Issue #8, March 8th, 2022

Building infrastructures for the common good

"In times of crisis, the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers"

Black Panther movie, 2018

This year 2022 started with the hope to see the end of the pandemic, a natural major challenge against which we have learned to work united as humankind. Unfortunately, this hope has now turned into dismay, with the world facing a human crisis that brings to many of us memories of a time we hoped to see consigned to history books.

In these troubled times, we consider more important than ever to build open, shared infrastructures for the common good across borders, and we are happy to report good news from two events, the **Open Science European Conference** and a conference for **Building Europe's digital sovereignty**, where software was squarely put forward as a key enabler, respectively, for Open Science on the one hand and for innovation and strategic autonomy on the other hand.

Software as a pillar of Open Science

Organised in the framework of the french presidency of the European Union, the Open Science European Conference (OSEC 2022) took place on February 4th and 5th with the participation of top-level personalities: representatives from ERC, EU commission, Unesco, French academies of Science, CNRS, and many more, that supported the Paris Call on Research Assessment.

Of particular interest for our community, a session on *research evaluation*, and, for the first time at such a high-level event, **a session on software as a pillar of Open Science**, that highlighted the key role of Software Heritage as a shared common infrastructure for archiving and referencing research software. The session was followed by the announcement of the results of the first edition of the *french national awards for open-source software in research*, which for the first time recognized, at the highest national level, key software contributions in a broad spectrum of research domains.

Towards a global collaboration for digital strategic autonomy

A pan European conference on digital sovereignty took place at the Ministry of Finance in Paris on February 7th and 8th, with the participation of top government officials from a broad panel of European countries, the European Parliament and the European Commission, that announced very important investment programs to improve Europe's digital strategic autonomy.

On this occasion, the role of the digital commons in supporting innovation and strategic autonomy was put forward, and we were invited to discuss how Software Heritage is one of these digital commons and the global role it can play, in Europe and beyond Europe, to ensure long term access to Open Source software. By guaranteeing its integrity and enabling its traceability, it improves the security of all the software supply chain, and contributes to cybersecurity, which is of global interest for all.

The videos of both events are available online!

▶ Watch Open Science European Conference videos

▶ Watch Building Europe's digital sovereignty videos

And if you have not yet done so, we invite you to read the 2021 activity report**.**

We are hiring!

In order to pursue our mission, we are now looking for passionate people that want to join our enthusiastic team.

Three positions are currently open, all the details are online.

Sponsors and ambassador news

We have been delighted to welcome RedHat as a new Bronze sponsor of Software Heritage, one of the earliest companies with a business fully built on, and dedicated to open source. On top of taking part in the sponsor program, RedHat is providing technical help in our efforts to build a more efficient and reliable object storage, based on the Ceph technology.

Two new members have joined the ambassador program: Flavia Marzano, who will spread the word about the relevance of our mission for the public sector and Italo Vignoli, who will promote our mission to industry players worldwide.

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

March 1, 2022

Towards software as a pillar of Open Science: news from OSEC 2022
We are delighted to report that software was squarely put forward as a key enabler for Open Science also at the Open Science European Conference (OSEC 2022) that took place on February 4th and 5th 2022.

Read more

February 24, 2022

Introducing Flavia Marzano, our newest ambassador

We are delighted to introduce Flavia Marzano, a computer scientist with more than 30 years of contribution to innovation in Public Administration.

Read more

February 17, 2022

Meet our 1st ambassador in 2022, Italo Vignoli

We are delighted to introduce our 1st ambassador in 2022, Italo Vignoli, a founder of the LibreOffice project.

Read more
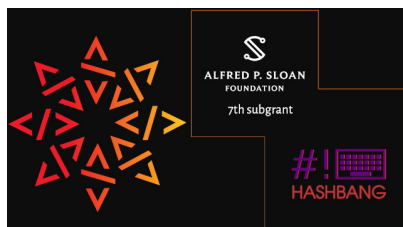
February 10, 2022

Building the technology needed to bridge the Software Heritage archive

We are delighted to share that one more subgrant has been awarded! Thanks to the NLNet Foundation, Obsidian Systems will be working on building the technology needed to bridge the Software Heritage archive with IPFS, an advanced peer-to-peer file storage protocol.

Read more

February 3, 2022

Hashbang to help expanding the coverage of the Software Heritage archive

We are excited to announce that a 7th subgrant managed by Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has been awarded to Hashbang to help to expand the coverage of the Software Heritage archive, by enabling the archival of 3 new software sources: the Crates.io RUST package repository, and the Arch Linux official and community packages (AUR).

Read more

February 1, 2022

Towards a Software Pillar for Open Science at OSEC 2022

We are delighted to share the news that software will be in the limelight at the Open Science European Conference (OSEC 2022).

Read more

January 20, 2022

The Software Heritage 5 years anniversary event page is here!

We have collected, curated and made available a wealth of material from the event, that you can now easily find in a single place, the [SWH5YEARS dedicated web page](#).

Read more

January 13, 2022

Preserving source code archive files

Thanks to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Timothy Sample, will be working to enable the preservation of source code archive files (e.g., ".tar.gz" files) in the Software Heritage archive.

Read more

January 13, 2022

Software Heritage in 2021: five years already!

Despite the health crisis we have been experiencing since March 2020, Software Heritage pursues its mission of collecting, preserving and sharing software source code, which started many years ago and was unveiled to the public on June 30th 2016.

Read more

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, Software Heritage needs adaptors for each of the platforms and version control systems out there.

We partnered with the [Alfred P. Sloan Foundation](#) and the [NLnet foundation](#) to provide grants for

experts that are willing to engage with the long term mission of Software Heritage.

For more information on how to apply for the programs that are still open.

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.
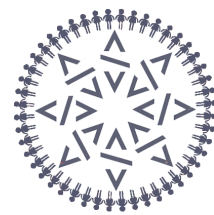
Join our research community!

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!** 🎦

December 16, 2021

Meeting at UNESCO to celebrate five years of Software Heritage

This year 2021 we celebrate five years of continuous and passionate dedication to the Software Heritage mission, which we announced to the world on June 30th 2016: to collect, preserve and share all the available source code, for the benefit of society as a whole.

Read more

Software for Open Science: a leap forward

On July 4 2018 the first French national plan for Open Science identified Software Heritage as a key initiative to support software used and produced in research and led to the creation of the working group dedicated to free and open source software inside the french national committee for Open Science.

Three years later, we are excited to see software fully recognized as a key pillar of Open Science in the second national plan for Open Science, unveiled by the French Ministry of Research on July 6 2021 (you can find an english translation online here).

Read more

October 10, 2019

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

We are delighted to make a step forward about an important and urgent challenge: collecting and curating landmark legacy source code written by pioneers of the digital age, many of which are still around, and willing to contribute their knowledge, but only for a limited time. They are spread all around the world, and the amount of knowledge at risk of being lost is huge, so we'll only succeed if a broad international community steps up to tackle this noble task.

Read more

September 5, 2019

Software Heritage for Open Science

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

February 26, 2019

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

A shared mission and a continuing collaboration with UNESCO: a call to action on software, and software source code

Part of our Heritage, Pillar of our Present, Enabler of our Future

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

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Software Heritage annual report is out!

Despite the health crisis we have been experiencing since March 2020, Software Heritage pursues its mission of collecting, preserving and sharing software source code, which started many years ago and was unveiled to the public on June 30th 2016.

The archive is growing steadily, counting now **over 11 billion unique source files from more than 170 million projects**, from a growing number of origins: we are grateful to the volunteers that submitted **over 100.000 Save Code Now requests**, and to the many expert contributors that helped expand the coverage of the archive (more on this in the annual report).

We will continue to expand the international community around Software Heritage: collecting, preserving and sharing all the software source code is a humbling undertaking that requires institutional support, with sponsors and partners (take a look at the different sponsorship program possibilities), as well as individual engagement, ranging from collaborators to contributors, from ambassadors to the donors that are answering the call of the ongoing end of year fundraising campaign (yes, you should join too!).

We look forward to working with all interested parties: let's work together to preserve our past, improve our present, and prepare a better future.

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!