



# Software Heritage

## </> Newsletter </>

Issue #4, January 7th, 2021



### Looking beyond the crisis

*"It is clear that the way to win the future is through an openness to the world."*

António Guterres  
UN General Secretary

At Software Heritage, we committed ourselves over five years ago to [the long term mission of collecting, preserving and making available to all](#) the *source code* of all *software* publicly available, as it *contains a growing amount of our collective knowledge*.

We strongly believe that building [the universal source code archive](#) as *a common non profit infrastructure* will help humankind be *better prepared for the next global crisis*, contributing to answer [the joint WHO, UNESCO and UNHR appeal for Open Science](#). It is the commitment to this mission that kept [the Software Heritage team](#) working at full speed despite the difficulties of a year 2020 spent almost entirely in lockdown.

Wishing you all the best for a year 2021 that may heal and reunite, we are delighted to share *the Software Heritage 2020 annual report*: you will see that there are even more ways to engage with this essential effort, and as always, donations are just one click away!

Roberto Di Cosmo  
Director, Software Heritage

Donate

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Software Heritage annual report is out!



Despite the crisis and the difficulties, 2020 has seen great progress at Software Heritage, that now preserves over 2 billion commits from more than 150 million projects!

Learn what has been achieved at the service of industry, research, cultural heritage, government transparency and Open Science.

Discover how Software Heritage is now not only grant seeking, but grant making. Explore the new possibilities that are now available to get involved and contribute to the long term mission that Software Heritage is undertaking. Read the news and watch the videos on our channel. Promote the use of Software Heritage by becoming an Ambassador.

[Read more](#)

## SPONSORS NEWS



We are delighted to announce that [CNRS](#) has decided to join our growing community as a **Platinum sponsor** in support of the mission of Software Heritage.

CNRS is the French state national research organisation, the largest fundamental science agency in Europe and a driving force in the Open Science movement. Today we are thrilled to work together to build its software pillar.

## 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](#).

## IT'S NEW!

December 22, 2020



### Introducing the Software Heritage Ambassador programme

We are delighted to announce the Software Heritage ambassador programme, and look forward to welcome enthusiastic organizations and individuals that want to help spread the word about Software Heritage and the services it

provides to society as a whole.

[Read more](#)

December 15, 2020



### Towards a better understanding of FAIR principles for software

We participate in the FAIRsFAIR european project which aims to supply practical solutions for the use of the FAIR data principles throughout the research data life cycle.

[Read more](#)

December 10, 2020



### Improving the Subversion loader and adding a CVS loader

As announced before, we received a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to support contributions from experts that want to help increase the coverage of the Software Heritage archive. After a first subgrant awarded to Cottage Labs, we are excited to unveil a second subgrant, awarded to [Stefan Sperling](#), that will be working on improving the current Subversion loader and developing a CVS loader.

[Read more](#)

December 3, 2020



## Bringing software to the limelight in the Research Data Alliance

Software Heritage is actively participating in the Research Data Alliance (RDA). This year, we attended to the Research Data Alliance plenary VP16 organized virtually from Costa Rica and we are delighted to see how, in just three years, software has become a hot subject.

[Read more](#)

November 26, 2020



## CNRS joins forces with Software Heritage for Open Science

Today, we are excited to share the news that CNRS, a driving force in the Open Science movement that wants to render accessible to all the results of public research, has joined our growing community as a Platinum sponsor to build together the software pillar of Open Science putting software source code on a par with research articles and data.

[Read more](#)

November 12, 2020

## eLife archives research software in Software Heritage



The journal eLife has decided to systematically save source code repositories in the Software Heritage archive containing all software artifacts associated with the published article.

[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.



### Becoming 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

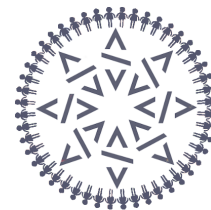
Building, maintaining, and exploiting the universal source code archive poses relevant scientific challenges. We welcome scientists who would like to contribute to this mission by participating in our research activities.

[Join our research community!](#)



### Code with us

All the software we develop ourselves is open source. We welcome contributors that are



### Host a mirror

Institutions and companies from all around the world are welcome to join our mirror program.

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!](#)



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



You can read news from Software Heritage [on our blog](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and also watch our presentations on our YouTube [video channel!](#)

If you missed our newsletter's first issues, consult the [archive!](#)

*Let's spread the word!*

