

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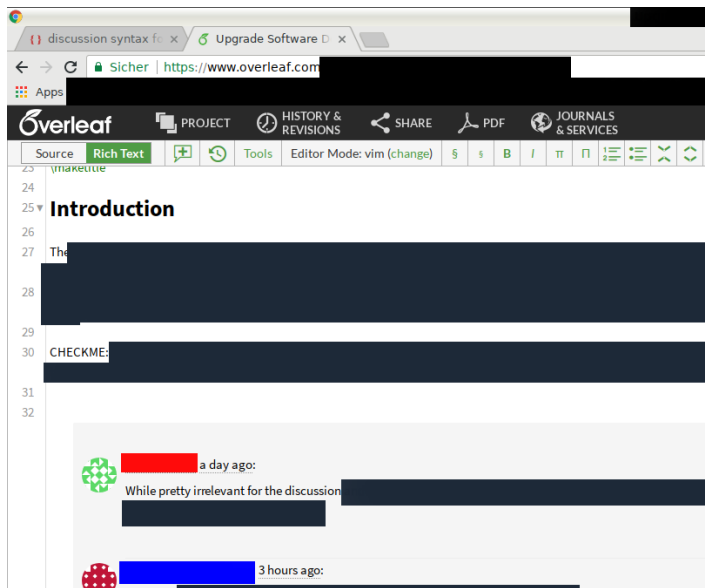
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- ☹ not much of a choice, manager starts with one tool and the rest has to join
(when collaborating, you have to agree on something anyway)
- 😊 one of the least disappointing vim binding implementations in a browser I've worked with
- ☹ all local plugins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



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- ☹ no command line tools
- 😊 synchronised git access!

discussions are in place



The screenshot shows the Overleaf web editor interface. The browser address bar displays <https://www.overleaf.com>. The top 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 discussion section. The discussion section contains two comments: one from a user (redacted) a day ago, stating "While pretty irrelevant for the discussion", and another from a user (blue) 3 hours ago. The document text is partially redacted with black boxes.

23 (make title)

24

25 **Introduction**

26

27 The [redacted]

28 [redacted]

29

30 CHECKME: [redacted]

31

32

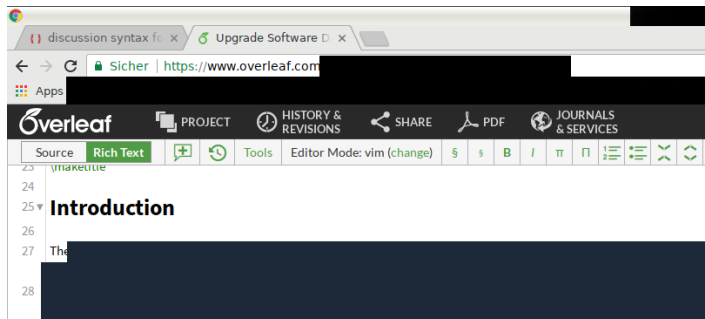
[green icon] [redacted] a day ago:

While pretty irrelevant for the discussion [redacted]

[redacted]

[red icon] [blue] 3 hours ago:

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]



[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

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...
```

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 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 *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