Software Heritage
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Issue #11, May 16th, 2023

Uniting for legacy

"Building a community that is supportive of one another is not only beneficial for the individuals involved, but it also leaves a lasting legacy for future generations to continue building upon."
- Oprah Winfrey

Welcome to the latest edition of the Software Heritage newsletter! We have exciting news to share that highlight the importance of our mission to collect, preserve and share the source code of software for the benefit of present and future generations.

In September 2020, the United Nations celebrated its 75th anniversary and adopted a political declaration that called for a shared vision and renewed commitment to uphold the UN Charter and promote peace, security, and prosperity for all. In response, the UN Secretary-General released a report in September 2021 called "Our Common Agenda," which proposes a Global Digital Compact to be agreed upon at the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

The Global Digital Compact aims to outline shared principles for an open, free, and secure digital future for all and will involve all stakeholders, including governments, the UN system, the private sector, civil society, academia, and individuals, including youth. **As part of this multi-stakeholder endeavour,** France submitted an official contribution that explicitly mentions Software Heritage **as a support mechanism, platform, and service that aims to ensure the continuity, reliability, and traceability of the digital common heritage of humankind.** We are humbled by this proposal, that we hope will bring stronger worldwide support for our mission.

At Software Heritage, we remain committed to advocating for the importance of open-source software and its role in shaping the future of technology. This is why we recently co-signed an open letter with the Eclipse Foundation on the Cyber Resilience Act. The objective of this new regulation is to ensure the safety and security of our digital infrastructure, including software, but we must make sure that it does not hinder the progress and innovation of open-source software as an unintended side effect. You can read the open letter and learn more about this important topic on the Eclipse Foundation's website.

2023. Coming from different parts of the world, with various skills and expertise, ambassadors help Software Heritage spread the word about its mission, and we are delighted to see that our community keeps growing. **We are grateful to Simon Phipps for writing an article titled "Open Source ensures code remains a part of Culture," in which he explains why Software Heritage completes the new social contract enabled by open source.**

We are excited to announce that the webpages for the SWHAP Days 2022 and the Software Heritage Symposium and Summit are now live! SWHAP Days 2022 was a two-day event held on October 2022, organized in collaboration between Software Heritage and UNESCO with the aim of promoting SWHAP and Software Stories, creating a community and gathering feedback. The Software Heritage Symposium and Summit took place on February 7th, 2023, bringing together the growing community. Even if you missed the events, you can still access the insightful discussions and expert speakers on these event webpages.

Last but not least, we are pleased to announce that the SWHID deposit for Research Software on HAL and Software Heritage is now available on all HAL instances since January 2023, thanks to the close collaboration between CCSD, IES-INRIA, and the Software Heritage team.

As always, we invite you to check out our technical roadmap, which outlines our goals and strategy for 2023, and to catch up on any events or updates you may have missed. Thank you for your continued support.

OUR MISSION

We **collect** and **preserve** software in source code form because software embodies our technical and scientific knowledge and humanity cannot afford the risk of losing it.
Software is a precious part of our cultural heritage. We curate and make accessible all the software we collect because only by **sharing** it we can guarantee its preservation in the very long term.

Collect   Preserve   Share

Software Heritage will provide solid, common foundations to serve the different needs of heritage preservation, science, and industry.

Donate

IT'S NEW!

May 5, 2023

Open Source ensures code remains a part of culture, by Simon Phipps

We are thrilled to share an article by our ambassador Simon Phipps, who shares this belief and advocates for the importance of Open Source in preserving software as a part of the culture.

Read more

May 3, 2023

Meet our 6th ambassador in 2023, Max Kalik

We are delighted to introduce our 6th ambassador this year: Max Kalik! Based in San Francisco, USA, Max is a software engineer at Triumph Labs who is skilled in solving technical and user problems across all stages of product creation.

Read more

April 18, 2023

Meet our fifth ambassador in 2023, Harish Pillay

We are excited to introduce our newest ambassador, Harish Pillay! Harish is an electrical and computer engineer who leads the Community Architecture and Leadership in Red Hat Asia Pacific. He was elected to the Internet Society Board of Trustees in 2016 and has been a pioneer in internetworking since the 1980s. Now, as a Software Heritage ambassador, Harish aims to advocate for the recognition of software as a form of human expression, akin to art, music, and dance. He believes in the importance of archiving and preserving software for future generations to access and appreciate.

Read more

April 14, 2023

Joining the Software Heritage Journey: 2023 Community Workshop Recap

On February 7th, 2023, the Software Heritage community convened at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, following the 2023 Symposium to exchange ideas. The gathering included team members, ambassadors, grantees, partners, and contributors, who engaged in discussions on the latest evolution of the Software Heritage archive and collaborated on various aspects of its mission. In this blog post, we will provide a recap of the workshop's highlights and share the insights and perspectives that emerged from this event.

Read more

April 7, 2023

Enhancing Cybersecurity through Software Heritage

Recently, on Friday, March 31st, 2023, at the Cyber Campus in Paris, Software Heritage participated in the launch of a new national research and innovation program on cybersecurity - PTCC. During the opening event, Roberto Di Cosmo, Software Heritage's director, unveiled the first project funded in this framework, known as SWHSec. This groundbreaking initiative brings together eight expert research teams specializing in security, software engineering, and open-source software to harness the power of Software Heritage's robust infrastructure and create cutting-edge tools for cybersecurity.

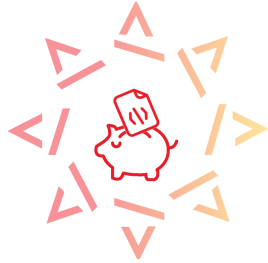**Read more**

April 6, 2023

Meet our fourth ambassador in 2023, Maxence Azzouz-Thuderoz

Join us in welcoming our newest ambassador for 2023, Maxence Azzouz-Thuderoz! Maxence is a highly skilled data scientist with expertise in AI and natural language processing. He discovered Software Heritage through his involvement in the FAIRCORE4EOSC project and shares our belief that archiving software is not only crucial for historical preservation but also for fostering the development of better open-

April 4, 2023

The SWHID deposit: a new way to contribute research software to HAL

We are thrilled to share that the SWHID deposit for Research Software on HAL and Software Heritage is now available on all HAL instances since January 2023, thanks to the close collaboration between CCSD, IES-INRIA, and the Software Heritage team. **This SWHID deposit is an exciting addition to the existing research software deposit, providing a compressed archive option.** In the recently released 2022 CCSD report, which outlines the organization's achievements and activities throughout the year, the software source code deposit is highlighted among various other aspects of CCSD's work. It's **an important milestone in our ongoing efforts to promote research software preservation and accessibility.**

March 30, 2023

Meet our third ambassador in 2023, Simon Phipps

This year, we were delighted to welcome Simon Phipps as our third ambassador. With a long and illustrious career in the computer industry, Simon has made significant contributions in areas such as networking, operating systems, standards, and Open Source. Having served as the President of the Open Source Initiative (OSI) twice, Simon has now joined the SWH ambassadors network. **He passionately believes in advocating for Software Heritage in the context of cultural preservation, and we are honoured to have him on board as an advocate for our mission.**

March 20, 2023

Research Software workshop at RDA P20: we will be there, are you?

We have announced that a research software workshop was held on Friday, March 24th as part of the RDA P20 plenary in Gothenburg. The workshop was organized by partners from the two European projects FAIR-IMPACT and FAIRCORE4OSC, with Software Heritage as a partner in these projects aimed at enhancing recognition of research software and improving software infrastructures in the scholarly ecosystem. The workshop was open to researchers, practitioners, and anyone interested in the field of research software.

Read more

March 17, 2023

The Software Heritage symposium and summit webpage is now live!

Missed our exciting event on February 7th, 2023? Don't worry! You can still access the wealth of knowledge and insights shared by our expert speakers at the Software Heritage Symposium and Summit. Representatives from the growing Software Heritage community gathered at UNESCO to take stock of the archive's achievements during its second annual symposium and summit.
Read more about the voices and perspectives that shaped this event, and don't forget to check out the event pictures to catch a glimpse of the highlights. Join us in celebrating the success of this exciting gathering!

Read more

March 16, 2023

On the Road(map) for 2023!

The primary goal of our 2023 technical roadmap is to support and proactively address the expansion of Software Heritage, encompassing archive size as well as increasing visibility and usage among diverse user groups from fields such as research, culture, public administration, and industry.

Read more

The SWHAP Days 2022 webpage is out!

SWHAP Days 2022 was a two-day event held on the 19th and 20th of October 2022 in Paris, organized in collaboration between Software Heritage and UNESCO. With the generous support of UNESCO, Inria, Inria Foundation, and Lip6, the event drew over 100 participants both onsite and online. **The main objective of the event was to promote and launch SWHAP and the Software Stories initiative, foster a vibrant community around it, and gather valuable feedback on the process.**

Read more

Meet our second ambassador in 2023, Camille Françoise

Incredibly, just one week after welcoming Violaine Louvet as our first ambassador in 2023, we were overjoyed to announce the addition of our second ambassador, Camille Françoise, a renowned Open Culture/GLAM Advocate & Project Manager at the Nederlands Instituut voor Beeld en Geluid, with a wealth of experience working in digital departments of museums in France and abroad. We are honoured to have Camille as one of our ambassadors!

Read more

Meet our first ambassador in 2023, Violaine Louvet

A few weeks ago, we were thrilled to announce that **Violaine Louvet had joined us as our first ambassador in 2023** at Software Heritage. Violaine actively contributed to the French Committee for Open Science and the European EOSC task force, promoting open science and research software quality. Violaine was passionate about raising awareness for research software and actively promoted the use of the open archive HAL and the universal source code archive, Software Heritage.

February 14, 2023

Software Heritage in 2022: full speed ahead

At the beginning of this year, we were proud to announce and invite everyone to read our 2022 annual report. **We were also excited to say that it is now available as a standalone document**, which makes it easier to grasp the breadth of our mission, track the progress we have made, and share it with a broader audience.

Read more

February 2, 2023

Software Heritage is now using GitLab!

In February, we announced with great pleasure that Software Heritage development and operations had been shifted to our own GitLab instance. This move improved our workflow significantly, and it enabled easier contributions from all those interested in preserving software history. Thanks to the combined efforts of our sysadmin team and Open Tech Strategies, we were able to transition smoothly from our previous system.

Read more

January 16, 2023

Software Heritage symposium and summit

In 2022, Software Heritage achieved a major milestone by surpassing the 200 million software origin mark. This year, in 2023, we were thrilled to announce the **Software Heritage symposium and summit** where we discussed the archive's accomplishments and status, as well as its importance in today's ever-changing digital innovation landscape. The event took place on Tuesday, February 7th at Unesco's headquarters.

GRANTS

Helping you to contribute to the mission

Source code is spread around a broad spectrum of code hosting platforms and websites, and developed using a variety of version control systems. In order to collect and archive it properly, and to add features to the archive to better access it, Software Heritage needs expert contributors.

Open calls for cascading grants may be available to fund your contributions: look at the NLnet foundation and the recently announced NGI Search, and contact us for a letter of support if you think you can apply with a proposal that contributes to the long term mission of Software Heritage.

YOU CAN HELP!

The Software Heritage archive will serve the needs of the many, from cultural institutions to scientists and industries.

Everyone can help us achieving these ambitious goals and there are several ways to help.

Become a sponsor

Pursuing our roadmap for the archive requires significant resources. We welcome companies, institutions, and individuals who would like to join our sponsorship program and sustain the Software Heritage.
Discover our sponsorship program!

Tackle scientific challenges

Building, maintaining, and exploiting the universal source code archive poses relevant scientific challenges. We welcome scientists who would like to contribute to this mission by participating in our research activities.
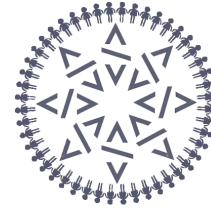Join our research community!

Code with us

All the software we develop ourselves is open source. We welcome contributors that are willing to delve into it and help us building the many components that are needed to make the archive progress towards the next milestones.

Dive into the code!

Host a mirror

Institutions and companies from all around the world are welcome to join our mirror program. This is essential to prevent information loss, and will greatly simplify access to humankind's software heritage.

Contact us to host a mirror!

Discover the growing number of institutions, organizations and companies that sponsor Software Heritage, and those that express support for the software preservation mission. Take a look at their testimonials!

Individual donations are also most welcome, in any amount, just click on the button below to give to the mission.

Donate

SELECTED MILESTONES

🎞️ **Discover five years of Software Heritage in just five minutes!** 👥

July 29, 2021

Software for Open Science: a leap forward

In 2018, the French national plan for Open Science recognized Software Heritage as a key initiative for supporting research software, leading to the creation of a dedicated working group. **Three years later, software is now fully recognized as a pillar of Open Science in the second national plan unveiled by the French Ministry of Research in July 2021.**

👉 [Read more.](#)

October 10, 2019

Curating and archiving landmark legacy source code: you can help!

We were delighted to make a step forward about an important and urgent challenge in October 2019: collecting and curating landmark legacy source code written by pioneers of the digital age, many of which were still around, and willing to contribute their knowledge, but only for a limited time.

👉 [Read more.](#)

February 26, 2019

Software Heritage for Open Science

February 26, 2019

The Paris Call is here: calling for action to sustain Software Source Code!

On july 4th 2018 was unveiled the French national plan for Open Science, that identifies Software Heritage as one key initiative to support. Today we are delighted to welcome the French Ministry of Research as our first gold sponsor, contributing effectively to our efforts. On this occasion, we are happy to recall why Software Heritage is building an infrastructure that plays a key role for Open Science.

👉 Read more.

In April 2017, Inria entered into a framework agreement with UNESCO to uphold our mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing all available source code.
In June 2018, at UNESCO Headquarters, we launched the Software Heritage Archive to the public.
As part of our ongoing partnership, we helped bring together a group of experts at the UNESCO Headquarters and it resulted in the creation of the Paris Call, which now accessible online.

👉 Read more.

April 4, 2017

Raising awareness for Software Source Code preservation and access
At Unesco's headquarters in Paris, a formal partnership agreement has been signed between Unesco and Inria to establish a framework for collaboration on preserving the knowledge embedded in software source code, and making it widely available.

👉 Read more.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Software Heritage annual report is out!

We are pleased to announce the release of our annual report for 2022. This document provides a comprehensive overview of Software Heritage's mission, progress, and achievements. It highlights the expansion of our source code collection, user-facing improvements, and community engagement efforts, and expresses gratitude to our sponsors and supporters. We invite you to access and share the report as we continue working together to preserve humankind's software heritage.

Read more

You can read news from Software Heritage on our blog, follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and also our RSS flux!
You can watch Software Heritage's presentations on our YouTube video channel!
And if you missed our newsletter's first issues, consult the archive!

Let's spread the word!