

“Software Repository and Other Challenges”

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Software Repository &
Other Challenges

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A View of the SCC

- Great Accomplishments:
 - Shown commitment to software
 - Established a small community
 - Delivered outstanding results
 - Starting new projects
- Something is missing
 - Not really scalable
 - Web presence is weak
 - Ties with other communities or sites are weak
 - Software is being lost daily
 - Finding new volunteers is hard

What to do?

- Refocus on the repository
- Deliver an improved web site with tools
- Rename the community
- Motivate and find volunteers
- Commit to 2 or 3 Community projects

The Repository

- Initial idea defended by Len and several others
 - Structured heap of minimally indexed and contextualized software artifacts
 - Essentially no overhead to submit
 - Information never lost
 - Rigorous accession process possible
 - The only way we know to save large amounts of software by taking advantages of hundred of volunteers
- We need
 - An underlying repository structure
 - Web tools and IT support
 - Volunteer coordinators
 - Just do it

Rename the Community

- “SCC” does not speak to outsiders
- Googling “SCC” gives lots of unrelated hits
- Some suggestions:
 - Open software collecting
 - Software preservation community
 - Source preservation

Motivate & Find Volunteers

- PDP-1 restoration, used as an example
 - Team oriented
 - Focused results
 - Measurable accomplishment
 - Lasting contribution
 - Visible recognition
 - Endorsed by Staff & Docents
 - Posterity (certainty of preservation)
- SCC software challenges
 - Individual large projects
 - Recognition not obvious
 - Endorsement unclear
 - Posterity unclear

Possible Community Projects

- First create a better environment
 - Recognition & Posterity
 - Web support
- One possible major collecting project
 - Software for the time line ?? (breadth vs. depth)
- Major community projects
 - THE repository
 - Wikipedia tie in
 - Resource directory