

When working on a project, the ability to keep track of changes made by an author over time is essential to many facets of creation, including revision, editing, making drafts, feedback, and collaboration. In the field of software engineering, the archival of software source code and project collaborator contributions is made possible by a system referred to as version control. As of late 2016, the most popular public service offering version control is Github.com, which hosts over 21 million projects in the cloud as publicly available repositories. This facilitates unprecedented knowledge sharing and mass collaboration, and affords insight on the interdependence of creators and artefacts, and how these entities interact over the life spans of projects.

However, such systems are not limited solely to the indexing of code, as most file extensions may be archived and tracked, including those often used in writing and research, such as .docx, .xls, and .txt.

Git stores all elements associated with a project – be it PDFs annotated by the author, drafts, discarded drafts, edits, etc. – in a public repository. Using git as both an archival and revision tool, this paper as a work-in-progress is currently hosted at <http://github.com/michaelpalumbo/paper> , and is being composed with a rule that any change be logged in what is referred to as the 'commit history', and be accompanied by a comment containing a description of the change and reason(s) for its occurrence. As an example of a commit pertaining to the inclusion of this very sentence, see <https://github.com/michaelpalumbo/paper/commit/b526cf4a08254daac14d660743f3388b352b6bf0> .

This is significant in that the author has in past solo endeavours opted to work in very long sprints between documentation. What documentation does emerge from these processes is at most frequent made in haste following the end of a session. This coarse degree of resolution hinders future effort to speculate on decisions made and to imagine recourse for ongoing work. Further, it has been the experience of this author that such an opaque visibility of the decision-making in a creative work impedes its opening up to future collaboration. The author posits that the increased frequency of work contribution segmentation coincide with greater reflexivity in process, and aid in cognitive load.

Drawing on literature from the Performance and Culture course, including Lavender, Bay-Cheng, Harvie, and Taylor, this paper presents a vision towards the use of version control systems and repository mining in the contexts of performance studies and creativity research, and will leverage git as a research-creation tool in presenting a detailed account of this paper's own ontogenesis, such as: excerpts from the author's commit comments; visualizations of the comparison of changes; and trends in the author's process, including attentional

detail and affect.