



# 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](https://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

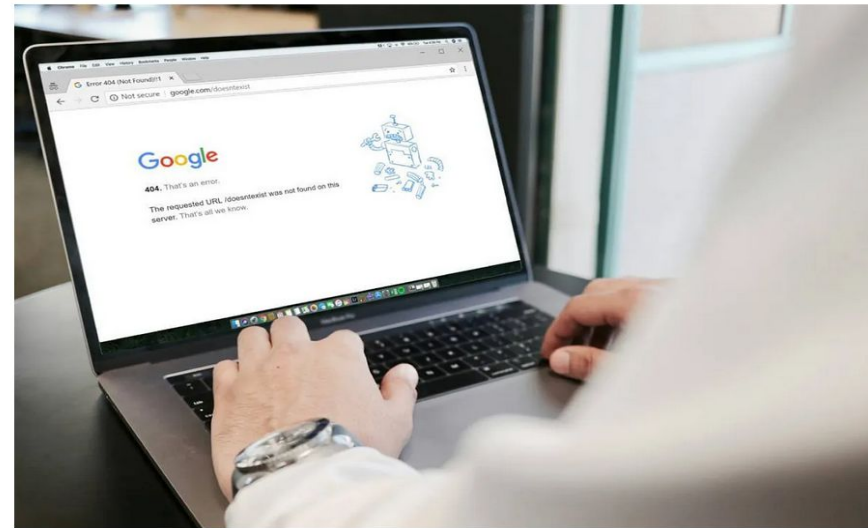
# Why

El Mundo  
2024-05-20

Pew Research  
Center. Article

## 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



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!

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

Why

# 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



In collaboration with



SwH is an  
organization

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



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# 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







# 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](#)
- Matrix channel [#swh](#) at matrix.org

## Contributors

- Forge: <https://gitlab.softwareheritage.org/>
- Documentation: <https://docs.softwareheritage.org/devel/>
- Mailing list: [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



Silver sponsors



Bronze sponsors



SwH builds  
an  
ecosystem

Testimonials

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



# The Ambassadors



Agustín Benito  
Bethencourt



Alexis Lebis



Anna-Lena  
Lamprecht



Bertrand Néron



Borut Kumperscak



Bostjan Spetic



Camille Françoise



Bruno Khélifi



Cécile Arènes



Dare Pejić



Flavia Marzano



Frédéric Santos



Gavin Henry



Gerard Coen



Gilmary Gallon



Harish Pillay



Italo Vignoli



Jaime Arias



Joenio Marques  
Da Costa



Julien Caugant



Malin Sandström



Maria-Chiara Prodi



Max Kalik



Maxence Azzouz-  
Thuderoz



Mohammad  
Akhlaghi



Neal Fultz



Océane Valencia



Pierre Poulain



Sandrine Layrisse



Simon Phipps



Vicky Rampin



Violaine Louvet



Wendy Hagenmaier

[ambassadorprogram@softwareheritage.org](mailto:ambassadorprogram@softwareheritage.org)



The archive

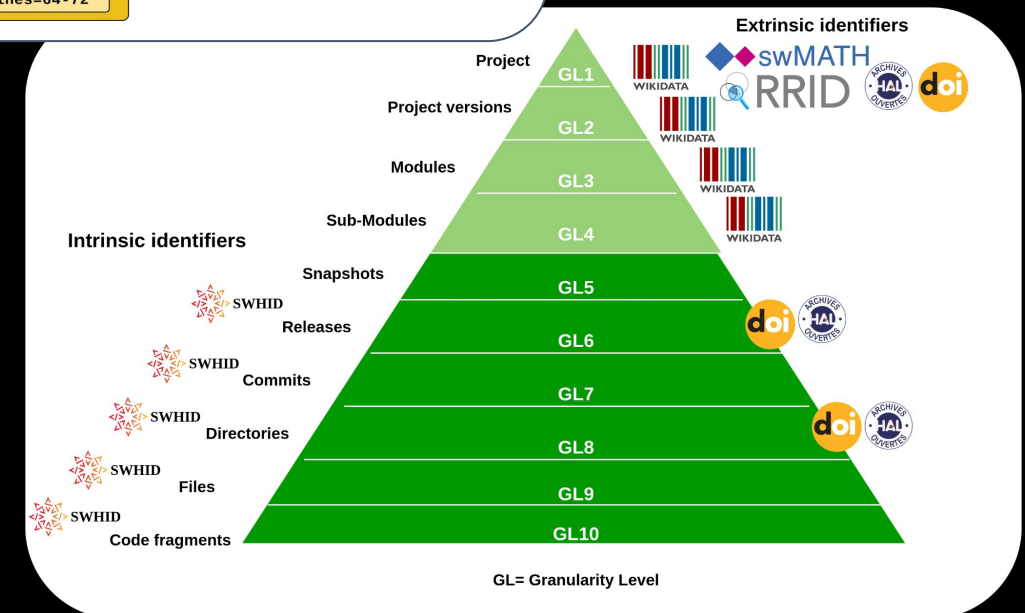
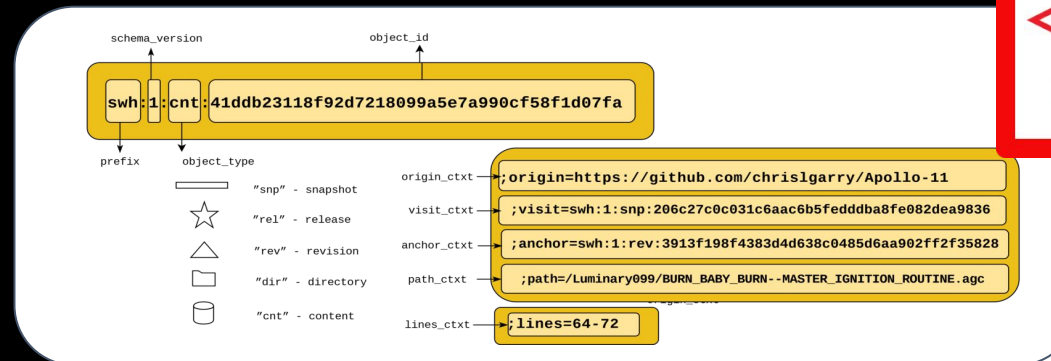
- Source code is...
  - designs, algorithms, code, tests, documentation, configurations, licenses, etc.
- Software *evolves* over time
  - projects may last decades
  - the development history is key to its understanding
- Complexity
  - millions of lines of code
  - large web of dependencies: easy to break, difficult to maintain
  - sophisticated *developer communities*

Source  
code is  
*unique*, it is  
*not* data



# Reference Catalogue

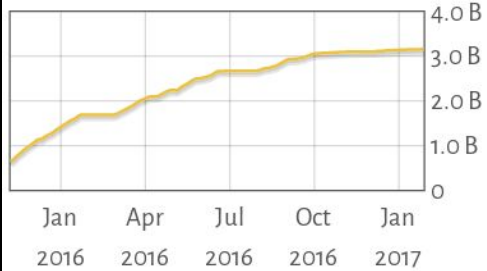
SWHID: <https://www.swhid.org/>



Nov'16

Source files

3,163,184,896



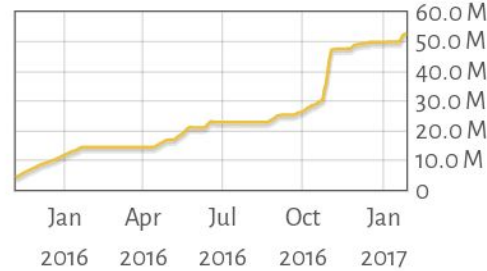
Commits

704,845,952



Projects

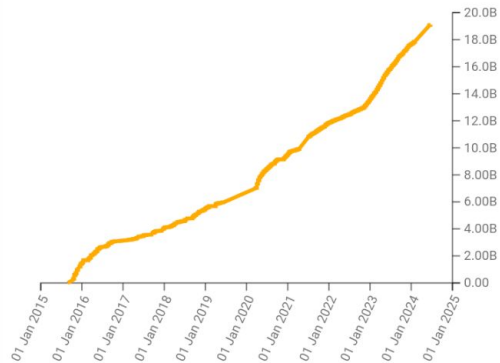
53,488,904



Jun'24

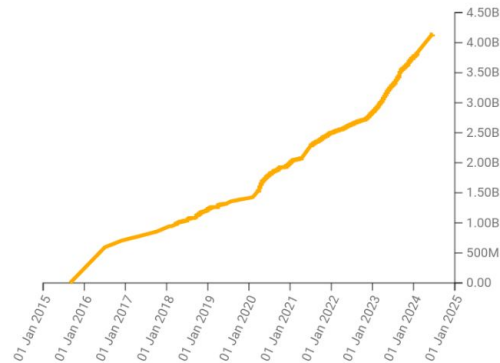
Source files

19,109,666,565



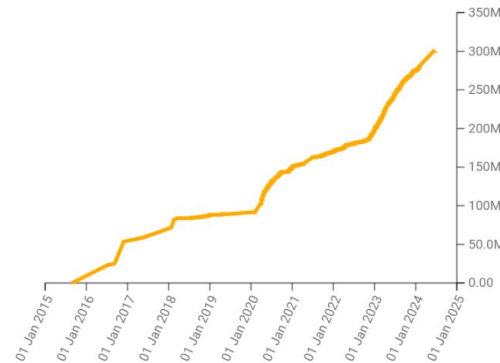
Commits

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](#)

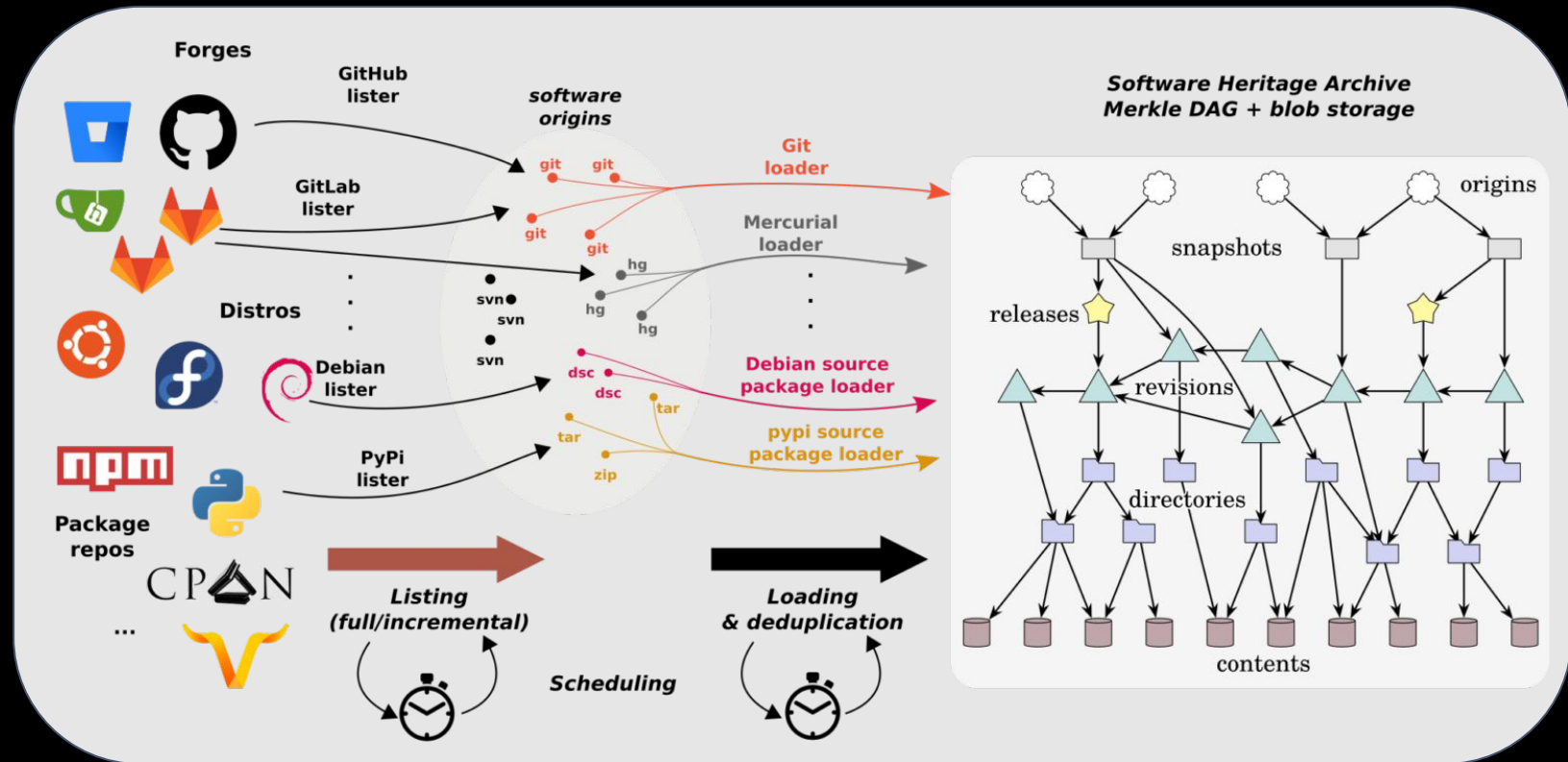
Universal  
archive

 <b>Bitbucket</b> 2,509,402 origins <	 56,983 origins <	<b>git</b> 24,600 origins <
 26,599 origins <	 <b>debian</b> 136,338 origins <	 53,297 origins <
<b>GitHub</b> 197,883,004 origins <	<b>gitiles</b> 10,171 origins <	 <b>GitLab</b> 4,216,298 origins <
 <b>git</b> 2,926 origins <	 <b>Gogs</b> 172 origins <	 971,549 origins <
 <b>Guix</b> 14,482 origins <	 <b>GNU</b> 354 origins <	 <b>heptapod</b> 1,207 origins <
 <b>launchpad</b> 503,631 origins <	<b>Maven™</b> 312,461 origins <	 <b>NixOS</b> 14,482 origins <

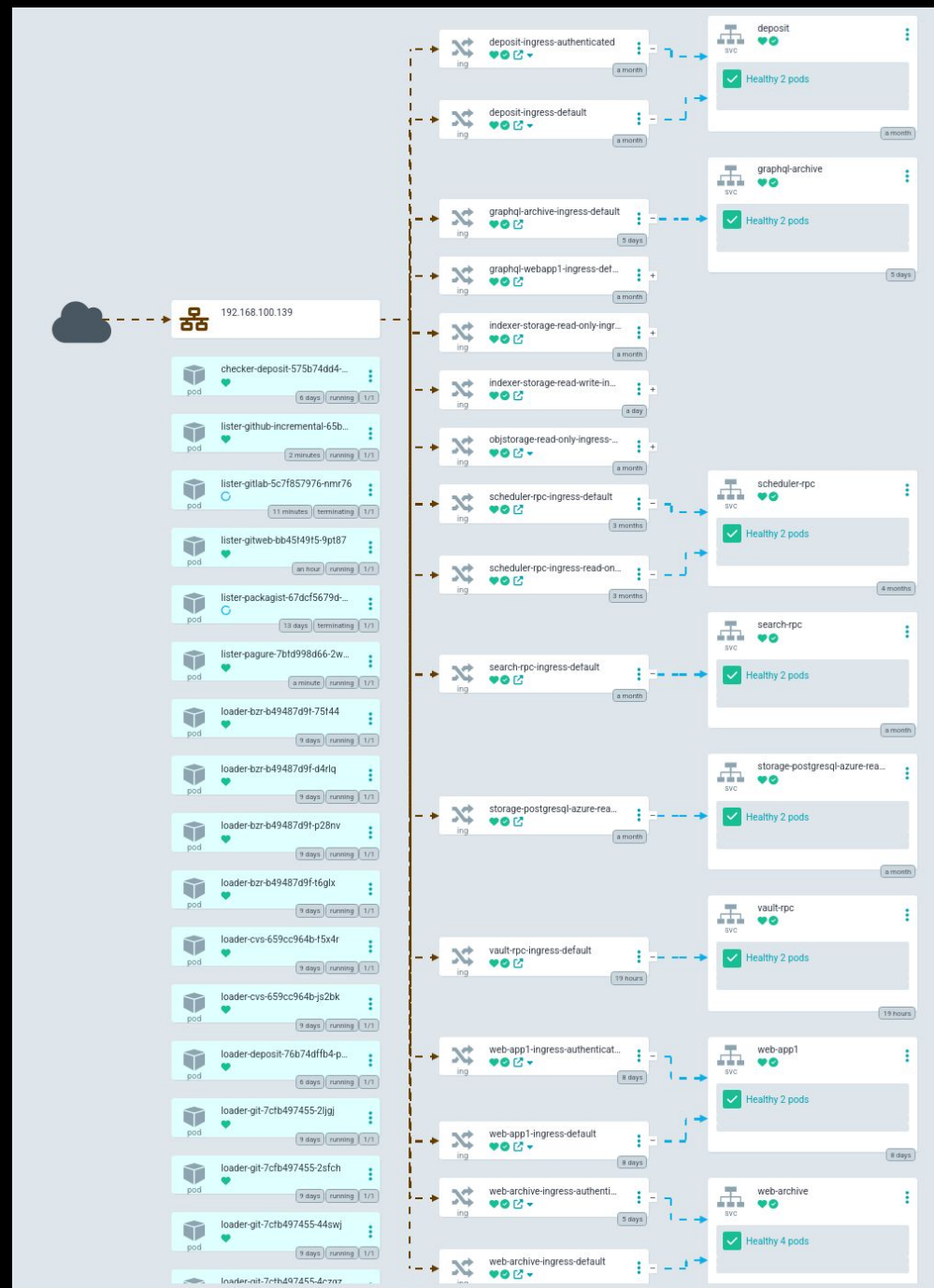
(\*) The numbers are never up to date

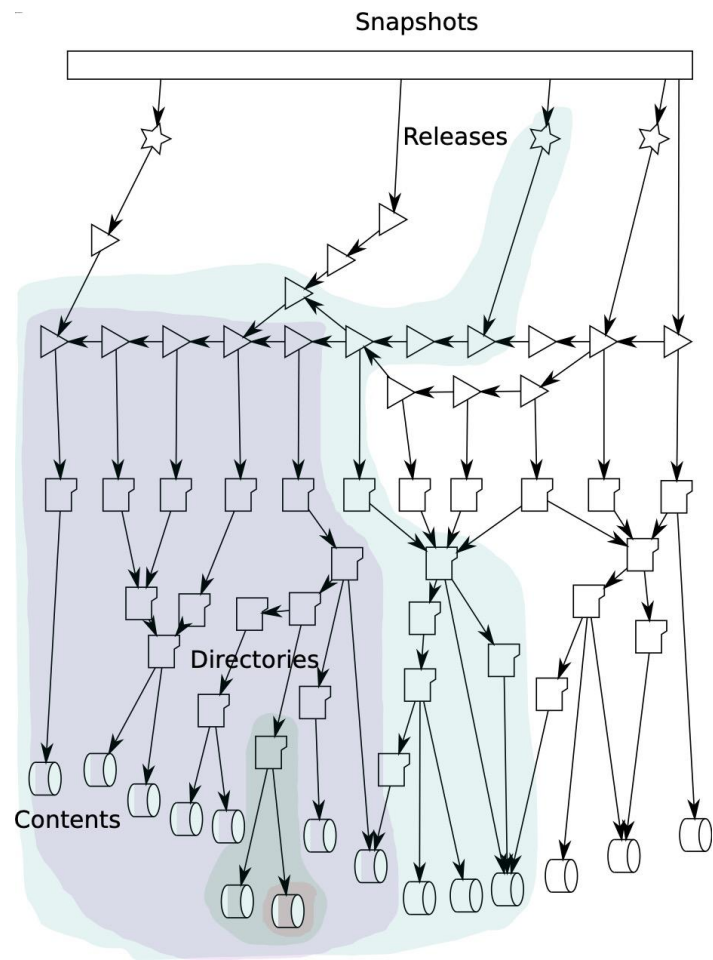
Truly  
universal

Built for the  
purpose so...



... complex  
and innovative



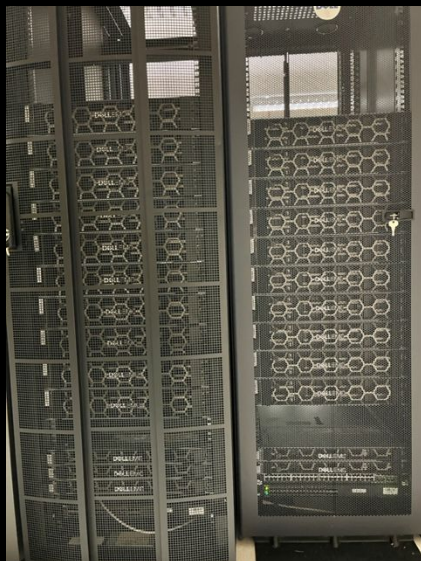


SwH is building a full  
graph of software  
development  
evolution





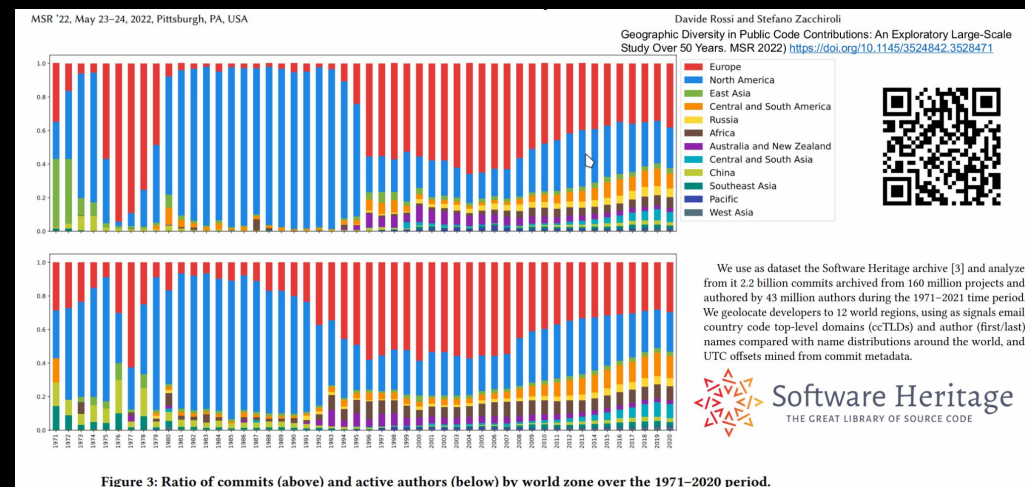
Self-hosted





# 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/>

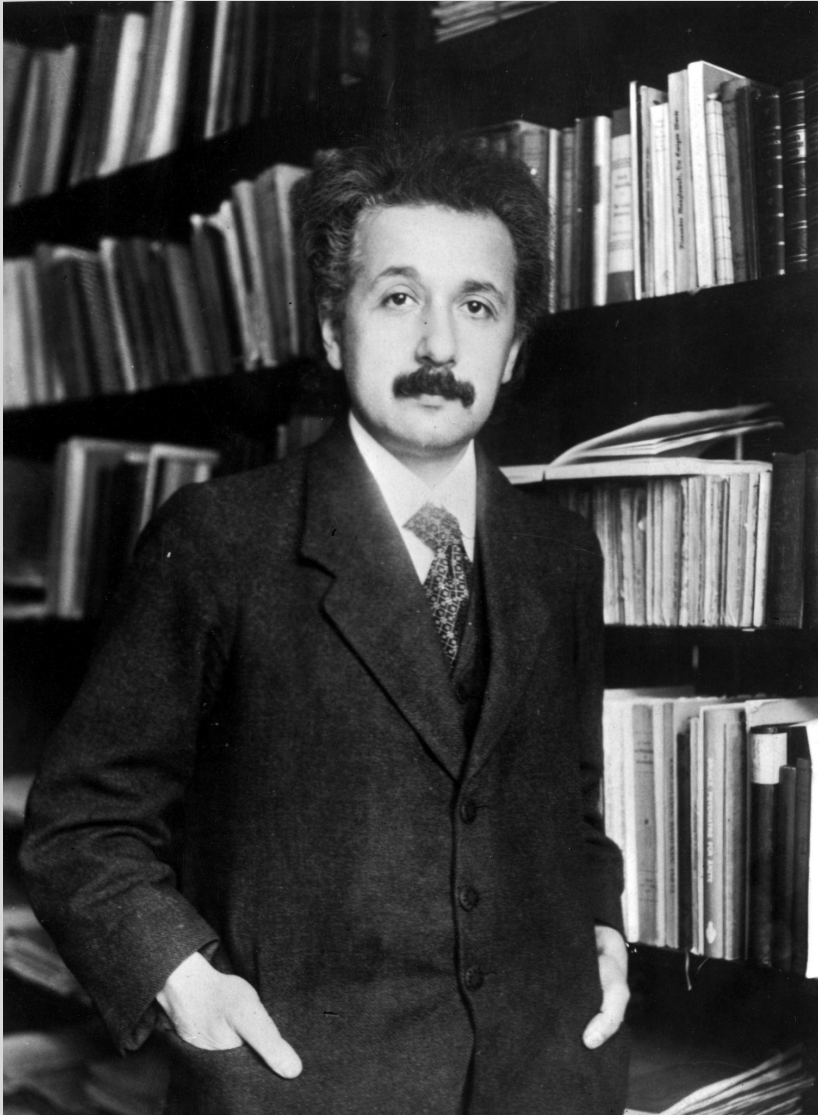
ENEA





Takeaway





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

SwH

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



Thank you



# Software Heritage

## The Alexandria Library of Software

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