

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

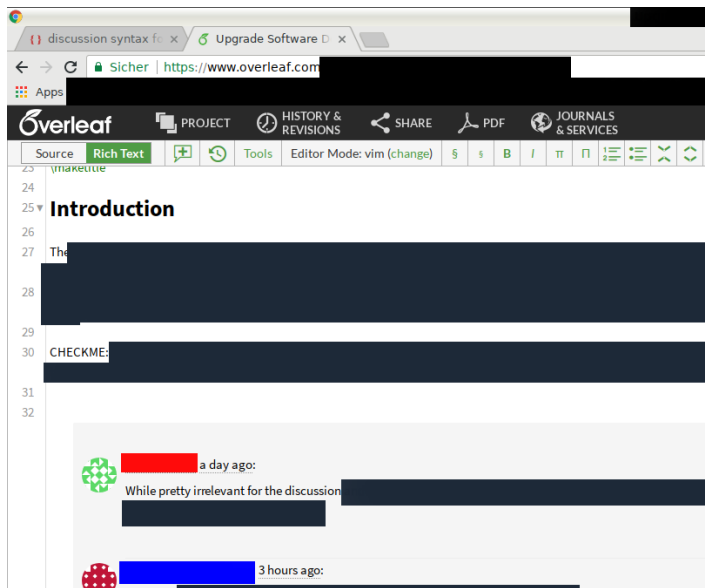
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(when collaborating, you have to agree on something anyway)
- 😊 one of the least disappointing vim binding implementations in a browser I've worked with
- ☹ all local plugins and settings inaccessible
- ☹ no command line tools

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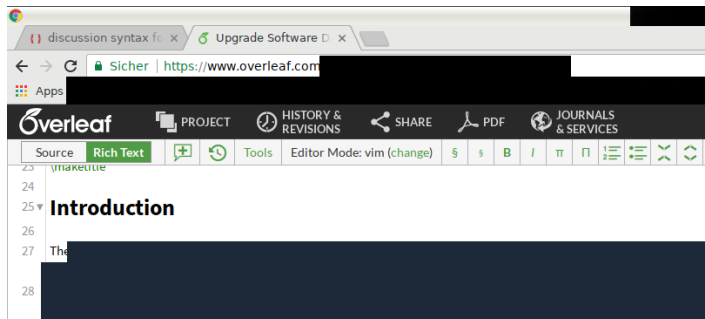
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- 😊 synchronised git access!

# discussions are in place



The screenshot shows the Overleaf web editor interface. The browser address bar displays <https://www.overleaf.com>. The Overleaf navigation bar includes links for PROJECT, HISTORY & REVISIONS, SHARE, PDF, and JOURNALS & SERVICES. The editor mode is set to vim (change). The document content includes a section titled "Introduction" and a "CHECKME:" section. A discussion section is visible at the bottom, showing a comment from a user (redacted) dated "a day ago" with the text "While pretty irrelevant for the discussion". Another comment from a user (blue) dated "3 hours ago" is partially visible.

# discussions are in place



## Discussions kept in TeX comments

- ✓ discussions accessible through git
- ✗ but ...only really nice in the WYSIWYG view



[redacted] a day ago:

While pretty irrelevant for the discussion [redacted]



[blue redacted] 3 hours ago:

# 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 by all users.

# discussions are error prone

```
%_*_<email@server.tld>_2018-02-05T14:56:52.585Z:  
%  
%_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

## only comments in the correct syntax get rendered

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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
- ⇒ 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 by all 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 *github* 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