

A brief introduction to

# RCS

Revision Control  
System

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ccTLD Workshop – Bangkok, Thailand  
October 9th, 2004



# RCS – What is it?

- Version control system - a set of UNIX commands to manage documents that evolved from each other.
- Originally intended for programs but also useful for any text that is revised frequently and whose previous revisions must be preserved.  
e.g.: configuration files

# RCS – Getting Started

The command:

```
$ ci file.c
```

- creates a new revision group (file.c,v) with the contents of file.c as the initial revision (1.1).
- asks for an initial description.
- deletes file.c

# RCS – Getting Started

The command:

```
$ co file.c
```

extracts the latest revision from `file.c,v` and writes it into `file.c`.

The file can now be edited and then checked back in with:

```
$ ci file.c
```

Number 1.2 will be assigned to the new revision.

# RCS – About Locking

ci will complain with the message

```
ci error: no lock set by <login>
```

if RCS is configured with the 'strict locking' feature enabled.

Possible ways to solve it:

- lock revision with '*rcs -l file.c*'
- turn off strict locking with '*rcs -U file.c*'
- '*co -l file.c*' could have been used.

# RCS – Automatic Identification tags

- Version

*\$Id\$*

Output:

*\$Id: filename revisionnumber date time author state locker \$*

- History

*\$Log\$*

# RCS – More Commands

**rcsdiff** - compare revisions

```
$ rcsdiff -r1.1 -r1.2 file.c,v
```

**rlog** - read log messages and other information in RCS files

```
$ rlog
```

# RCS – More Commands

**ident** - extract identification markers

**rcs** - change RCS file attributes

**rcsclean** - remove unchanged working files

**rcsfreeze** - record a configuration

**rcsmerge** - merge revisions



# RCS – Online Resources

- **Official RCS Homepage**

<http://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/trinkle/RCS/>

- **RCS - A System for Version Control**

<http://docs.freebsd.org/44doc/psd/13.rcs/paper.pdf>

## **More robust version control systems:**

- **CVS** - Concurrent Versions System – based on RCS

<https://www.cvshome.org/>

- **Subversion** – solves some CVS limitations such as directories and renames

<http://subversion.tigris.org/>

# Questions??

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