

Public Code Observatory

How are governments contributing to Open Source?

United Nations Open Source Week · June 2026
ODET / UNESCO / Software Heritage



ODET - Open Source Enablement Compass

Omar Mohsine

United Nations Office for Digital and
Emerging Technologies (ODET)

ODET priorities and strategic
roadmap for digital sovereignty.



OSEC: A policy-oriented approach to maximize
Open Source impact.



UNESCO - Open Solutions

Guilherme Canela

Director, Division for Digital Inclusion
and Policies and Digital Transformation
Communication and Information
Sector, UNESCO

UNESCO priorities: Normative
instruments; global and regional
policy development



Open Solutions in Global Digital Frameworks

*Digital Sovereignty, DPI,
and Digital Public Goods*



UN Global Digital Compact



UN Pact for the Future



UNESCO Recommendations:

2021 Open Science
2019 Open Educational Resources
2015 Documentary Heritage



Open Solutions

*Open Source Software, Open Data,
OER and Open Access*



Enables sharing, adaptation,
and preservation of knowledge



Supports openness, inclusion
and capacity development

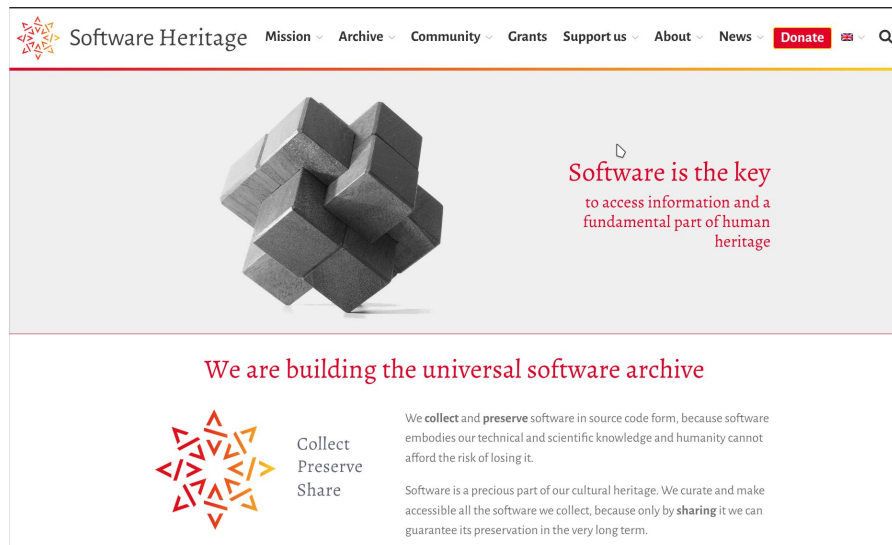
Software Heritage - Preserving the World's Software

Roberto Di Cosmo

Director, Software Heritage

Non profit, multi-stakeholder,
open source, vendor neutral

A key shared infrastructure





Software Heritage
THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE

Inria

with



unesco



The largest open source code archive: one infrastructure, open, shared, non profit

Unique digital common good built in France since 2015

Cultural Heritage



Source files

28,152,651,759

Industry



Commits

5,920,787,012

Research

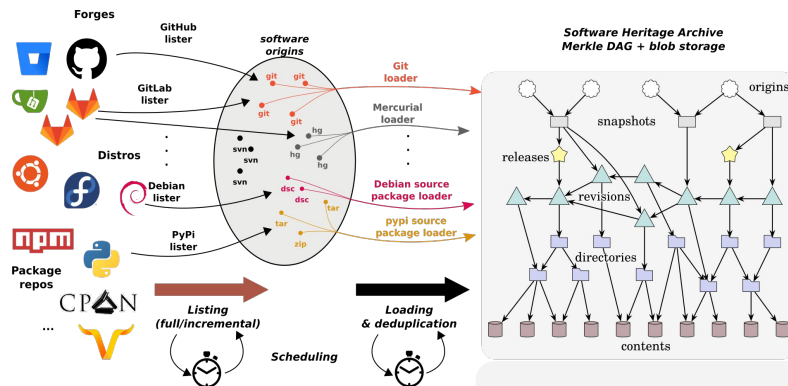


Public Administration



Projects

429,963,770



5000+ platforms

All versions, all history
development in a single graph

- 50×10^9 nodes
- 1000×10^9 edges
~ 3 PB of storage

A revolutionary infrastructure

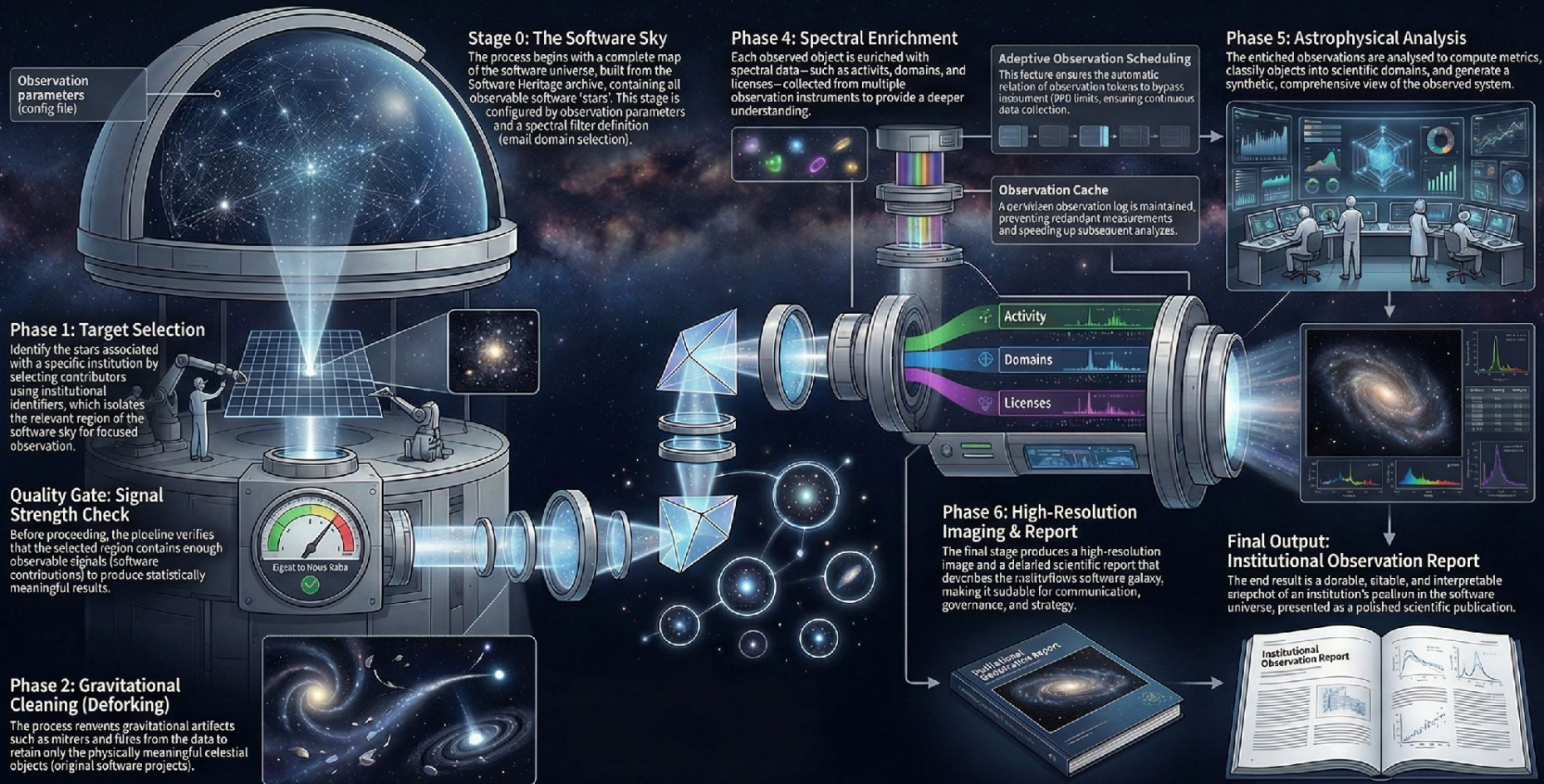
ensures availability

guarantees integrity

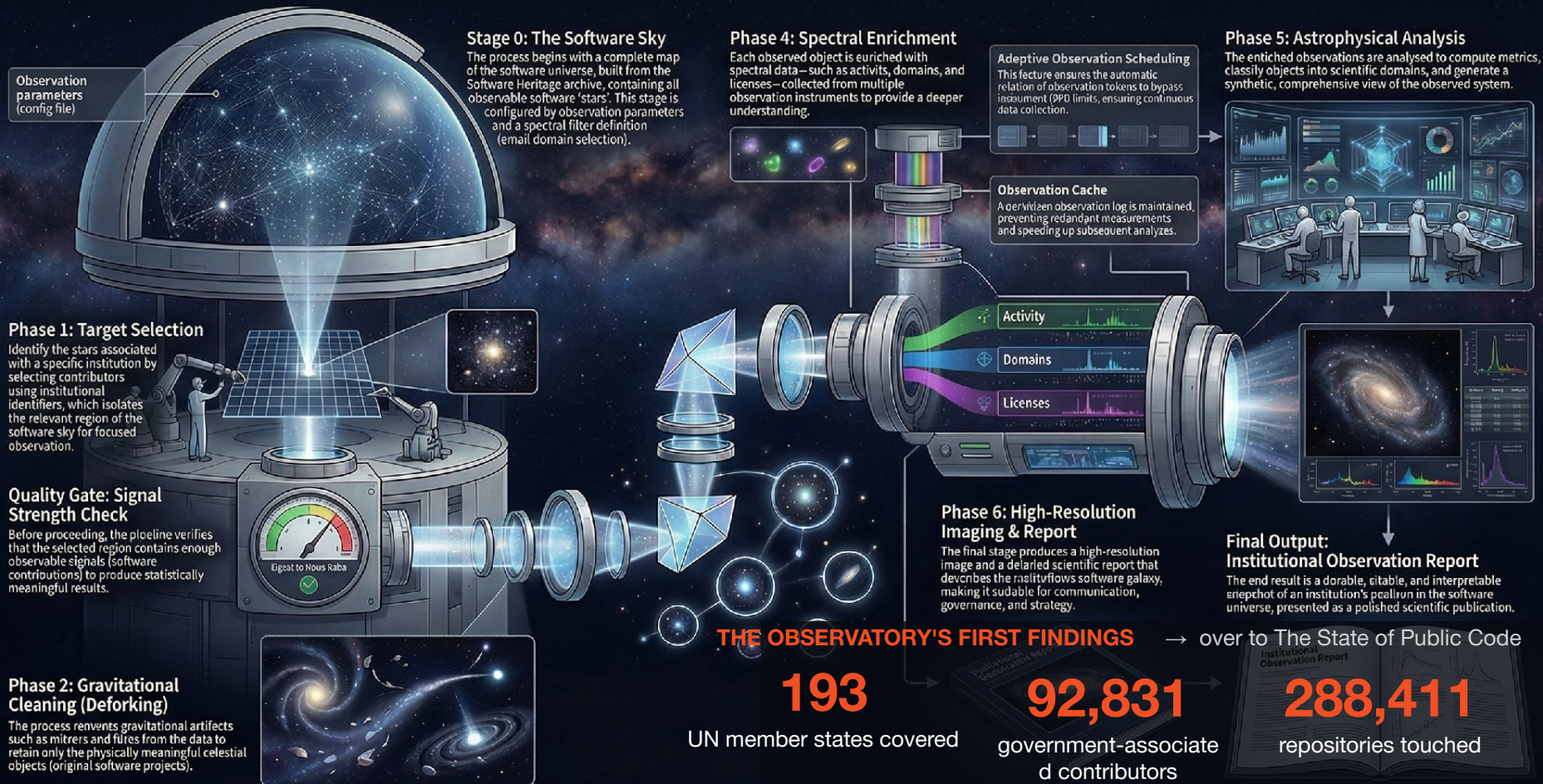
enables traceability



From the Software Sky to Institutional Insight: Anatomy of an Observational Pipeline



From the Software Sky to Institutional Insight: Anatomy of an Observational Pipeline



The State of Public Code

Bastien Guerry

Software Heritage, France

Daniel Izquierdo

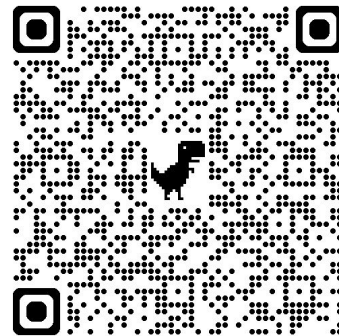
Software Heritage, Spain

Why track public sector software contributions?

What did we learn from years of producing software analytics?

Status of this report - highlighting three main findings

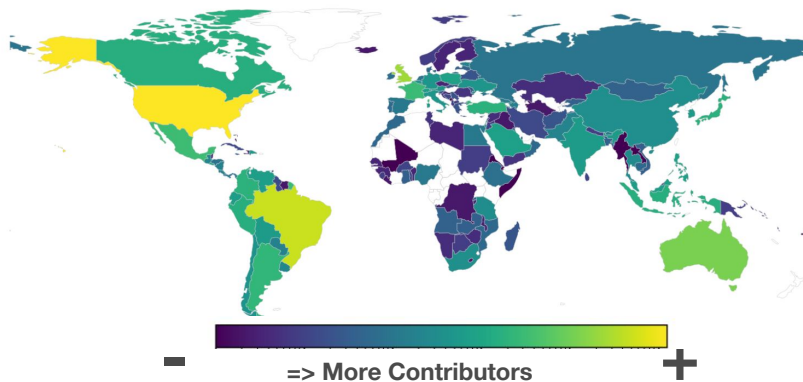
Download the [PDF report](#)



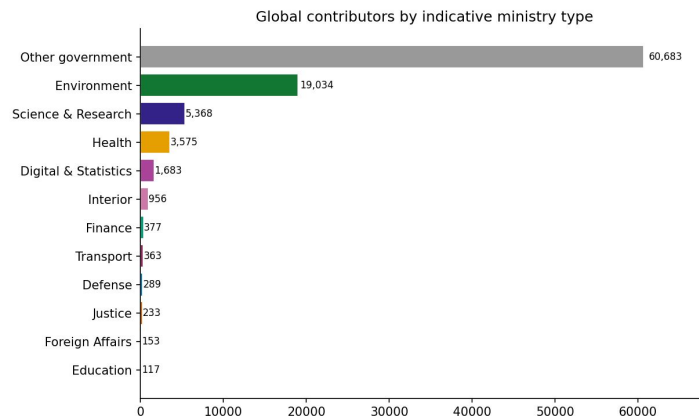
Findings

State of Public Code - preliminary findings (1)

Confirming Open Source Key Role in
nowadays Digital Societies



Environment, Science & Research, and Health
Ministries leading the contributors base

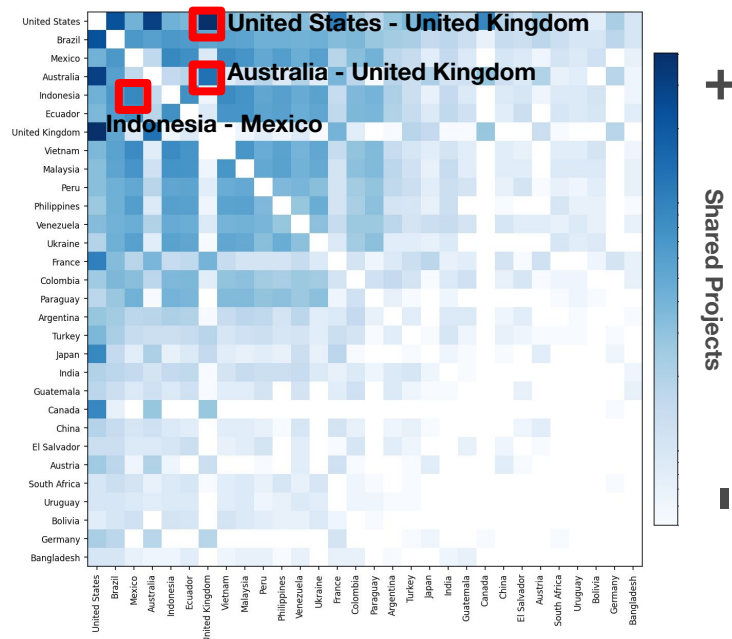


Findings

State of Public Code - preliminary findings (2)

Cross-border collaboration taking place with stronger relations between USA-UK (north-north), Australia-UK (south-north & non-US bilateral), Indonesia-Mexico (south-south)

Open source brings the processes to have this collaboration even without formal agreements across governments



Findings

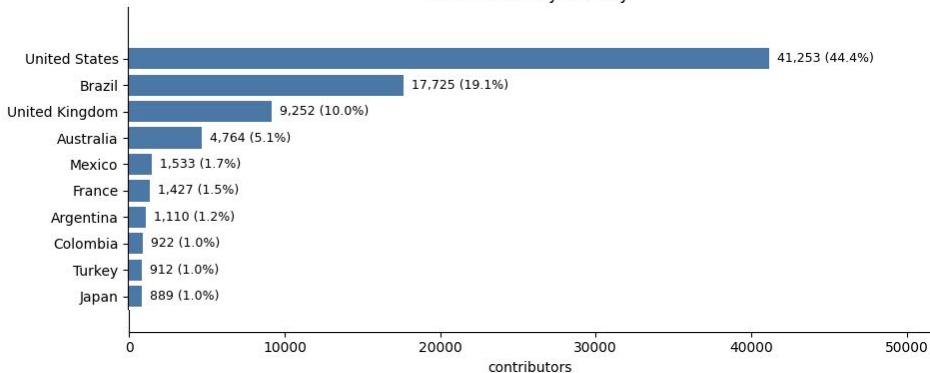
State of Public Code - preliminary findings (3)

Digital divide across regions and countries exist.

But, the **highest correlation** between open source **contributions** and global indicators were found in those countries with a higher **e-government index**.

If compared to GDP, Internet adoption, and Human Development Index

Contributors by Country



State of Public Code - Methodology

Domain Names for Central Administration

Compilation of a list of domain names for central government agencies

Analysis of pseudonymised contributions

Extraction of commits from these domains in the Software Heritage repository.

Combining with other sources of data

We added a few analyses based on early feedback.



Reflections with ODET and UNESCO

Alignment with UN Priorities

Exploring how open source and public code reports directly support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Digital Cooperation.

Policy Implications

Identifying legal and strategic frameworks to encourage sovereign digital infrastructure and cross-border code sharing.

Key Discussion Questions

- How can we improve data freshness for policy making?
- What roles do international agencies play in code governance?
- How can public code contribute to digital public goods?



Consultation process



Regular online meetups

Join our collaborative sessions to propose and refine key insights for the upcoming **2027 iteration** of the State of Public Code.

