

# RFC-015: Versioning and Rollback

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## Abstract

This RFC specifies user-visible versioning and rollback semantics for Cyberspace vaults, providing clear mental models for version management, safe rollback operations, and recovery from mistakes.

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## Motivation

Users need simple answers to simple questions:

- **What version am I on?**
- **What versions exist?**
- **How do I go back?**
- **What if I make a mistake?**

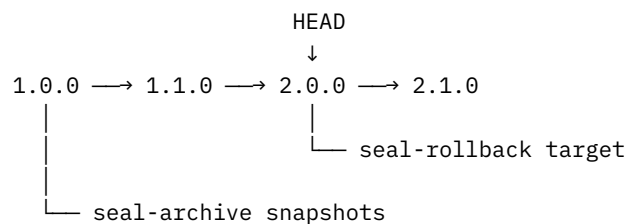
Git provides mechanisms. Cyberspace provides semantics:

```
seal-version          → "2.1.0"
seal-versions         → [1.0.0, 1.1.0, 2.0.0, 2.1.0]
seal-rollback 2.0.0   → Done. Now at 2.0.0.
seal-recover          → Here's what you can recover.
```

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## Specification

### Version Model



**Versions** are semantic (X.Y.Z), immutable, signed.

**HEAD** is current working state.

**Rollback** creates forward commit that restores past state.

## Core Operations

**seal-version** Report current version.

```
(seal-version)
;; => "2.1.0" or "2.1.0+3" (3 commits past release)
```

Output format: - X.Y.Z - Exactly at release - X.Y.Z+N - N commits past release  
- X.Y.Z-dev - Development branch - unversioned - No releases yet

**seal-versions** List all versions.

```
(seal-versions)
;; => ("1.0.0" "1.1.0" "2.0.0" "2.1.0")
```

```
(seal-versions verbose: #t)
;; =>
;; 1.0.0 2026-01-01 "Initial release"
;; 1.1.0 2026-01-05 "Bug fixes"
;; 2.0.0 2026-01-10 "New governance model"
;; 2.1.0 2026-01-15 "Performance improvements"
```

**seal-rollback** Roll back to specific version.

```
(seal-rollback "2.0.0")
```

**Process:** 1. Verify version exists 2. Check for uncommitted changes (abort or stash) 3. Create rollback commit with contents of target version 4. Record in audit trail 5. Optionally create rollback tag

**Rollback commit message:**

Rollback to 2.0.0

Restored vault state to version 2.0.0.  
Previous HEAD was 2.1.0+3.

Reason: [user-provided or "Manual rollback"]

**NOT a git reset.** History preserved. Rollback is a forward operation.

**seal-diff** Compare versions.

```
(seal-diff "2.0.0" "2.1.0")
;; Shows what changed between versions
```

```
(seal-diff "2.0.0")
;; Shows what changed since 2.0.0
```

**seal-recover** Recovery options for mistakes.

```
(seal-recover)
;; =>
;; Recovery options:
;; 1. Uncommitted changes (stashed 5 minutes ago)
;; 2. Last commit (seal-undo)
;; 3. Version 2.1.0 (seal-rollback "2.1.0")
;; 4. Archive vault-2.0.0.archive (seal-restore)
```

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## Rollback Semantics

### Forward Rollback (Default)

Before: 1.0.0 → 1.1.0 → 2.0.0 → 2.1.0 → HEAD

↑  
rollback target

After: 1.0.0 → 1.1.0 → 2.0.0 → 2.1.0 → [rollback commit]

|-----|  
contents match

History preserved. Audit trail shows rollback.

### Hard Rollback (Dangerous)

```
(seal-rollback "2.0.0" hard: #t)
```

Actually resets to version. **Destroys history.**

Requires: - Explicit hard: #t flag - Confirmation prompt - Audit entry before destruction

### Rollback with Stash

```
(seal-rollback "2.0.0" stash: #t)
```

Stashes uncommitted changes before rollback. Can recover with:

```
(seal-stash-pop)
```

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## Version Tags

### Automatic Tagging

```
(seal-release "2.1.0")
;; Creates:
```

```
;; - Git tag: 2.1.0
;; - Signature: .vault/releases/2.1.0.sig
;; - Audit entry
```

## Rollback Tags

```
(seal-rollback "2.0.0" tag: "rollback-2026-01-15")
;; Creates additional tag marking rollback point
```

## Tag Listing

```
(seal-tags)
;; =>
;; 1.0.0           2026-01-01  release
;; 1.1.0           2026-01-05  release
;; 2.0.0           2026-01-10  release
;; 2.1.0           2026-01-15  release
;; rollback-2026-01-15 2026-01-15  rollback
```

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## Recovery Scenarios

### Scenario 1: Bad Commit

```
;; Oops, committed broken code
(seal-undo)                ; Undo last commit
;; or
(seal-rollback "2.1.0")    ; Back to last release
```

### Scenario 2: Bad Release

```
;; Released 2.2.0 but it's broken
(seal-rollback "2.1.0")    ; Back to good version
(seal-release "2.2.1")    ; Patch release
```

### Scenario 3: Lost Changes

```
;; Accidentally discarded work
(seal-recover)             ; See options
(seal-stash-pop)           ; If stashed
;; or
(seal-reflog)              ; Find lost commits
```

### Scenario 4: Corrupted Vault

```
;; Something went very wrong
(seal-restore "vault-2.0.0.archive" verify-key: "alice.pub")
```

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## Audit Integration

Every version operation recorded:

```
(audit-entry
  (action
    (verb seal-rollback)
    (object "2.0.0")
    (parameters
      (from "2.1.0+3")
      (method forward)
      (reason "Production incident"))))
(seal ...))
```

Audit trail answers: - Who rolled back? - When? - From what version? - Why?  
(if reason provided)

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## CLI Interface

*# Current version*

```
$ seal version
2.1.0+3
```

*# List versions*

```
$ seal versions
1.0.0   2026-01-01   Initial release
1.1.0   2026-01-05   Bug fixes
2.0.0   2026-01-10   New governance model
2.1.0   2026-01-15   Performance improvements
```

*# Rollback*

```
$ seal rollback 2.0.0
Rolling back to 2.0.0...
v Rollback complete. Now at 2.0.0.
```

*# Rollback with reason*

```
$ seal rollback 2.0.0 --reason "Production incident #123"
```

*# Compare versions*

```
$ seal diff 2.0.0 2.1.0
M config.scm
A new-feature.scm
D deprecated.scm
```

```
# Recovery options
```

```
$ seal recover
```

```
Recovery options:
```

1. seal undo - Undo last commit
  2. seal rollback 2.1.0 - Return to last release
  3. seal stash pop - Recover stashed changes
- 

## Safety Mechanisms

### Uncommitted Changes

```
(seal-rollback "2.0.0")  
;; Error: Uncommitted changes detected.  
;; Use --stash to save changes, or --force to discard.
```

### Protected Versions

```
(vault-config 'protected-versions '("1.0.0" "2.0.0"))  
  
(seal-rollback "0.9.0")  
;; Warning: Rolling back past protected version 1.0.0  
;; This may break compatibility. Continue? [y/N]
```

### Rollback Limits

```
(vault-config 'max-rollback-distance 10)  
  
(seal-rollback "0.1.0")  
;; Error: Rollback distance (20 versions) exceeds limit (10).  
;; Use --force to override.
```

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## Implementation

### seal-rollback Implementation

```
(define (seal-rollback version #!key hard stash force reason tag)  
  "Roll back vault to specified version"  
  
  ;; Validate version exists  
  (unless (tag-exists? version)  
    (error "Version not found" version))  
  
  ;; Check for uncommitted changes
```

```

    (when (uncommitted-changes?)
      (cond
        (stash (seal-stash))
        (force (void))
        (else (error "Uncommitted changes. Use stash: or force:"))))

    ;; Record current state
    (let ((current (seal-version)))

      ;; Perform rollback
      (if hard
        (hard-rollback! version)
        (forward-rollback! version reason))

      ;; Create tag if requested
      (when tag
        (run-command "git" "tag" tag))

      ;; Audit
      (audit-append
        actor: (get-vault-principal (vault-config 'signing-key))
        action: (list 'seal-rollback version)
        motivation: (or reason (sprintf "Rollback from ~a to ~a" current version)))

      (print "v Rolled back to " version)))

(define (forward-rollback! version reason)
  "Create rollback commit (preserves history)"
  (run-command "git" "checkout" version "--" ".")
  (run-command "git" "commit" "-m"
    (sprintf "Rollback to ~a\n~a" version (or reason "")))

(define (hard-rollback! version)
  "Reset to version (destroys history)"
  (print "WARNING: Hard rollback destroys history")
  (run-command "git" "reset" "--hard" version))

```

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## Security Considerations

### Rollback Attacks

Attacker forces rollback to vulnerable version.

**Mitigation:** - Threshold signatures for rollback (RFC-007) - Protected version list - Audit trail detection

## History Manipulation

Hard rollback can hide evidence.

**Mitigation:** - Prefer forward rollback - Audit before hard rollback - Federation replication preserves history

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## References

1. Semantic Versioning 2.0.0 ([semver.org](https://semver.org))
  2. Git Reset, Checkout, and Revert ([git-scm.com](https://git-scm.com))
  3. RFC-003: Cryptographic Audit Trail
  4. RFC-006: Vault System Architecture
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## Changelog

- **2026-01-06** - Initial specification
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**Implementation Status:** Proposed **Operations:** seal-version, seal-versions, seal-rollback, seal-diff, seal-recover **Rollback Model:** Forward commit (history-preserving)