

Intro
o

etckeeper
o
o

bup
o

ikiwiki
oo

git-annex
o
o

metamonger
o

vcsh
o
o

mr
o
o

Zsh
o
o

Gitify your life - 14 years later

web, blog, configs, data, and backups

Richard Hartmann,
@RichiH@chaos.social

2026-02-01

What is Git?

- Version control system
- Distributed
 - No need for central repository
 - Allows you to commit while offline
- Stores commits (parent commit reference, commit message, root tree object) and tree objects (blobs and other tree objects)
- Light-weight branches
- pre-/post-action hooks
- Full history in every checkout

Intro
o

etkeeper
●
o

bup
o

ikiwiki
oo

git-annex
o
o

metamonger
o

vcsh
o
o

mr
o
o

Zsh
o
o
o

etkeeper

etkeeper is a collection of tools to let /etc be stored in a Git, Mercurial, Darcs, or Bazaar repository

<https://etkeeper.branchable.com>

Minimal, quick overview

In a word

- Implemented in POSIX shell
- Auto-commits /etc prior to and after all actions by package manager
- Hooks into apt, yum, pacman-g2, and cron
- Allows manual commits
- Various back-ends
 - Bazaar
 - Darcs
 - Git
 - Mercurial
- Easy way to recover from failures, misconfiguration or to clone machines

Intro
o

etkeeper
o
o

bup
●

ikiwiki
oo

git-annex
o
o

metamonger
o

vcsh
o
o

mr
o
o

Zsh
o
o

bup

Highly efficient file backup system based on the Git packfile format

<https://bup.github.io>

Intro
o

etkeeper
o
o

bup
o

ikiwiki
●o

git-annex
o
o

metamonger
o

vcsh
o
o

mr
o
o

Zsh
o
o
o

ikiwiki

ikiwiki is a wiki compiler. It converts wiki pages into HTML pages suitable for publishing on a website

<https://ikiwiki.info>

Intro
o

etckeeper
o
o

bup
o

ikiwiki
o●

git-annex
o
o

metamonger
o

vcsh
o
o

mr
o
o

Zsh
o
o
o

Hugo

*Currently don't have a personal website, but if I did, it would be
in Git still*

<https://gohugo.io>

Intro
o

etckeeper
o
o

bup
o

ikiwiki
oo

git-annex
●
o

metamonger
o

vcsh
o
o

mr
o
o

Zsh
o
o

git-annex

manage files with Git, without checking their contents in

`https://git-annex.branchable.com`

Background

What is git-annex?

- Based on Git
- Maintains metadata in Git, actual files in the annex
- Still allows you to check files into Git if you want to
- Written with low bandwidth and flaky connections in mind
- Superb data integrity, tracking, verification, and copying
- Supports special remotes such as HTTP, video hosting sites, S3, etc

Intro
o

etckeeper
o
o

bup
o

ikiwiki
oo

git-annex
o
o

metamonger
●

vcsh
o
o

mr
o
o

Zsh
o
o

metamonger

Like metastore, but done right

<https://github.com/RichiH/metamonger>

Intro
o

etkeeper
o
o

bup
o

ikiwiki
oo

git-annex
o
o

metamonger
o

vcsh
●
o

mr
o
o

Zsh
o
o

vcsh

*Version Control System for \$HOME
(multiple Git repositories in \$HOME)*

<https://github.com/RichiH/metamonger>

What is vcsh?

- Implemented in POSIX shell
- Based on Git, but...
 - Git is unable to maintain several working copies in one directory
 - This is a safety feature...
 - ...which sucks if you want to keep your configs in Git
- vcsh uses fake bare Git repositories to work around this limitation
- Think of it as an extension to, or a wrapper around, Git
- Powerful and extensible hook system
- <https://github.com/RichiH/vcsh>

Intro
o

etckeeper
o
o

bup
o

ikiwiki
oo

git-annex
o
o

metamonger
o

vcsh
o
o

mr
●
o

Zsh
o
o

mr (now *myrepos*)

a tool to manage all your version control repos

<https://myrepos.branchable.com>

Too many repos...?

Tying it all together

- Run bulk pull, push, and custom commands all, some, or one of your repositories
- Supports Git, vcsh, Bazaar, CVS, Darcs, fossil, git-svn, Mercurial, Subversion, unison, and veracity
- Trivial to extend to support more VCSs
- If you want to try all this, why not `vcsh clone` my `mr` repository template and run `mr up` to pull my Zsh config via `vcsh`?

Intro
o

etkeeper
o
o

bup
o

ikiwiki
oo

git-annex
o
o

metamonger
o

vcsh
o
o

mr
o
o

Zsh
●
o
o

Zsh

Best shell available. Period.

<https://www.zsh.org>

Why is this in a Git talk?

Not based on Git, but makes your life easier

- Extremely powerful tab completion for the tools in this talk (and others!)
- Versatile left *and* right prompts
- `vcs_info`
 - Displays information about the current VCS working copy in prompt
 - Lots of customization options
 - Supports Git, vcsh, Bazaar, codeville, CVS, Darcs, fossil, GNU Arch, Mercurial, monotone, Perforce, Subversion, and svk
- Can mimic Bash, Ksh, tcsh, etc.
- Too many other reasons to list (literally...)

The End!

Thanks!

Thank you for listening!

Questions? Ask now or catch me after this talk, both is fine.

See slide footer for further contact information.

<https://github.com/richih/talks>

@RichiH@chaos.social