

Towards a Software Pillar for Open Science

from policy to implementation

Roberto Di Cosmo

Chair, Software Chapter, National Committee for Open Science
Director, Software Heritage
Inria and Université de Paris Cité

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Software Heritage

THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Free and Open Source Software
- 3 Understanding the tidal waves
- 4 Software as a Pillar of Open Science
- 5 An emerging policy framework
- 6 Towards implementation: a perspective from France
- 7 Need for a global approach: the case of A.R.D.C.
- 8 Actions



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

2021 *EOSC Task Force on Infrastructures for Software*,
European Union

Software Source Code is Precious Knowledge

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.”

Apollo 11 source code (excerpt)

```
P63SP0T3      CA      BIT6      # IS THE LR ANTENNA IN POSITION 1 YET
              EXTEND
              RAND   CHAN33
              EXTEND
              BZF    P63SP0T4      # BRANCH IF ANTENNA ALREADY IN POSITION 1

              CAF    CODE500      # ASTRONAUT:  PLEASE CRANK THE
              TC     BANKCALL      #              SILLY THING AROUND
              CADR   GOPERF1
              TCF    GOTOP00H      # TERMINATE
              TCF    P63SP0T3      # PROCEED    SEE IF HE'S LYING

P63SP0T4      TC     BANKCALL      # ENTER      INITIALIZE LANDING RADAR
              CADR   SETPOS1

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

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 = 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

2006

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

~ 50 years, a lightning fast growth

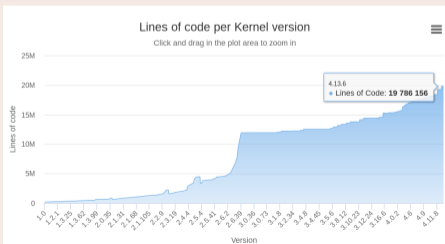
Apollo 11 Guidance Computer (~60.000 lines), 1969



"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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Software is eating the world...

Business

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Home World U.S. Politics Economy Business Tech Markets Opinion Arts

ESSAY

Why Software Is Eating The World

By Marc Andreessen

August 20, 2011

This week, Hewlett-Packard (where I am on the board) announced that it is exploring jettisoning its struggling PC business in favor of investing more heavily in software, where it sees better potential for growth. Meanwhile, Google plans to buy up the cellphone handset maker Motorola Mobility. Both moves surprised the tech world. But both moves are also in line with a trend I've observed, one that makes me optimistic about the future

Software companies

outperform or buy out

hardware companies

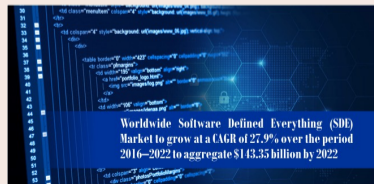
Marc Andreessen, 2011

Technology

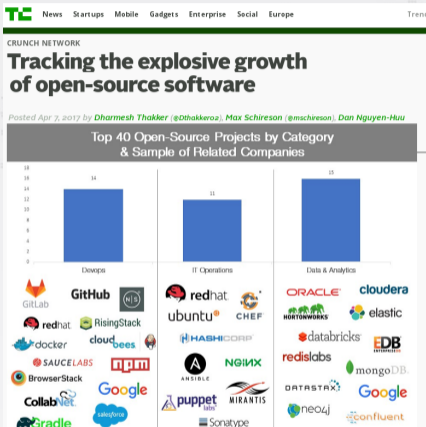
Software Defined Everything

Hardware gets commoditised

Software becomes the new value!



... Open Source is eating the Software World



Open Source Software

can be openly (re)used, modified, (re)distributed, *with full access to its source code!*

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Free Software: 40 years, 4 layers, in a nutshell

First 15 years: 1984-...

The early revolution

focus *freedom* for users and (especially) developers

keyword free software

The second wave: 1999-...

Progressive industry adoption

focus software quality and reduced cost

keyword open source (~25th anniversary!)

The third wave: 2010-...

Ecosystems, strategic alignment

focus community, organisation, foundations

keyword governance

The fourth wave: 2015-...

Industry consolidation

focus mergers and acquisitions

keyword control

We really are in a *knowledge economy*!

- competencies
- talent
- network
- adoption
- mindshare

Bottomline

The infrastructure for (open) collaboration is the new competitive advantage!

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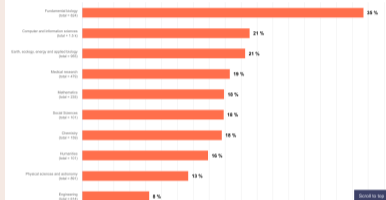
Software is a pillar of Open Science

Software powers modern research

Proportion of publications in France that mention code or software sharing by discipline

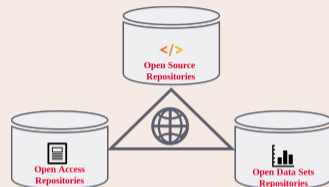
Sort by:

Highest volume Highest sharing rate



Over 20% of articles across all disciplines share software
2023 French Open Science Monitor

Key pillar: software



Links are **important**

Nota Bene

software may be a *tool*, a *research outcome* and a *research object*

access to the *source code* is essential!

Preserving (the history of) source code is necessary for *reproducibility*

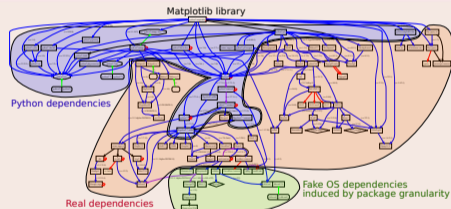
Source code is *special* (software is *not* data)

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
 - *research software* a thin top layer
- sophisticated *developer communities*



The human side

design, algorithm, code, test, documentation, community, funding

and so many more facets ...

How are we managing our software ?

Reproducibility, maintenance in Academia



(articles: [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#))

Security, integrity, traceability in Industry



Can they track the software that they

- ship, use, acquire
- has that bug or vulnerability

awareness is raising at the level of public policy

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International highlights

Paris Call on Software Source code (2019, UNESCO)

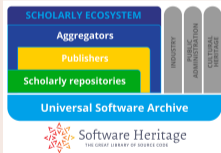


40 international experts call to “promote software development as a valuable research activity, and research software as a key enabler for Open Science/Open Research, [...] recognising in the careers of academics their contributions to high quality software development, in all their forms”



Open Source in UNESCO [recommendations](#) for Open Science, 2021

Software in the EOSC



2020 [EOSC SIRS](#) connect scholarly ecosystem via Software Heritage

2021 [EOSC Task Force](#) on Infrastructures for Research Software

2022 [FAIRCORE4EOSC project](#) WP6 implements SIRS report

2023 [INFRAEOSC call](#) on quality of scientific software

And much more

Software track in [OSEC 2022](#), Software working group launched in Science Europe, DFG adds software [to model CV \(9/22\)](#), NASA unveils [Open Science policy \(12/22\)](#), ...

What is at stake

ARDC

- **Archive** for retrieval (*reproducibility*)
- **Reference** for identification (*reproducibility*)
- **Describe** for discovery and reuse
- **Cite/Credit** for credit and evaluation

Before ARDC

- **Development** practices and tools (VCS, build system, test suites, CI, code quality, ...)
- **Opening up** towards a community (documentation, organization, communication)

Need training, tooling, infrastructures, best practices

Beyond ARDC

- **Policies** (dissemination, reuse, careers, ...)
- **Sustainability** (legal, financial, etc.)
- Technology transfer
- Advanced technologies and tools (quality, traceability, etc.)

a humbling challenge, and a complex one (we are not in a vacuum)

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French National plan for Open Science, 2021-2024



SECOND FRENCH PLAN FOR OPEN SCIENCE

Generalising open science in France 2021-2024



1

Second French Plan for Open Science



Launch on 6 July 2021 by Frédérique Vidal, Minister for Higher Education, Research and Innovation

- Multiplying the **levers for change** in order to **generalise open science practices**
- Structuring the **policy for opening up or sharing research data**
- New commitments to the **opening of source code** produced by research
- **European and international inclusion** in the context of the French Presidency of the European Union
- **Disciplinary and thematic variations**: open science policies must be adapted to disciplinary specificities

2

Path Three : Opening up and promoting source code produced by research

7

Recognize and support the dissemination under an open source licence of software produced by publicly funded research programmes

« The opening of software source code is a major challenge for the **reproducibility** of scientific results. »

8

Highlight the production of source code from higher education, research and innovation

« Distribution of software products under **open source licence** will be preferred. »

9

Define and promote an **open source software policy**

3

Define and promote an open source software policy

- Produce a **National Charter for Open Source Software** coming from higher education, research and innovation
- Develop the **link between data and software** through a network of **Chief Data Officers** in the various universities and research performing organisations.
- Develop the **economic models of open source software** and make them known within commercialization services
- **Support Software Heritage** and recommend it for the archiving and referencing of source code

Recognise source code as a contribution to research

- Create an **open source research software prize**
- **Provide greater recognition** for software production in the career of researchers, research support staff

Build an ecosystem that connects code, data and publications

- Develop **proper coordination** between software forges, open publication archives, data repositories and the scientific publishing sector.

4

Five action lines

- **Identifying and highlighting** research software production
- Technical **tools** and best practices
- Translation and **sustainability**
- National, European, and International **coordination**
- Recognition, evaluation and **careers**

Leveraging experience and connections

- Open Source thematic group in Systematic (since 2007, more on demand)
- Collaboration with DINUM, Eclipse Foundation, OW2, ...

Coordination with other colleges

- The Open Science passport software booklet

The first national Open Science award for Research Software

2022 edition

- 120+ high quality submissions
- 4 prizes
- 6 accessit
- 4 categories (inclusiveness)
- awarded by the Ministry of Research



Institutionalised as an annual award

2023 edition now open, already inspired other countries (e.g. Australian award)

Detailed description and lessons learned **forthcoming**



Twenty-three active members

Chairs: Roberto Di Cosmo and François Pellegrini

- Florent CHUFFART (Univ Grenoble Alpe)
- Mélanie CLÉMENT-FONTAINE (Univ Paris-Saclay - Versailles Saint-Quentin)
- Laurent COSTA (UMR 7041 ArScAn)
- Ludovic COURTÈS (Inria)
- Sébastien GÉRARD (Univ Paris-Saclay, CEA, List)
- Mathieu GIRAUD (CNRS, Univ Lille)
- Timothée GIRAUD (CNRS)
- Jean-Yves JEANNAS (Univ Lille, AFUL)
- Nicolas JULLIEN (IMT Atlantique)
- Daniel LE BERRE (Univ Artois, CNRS)
- Violaine LOUVET (CNRS / GRICAD - Univ Grenoble Alpes)
- Camille MAUMET (Inria, Univ Rennes, CNRS, Inserm)
- Clémentine MAURICE (CNRS)
- Grégory MIURA (Univ Bordeaux Montaigne)
- Raphaël MONAT (LIP6, Sorbonne Université)
- Patrick MOREAU (CNRS)
- Sophie RENAUDIN (AP-HP)
- Nicolas ROUGIER (Inria, Univ Bordeaux, CNRS)
- François SABOT (IRD)
- Sylvie TONDA-GOLDSTEIN (Inria)
- Samuel THIBAUT (Univ Bordeaux) (Univ Paris-Saclay)

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How (not) to preserve and share research software

A - Since the 1970's 1990's

.zip or .tar file on:

- ftp server (e.g. [gnu](#))
- web page ([example](#))
- document archive (+ DOI [sample](#))

B - Since the 2000's

Rely on *software forges*

- institutional/project (e.g. [example](#))
- free commercial ones: BitBucket, GitHub, GitLab, ... (e.g. [parmap](#))

C: a mix of the two

The screenshot shows a software artifact page with the following details:

- Two status indicators: "Artifacts Available" (green icon) and "Artifacts Evaluated & Functional" (red icon).
- Section: "Authors/Contributors: [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)"
- Section: "DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/...> Version: 1.0"
- Section: "Description" containing text: "A source archive of [redacted], and the version of [redacted] used in the paper eval. A more up-to-date version of [redacted] can be found at [github.com/\[redacted\]/\[redacted\].git](https://github.com/[redacted]/[redacted].git)"
- Section: "Assets" with a "Read Me" file and a "Download (3.5 KB)" button.

Can get no satisfaction...

- A *Poor user experience*
- B *No preservation guarantee*
- C *Can do so much better*

Forges are *not* archives!

2015: the first big bad news

Google Code and Gitorious.org shutdown: ~1M endangered repositories

- broken links in the web of knowledge (my papers too)

Big bad news keep coming in

- summer 2019: BitBucket announces Mercurial VCS sunset
- july 2020: BitBucket erases *250.000+* repositories (including research software)
- summer 2022: GitLab.com considers erasing **all** projects that are **inactive for a year**

In Academia too!

- 2021: Inria's old gforge is unplugged... **breaks the Opam build chain** for OCaml

We need a universal archive of software source code: now we have one!



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 and **share** all
software source code

Research infrastructure



enable analysis of all
software source code

The largest software archive, a shared infrastructure

One infrastructure
open and shared



The largest archive ever built



Bitbucket 2,012,133 origins	git 19,494 origins	R 21,486 origins
debian 129,217 origins	gn 6,424 origins	GitHub 152,282,093 origins
GitLab 3,989,638 origins	Guix 12,451 origins	GNU 354 origins
heptapod 1,096 origins	launchpad 356,873 origins	Maven 93,710 origins
NixOS 12,451 origins	npm 1,799,296 origins	Ubuntu 4,083 origins
Phabricator 185 origins	pypi 427,135 origins	SOURCEFORGE 308,970 origins

Sharing the vision



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



And many more ...

www.softwareheritage.org/support/testimonials

Donors, members, sponsors



Diamond sponsor



Platinum sponsors



Gold sponsors



Silver sponsors

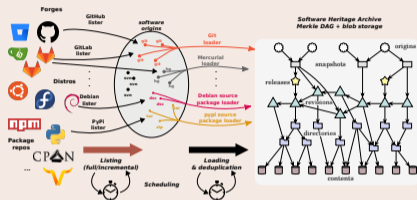


Bronze sponsors



Addressing the four needs (see [ICMS 2020](#) for details)

Archive (15B+ files, 240M+ projects)



- save now, updateswh, webhooks
- deposit.softwareheritage.org

Describe

- *Intrinsic metadata* from source code
- Contributed the [Codemeta generator](#)

Reference (30 billion SWHIDs)

Intrinsic, cryptographically strong IDs



Now in [SPDX 2.2](#), Wikidata

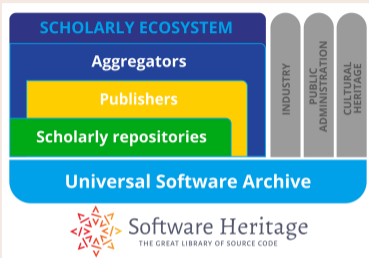
Specification: <https://swhid.org>

Cite/Credit

- Contributed *software citation* style [bibtex-software, v 1.2-2](#) now on [CTAN](#)

Mutualization and standardisation at work

One archive, multiple infrastructures



universal software archive *Software Heritage* connects with the global software ecosystem

scholarly repositories institutional and disciplinary archives

publishers journals, proceedings, preprints

aggregators disciplinary catalogues, meta-portals, ...

Building interconnection and interoperability

FAIRCORE4EOSC HE (2022-2025)

Interconnection with SWH

repositories HAL, InvenioRDM, Dataverse

publishers Dagstuhl, episciences

agregators swMath, OpenAire

Beta release: EOY 2023

Interoperability

metadata schema *CodeMeta*

intrinsic identifier *SWHID*

specifications open/public

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Call to action: best practices for ARDC are available... today!

Archiving and referencing

For **all source code** used in research (*yes, even small scripts!*)

- ensure it is archived in Software Heritage (see [save code now](#))
- get the proper **SWHID** for your software (see [detailed HOWTO](#))
- add it to research articles for reproducibility (see [detailed HOWTO](#))

Describing and Citing/Crediting

For **software you want to put forward** (*mention in your CV, reports, etc., get citations and credit for it*), do the following **extra steps**:

- add **codemeta.json** with description (see the [codemeta generator](#))
- reference in the HAL portal (french partners, see [online HAL documentation](#))
- cite software using the [biblatex-software](#) package (in CTAN and TeXLive)

- train students and colleagues
- engage journals, conferences, learned societies






A working agenda

- avoid proprietarisation: **set the default to open**
 - *publicly funded research software should be open source*, exceptions **must be justified**
 - set up institutional support
 - build common knowledge base for technology transfer offices
- establish intelligent and effective **incentives**
 - count quality software contributions in careers, avoid purely numerical indicators, keep the human in the loop (mind Goodhart's law)
- **avoid balkanisation**, support mutualised common infrastructures
 - build on common, shared, open, non profit infrastructures, like **Software Heritage**
 - acknowledge the **predominant human component** of digital infrastructures
 - recurrent funding of their cost
 - proper evaluation of their service

it's a long road, but together we can make it

Questions?

References

-  UNESCO, *Draft recommendations on Open Science* 2021, ([online](#))
-  French Ministry of Research, *Second National Plan for Open Science* 2021, ([online](#))
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-  R. Di Cosmo, *Archiving and Referencing Source Code with Software Heritage* International Conference on Mathematical Software 2020 ([10.1007/978-3-030-52200-1_36](#))
-  J.F. Abramatic, R. Di Cosmo, S. Zacchiroli, *Building the Universal Archive of Source Code* CACM, October 2018 ([10.1145/3183558](#))