Available Revision Control Systems

Revision control systems have been available as long as developers have been working. Probably the first system widely available on Unix-like platforms was the Source Code Control System (SCCS), which dates back to the early 1970s.

There is no shortage of available products, both proprietary and open; a brief list of products released under a GPL license includes:

- Revision Control System (RCS)
- Concurrent Versions System (CVS)
- Subversion
- git
- Bazaar
- Monotone
- Mercurial
- Project Revision Control System (PRCS) .

We will not discuss proprietary products, for which there is also a long list.

In order to understand where git comes from, we will briefly discuss RCS and CVS, and then focus in some more detail on Subversion, a next-generation product. This will help us see why git, while sharing purposes and some concepts with earlier systems, also constitutes a radical departure from them in many ways.