the PID landscape

Typical properties of systems of identifiers

uniqueness, non ambiguity, persistence, abstraction (opacity)

Key needed properties from our use cases

gratis identifiers are free (billions of objects)

integrity the associated object cannot be changed (sw dev, reproducibility)

no middle man no central authority is needed (sw dev, reproducibility)

we could not find systems with both integrity and no middle man!

An important distinction: DIOs vs. IDOs

The term "Digital Object Identifier" is construed as "digital identifier of an object," rather than "identifier of a digital object" Norman Paskin. 2010

DIO (Digital Identifier of an Object)

digital identifiers for (potentially) non digital objects

- epistemic complexity (manifestations, versions, locations, etc.)
- need an authority to ensure persistence and uniqueness

IDO (Identifier of a Digital Object)

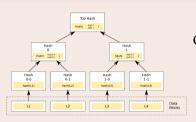
digital identifiers (only) for digital objects

- can provide both integrity and no middle man
- broadly used in modern software development (git, etc.)

for the core Software Heritage archive, IDOs are enough

IDOs in Software Development: the origins

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



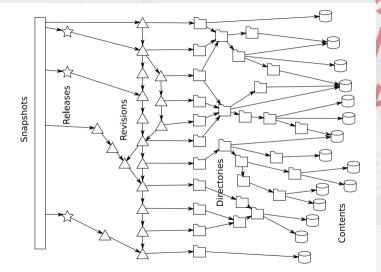
Combination of

- tree
- hash function

Classical cryptographic construction

fast, parallel signature of large data structures, built-in deduplication

- satisfies all three criteria: gratis, integrity, no middle man!
- widely used in industry (e.g., Git, nix, blockchains, IPFS, ...)





Contents

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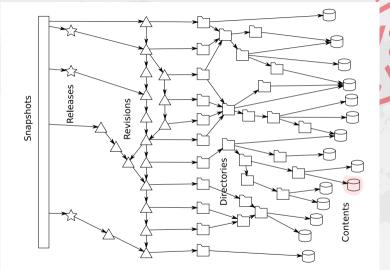
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To protect your rights, we need to a

sha1: 8624bcdae55baeef... sha256: 8ceb4b9ee5aded... sha1_git: 94a9ed024d385... length: 35147







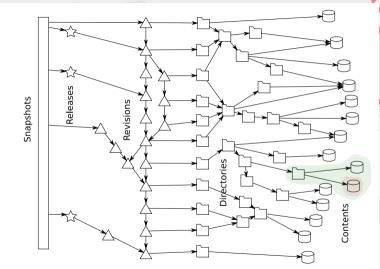


Directories

```
100644 blob c5baade4c44766042186ef858c0fd63d587ebf09 .gitignore
100644 blob 2d0a34af6f52cf3cf6b0c2f7bd0648fbd255e77f AUTHORS
100644 blob 94a9ed024d3859793618152ea559a168bbcbb5e2 LTCENSE
100644 blob d9b2665a435a43f8a79a84e0867751dfb095c7bb MANTEEST in
100644 blob 524175c2bad0b35b975f79284c2f5a6d5eaf2eb4 Makefile
100644 blob 5c7e3a5bbddb038682ba7793f440492ed9678bb3 Makefile.local
100644 blob 8617980629cd24e6080404f09aa749b085b3e07b
                                                     README.db testing
100644 blob 76b29f94cf815e0869c414d38d78d7ce08ec514e README.dev
040000 tree ele10ecef948af0b93adb0372afc89f12e92618a bin
040000 tree 83e56d0beaf7793c77a45a345c80fcb8af503013 debian
040000 tree a34c9c4ba213f0cedc67f9816348d27955577af5 docs
100644 blob f2a6d32c6135aa7287bbd76167b01df2ae4f1539 requirements.txt
100755 blob eee147c36caf1bbc2d820da8dc026cb5b68180bc setup.pv
040000 tree 224bb4c1f4c67fcald160bffd2d06094e7e1abf3 sql
040000 tree 8631c9cd77hhe993168107ah5haf51f40c6300he swh
040000 tree 8fb905b56ba8ed692f1209b2773b474c6c1d66c1 utils
```

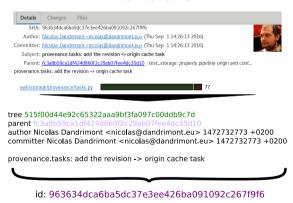
id: 515f00d44e92c65322aaa9bf3fa097c00ddb9c7d



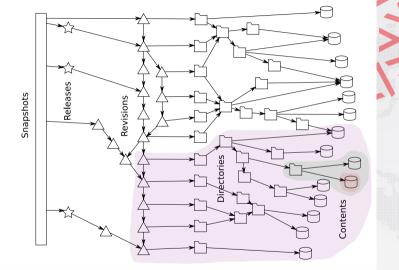




Revisions









Releases

tag v0.0.51 Tagger: Nicolas Dandrimont <nicolas@dandrimont.eu> Date: Wed Aug 24 14:36:03 2016 +0200

Release swhistorage v0.0.51

- Add new metadata column to origin visit - Update swh-add-directory script for updated API

commit c0c9f16b1e134f593e7567570a1761b156e6eb1d

object c0c9f16b1e134f593e7567570a1761b156e6eb1d type commit

tag v0.0.51

tagger Nicolas Dandrimont <nicolas@dandrimont.eu> 1472042163 +0200

Release swh.storage v0.0.51

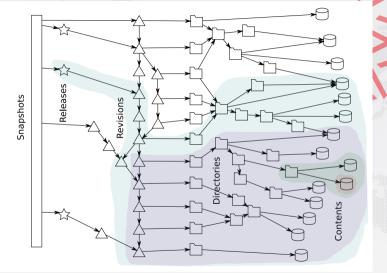
- Add new metadata column to origin visit - Update swh-add-directory script for updated API

iOlzBAARCAAdROIXvZTNFbxuaWNvbGEzOGRbbmRvaW1vbnQuZXUACqkQ7AWI Mq2+ negorw//ag6SOb5DijzEa+kWN3rXgVS+1K1vEVh1wNKAwx8eKI7aX2kEiLDtt7uf abpZ6pz3g8pgs6aC1+YrxBfcib3L2YtrdZeWXWgr8xWNMaEgYDb8gaphwb8AD5t2 ICBlit2ultXuCrDt93eKKPwvzZXa+hB0sMWv35Dr6iW7Z7K4Mu/PGalvIHPY55vo IGEndWno7VfH1Vm6t1n5qB7I5mXRaqA+becqddubTZ2xij+jplUqC8cyqN3hm/fL asi2mu8kvz3t8tG/H1/pV+I5OwBInPoS5TH0tuioIEVaPK/dHSP79OuHDHZFkCao kli6kAWyU80Mxb+nKV/ieLbrR3+yWBFi3Qp5a1/V8oOTh6E1dALcNMpEaKCoKtMt d/gMRax1I1/g0EDfnsW67G6sDwKPKPHhgfVLO3nV3GaOOTnu1RpMz006H9/tAwzC Gg/K1PdHT4hzOil46wYPZvie0U2VXGFu6vVU9vFQ4ZR/Win+0zMzdcRdrllSUOMn RpTTfUsbXUeXHGOpkqXhSYTnvp1qdPc76USTsK0aGe84AZm1lk0mGrwXCVfPqlYo nhhibBSHBNMogvF6vTSOpUbYK70tpYRRUGKWDeRK0wKSxkWKUZGtKzv6lYglio29 gulwgZQif5gWQCB0OontAL2+HvPFaVvckMeiUhg62cP/+EHIvUk=

---END PGP SIGNATURE---

id: 85083a5cc14a441c89dea73f5bdf67c3f9c6afdb







Snapshots

commit 08ffeb25770189525eb3ce21691466c53a1d9158 refs/heads/atime

ait show-refs

```
commit ba5443a24e3f9fe323a46c292cec4fcbe61c67eb refs/heads/directory-listing-arrays
      d69e8dbf892383ff6589b27fbe1c85d27238d9c5_refs/heads/foo
      cf7ff9eea0eb22f8946908f5a8019f67de468e08 refs/heads/master
commit 7eca197fc66d2024047e54b1ed9e8b44361a0fc2 refs/heads/tmp-directory-add
commit 642a205f37de85005a85d427b53ee4fb2252e82e refs/heads/tmp/generic-releases
tag 20f043b1379cf768d966597799fd4907c757f755 refs/tags/v0.0.1
tag 72a21991a384e539996dbb867bfb8bee72aee2cd refs/tags/v0.0.10
tag 3590e0ca0ebb070e5b376705fa230bbfa4ffa5cc refs/tags/v0.0.11
tag 33378427a403ba569a67777b8d58f6674fbc6556 refs/tags/v0.0.12
tag 06f74652755b327cf590311c2bfa036cf3b4b35d refs/tags/v0.0.13
tag 5a6325fe86ab854b581d7442667d92a11e32f3bd refs/tags/v0.0.14
tag 586fba4e580b4f5fab85f599367643cbcbla9c7f refs/tags/v8.0.15
tag 8cd8b885f4098bf363177742bd289f660e5be51c refs/tags/v0.0.16
tag a542444ee3f0fbed35efb202fee035c809abc7d6 refs/tags/v0.0.17
tag 228a2f1650dd12222e556559462e1e06fc4993d9 refs/tags/v0.0.18
tag 606979a4ca05d497fc0d24aad00dce82636ef47c refs/tags/v0.0.19
tag 32bf5a59fc2a323baa6d5f15a6ad5382ec275a67 refs/tags/v0.0.2
tag 3147c3d31ec46cf6492f881e908b1237ebdff2c7 refs/tags/v0.0.20
tag 215ea50daba111e082e0b72e76eb4b6073a87908 refs/tags/v0.0.21
tag 3fb168c2072a5d6252124257a1e5dfc0f5ffa1df refs/tags/v0.0.22
tag 8cdbee8da4d73fc5d262789e460a16ac3c72aba4 refs/tags/v0.0.23
```

id: b464cad1b66fff266a37b46ea6e7a04b545e904b



The Software Heritage IDO schema (see http://bit.ly/swhpids)

swh:1:**cnt**:94a9ed024d3859793618152ea559a168bbcbb5e2

full text of the GPL3 license

swh:1:**dir**:d198bc9d7a6bcf6db04f476d29314f157507d505

Darktable source code

swh:1:**rev**:309cf2674ee7a0749978cf8265ab91a60aea0f7d

a revision in the development history of Darktable

swh:1:**rel**:22ece559cc7cc2364edc5e5593d63ae8bd229f9f

release 2.3.0 of Darktable, dated 24 December 2016

swh:1:**snp**:c7c108084bc0bf3d81436bf980b46e98bd338453

a **snapshot** of the entire Darktable repository (4 May 2017, GitHub)

Current resolvers: archive.softwareheritage.org and n2t.org

Roberto Di Cosmo www.dicosmo.org