



# Software Heritage

The Alexandria Library  
of Software

Agustín Benito Bethencourt  
Toscalix

La Palma Tech Summer 2024

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The speaker

Agustín Benito Bethencourt  
[@toscalix](http://www.toscalix.com)



<http://www.toscalix.com>

- SwH Ambassador since 2023
- Independent consultant helping companies in two ways:
  - Applying advanced data analytics to production environments to increase delivery performance, partnering with Bitergia, through a service offering called Delivery Performance Analytics
  - Increasing their organizational performance by becoming good open source citizens, like in the case for SCANOSS, as their Ecosystem Manager
- FLOSS, Continuous Delivery, metrics and remote work advocate.
- Background: Eclipse Foundation, MBition (Mercedes Benz), Codethink, Linaro, SUSE, ASOLIF, entrepreneur ...
- Blog - About - Talks - Contact



Warm up!

# SwH archive

Browse  
& Search

<https://archive.softwareheritage.org/browse/>

Save  
Code  
Now

<https://archive.softwareheritage.org/save/>

Add  
Forge  
Now

<https://archive.softwareheritage.org/add-forge/request/create>

Download

<https://archive.softwareheritage.org/vault/>

## SwH browser extension

<https://www.softwareheritage.org/browser-extensions>



SwH gem



# The Mission

- Software is a key pillar for modern science
- Every industry nowadays rely on software
- There is little/no usable software without open source software
- Source code is the foundational building block in open source software, so in software... so in science

Why

# Why

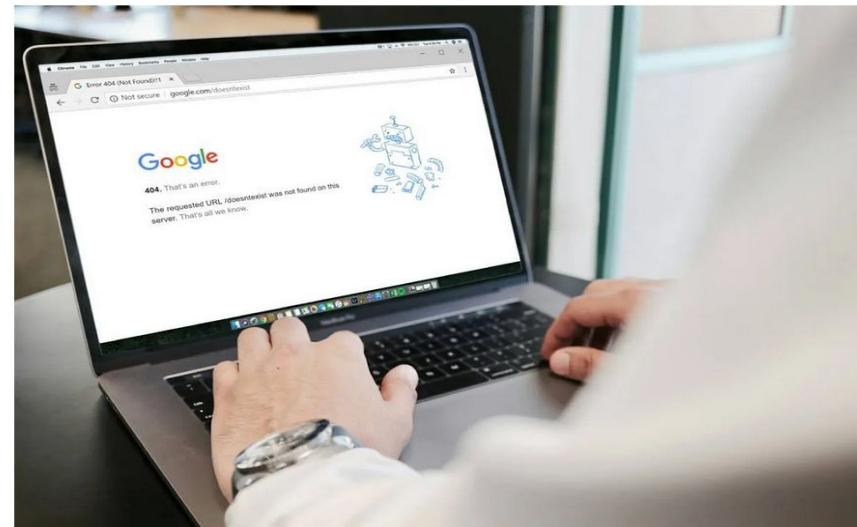
El Mundo  
2024-05-20  
Pew Research  
Center. Article

INTERNET

## La web efímera: el 38% de las páginas que existían en 2013 se ha perdido

Enlaces rotos, información suprimida y problemas de configuración en los servidores web suelen estar detrás de este creciente problema

  Comentar



Un ordenador en la pestaña de Google

**Ángel Jiménez de Luis**

EEUU

Actualizado Lunes, 20 mayo 2024 - 07:29

Un consejo habitual para quienes empiezan a usar Internet y las redes sociales suele ser el de no enviar a nadie nada que no quieras que vea todo el mundo. Internet nunca olvida.

La realidad, sin embargo, es mucho más compleja. Internet no sólo olvida sino que lo hace a un ritmo mucho más acelerado del que pensamos. Un [reciente estudio](#) del Centro de Investigaciones Pew lo resume en una simple cifra: el 38%

## Endangered source code ...

- **Link rot**: projects are created, moved around, removed
- **Data rot**: physical media with legacy software decay
- **Platform consolidation** endangers repositories
  - 2015 Google Code and Gitorious.org shutdown: ~1M
  - 2019 Bitbucket mercurial phase out: ~250.000
  - 2022 GitLab.com: remove inactive projects

... is endangered knowledge!

Why

We cannot afford broken links and  
missing pieces in the web of knowledge  
of humankind

# SwH's Mission

“Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

Software in source code form is produced by humans and is understandable by them; as such it is an important part of our heritage that we should not lose. Software is furthermore a key enabler for preserving other parts of our cultural heritage that we would *de facto* lose if we lose the software needed to access them. **Preserving software is essential for preserving our cultural heritage.”**

We need a **global, long term** effort to build a **universal** archive of all software source code. Make it **resilient** and make it **sustainable**.

What



# About Software Heritage (SwH)

Software Heritage is an open, non-profit initiative unveiled in 2016 by Inria. It is supported by a broad panel of institutional and industry partners, in collaboration with UNESCO [1] [2]

Hosted by

*Inria*

*Inria*  
La Fondation

In collaboration with

 **unesco**

Read the [2023 annual report](#) and the [2024 roadmap](#)

SwH is an organization



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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•

# Paris Call

«Software source code represents unique knowledge of humanity's recent history.

*It is therefore crucial to work together collectively so that the knowledge embedded in software source code is properly preserved, valued and shared with all.*

*This lies at the core of UNESCO's cooperation with Inria to support the creation of Software Heritage, the global archive of software source code»*

# The Core Team



A photograph of a modern, multi-story library. The space is filled with white bookshelves stacked with books. Blue couches are placed in various sections for reading. The architecture features white walls and a spiral staircase. The lighting is bright and natural, coming from large windows on the sides.

# The archive

1. **Reference Catalogue:** find and reference all software source code
2. **Universal archive:** preserve and share all software source code
3. **Research infrastructure:** enable analysis of all software source code

# SwH is a community effort

## Users

- FAQ: <https://www.softwareheritage.org/faq/>
- Mailing list: [swh-users](mailto:swh-users)
- Matrix channel [#swh](#) at matrix.org

## Contributors

- Forge: <https://gitlab.softwareheritage.org/>
- Documentation: <https://docs.softwareheritage.org/devel/>
- Mailing list: [swh-devel](mailto:swh-devel)
- Chat: [#swh-devel](#) at matrix.org
- Wiki: <https://wiki.softwareheritage.org/>

## Ambassadors and Students

- <https://www.softwareheritage.org/ambassadors>
- <https://www.softwareheritage.org/community/students>

# The community



Diamond sponsor



Platinum sponsors



Gold sponsors



Hugging Face

openinventionnetwork<sup>®</sup>

servicenow<sup>®</sup>



Université  
Paris Cité

Silver sponsors

AdaCore



GitHub

Google



Bronze sponsors

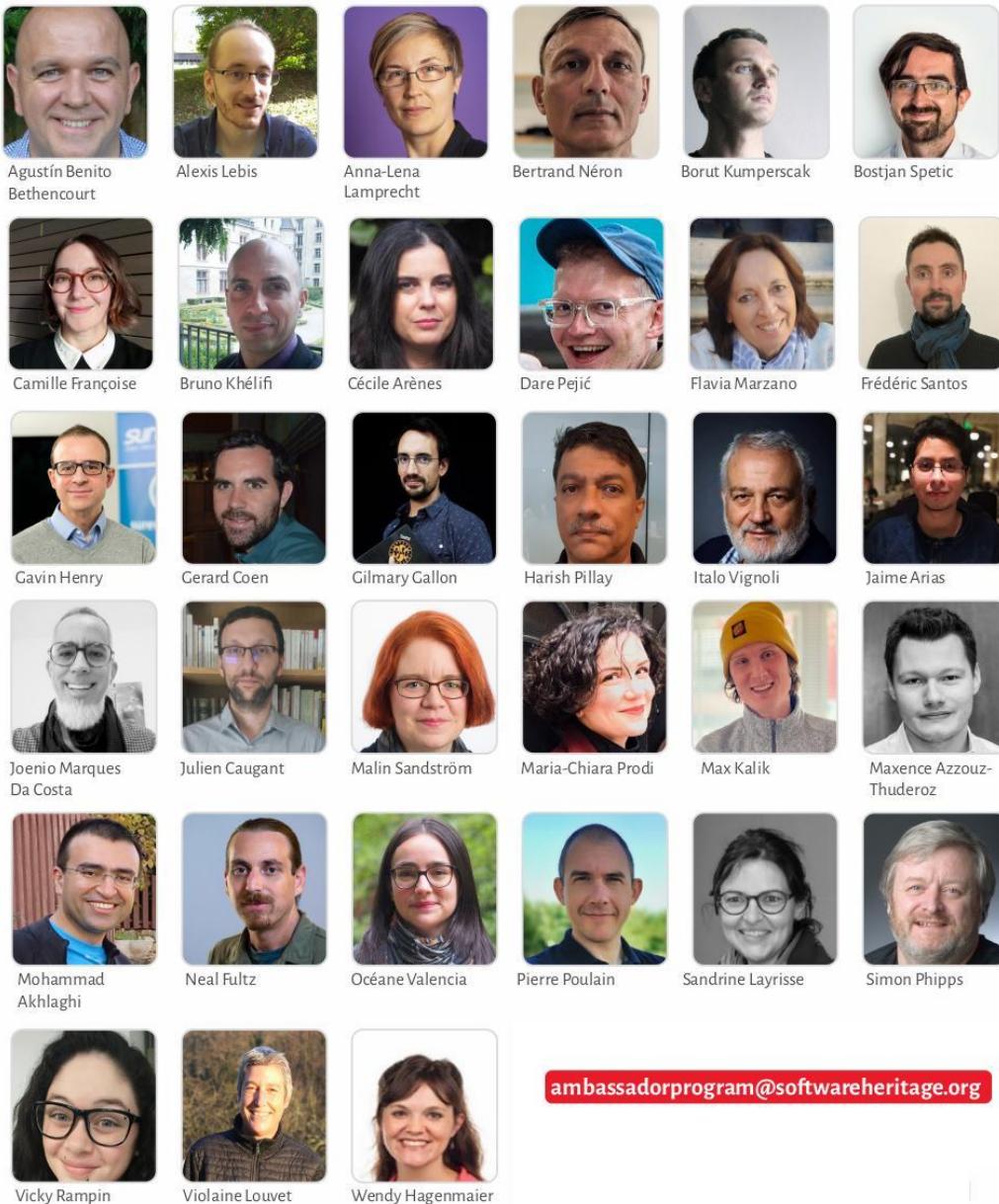


Testimonials

<https://www.softwareheritage.org/support/testimonials/>

SwH builds  
an  
ecosystem

# The Ambassadors





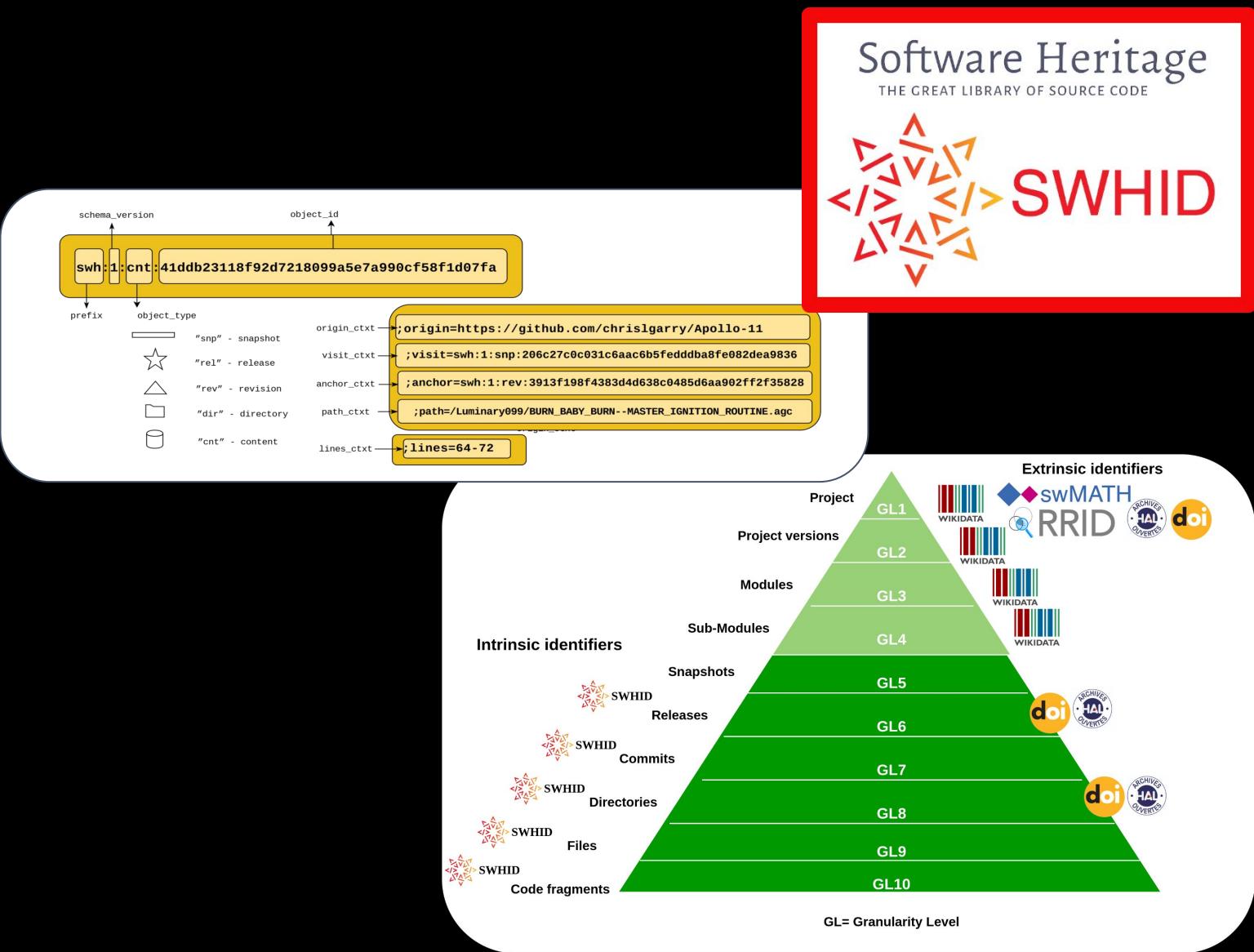
The archive

- Source code is...
  - designs, algorithms, code, tests, documentation, configurations, licenses, etc.
- 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*

Source  
code is  
*unique, it is  
not data*

# Reference Catalogue

SWHID: <https://www.swhid.org/>



# Nov'16

Source files

3,163,184,896



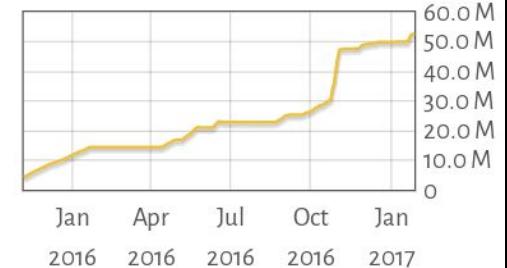
Commits

704,845,952



Projects

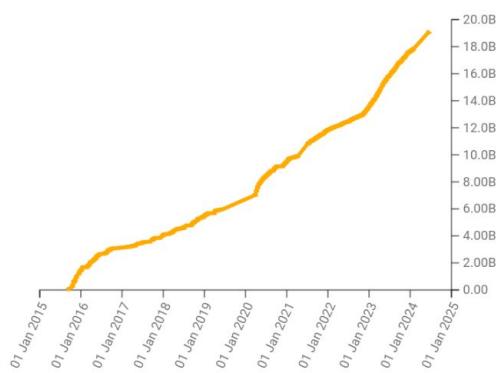
53,488,904



# Jun'24

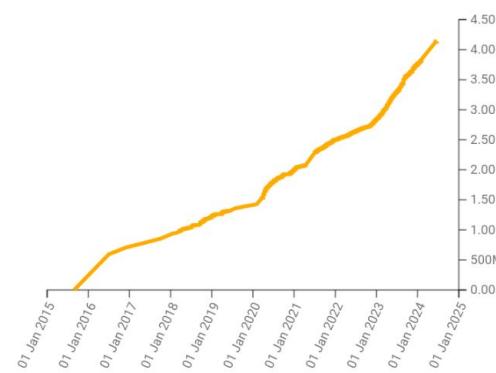
Source files

19,109,666,565



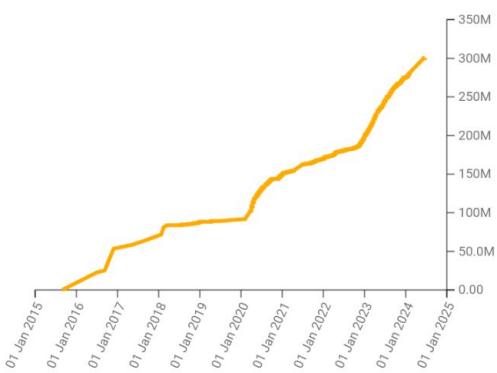
Commits

4,137,707,016



Projects

300,258,485



Directories

15,339,853,509



Authors

75,309,619



Releases

93,996,329



# Universal archive

Harvest and archive:

- [docs.softwareheritage.org/#landing-preserve](https://docs.softwareheritage.org/#landing-preserve)
- [save.softwareheritage.org](https://save.softwareheritage.org)
- [deposit.softwareheritage.org](https://deposit.softwareheritage.org)
- [softwareheritage.org/swhap/](https://softwareheritage.org/swhap/)

Howto:

- [HOWTO archive and reference your code](#)
- [Unlock the Power of Software Heritage Archive](#)

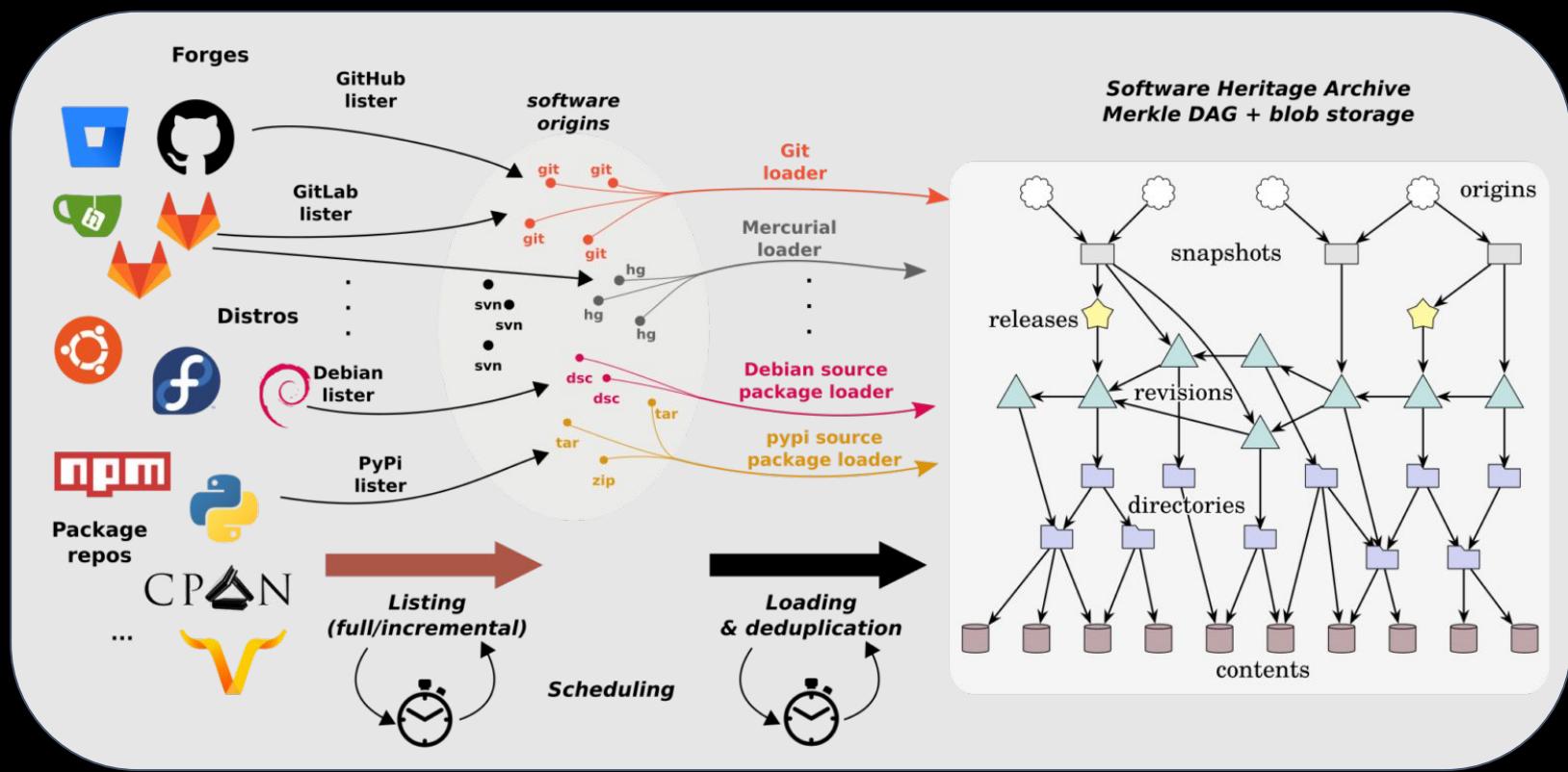
Universal  
archive

 Bitbucket	 56,983 origins	 24,600 origins
 26,599 origins	 136,338 origins	 53,297 origins
<b>GitHub</b> 197,883,004 origins	gitiles 10,171 origins	 GitLab 4,216,298 origins
 2,926 origins	 172 origins	 971,549 origins
 14,482 origins	 354 origins	 1,207 origins
 503,631 origins	 312,461 origins	 14,482 origins

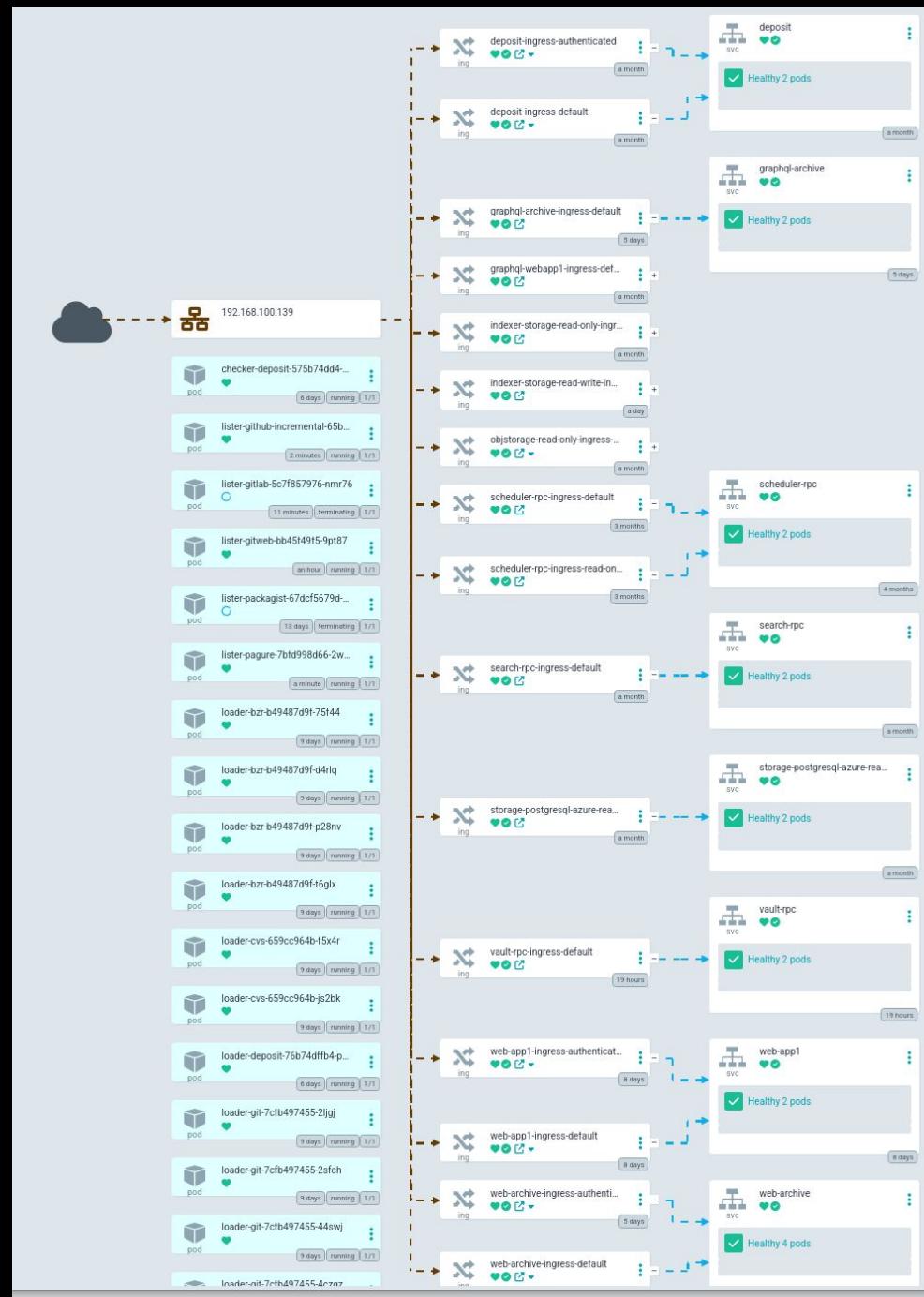
Truly  
universal

(\*) The numbers are never up to date

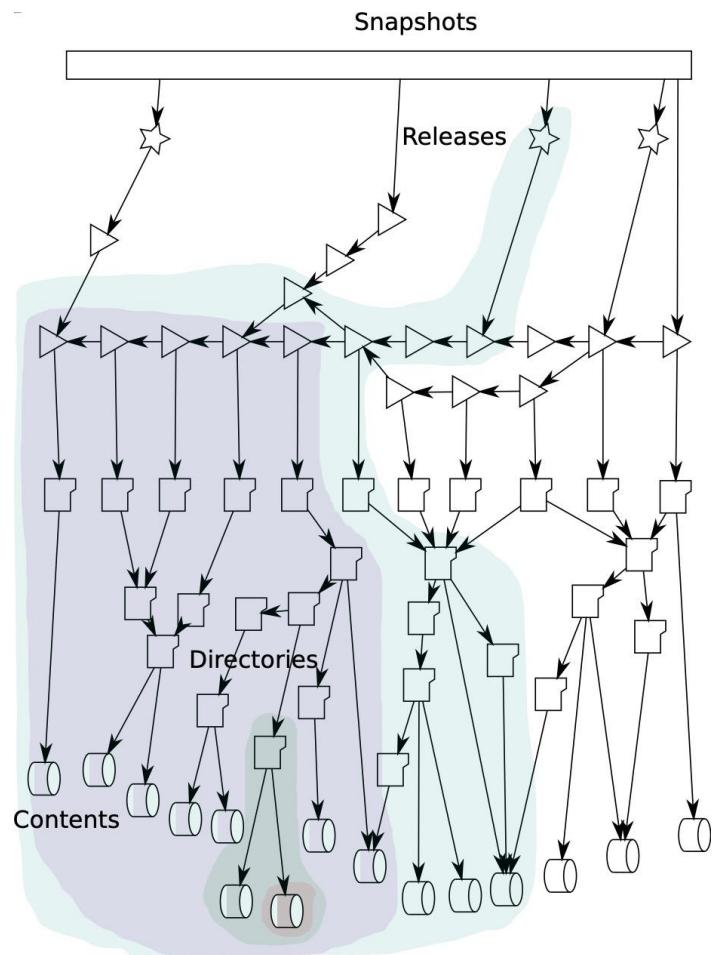
Built for the  
purpose so...

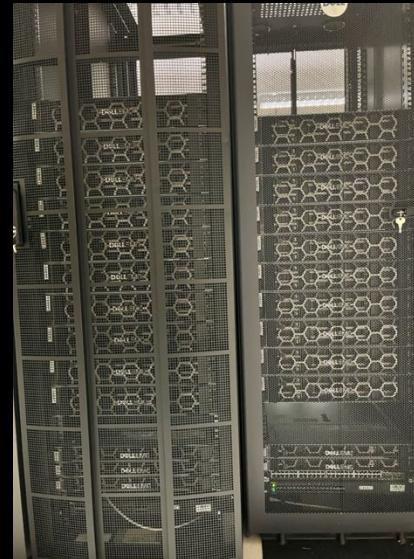
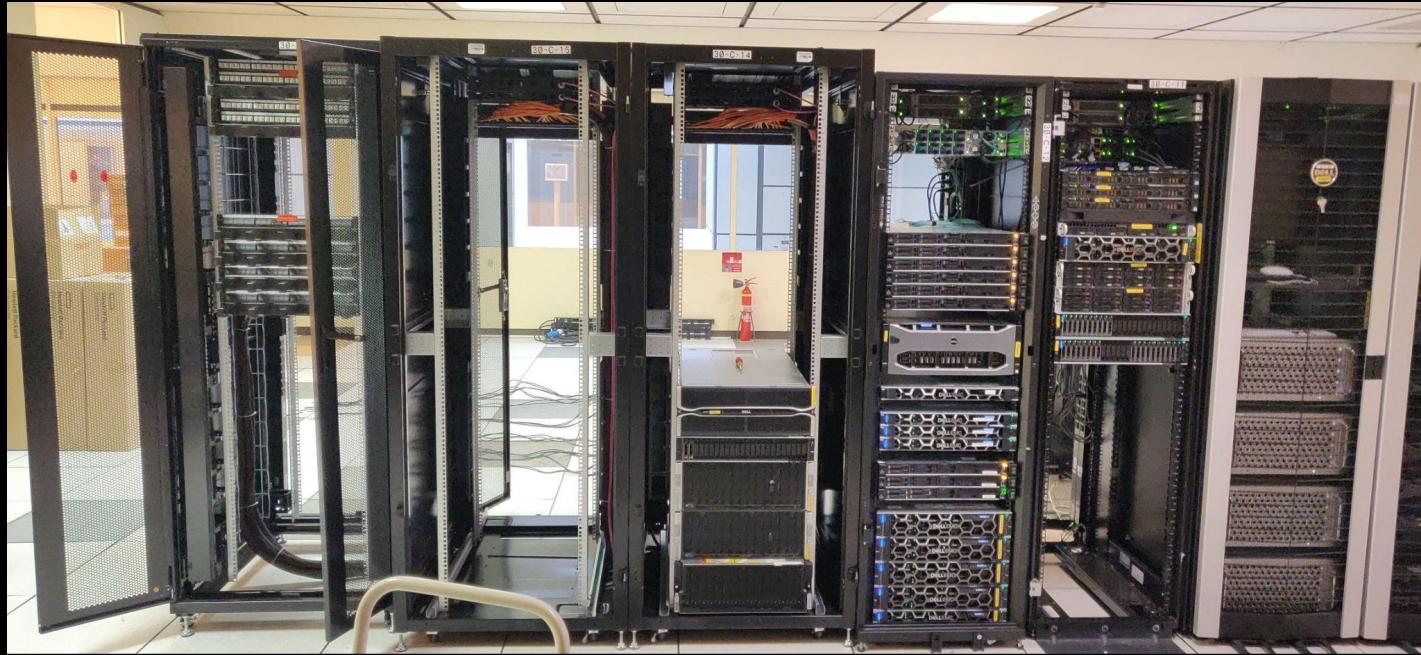


... complex  
and innovative



SwH is building a full  
graph of software  
development  
evolution

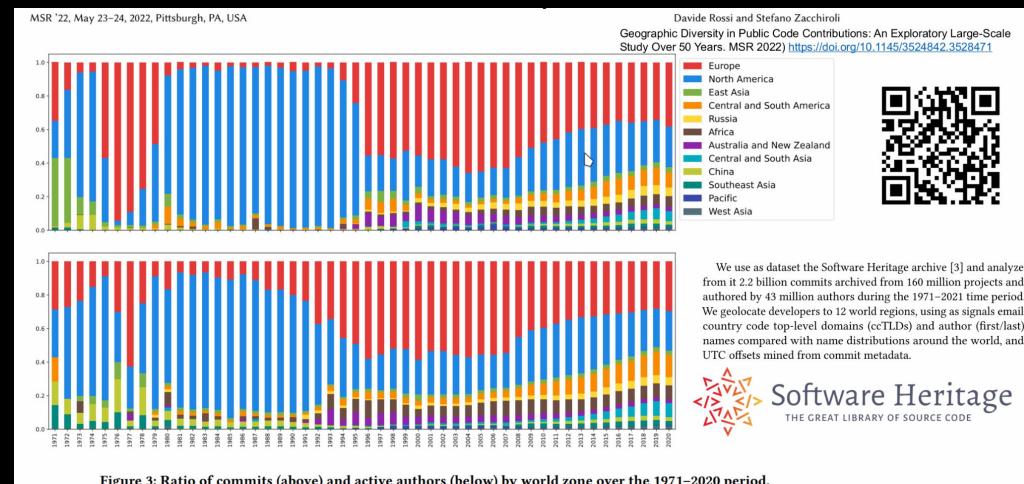




Self-hosted

# Research infrastructure

- Check all the available publications
- “Rust Analytics for Software Heritage: Challenges and results” by Sebastiano Vigna, full professor, Università degli Studi di Milano
- “Open and responsible development of Large Language Models for code” by BigCode-project.org leaders: Leandro von Werra and Harm de Vries



Show me  
the archive!

Search: <https://archive.softwareheritage.org/browse>

Save  
(web): <https://archive.softwareheritage.org/save/>

Save  
(plugin): <https://www.softwareheritage.org/browser-extensions>

Download: <https://archive.softwareheritage.org/vault/>



Collaborate!

Use the archive

Follow us on social media: [Fediverse](#), [X](#), [Linkedin](#), [Youtube](#)

Spread the word

Archive your software

Become an Ambassador

Collaborate!

Join our research community

Code with us

Work with us

Become a sponsor

Donate

Collaborate!

# Resilience

“ . . . 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.”

Thomas Jefferson, February 18, 1791



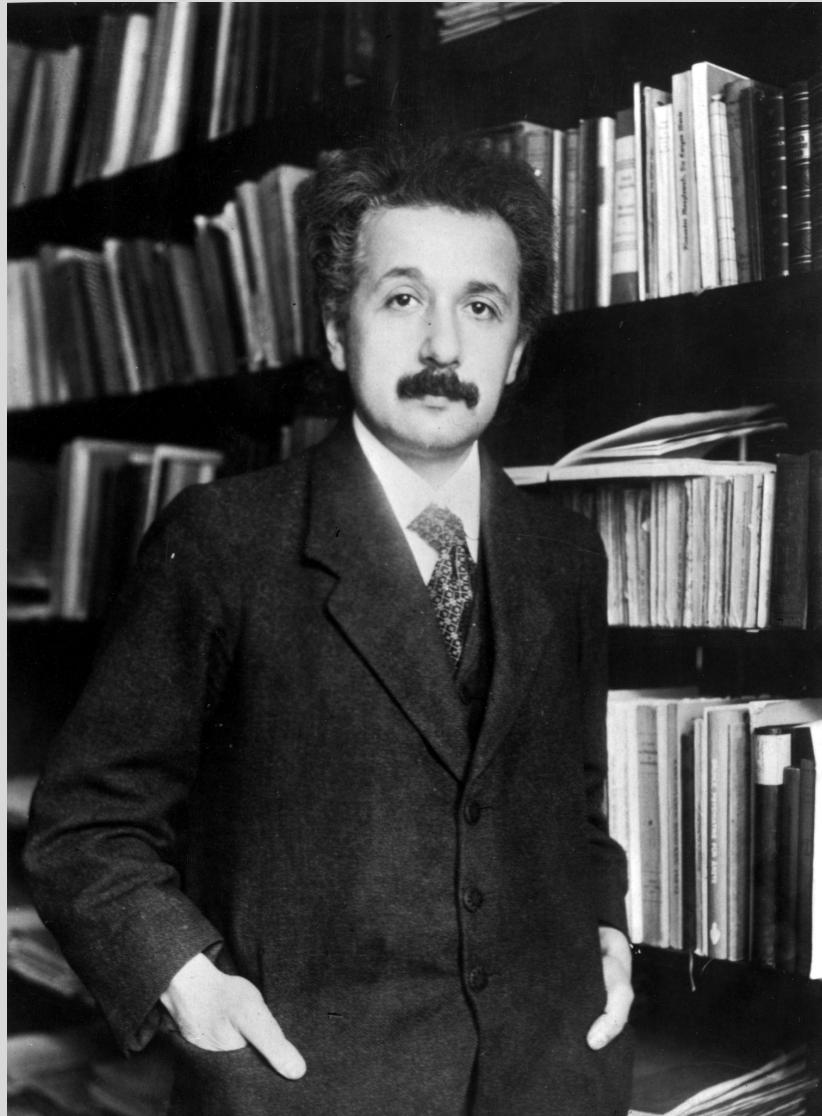
Join our  
mirror network!

<https://www.softwareheritage.org/mirrornetwork/>

ENEA



Takeaway



The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of ~~the library~~".-Albert Einstein

[archive.softwareheritage.org](http://archive.softwareheritage.org)



Thank you



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