

Version Control Systems

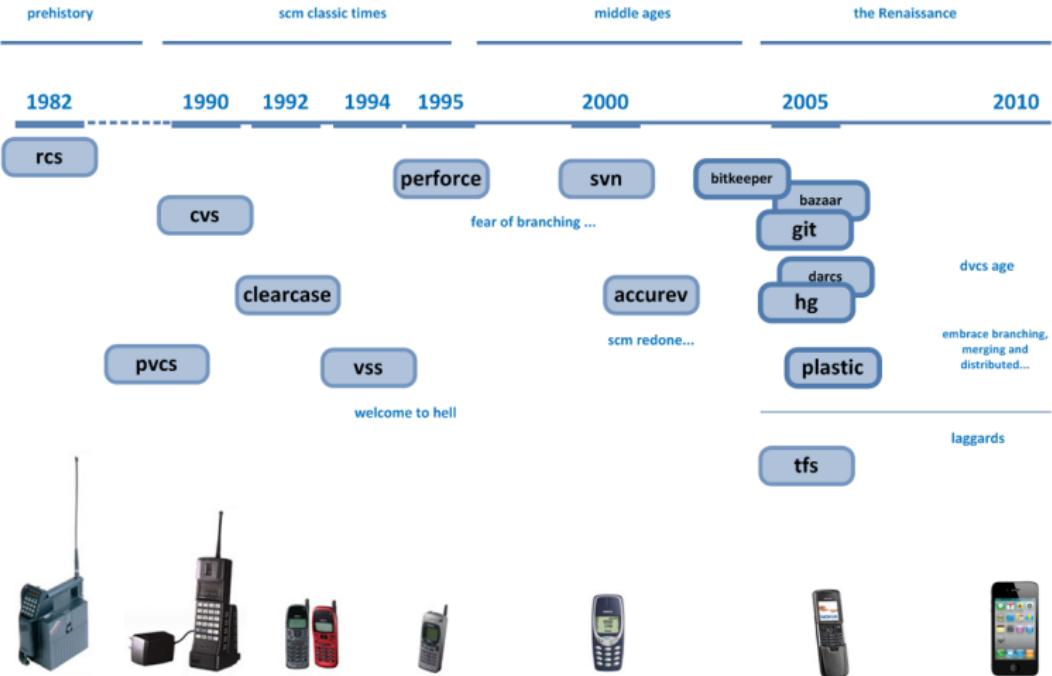
Tony Finch <fanf2@cam.ac.uk>

University of Cambridge Computing Service

Wednesday 18 April 2011



Version control timeline



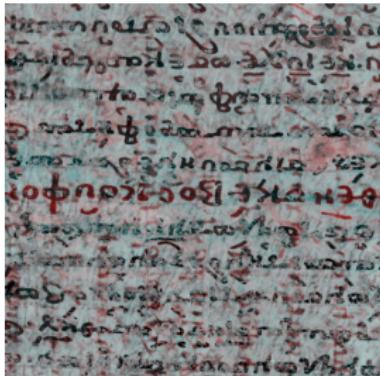
<http://codicesoftware.blogspot.co.uk/2010/11/version-control-timeline.html>

SCCS – “source code control system”

- ▶ 1972 – SNOBOL, IBM OS/MVT
- ▶ 1973 – C, Unix
- ▶ PWB → System V → Solaris
- ▶ Specified by POSIX
- ▶ GNU CSSC
 - “compatibly stupid source control”
 - www.gnu.org/software/cssc

≈:: * ::≈

- ▶ www.cam.ac.uk



RCS – “revision control system”

- ▶ 1982 – C, Unix
- ▶ free / open source

≈:: * ::≈

- ▶ Managed Mail Domains
- ▶ Hermes system configuration
- ▶ ~~PWF~~ MCS Linux package lists



CVS – “concurrent versions system”

- ▶ 1986 – shell scripts wrapping RCS
- ▶ 1990 – reimplemented in C
 - ▶ vendor branches
- ▶ 1995 – access repository over network
- ▶ 1996 – cvsweb repository browser

≈:: * ::≈

- ▶ Hermes source code
& package configuration



Subversion / svn – “CVS done right”

- ▶ 2000 – Cross-platform
- ▶ Apache APR, Berkeley DB, WebDAV
- ▶ Multi-file changesets
- ▶ Cheap branches
- ▶ Better authentication & access control

≈:: * ::≈

- ▶ DSpace / Unix Support / Development Group



Early distributed version control systems

- ▶ 1991 – smoosh
Sun WorkShop TeamWare
- 1999 – BitKeeper
Proprietary popularizer
- ▶ 2001 – GNU Arch / tla
Free but loony
- ▶ 2003 – Monotone
Merkle crypto hash tree
- ▶ 2003 – Darcs
Patch algebra & Haskell
- ▶ 2003 – svk
Distributed Subversion



Current popular distributed version control systems

- ▶ git
www.git-scm.com
Swiss-army chainsaw
- ▶ Mercurial / hg
mercurial.selenic.com
- ▶ Bazaar / bzr
bazaar.canonical.com
- ▶ Fossil
www.fossil-scm.org



Code hosting services

- ▶ github.com
- ▶ gitorious.org
→ git
- ▶ bitbucket.org
→ hg, git
- ▶ code.google.com
→ svn, hg, git
- ▶ launchpad.net
→ bzh
- ▶ savannah.gnu.org
- ▶ alioth.debian.org
- ▶ sourceforge.net
→ many

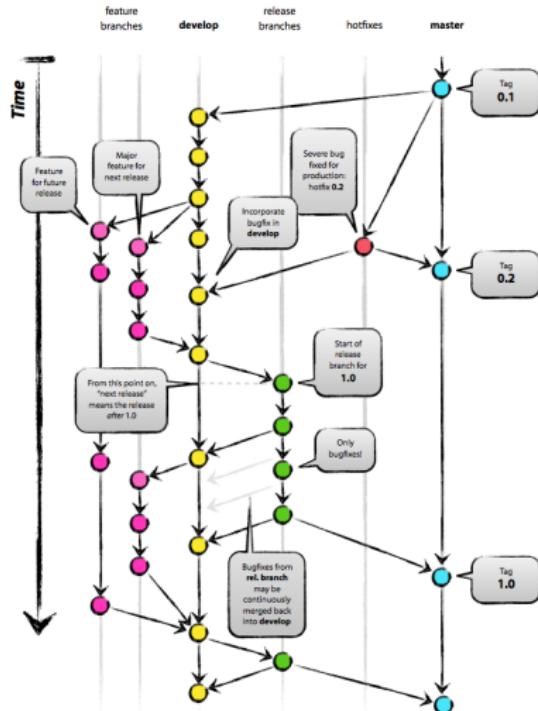


Git in the Computing Service

Speculation...

≈:: * ::≈

- ▶ Repository hosting?
 - ▶ CS internal
 - ▶ Managed service
- ▶ Config. management
 - ▶ Starling





“I’m an egotistical bastard, and I name all my projects after myself. First Linux, now git.” — Linus Torvalds