### Software Heritage

#### Building the Universal Software Archive for Open Science

#### Roberto Di Cosmo

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# Software Heritage

THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE



### 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

- 2 Software is everywhere...
- Open Science
- O Building for the long term

### 0 Conclusion

### Software is everywhere



Source code is *executable* and *human readable* knowledge

a growing part of our *Cultural Heritage* 

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### 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."

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#### Quake III source code (excerpt)

```
float Q_rsqrt( float number )
{
    long i;
    float x2, y;
    const float threehalfs = 1.5F;
    x2 = number;
    i = % ( long * ) 6y; // evil floating point bit level hacking
    i = 0x5f3759df - ( i >> 1 ); // what the fuck?
    y = y * ( float * ) 6i;
    y = y * ( threehalfs - ( x2 * y * y ) ); // Ist 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."

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# ~ 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



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### Occurrence Conclusion

### Software is spread all around



# disaster deletio ous osolete dependencies danglin Ē agi

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### Software lacks its own research infrastructure



### Research software: a long way to go!



• complete absence of replication studies

ACM TOSEM 2001 to 2006

### C. Ghezzi http://bit.ly/tosemreprod

• 60% of all papers have tools: only 20% installable

### Collberg's 2015 study http://reproducibility.cs.arizona.edu/

• 601 mainstream papers: 508 with tools, only 40% installable

#### Main reasons

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

### No catalog, no archive, no references: we are at a turning point

#### Looking at the past

- a lot of old software misplaced, lost, or behind barriers, but...
- most founding fathers are still here, and willing to share
- urgent to collect their knowledge

Only a few years left.

#### Looking at the future

- software development and use skyrockets: more programmers, and more code!
- essential to provide a universal platform for all the future software source code

Every year that goes by makes the problem worse.

#### it is **urgent** to take action!



- Open Science
- O Building for the long term

### 0 Conclusion

### The Software Heritage Project

### www.softwareheritage.org

# Software Heritage

#### Our mission

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

Past, present and future

Preserving the past, enhancing the present, preparing the future

### Automation, and storage



- full development history permanently archived
- origins: GitHub (auto), Debian (auto), Gitlab.com, Gitorious, Google Code, GNU
- ~ 200Tb raw contents, ~ 10Tb graph (10Bn nodes, 100Bn edges)

### A principled infrastructure

# http://bit.ly/swhpaper



**5** Looking for the right PIDs

# 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.

#### 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.noao.edu	120 (3)	50 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
xmm.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)
adusno.navy.mil	110 (27)	98 (22)	3 (3)	0	0	0	0	1.(1)

This table lists total number of links and broken links (HTTP status codes 3xx, 4xx, and 5xx) to top domains (domains with over 100 links) found within articles published in the four main astronomy journals between 1997 and 2008 The table also shows, for each domain, the portion of links to common filename extensions, as well as links that contain the tilde character.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0104798.t001

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



### 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:

Verificationcheck label and objectReverse Lookupget label from an objectDescriptionget 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

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### IDOs in Software Development: the origins

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



#### 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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When we speak of free software, we are referring to freedom, not price. Our General Public Licenses are designed to make sure that you have the freeden to distribute copies of free software (and charge for then if you usis), that you receive source code or can got if if you want it, that you can change the software or use piaces of if in new free programs, and that you know you can do they

To protect your rights, we need to prov

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





Directories .gitignore AUTHORS LICENSE 100644 blob c5baade4c44766042186ef858c0fd63d587ebf09 .gitignore MANIFEST.in 100644 blob 2d0a34af6f52cf3cf6b0c2f7bd0648fbd255e77f AUTHORS 100644 blob 94a9ed024d3859793618152ea559a168bbcbb5e2 LICENSE Makefile 100644 blob d9b2665a435a43f8a79a84e0867751dfb095c7bb MANIFEST.in 100644 blob 524175c2bad0b35b975f79284c2f5a6d5eaf2eb4 Makefile Makefile.local 100644 blob 5c7e3a5bbddb038682ba7793f440492ed9678bb3 Makefile.local README.db\_testing 100644 blob 8617980629cd24e6080404f09aa749b085b3e07b README.db testing 100644 blob 76b29f94cf815e0869c414d38d78d7ce08ec514e README.dev README.dev 040000 tree elel0ecef948af0b93adb0372afc89f12e92618a bin 040000 tree 83e56d0beaf7793c77a45a345c80fcb8af503013 dehian bin 040000 tree a34c9c4ba213f0cedc67f9816348d27955577af5 docs debian 100644 blob f2a6d32c6135aa7287bbd76167b01df2ae4f1539 requirements.txt 100755 blob eee147c36caf1bbc2d820da8dc026cb5b68180bc setup pv docs 040000 tree 224bb4c1f4c67fcald160bffd2d06094e7e1abf3 sql 040000 tree 8631c9cd77bbe993168107ab5baf51f40c6300be swb requirements.txt 040000 tree 8fb905b56ba8ed692f1209b2773b474c6c1d66c1 utils setup.py sql swh

id: 515f00d44e92c65322aaa9bf3fa097c00ddb9c7d

utils



### **Revisions**

#### Details

SHA: 963634dca6ba5dc37e3ee426ba091092c267f9f6

Author: Nicolas Dandrimont <nicolas@dandrimont.eu> (Thu Sep 114:26:13 2016)

Committer: Nicolas Dandrimont <nicolas@dandrimont.eu> (Thu Sep 114:26:13 2016)

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

Parent: fc3a8b59ca1df424d860f2c29ab07fee4dc35d10 : test\_storage: properly pipeline origin and cont... provenance.tasks: add the revision -> origin cache task

swh/storage/provenance/tasks.pv



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#### 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





### Releases

#### object c0c9f16b1e134f593e7567570a1761b156e6eb1d type commit tag v0.0.51 tagger Nicolas Dandrimont ≺nicolas@dandrimont.eu> 1472042163 +0200

Release swh.storage v0.0.51

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

Add new metadata column to origin\_visit
 Update swh-add-directory script for updated API
 BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE—-

----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

#### id: 85083a5cc14a441c89dea73f5bdf67c3f9c6afdb



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## The Software Heritage IDO schema (see <a href="http://bit.ly/swhpids">http://bit.ly/swhpids</a>)

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

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O Using the Software Heritage archive



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## The way forward to archive and reference scientific software

#### Scientific software portals

- curate metadata (software deposit, software citation, DIOs)
- archive deposited source code in Software Heritage
- obtain persistent intrinsic IDOs (integrity, not dependent on resolvers, see iPres2018 article http://bit.ly/swhpidpaper) linking into Software Heritage

#### Benefits of connecting with Software Heritage

Features all those of Software Heritage for free

Now browse, download WIP metadata, licenses, provenance (plagiarism detection), classification, ...

#### Coverage and Uniformity • one archive for all domains (industry included) • reference *any* software, not just the deposited ones • git-compatible identifiers greatly simplify workflows Roberto DLCosmo www.iccsmoorg (CC-BY 40) www.softwareheritage.org October 17th 2018

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### Deposit Scientific Software

### Deposit software in HAL

### http://hal.inria.fr/hal-01738741



#### Generic mechanism:

- SWORD based
- review process
- versioning

#### How to do it:

- today: deposit .zip or .tar.gz file (guide)
- tomorrow:

• . . .

- provide SWH id and metadata
- include *metadata file* for automatic metadata extraction

September 2018: open to all on https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/

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## **Growing Support**

#### Landmark Inria Unesco agreement, April 3rd, 2017







#### Sharing the vision



#### Contributing to the mission





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### The next steps

#### The Software Heritage Foundation

- independent
- long term mission
- multistakeholder

#### The mirror network

- resilience
- biodiversity

"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."

The community

• academia: Open Access, research

• cultural heritage: all the software history

• industry: better software

Thomas Jefferson

## You can help!



#### Funding

- become a partner/sponsor/mirror: sponsorship.softwareheritage.org
- give your own contribution: www.softwareheritage.org/donate

#### Spread the word!

- *use* the archive and help others do
- tell everybody about Software Heritage

![](_page_47_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Come in, we're open!

# Software Heritage

### www.softwareheritage.org

@swheritage

#### Library of Alexandria of code

![](_page_48_Figure_5.jpeg)

- recover the past
- structure the future

![](_page_48_Picture_8.jpeg)

A CERN for Software

- build better software
  - for industry
  - for society as a whole