

Obliterate

or

Let's Pretend I Didn't Do That

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Overview

- Why obliterate?

Reasons fall into three categories
- How to obliterate?

Delete files or undo changes
- Alternatives

How it's done in CVS and P4
How it's done in Svn now

Why?

- Requested...
 - since pre-1.0
 - by many on mailing list over the years
 - by big companies & organisations
- Reasons stated...
 - hide secrets
 - undo accidental large additions
 - remove old data to reduce repos size
 - work flow needs only recent version(s)

Why?

- Alternatives...

 - can do in CVS (crudely)

 - Perforce has “p4 obliterate”

 - Use authz to hide files

- Counter-arguments...

 - is not pure version control (find other ways)

 - dangerous if mis-used

Why? Hide a Secret

- What happened?
 - committed a customer's private data in a company-wide repository,
 - committed copyrighted material to a public repository.
- What's needed?
 - Hide** that file first,
(may require **swift** action),
then plan the permanent fix.

Why? Recover Space

- What happened?
 - added large, generated files,
 - imported to wrong repository,
 - split the repos,
 - a large project became redundant.
- What's needed?
 - Reclaim** server disk **space**.
 - Can be a **planned** event.

Why? Latest Version

- Project structure:

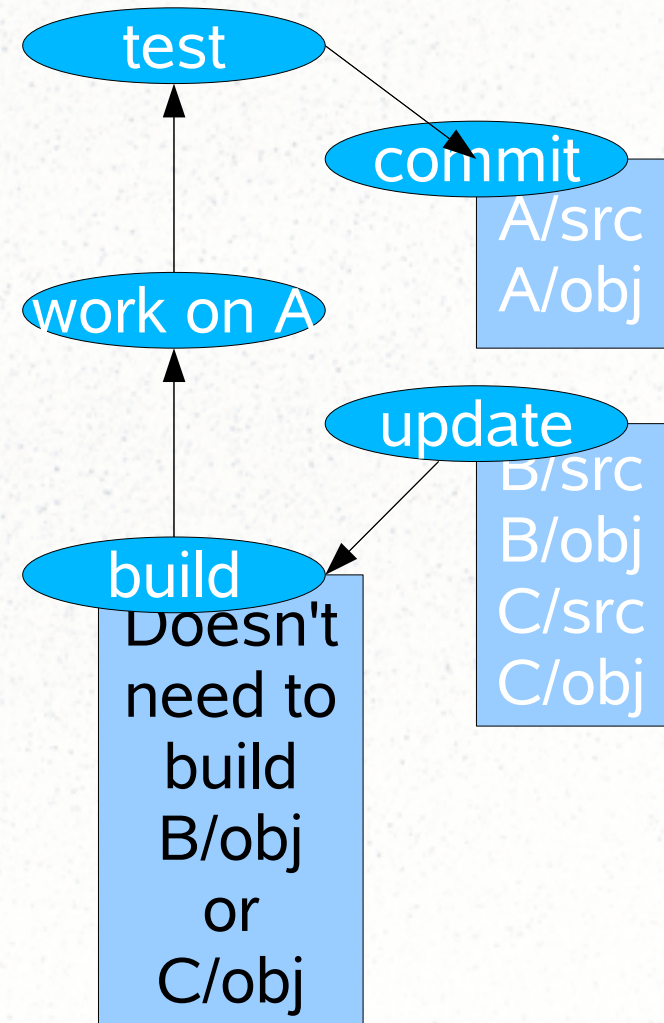
moduleA/

- src/...

- **obj/...**

moduleB/...

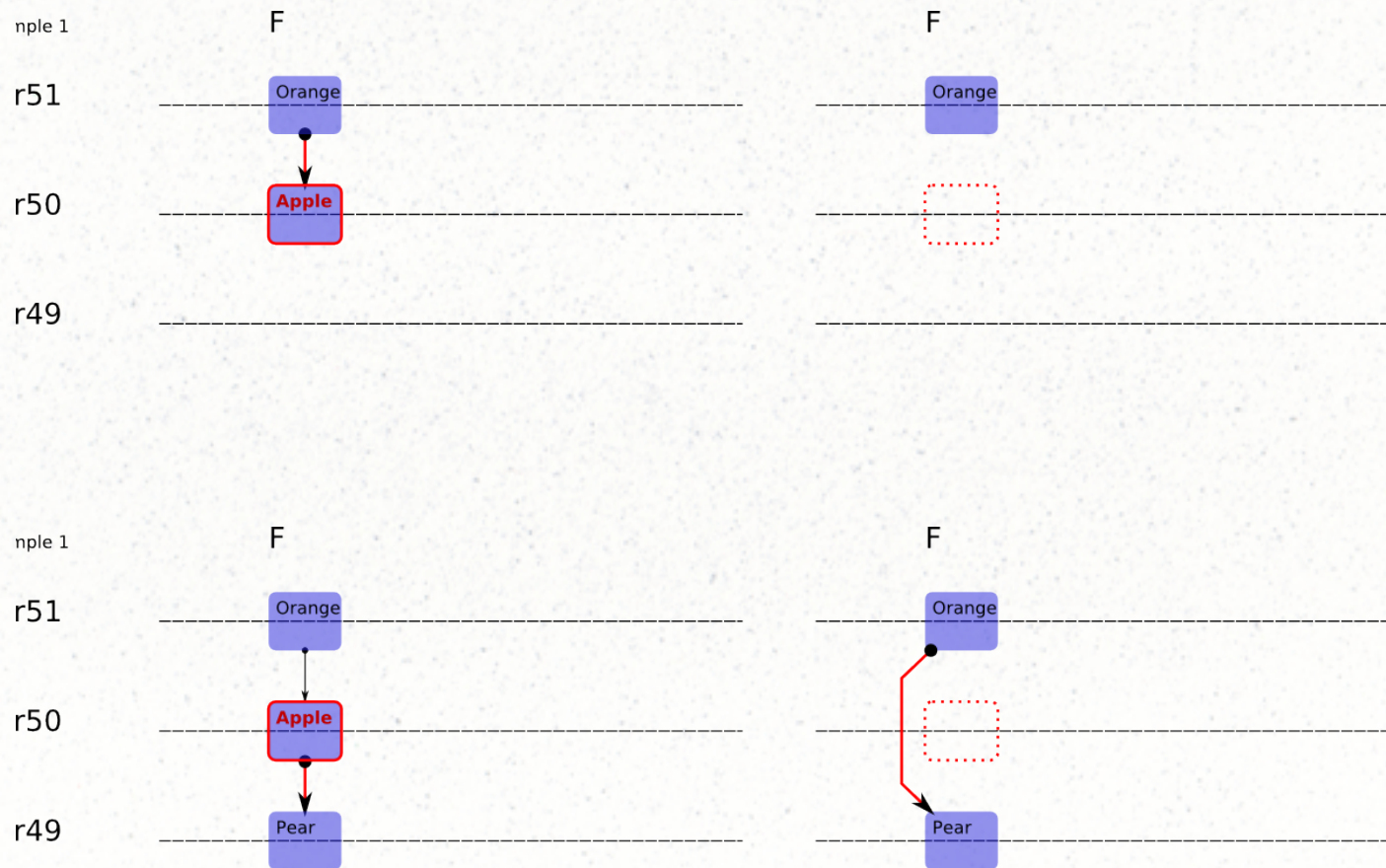
moduleC/...



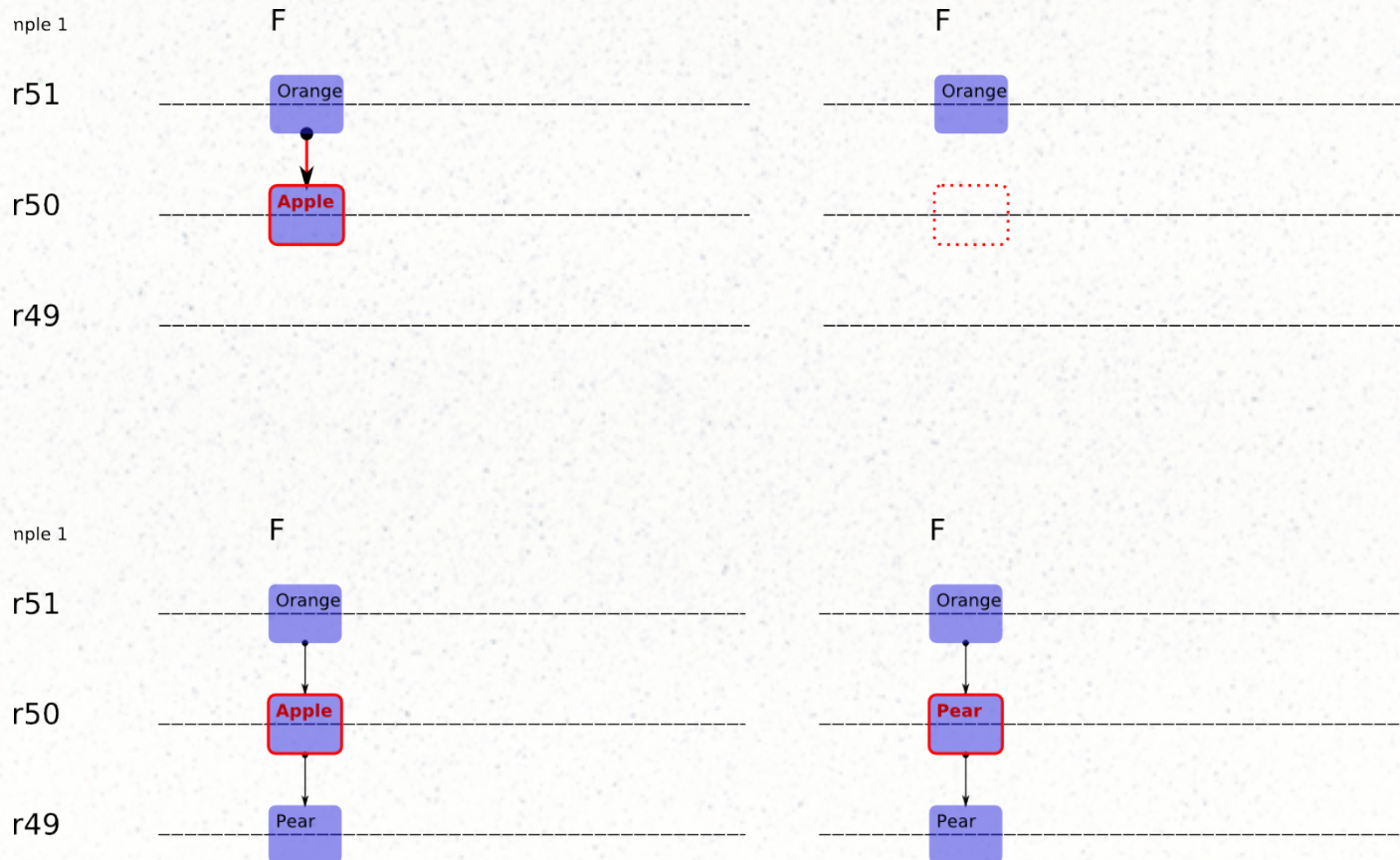
Why? Latest Version

- What's happening?
 - frequently revising a large file
 - never need old versions of it
- What's needed?
 - configure to store only latest version
 - make “update” work without deltas
- Why?
 - convenience (could do outside svn)

How? Delete Files



How? Undo Changes



What CVS/P4 Users Do

- CVS: Delete the “,v” file
- Perforce: “p4 protect”
- Perforce: “p4 obliterate”
- Perforce: “p4 filetype” for latest N revs

What Svn Users Do

- dump | svndumpfilter | load
- Can authz or hooks hide path-revs?

Non-reasons

- These possible reasons to obliterate are not goals
 - to undo (roll back) a recent commit
 - to tidy up history after an unwanted change has been done and undone
- Documentation should steer users to best practices for these tasks