Software Heritage

A revolutionary infrastructure for Open Science

Roberto Di Cosmo

October 15th, 2020
La Rochelle

Software Heritage

THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE

Outline

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

2005 *Open Access* debate

2007 *Free Software Thematic Group*
150 members 40 projects 200Me

2015 *Software Heritage* at INRIA

2018 *National Committee for Open Science*, France

Outline

Source code is *special*

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

Apollo 11 source code (excerpt)

```
P63SPOT3      CA      BIT6        # IS THE LR ANTENNA IN POSITION 1 YET
              EXTEND
              RAND    CHAN33
              EXTEND
              BZF     P63SPOT4    # BRANCH IF ANTENNA ALREADY IN POSITION 1

              CAF     CODE500     # ASTRONAUT:    PLEASE CRANK THE
              TC      BANKCALL    #               SILLY THING AROUND
              CADR    GOPERF1
              TCF     GOTOPOOH    # TERMINATE
              TCF     P63SPOT3    # PROCEED    SEE IF HE'S LYING

P63SPOT4      TC      BANKCALL    # ENTER      INITIALIZE LANDING RADAR
              CADR    SETPOS1

              TC      POSTJUMP    # OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD ...
              CADR    BURNBABY
```

Quake III source code (excerpt)

```c
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;
}
```

Len Shustek, Computer History Museum

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

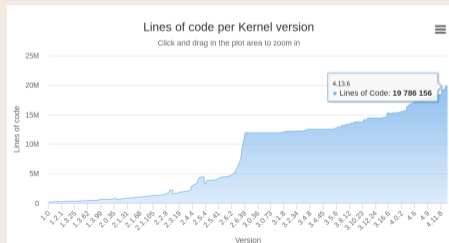# ~ 50 years, a lightning fast growth

Apollo 11 Guidance Computer (~60.000 lines), 1969

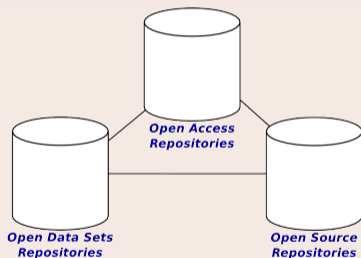"When I first got into it, nobody knew what it was that we were doing. It was like the Wild West."

Margaret Hamilton

Linux Kernel

... now in your pockets!

Software Source code: pillar of Open Science

Three pillars of Open Science

Open Access
Repositories

Open Data Sets
Repositories

Open Source
Repositories

A plurality of needs

Researcher
- **archive** and **reference** software used in articles
- **find** useful software
- get **credit** for developed software
- verify/reproduce/improve results

Laboratory/team track software contributions
- produce reports / web page

Research Organization know its **software assets**
- technology **transfer**
- impact **metrics**

Archival

Research software artifacts must be properly archived

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

Identification

Research software artifacts must be properly referenced

make 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!*)

We need an infrastructure *designed for* software source code now we have it!

Outline

Software Heritage
THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE

Collect, preserve and share *all* software source code

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

Reference catalog

find and **reference** all software source code

Universal archive

preserve all software source code

Research infrastructure

enable analysis of all software source code

Coverage

As of today the archive already contains and keeps safe for you the following amount of objects:

Source files	Commits	Projects
8,846,381,610	1,880,663,008	140,348,311

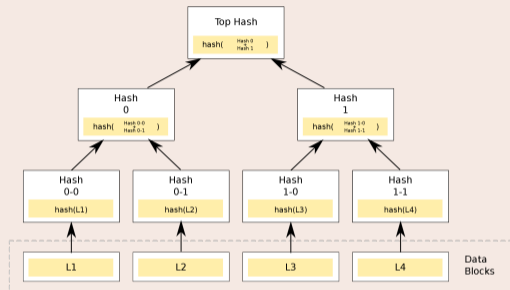| Directories	Authors	Releases
7,506,954,410	38,603,337	15,051,940

- ~400 TB (uncompressed) blobs, ~20 B nodes, ~300 B edges

Outline

Full development history permanently archived in a uniform data model.

Much more than an archive!

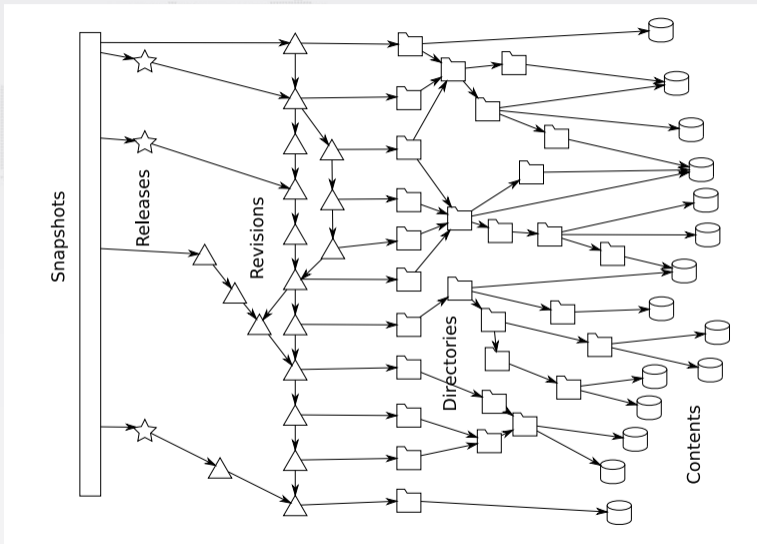## Merkle tree (R. C. Merkle, Crypto 1979)

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

Contents


```
              GNU GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE
                Version 3, 29 June 2007

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 of this license document, but changing it is not allowed.

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the GNU General Public License is intended to guarantee your freedom to
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price.  Our General Public Licenses are designed to make sure that you
have the freedom to distribute copies of free software (and charge for
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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 things.

   To protect your rights, we need to pre
```
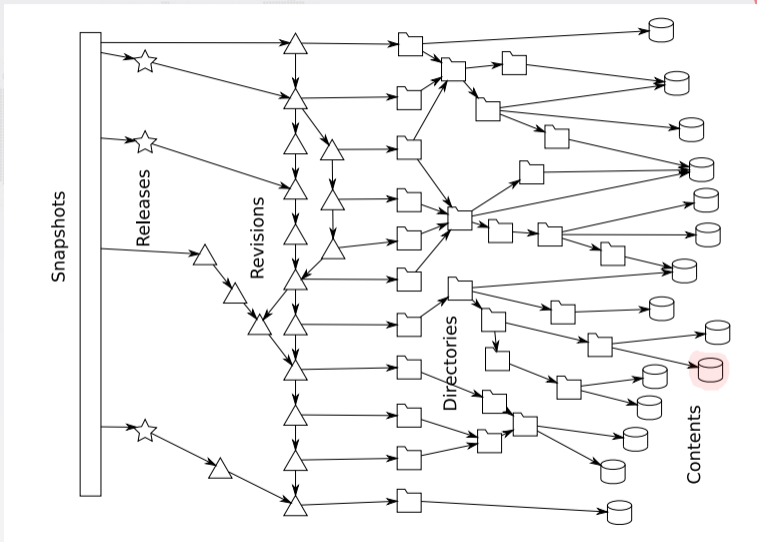
sha1: 8624bcdae55baeef...
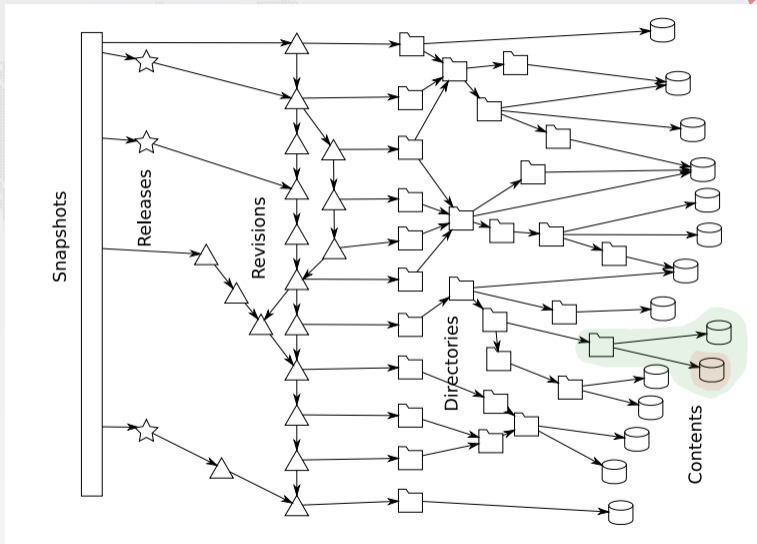sha256: 8ceb4b9ee5aded...
sha1_git: 94a9ed024d385...
length: 35147

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

Revisions

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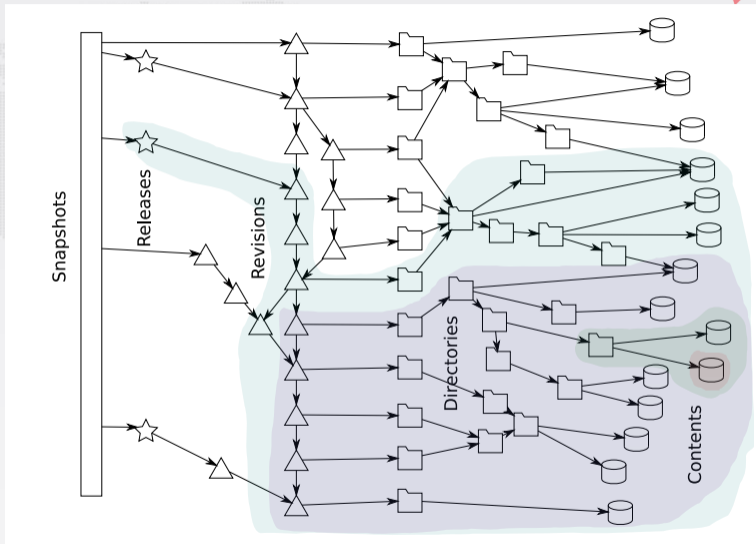tagger Nicolas Dandrimont <nicolas@dandrimont.eu> 1472042163 +0200

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+
neqorw//aq6SOb5DijzEa+kWN3rXgVS+1K1vEVh1wNKAwx8eKJ7aX2kEiLDtt7uf
ahpZ6pz3q8nqs6aC1+YrxBfcih3L2YtrdZeWXWqr8xWNMaEoYDb8qaphwh8AD5t2
ICBlit2uJtXuCrDt93eKKPwvzZXg+hB0sMWy35Dr6jW7Z7K4Mu/PGgIyIHPY55yo
IGEndWno7VfH1Vm6t1n5qB7I5mXRaqA+becqddubTZ2xjj+jzIUqC8cyqN3hm/fL
qsj2mu8kyz3t8tG/H1/pV+I5OwBInPoS5TH0tuojEVgPK/dHSP79QuHDHZFkCao
kIj6kAWyU80Mxb+nKV/jeLbrR3+yWBFj3Qp5a1/V8oOTh6E1dALcNMpEaKCoKtMt
d/gMRax1l1g0EDfnsW67G6sDwKPKPHhgfVLQ3nV3GaQQTnu1RpMz06H9/tAwzC
Gq/K1PdHT4hzOiI46wYPZyje0U2VXGFu6vVU9vFQ4ZR/Wjn+0zMzdcRdrlJSUOMn
RpTTfUsbXUeXHGOpkgXhSYTnvp1gdPc76UST5K0aGe84AZm1lk0mGrwXCVfPqlYo
nhhibBSHBNMoqyF6yTSOpUbYK70tpYRRUGKWDeRK0wKSxkWKUZGtKzy6JYqIjo29
guIwqZQif5qWQCB0OontAL2+HvPFaVyckMejUhg62cP/+EHIvUk=
=kOxP
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----
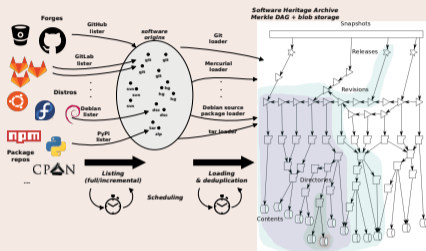
id: 85083a5cc14a441c89dea73f5bdf67c3f9c6afdb

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 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 586fba4e580b4f5fab05f599367643cbcb1a9c7f refs/tags/v0.0.15
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 3fb168c2072a5d625212425a1e5dfc0f5ffa1df refs/tags/v0.0.22
tag 8cdbee8da4d73fc5d262789e460a16ac3c72aba4 refs/tags/v0.0.23
...
```

git show-refs

id: b464cad1b66fff266a37b46ea6e7a04b545e904b

Addressing the four needs

Archive (8B+ files, 130M+ projects!)

- save.softwareheritage.org
- deposit.softwareheritage.org

Reference (20 billion SWHIDs)

Intrinsic, decentralised, cryptographically strong identifiers, SWHIDs

Now supported in SPDX 2.2, Wikidata etc.

Describe

- Intrinsic metadata from source code
- Contributed the Codemeta generator

Cite

- Contributed software citation style biblatex-software, v 1.2-2 now on CTAN

Outline

A walkthrough

- Browse the archive
- Get and use SWHIDs (full specification available online)
- cite software with the biblatex-software style from CTAN
- Example use in a research article: compare Fig. 1 and conclusions
    - in the 2012 version
    - in the updated version using SWHIDs and Software Heritage
- Example use in a research article: extensive use of SWHIDs in a replication experiment
- Trigger archival of your preferred software in a breeze
- curated deposit in SWH via HAL, see for example: LinBox, SLALOM, Givaro, NS2DDV, SumGra, Coq proof, …
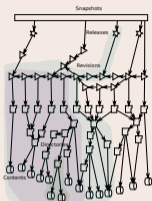- rescue landmark legacy software, see the SWHAP process with UNESCO

Outline

A revolutionary infrastructure for industry

The *graph* of Software Development
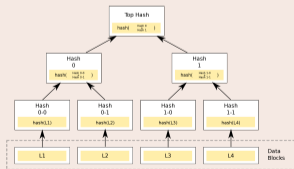

All of the software development in a single graph!

- **lookup** by content hash
- **wayback machine** for software development
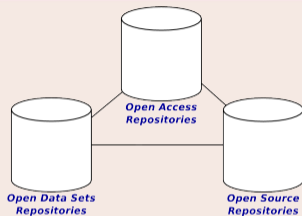 - http://archive.softwareheritage.org/
- … and much more

The *blockchain* of Software Development

All of a software development…   in a single Merkle graph!
Widely used crypto (e.g., Git, blockchains, IPFS, …)

- built-in **deduplication**
- intrinsic, **unforgeable identifiers** at all levels
- simplifies **traceability** (licensing, supply chain management)

A *pillar* of Open Science

The *reference archive* of Research Software for Open Science
- curated deposit of research software
  - in collaboration with HAL, CCSD and Inria IES
  - now open *to all researchers*!
- intrinsic identifiers for reproducibility

Reference platform for *Big Code*

- unique observatory of all software development
- big data, machine learning paradise: classification, trends, coding patterns, code completion…

First datasets are available!

- full graph of software development (~20Bn nodes, ~200Bn edges) see Pietri et al., MSR 2019 `https://dx.doi.org/10.1109/MSR.2019.00030`
- MSR 2020 mining competition

Archiving and referencing (your) research software

Save code now

two simple steps to get your repository archived:

- prepare your source code
- go to `https://archive.softwareheritage.org/browse/origin/save/`

that's it!

Reference code: precisely, and forever!

three simple steps:

- find your code in `https://archive.softwareheritage.org`
- select your code fragment (optional)
- get the link from the red permalink tab, and use it!

Outline

Sharing the vision

UNESCO
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

And many more ...
www.softwareheritage.org/support/testimonials

Donors, members, sponsors

Inría
INVENTEURS DU MONDE NUMÉRIQUE

Platinum sponsors

Gold sponsors

Silver sponsors

Bronze sponsors

Outline

Some key dates

Summer 2015

The collection starts: first server, (very) early prototype

June 30th 2016

Public unveiling, with the first sponsors: Microsoft and DANS

April 3rd 2017

Unesco - Inria agreement on software access and preservation.

June 7th 2018

Opening the archive to the world

December 7th 2018

Starting the mirror network

February 26th 2019

Publication of the expert meeting Paris Call on Software Source Code

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

.6 November 2018

PARIS CALL
SOFTWARE SOURCE CODE
AS HERITAGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNESCO, Inria, Software Heritage invite
40 international experts meet in Paris . . .

Their call is published on Feb 2019

It's an important *policy tool*, already referenced and used . . .   *yes, you can sign it!*

`https://en.unesco.org/foss/paris-call-software-source-code`

Outline

https://code.etalab.gouv.fr

ENEA mirror

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.

Welcoming ENEA

ENEA

Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development

- first institutional mirror
- increased resilience
- AI infrastructure for researchers
- stepping stone to
  an European joint effort

The Software Heritage Acquisition Process (SWHAP)

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 : an important step forward

- detailed guidelines to curate landmark legacy source code and archive it on Software Heritage
- intense cooperation with Università di Pisa and UNESCO
- open to all, we'll promote it worldwide

https://www.softwareheritage.org/swhap

Adoption is coming …

HAL software curated deposit workflow

Curated Archiving of Research Software Artifacts
International Journal of Digical Curation, 2020

Reference archive for swmath.org

See *code* links, e.g.
SemiPar package

Image Processing On Line (IPOL)

- archives
- reference
- cite: see BibLaTeX example

JTCAM (Theor. Comp. and Appl. Mech)

- instructions for authors recommend archival in Software Heritage
- biblatex-software in journal LaTeX class

Policy

now officially in the
French National Plan for Open Science

Self archival guidelines

Software Heritage
1 Prepare your public repository
  README, AUTHORS & LICENSE files
2 Save your code
  http://save.softwareheritage.org/
3 Reference your work
  (full repository, specific version or code fragment)

- online summary
- full ICMS 2020 paper

Breaking news, and a lesson to be learned

Saving 250.000 endangered repositories...

- summer 2019: BitBucket announce Mercurial VCS phase out
- fall 2019: Software Heritage teams up with Octobus (funded by NLNet, thanks!)
- july 2020: BitBucket erases *250.000* repositories
- august 2020: bitbucket-archive.softwareheritage.org is live

... preserving the web of knowledge   (Tweet is here)

Gabriel Altay
@gabrielaltay

Just realized @Bitbucket disabled all mercurial repositories when the @asclnet informed me that a link associated with an old paper of mine was down. Thought all was lost, but someone archived all the repos! very classy move by @octobus_net and @SWHeritage.

Traduire le Tweet

1:48 AM · 31 août 2020 · Twitter Web App

Bottomline
explicit deposit is important, ...
        ... and we must promote it...
                ... but will never be enough.

(think also of all software dependencies!)

Towards Reproducible Open Science

archive research software in SWH

reference it using *intrinsic identifiers*

build on top of SWH, *do not try to rebuild SWH*!

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
- let's prevent a useless diaspora

Scientific challenges in building Software Heritage

graph queries, efficient storage, distributed archival, classification, search, …

Using Software Heritage for research

the *Software Heritage graph dataset* is now available!

- AWS: `https://registry.opendata.aws/software-heritage/`
- guidelines: `https://upsilon.cc/~zack/research/publications/msr-2019-swh.pdf`

Outline

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

Jean-François Abramatic, Roberto Di Cosmo, Stefano Zacchiroli
Building the Universal Archive of Source Code
Communications of the ACM, October 2018

Roberto Di Cosmo, Morane Gruenpeter, Stefano Zacchiroli
Identifiers for Digital Objects: the Case of Software Source Code Preservation
iPRES 2018: Intl. Conf. on Digital Preservation