# 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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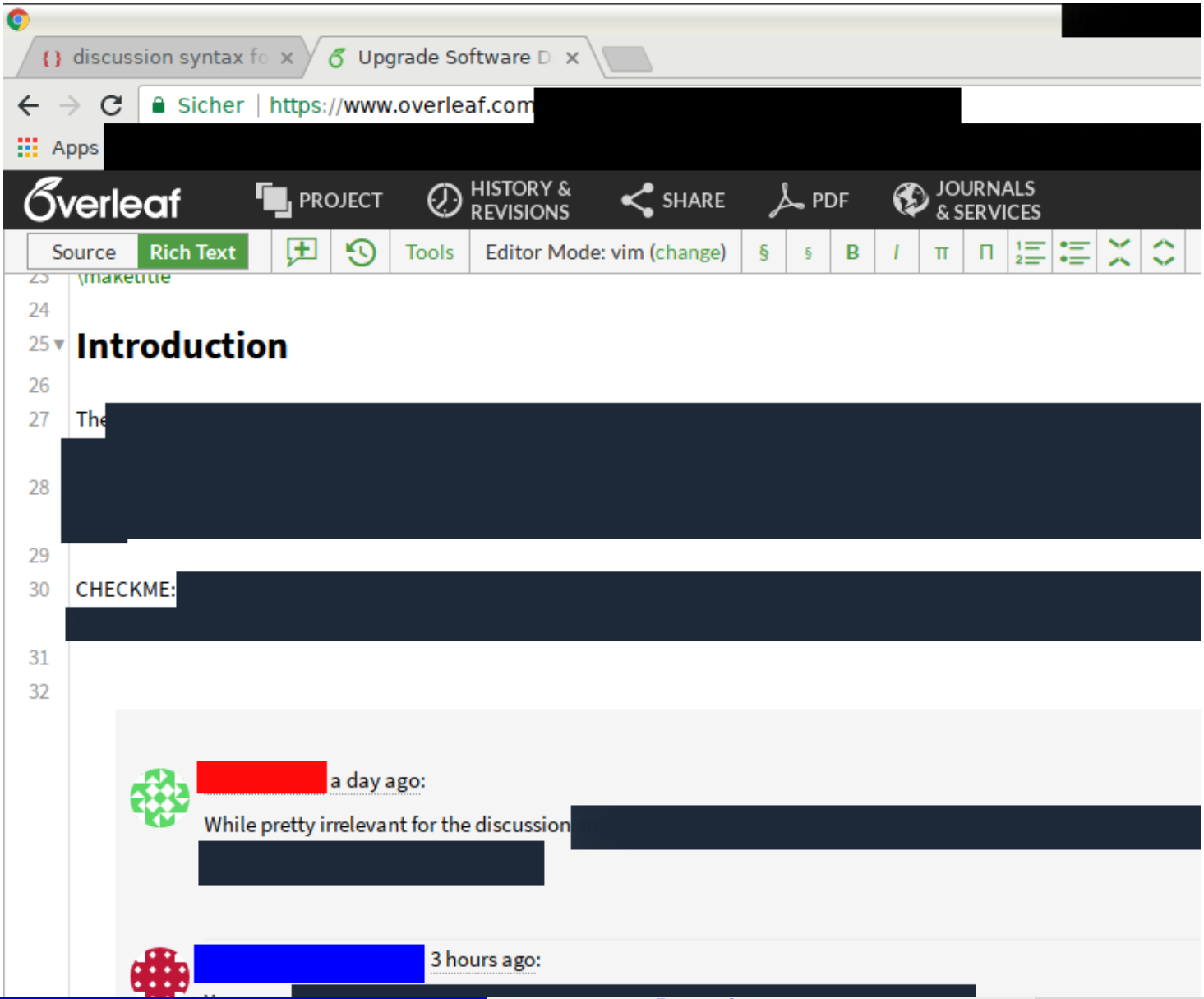
- ☹ all local plugins and settings inaccessible
- ☹ no command line tools
- 😀 synchronised `git` access!

# discussions are in place



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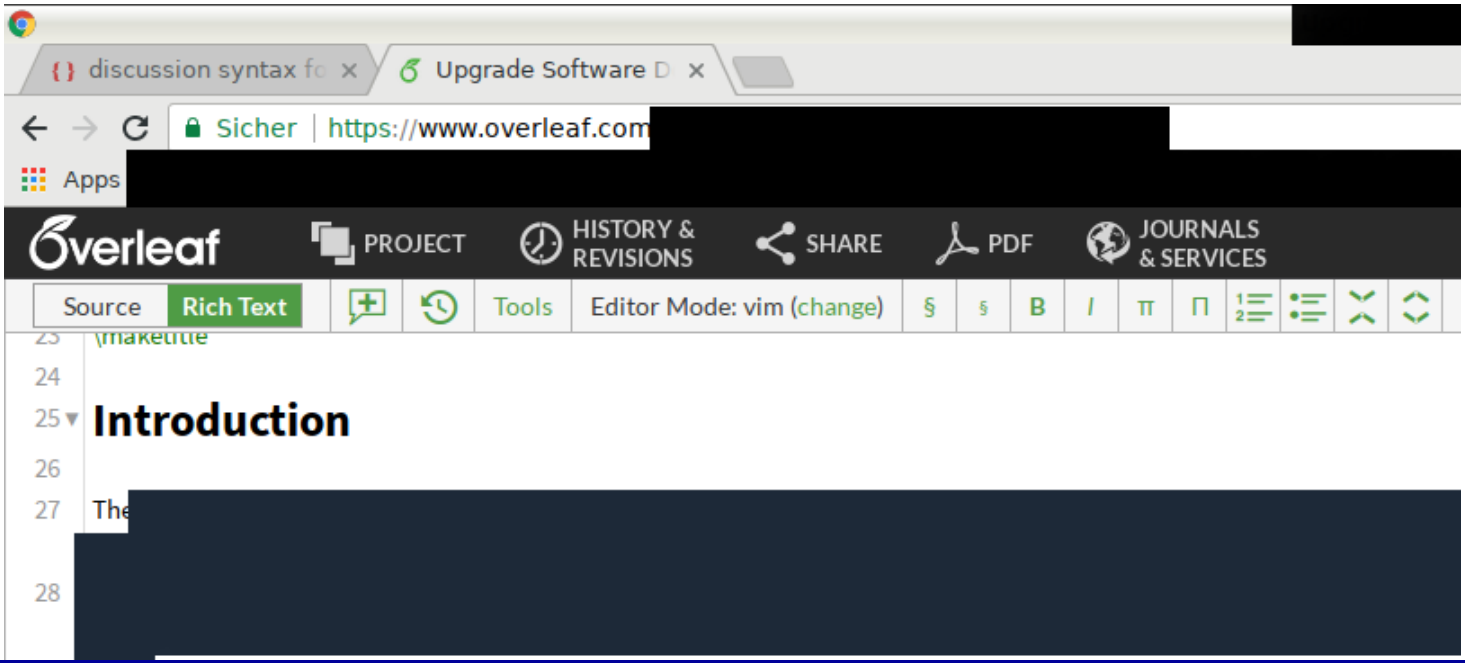


## Discussions kept in TeX comments

✓ 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 GPL, 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