

A Brief History of Version Control

Why?

Real-world example of
no version control

`diff`

diff -u

diff -q

diff -r

diff -u

diff -q

diff -r

diff -u

diff -q

diff -r

Delta compression

The Prehistoric Era

SCCS - 1972

rCS - 1982

- per-file
- delta compression

Commits

Locking

The Classical Era

CVS - 1990

- wrapper around rcs
- managed repositories
- client-server architecture

Changeset

- no atomic commits

Branching and Merging

The Middle Ages

p4 - 1995

- uses locking
- heavily centralized
 - similar to `svn`

svn - 2000

“CVS done right”

- atomic commits
- history tracks files and directories
- fast branching

svn checkout

svn status

svn add

svn commit

svn log

svn blame

svn checkout

svn status

svn add

svn commit

svn log

svn blame

svn checkout

svn status

svn add

svn commit

svn log

svn blame

svn checkout

svn status

svn add

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svn log

svn blame

The Renaissance

What is a distributed
version control system?

- branching / merging is good
- users have whole repo
 - different way of thinking

bitkeeper - 2002

- used for the Linux kernel until 2005
- drama caused it to fall out of favor

git - 2005

- directed acyclic graph
- generally fantastic

darcs - 2002

hg - 2005

plastic - 2006

bzr - 2008