CVS Demo
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What is CVS?

- Stands for Concurrent Versions System
- Tracks changes in files
- Allows for collaboration
CVS was written in 1984 by Dick Grune, a professor at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

It was based on an existing tool, RCS.

CVS was released to the public on June 23, 1986.
How does it work?

- Files are hosted on a server. The location where files are stored on the server is called a “repository”.
- Files are stored in named groups called “modules”
- Clients retrieve files from the server, edit them, and submit the changes back to the server.
- The server and client can be on the same machine, on a LAN, or communicate over the internet.
• CVS servers are usually run on a UNIX or Linux system, however CVSNT allows a server to be set up on a Windows machine.

• The CVS client software is available for most systems.
Common CVS Commands

- **Import**: Creates a new module on the server
- **Checkout**: Fetch files from the server for editing.
- **Commit**: Submit changes to the server
- **Update**: Make sure files on the client are the most recent version
- **Add/Delete**: Add or delete files from an existing module.
Features

- Revision History
- Concurrent editing and merging of simultaneous edits.
- Branches, e.g. Stable and Development
- Anonymous read access
Limitations

- Files cannot be renamed or moved
- Symbolic links cannot be stored
- Unicode text files and filenames are not supported
Future Development

- Changes to CVS are only bug fixes
- Other types of changes are encouraged to fork into other projects
- Subversion, OpenCVS, and CVSNT are similar tools that have implemented some additional features.
Sources

- http://www.nongnu.org/cvs/
  - Official CVS Website
  - Wikipedia CVS article
- http://www.cs.vu.nl/~dick/CVS.html#History
  - Some history from the CVS creator
- http://groups.google.com/group/mod.sources
  - The original usenet post, releasing CVS to the public