Archiving And Referencing All Software Source Code

Roberto Di Cosmo

February 19th, 2020

Software Heritage

THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Academia's evolving practice
3. Archiving and referencing *all* the source code: Software Heritage
4. Zoom on the SWH-ID
5. Practical guidelines for archiving and referencing
6. What about metadata and citation?

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 Group*
150 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

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*

Executable and *human readable* knowledge — copyright law

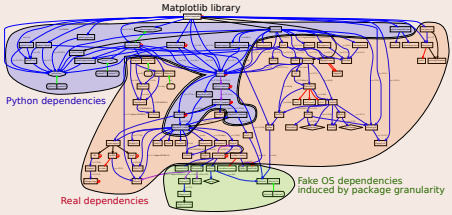
"Programs must be written for people to read, and only incidentally for machines to execute."
Harold Abelson

Software *evolves* over time

- projects may last decades
- the *development history* is key to its *understanding*

Complexity

- *millions* of lines of code
- large *web of dependencies*
  - easy to break, difficult to maintain
- sophisticated *developer communities*



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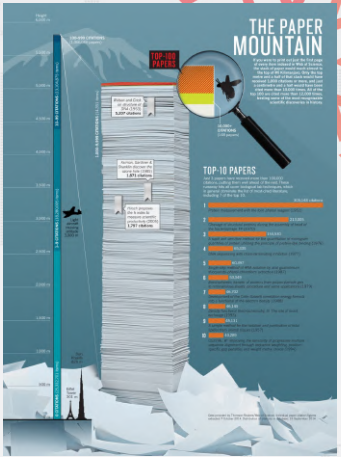
Software is a pillar of Science …

Software is everywhere in modern science

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

Top 100 papers (Nature, 2014)



Sometimes, if you dont have the software, you dont have the data

Christine Borgman, Paris, 2018

… a *forgotten* pillar of Open Science

Lack of recognition

not (yet) a first class citizen

- in the EOSC plan
- in the scholarly world

Lack of consensus on how to

- *archive* software
- *choose* a license
- *cite* a software project

Pressure to make the source code available is raising

Why

Necessary to…

- *reproduce* and *verify*,
- *modify* and *evolve*, building new experiments from old ones

When and where

- debate started end of first 2000 decade (bio, statistics, medicine…)
- growing in Computer Science since the ESEC/FSE 2011 Artifact Evaluation Award

A wealth of initiatives…

- Policies: ACM Artifact Review and Badging, AEC, …
- Working groups: FORCE11, RDA, SPSO, …
- Journals: IPOL, ReScience, InsightJournal, JOSS, eLife, ACM DL, …
- Repositories: FigShare, Zenodo, …
- Common infrastructures: Software Heritage

What is at stake — in increasing order of difficulty

Archival

Research software artifacts must be properly archived

make it sure we can *retrieve* them (*reproducibility*)

Identification

Research software artifacts must be properly referenced

make it sure we can *identify* them (*reproducibility*)

Metadata

Research software artifacts must be properly described

make it easy to *discover* them (*visibility*)

Citation

Research software artifacts must be properly cited *(not the same as referenced!)*

to give *credit* to authors (*evaluation*!)

Let's focus on the *first two!*

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Software Heritage in a nutshell

Software Heritage

THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE

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

Preserving our heritage, enabling better software and better science for all

Reference catalog

find and reference all the source code

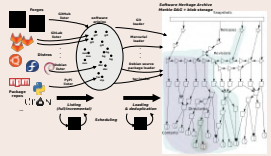
Universal archive

preserve all the source code

Research infrastructure

enable analysis of all the source code

All the software source code



The largest software source code archive *ever*

Uniform and intrinsic identifiers for reproducibility

Tracking over *20 billion software artifacts*, and counting… `bit.ly/swhpidpaper`

Adoption highlights

- Wikidata `https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Property:P6138`
- reference archive for *swmath.org*, HAL, etalab
- part of the french National Plan for Open Science

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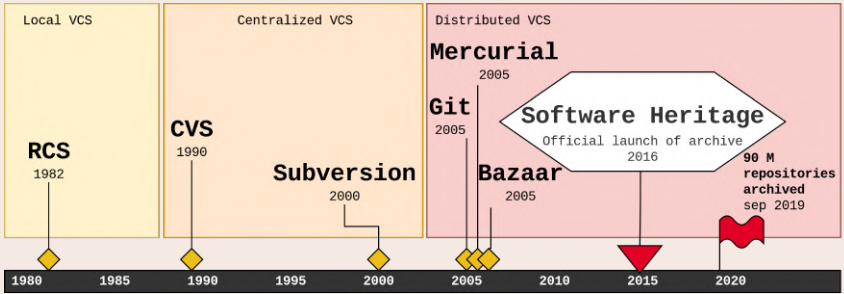
Version control system (VCS)

- records changes made to a (set of) *source code file* (s)
- allows to operate on versions: diff/merge/fork/recover etc.
- essential tool for software development

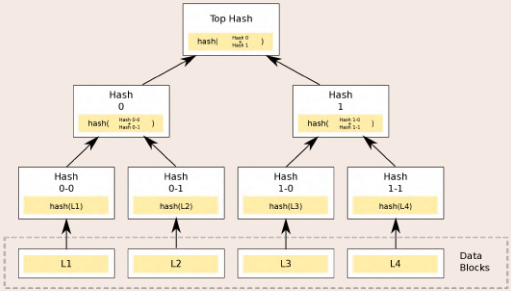
Three decades of evolution



Requirements for the D in DVCS

- intrinsic unique identifiers… (here: *cryptographic signature*, aka "hash")
- … that work for tree structures (software directories)

Merkle tree to the rescue (R. C. Merkle, Crypto 1979)

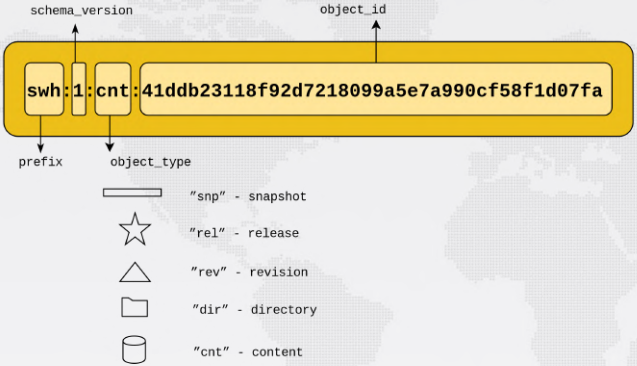


Combination of

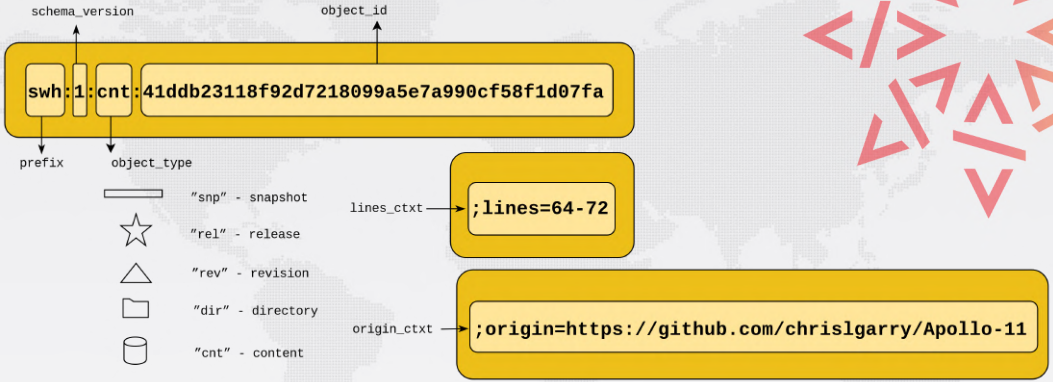
- tree
- hash function

The SWH-ID schema: syntax and semantics

The SWH-ID schema: syntax and semantics



The SWH-ID schema: syntax and semantics



Walkthrough the Parmap article

Danelutto and Di Cosmo, 2012

6. Conclusions

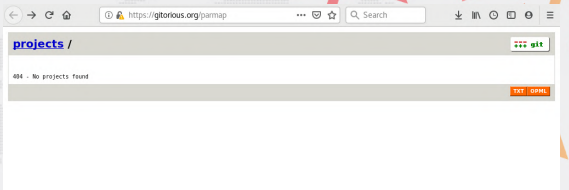
Parmap is a minimalistic library allowing to exploit multi-core architecture for OCaml programs. It has been designed with the goal of providing parallel map and reduce to OCaml programmers in a fairly natural way, such that the "minimal disruption" principle stated by Cole in his skeleton manifesto paper is enforced. In fact, in order to use Parmap, it is sufficient to substitute the calls to List functions with calls to the equivalent Parmap functions. The clean and efficient implementation of Parmap is such that nearly optimal speedups are achieved on state-of-the-art multi-core architectures when suitable grain computations are parallelized. The full source code of the Parmap library is available under the LGPL licence from http://gitorious.org/parmap, and is now also incorporated in the GODI installation system for OCaml libraries.

M. Danelutto and R. Di Cosmo, /A "Minimal Disruption" skeleton experiment:

Seamless map & reduce embedding in OCaml," Procedia CS, vol. 9, pp.

1837–1846, 2012. [Online]. Available: [DOI: 10.1016/j.procs.2012.04.202]

Accessed on the 6th of February 2020



swh:1:snp:78209702559384ee1b5586df13eca84a5123aa82

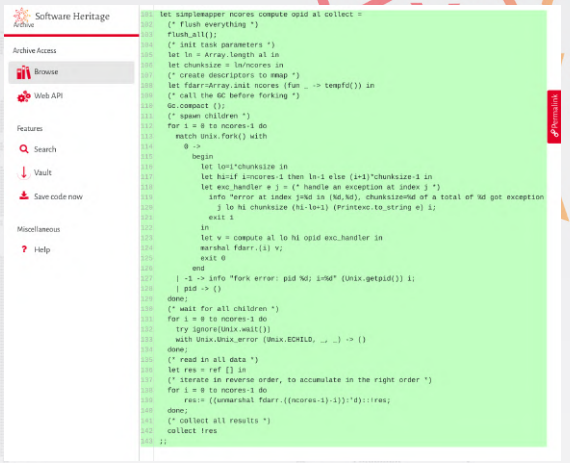
Only 8 years later !

an algorithm in the source code

Figure 1 in [Danelutto and Di Cosmo, 2012]

Parmap's implementation of the distribution, fork, and recollection phase

```
let simplemapper ncores compute opid al combine =
  (* init task parameters *)
  let ln = Array.length al in
  let chunksize = ln/ncores in
  (* create descriptors to mmap *)
  let fdarr=Array.init ncores (fun _ -> tempfd()) in
  (* spawn children *)
  for i = 0 to ncores-1 do
    match Unix.fork() with
      0 -> (* children code: compute on the chunk *)
           (let lo=i*chunksize in
            let hi=if i=ncores-1 then ln-1
                   else (i+1)*chunksize-1 in
            let v = compute al lo hi opid in
            marshal fdarr.(i) v;
            exit 0)
    | -1 -> failwith "Fork error"
    | pid -> ()
  done;
  (* wait for all children *)
  for i = 0 to ncores-1 do ignore(Unix.wait()) done;
  (* read in all data *)
  let res = ref [] in
  (* accumulate the results in the right order *)
  for i = 0 to ncores-1 do
      res:= ((unmarshal fdarr.((ncores-1)-i)):'d)::!res
  done;
  (* combine all results *)
  combine !res;;
```



swh:1:cnt:d5214ff9562a1fe78db51944506ba48c20de3379;

origin=https://gitorious.org/parmap/parmap.git;lines=101-143

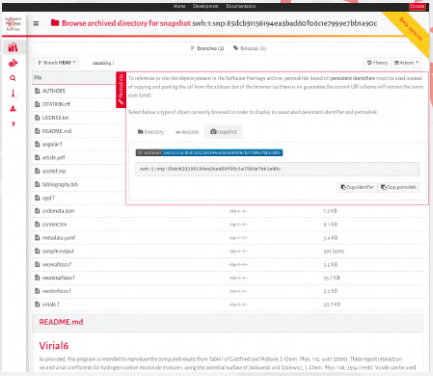
A solution to address the reproducibility crisis

McBane. 2020

Correspondence should be addressed to George C. McBane (mcbaneg@gvsu.edu)
The authors have declared that no competing interests exists.
Code is available at http://faculty.gvsu.edu/mcbaneg/virial6-rescience.zip. – SWH swh:1:snp:85dcb31156194ea3bad60f06c1e7999e7bb1a90c.

George C. McBane. (2020). [Rp] Reproduction of interaction second virial coefficient calculation for H$_2$–CO interactions [J. Chem. Phys. vol. 112, 4417 (2000)]. Rescience C, 6(1), #1.

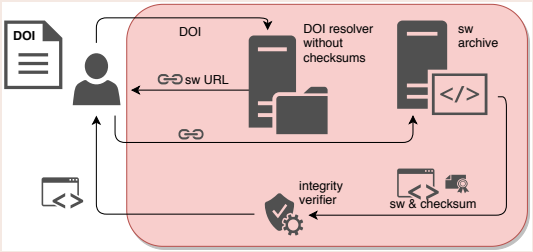
http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3630224



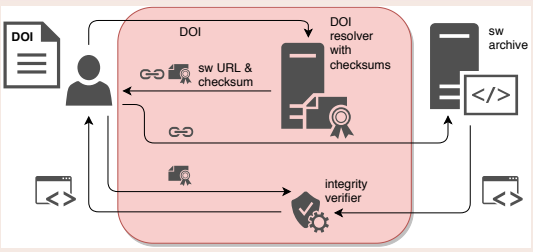
swh:1:snp:85dcb31156194ea3bad60f06c1e7999e7bb1a90c

Zoom on the trust model for identifiers

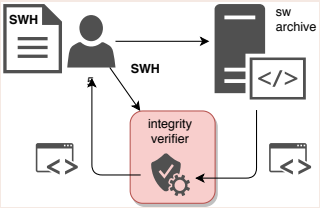
Trust model for usual DOIs



Trust model for DOIs with checksums



Trust model for SWH-IDs



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Prepare your public repository with:

- README, LICENSE, AUTHORS & codemeta.json files

What's a good README

extracted from Eric Steven Raymond and Make a README

MUST include:

- Name and a description of the software.

SHOULD include:

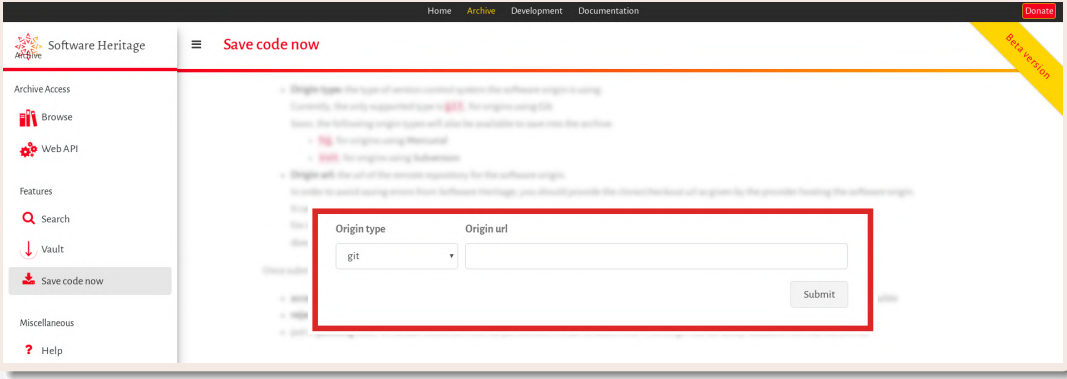
- how to run and use the source code
- build environment, installation, requirements

CAN include:

- project website or documentation pointer and recent news
- visuals

Save code now on https://archive.softwareheritage.org/save/

- git, svn or mercurial
- intrinsic metadata files
- complete history



Choose the granularity level for the reference:

file (with code fragment)

swh:1:**cnt**:c60366bc03936eede6509b23307321faf1035e23;lines=473-537
... and add *;origin=https://github.com/sagemath/sage/*

James McCaffrey's **algorithm** in sageMath

directory

swh:1:**dir**:c6f07c2173a458d098de45d4c459a8f1916d900f
... and add *;origin=https://github.com/id-Software/Quake-III-Arena/*

source code of **Quake-III Arena** from id-Software

specific release

swh:1:**rel**:22ece559cc7cc2364edc5e5593d63ae8bd229f9f
... and add *;origin=https://github.com/darktable-org/darktable/*

release 2.3.0 of Darktable, dated 24 December 2016

full snapshot (including all branches and all releases)

swh:1:**snp**:c7c108084bc0bf3d81436bf980b46e98bd338453
... and add *;origin=https://github.com/darktable-org/darktable/*

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

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It's more complex than it seems!

Software is complex

Structure	monolithic/composite; self-contained/external dependencies
Lifetime	one-shot/long term
Community	one man/one team/distributed community
Authorship	complex set of roles
Authority	institutions/organizations/communities/single person

Various granularities

Exact status of the source code for reproducibility, e.g.

"you can find at swh:1:cnt:cdf19c4487c43c76f3612557d4dc61f9131790a4;lines=146-187 the core algorithm used in this article"

(Major) release *"This functionality is available in OCaml version 4"*

Project *"Inria has created OCaml and Scikit-Learn"*.

Proposals for metadata and citation in the scholarly world

Refined ontology for contributors

- Design, Architecture,
- Coding, Testing, Debugging,
- Documentation, Maintenance, Support,
- Management

Reference is distinct from citation

- Reference is for *reproducibility*
  and now we can get it right!
- Citation is for *credit*
  and the jury is still out…

They must not be conflated

Keep the human in the loop

When *credit* is at stake, automation/crowdsourcing is not enough!

Humans *are needed* to get *quality information*

Experiments are ongoing on *moderated* software deposit … (IDCC 2020)

Curated Archiving of Research Software Artifacts : lessons learned from the French open archive (HAL) https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-02475835v1

Conclusion

Research software

- pillar of open science
- finally in the limelight

Doing it right is not easy

- *simplistic* approaches, "just data", ...
- soon part of *research evaluation*

You can help make a change

- leverage Software Heritage in conferences and journals for *archival* and *reference*
- join the conversation on *software citation* and *software evaluation* criteria

Where can you participate?

- Software Source Code Interest group - RDA-SSC IG
- Software Source code Identification Working Group - RDA-Force11-SCID WG
- Software Citation Implementation Working Group - Force11-SCIWG

Come in, we're open !

www.softwareheritage.org — learn more
save.softwareheritage.org — save code now
www.softwareheritage.org/swhap — legacy software acquisition process
forge.softwareheritage.org — our own code

Questions?

References


Jean-François Abramatic, Roberto Di Cosmo, Stefano Zacchiroli
Building the Universal Archive of Source Code, CACM, October 2018 (10.1145/3183558)

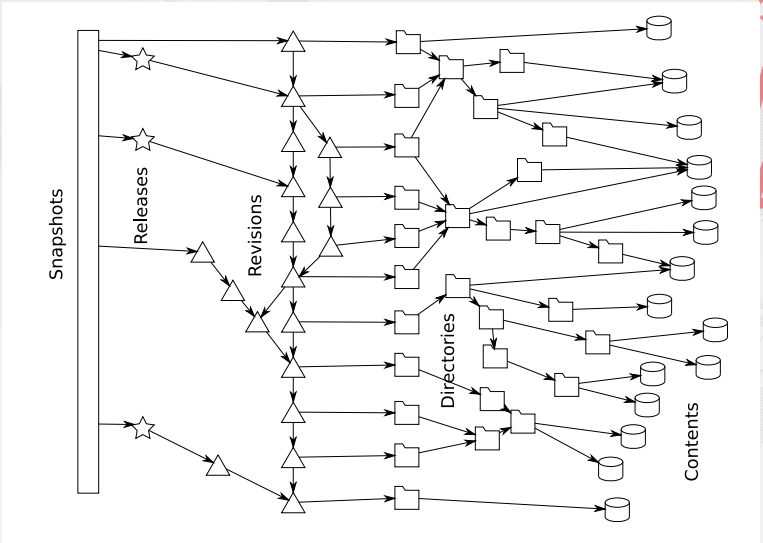

Roberto Di Cosmo, Morane Gruenpeter, Stefano Zacchiroli
Referencing Source Code Artifacts: a Separate Concern in Software Citation,
CiSE 2020 (10.1109/MCSE.2019.2963148) (hal-02446202)


Pierre Alliez, Roberto Di Cosmo, Benjamin Guedj, Alain Girault, Mohand-Said Hacid, Arnaud Legrand and Nicolas Rougier
Attributing and referencing (research) software: Best practices and outlook from Inria,
CiSE 2020 (10.1109/MCSE.2019.2949413) (hal-02135891)

Outline

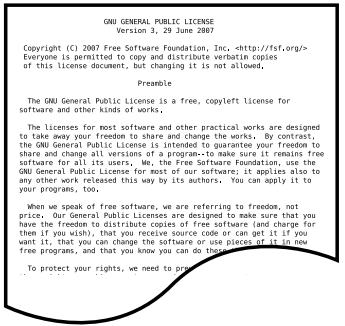
7 Worked example Merkle tree

A worked example



A worked example

Contents



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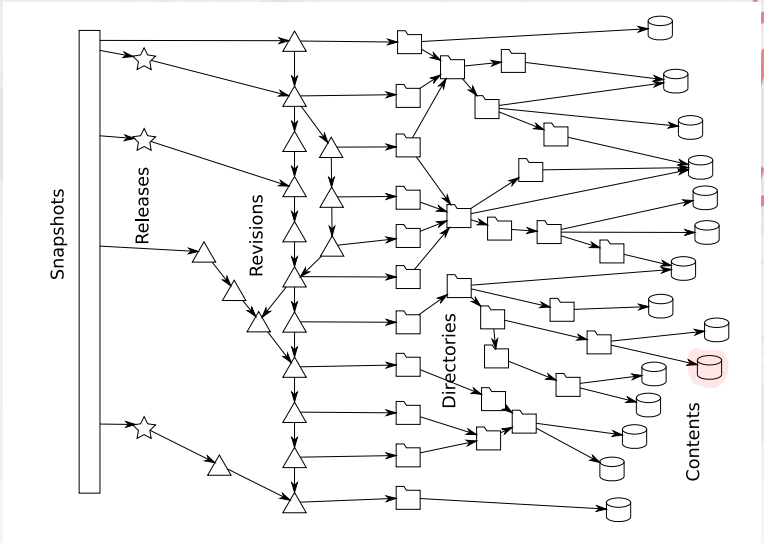
want it, that you can change the software or use pieces of it in new
free programs, and that you know you can do these

To protect your rights, we need to pro

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

A worked example



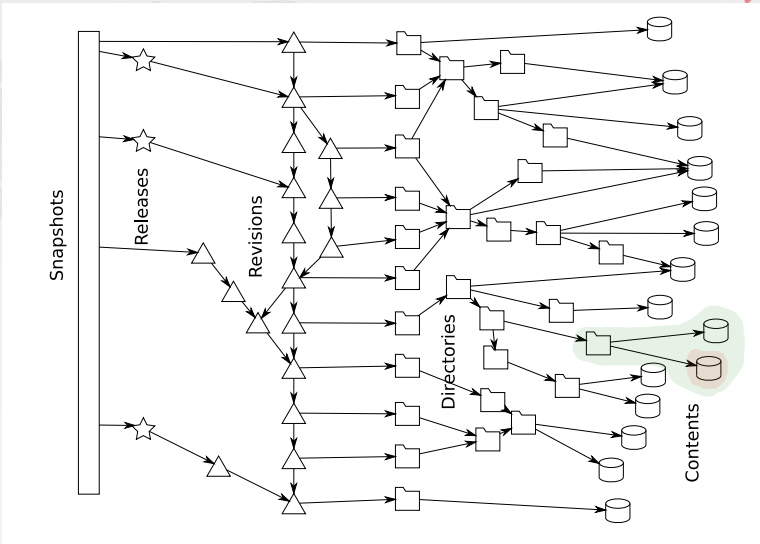
A worked example

Directories

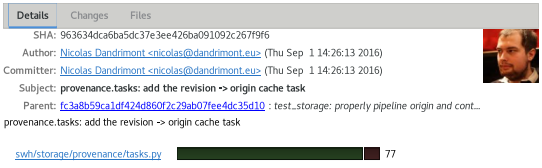
```
100644 blob c5baade4c44766042186ef858c0fd63d587ebf09 .gitignore
100644 blob 2d0a34af6f52cf3cf6b0c2f7bd0648fbd255e77f AUTHORS
100644 blob 94a9ed024d3859793618152ea559a168bbcbb5e2 LICENSE
100644 blob d9b2665a435a43f8a79a84e0867751dfb095c7bb MANIFEST.in
100644 blob 524175c2bad0b35b975f79284c2f5a6d5eaf2eb4 Makefile
100644 blob 5c7e3a5bbddb038682ba7793f440492ed9678bb3 Makefile.local
100644 blob 8617980629cd24e6080404f09aa749b085b3e07b README.db_testing
100644 blob 76b29f94cf815e0869c414d38d78d7ce08ec514e README.dev
040000 tree e1e10ecef948af0b93adb0372afc89f12e92618a bin
040000 tree 83e56d0beaf7793c77a45a345c80fcb8af503013 debian
040000 tree a34c9c4ba213f0cedc67f9816348d27955577af5 docs
100644 blob f2a6d32c6135aa7287bbd76167b01df2ae4f1539 requirements.txt
100755 blob eee147c36caf1bbc2d820da8dc026cb5b68180bc setup.py
040000 tree 224bb4c1f4c67fca1d160bffd2d06094e7e1abf3 sql
040000 tree 8631c9cd77bbe993168107ab5baf51f40c6300be swh
040000 tree 8fb905b56ba8ed692f1209b2773b474c6c1d66c1 utils
```

id: 515f00d44e92c65322aaa9bf3fa097c00ddb9c7d

A worked example



Revisions

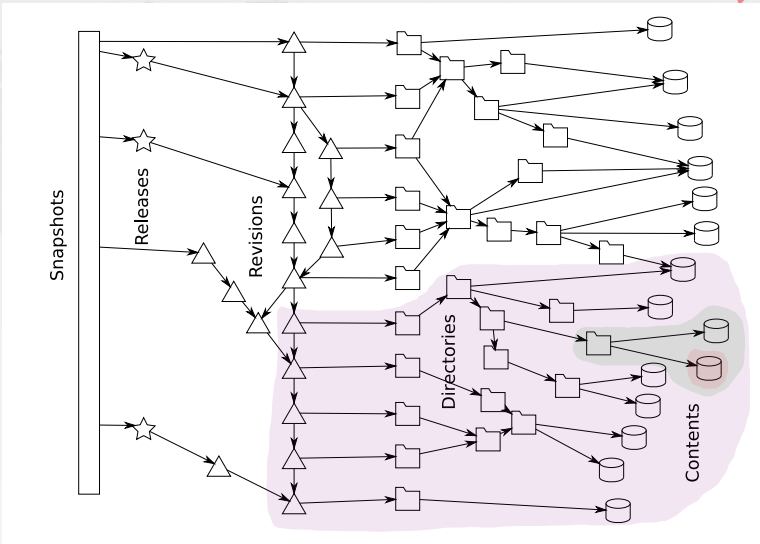


tree 515f00d44e92c65322aaa9bf3fa097c00ddb9c7d
parent fc3a8b59ca1df424d860f2c29ab07fee4dc35d10
author Nicolas Dandrimont <nicolas@dandrimont.eu> 1472732773 +0200
committer Nicolas Dandrimont <nicolas@dandrimont.eu> 1472732773 +0200

provenance.tasks: add the revision -> origin cache task

id: 963634dca6ba5dc37e3ee426ba091092c267f9f6

A worked example



A worked example

Releases

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

Release swh.storage 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
-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----

iQIzBAABCAAdBQJXvZTNFhxuaWNvbGFzQGRhbmRyaW1vbnQuZXUACgkQ7AWLMo2+
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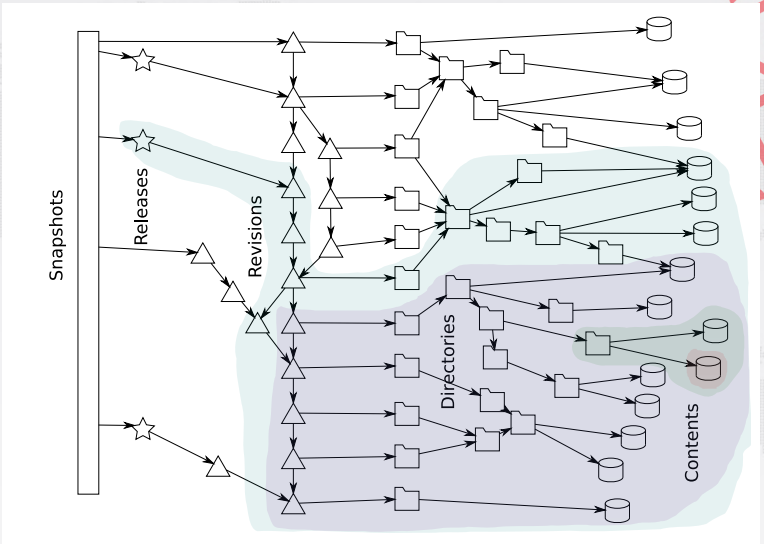
id: 85083a5cc14a441c89dea73f5bdf67c3f9c6afdb

A worked example



A worked example

git show-refs

Snapshots

```
commit 08ffeb25770109525eb3ce21691466c53a1d9158 refs/heads/atime
commit ba5443a24e3f9fe323a46c292cec4fcbe61c67eb refs/heads/directory-listing-arrays
commit d69e0dbf892383ff6589b27fbe1c05d27238d9c5 refs/heads/foo
commit 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 72a21991a384e539996dbb867bfb0bee72aee2cd refs/tags/v0.0.10
tag 3590e0ca0eb070e5b376705fa230bbfa4ffa5cc refs/tags/v0.0.11
tag 33378427a403ba569a67777b8d58f667dfbc6556 refs/tags/v0.0.12
tag 06f74652755b327cf590311c2bfa036cf3b4b35d refs/tags/v0.0.13
tag 5a6325fe86ab854b581d7442667d92a11e32f3bd refs/tags/v0.0.14
tag 586fba4e580b4f5fab05f599367643cbcb1a9c7f refs/tags/v0.0.15
tag 8cd8bb885f4098bf363177742bd289f660e5be51c 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
...
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id: b464cad1b66fff266a37b46ea6e7a04b545e904b