overleaf-commenter

pseyfert

the cool kids are using overleaf these days

- ✓ edit LaTeX documents in the webbrowser
- ✓ be collaborative with multiple users editing the same document
- ✓ automatic rebuild and pdf view
- ✓ version control
- ✓ all in the cloud

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- ☹ not much of a choice, manager starts with one tool and the rest has to join
  (when collaborating, you have to agree on something anyway)
- ☺ one of the least disappointing vim binding implementations in a browser I've worked with
- ☹ all local plugins and settings inaccessible
- ☹ no command line tools

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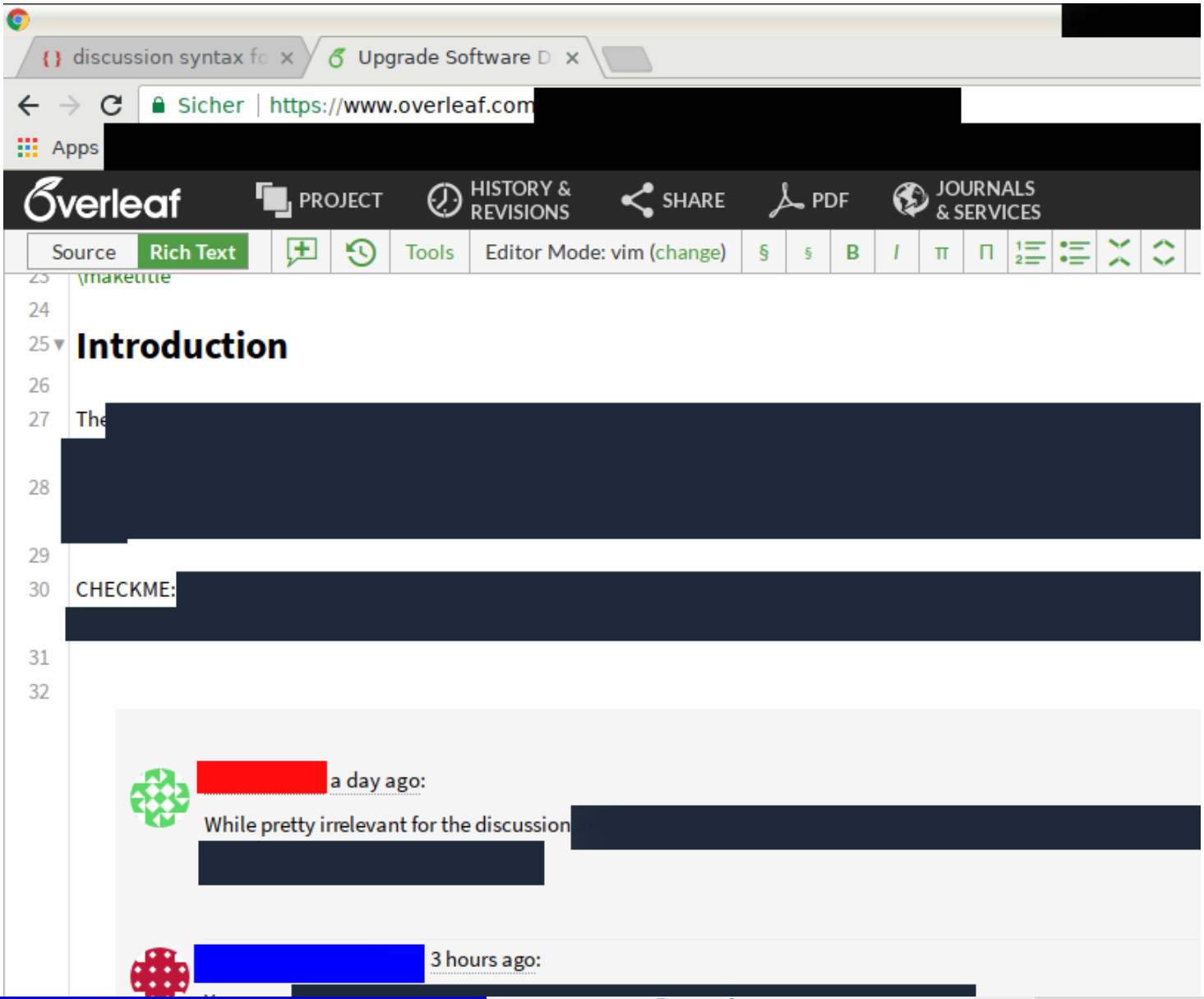
- ☹ no command line tools
- 😀 synchronised `git` access!

discussions are in place



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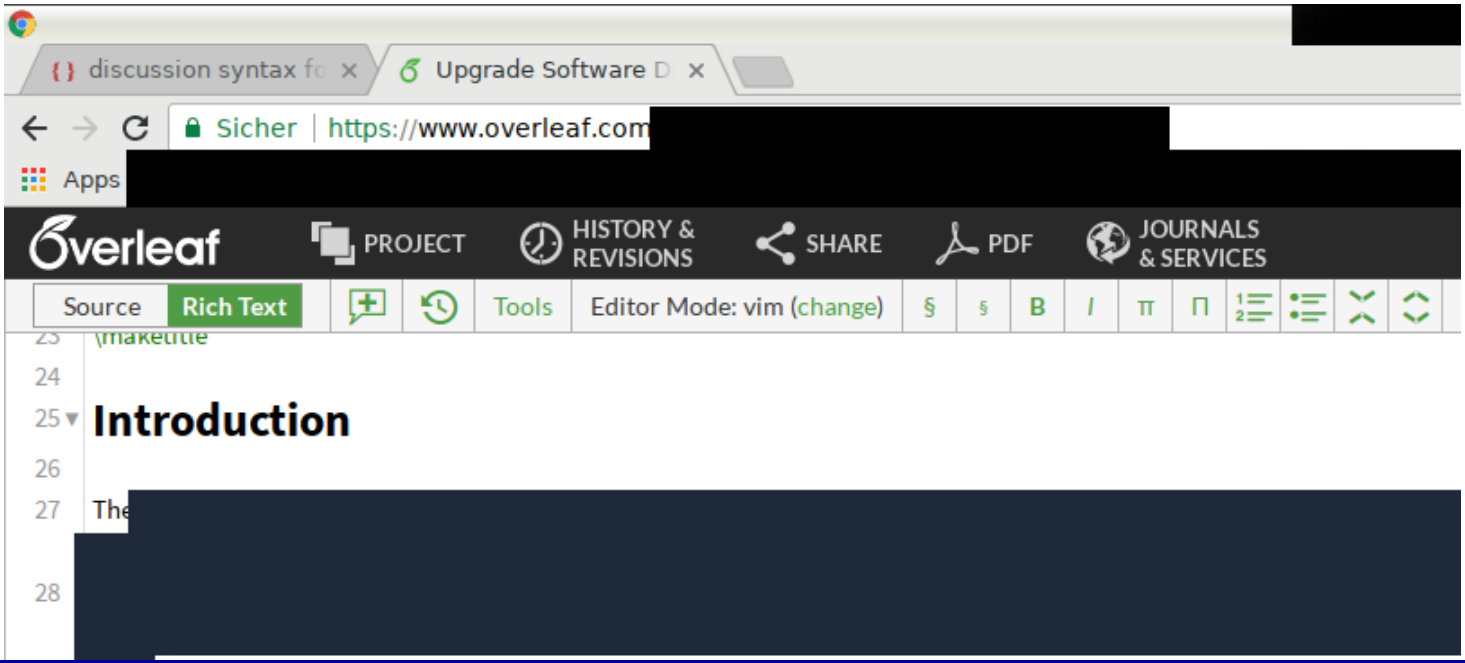

Discussions kept in TeX comments

✓ discussions accessible through `git`

✘ but ...only really nice in the WYSIWYG view

discussions are error prone

```
% * <email@server.tld> 2018-02-05T14:56:52.585Z:
%
% I would phrase this similar ...
%
% ^ <other.email@server.tld> 2018-02-12T14:05:57.936Z:
%
% I agree, I just wanted to make it clear that I think this is
    a very hard problem.
%
% ^.
```

only comments in the correct syntax get rendered

It happened to us multiple times that responses written in the source view in the browser were not seen byall users.

discussions are error prone

```
% * <email@server.tld> 2018-02-05T14:56:52.585Z:
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% I would phrase this similar ...
```

That will happen again

- if someone uses the page with default settings we can hardly blame them
- ...maybe enforce WYSIWYG through non-technical means

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discussions are error prone

```
% * <email@server.tld> 2018-02-05T14:56:52.585Z:
%
% I would phrase this similar ...
```

But maybe help where the issue is known

- Getting the syntax right is easy for a computer

$\Rightarrow$ Let the computer do the job

```
% ^.
```

only comments in the correct syntax get rendered

It happened to us multiple times that responses written in the source view in the browser were not seen byall users.

I have something for you

what's there

- code on https://github.com/pseyfert/overleaf-commenter.
- mostly python for printing to the command line
- rudimentary vim plugin integration
  - insert after cursor
  - check if discussion already present (yes: reply, no: start)
- code under AGPL, copyright with my employer

I'd be happy if this is of use for somebody

- I'll be happy to merge a pull request with emacs integration

future developments

- I tried overleaf v2 very early in the test phase
- direct `git` access is gone (only git*hub* export/import)
  - but overleaf says they're working on bringing it back
- discussions not taking place in tex comments anymore
  - ☹ `overleaf-commenter` might become useless
  - 😀 no long term maintenance concerns

https://github.com/pseyfert/overleaf-commenter.

backup???

back up!

collaborative work on TeX documents is hard

Imagine you want to work with some colleagues on a LaTeX document

option 1: set up a git repo

- `git clone/pull`, edit files, `make`, `git add`, `git commit`, `git push`, tell your colleagues to pull ...for just fixing a typo???
- you don't see the same text when editing it during a skype call about (screen share requires good internet, only one can type)

option 2: work on the cloud in your browser

- all your text editor configurations: gone
- bad hotel wifi: no work