

How do I delete 1 file from a revision in SVN?

Asked 16 years, 3 months ago Modified 12 years, 4 months ago

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One of my co-workers checked in a some files in SVN and one of the files has a password in it. The password has been removed from the file and a new version checked in but the password is obviously still in the repository if we look at the revision history and go to that revision. (We're using TortoiseSVN as the client.)

So how do I securely delete that single file from the repository in SVN?

svn

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asked Aug 29, 2008 at 1:40



Guy

67.1k ● 101 ● 265 ● 331

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11

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[martin clayton](#)

78k ● 33 ● 218 ● 200

answered Aug 29, 2008 at 1:42



[Jason Baker](#)

198k ● 138 ● 382 ● 520



It isn't pretty: [How do I completely remove a file from the repository's history?](#)

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[Jens](#)

72.4k ● 16 ● 130 ● 183

answered Aug 29, 2008 at 1:43



[Adam](#)

478 ● 1 ● 4 ● 7



4

I can't seem to find any revision history now - however, it could just be that I'm not looking in the right place.



You can see it by looking at the folder history, which will give you the revision where the file was still there, and thus you'll be able to recover the confidential file. So it's a bad solution.



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answered Aug 29, 2008 at 2:13

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Damien B

2,003 ● 15 ● 19



your password is still there (svn cat file@2342 where 2342 is a revision the file was still there).

3



you can "svnadmin dump" you repos to a file, search and replace you password with "ultrasecret", "svnadmin create" a new repos and "svnadmin load" the modified dump into that new repos. be aware of binary data in your dump, so use a proper editor/sed.



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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 2:07

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Niklas Hofer



If it's the **last** revision (HEAD) you can (**BACKING UP** your repo beforehand) delete that revision's files in `db\revs` and `db\revprops` and then run the following python script to fix what revision you repo thinks HEAD is.

2



e.g. if head is 522 and the password was committed in 520, you'd have to delete revisions 520,521 and 522.



(This script shouldn't be necessary once [SVN obliterate](#) is implemented)

(I didn't write this script, I got it from [here](#))

```
#!/usr/bin/python

def dec_to_36(dec):
    key = '0123456789abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz'
    result = ''
    while 1:
        div = dec / 36
        mod = dec % 36
        dec = div
        result = key[mod] + result
        if dec == 0:
            break
    return result

import os, re, sys

repo_path = sys.argv[1]
rev_path = os.path.join(repo_path, 'db', 'revs')
current_path = os.path.join(repo_path, 'db',
'current')

id_re = re.compile(r'^id:\ ([a-z0-9]+\)\.([a-z0-9]+\)\.r([0-9]+).*)')

max_node_id = 0
max_copy_id = 0
max_rev_id = 0

for rev in os.listdir(rev_path):
    f = open(os.path.join(rev_path, rev), 'r')

    for line in f:
        m = id_re.match(line)
        if m:
            node_id = int(m.group(1), 36)
            copy_id = int(m.group(2), 36)
            rev_id = int(m.group(3), 10)
```

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edited Sep 11, 2008 at 14:56

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answered Sep 11, 2008 at 14:41



[Sam Hasler](#)

12.6k ● 10 ● 73 ● 106

script seems to work, takes a long time to run over every revision when you get into 10's of thousands of revisions. I wonder how safe it would be to shortcut and use just the last 20 revisions say. – [Greg Domjan](#) Mar 17, 2009 at 17:49



1

Maybe you should change your production password to avoid the svn problem altogether.

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answered Aug 29, 2008 at 1:42



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[Mike Thompson](#)

6,738 ● 3 ● 33 ● 39



0

That seemed to work. So what I did was:

1. Copy the file to another folder.
2. Do a TortoiseSVN delete from the current folder followed by a commit.
3. Copy the file back in to the folder.
4. Add the file using TortoiseSVN and commit again.



I can't seem to find any revision history now - however, it could just be that I'm not looking in the right place.

So a modified question would now be, how can I find the revision history of the file that was deleted and then resubmitted to SVN?

(BTW I apologize for not asking the question more accurately earlier as I never mentioned that one of the options was to obliterate all revision history as it hadn't occurred to me.)

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answered Aug 29, 2008 at 2:02



Guy

67.1k ● 101 ● 265 ● 331

- 1 The procedure you have outlines will break the links so that viewing the current HEAD file and it;s history won't easily show you the original checking. However if you set the revision back to the version before you did the delete you will be able to see it again. – [Greg Domjan](#) Mar 17, 2009 at 16:53



-4

I'm not sure. You could always create a new file and copy the latest revision into that, wiping out prior revision history.



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answered Aug 29, 2008 at 1:42



Bernard

45.5k ● 18 ● 56 ● 70

