Cataloguing Software Ecosystems with swid-reg

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Software Supply Chain Assurance Forum 2023-09-13



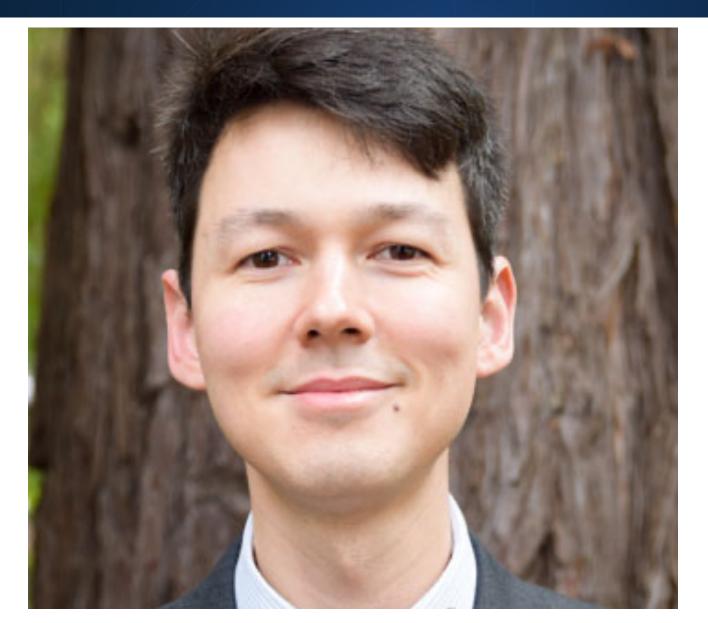
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Ph.D., Computer Science, 2016 Emphases: File Systems, Digital Forensics, and Information Retrieval

Computer Scientist

UCO Ontology Committee Chair

Ontology Engineer

An ontology engineer's perspective on supply chain

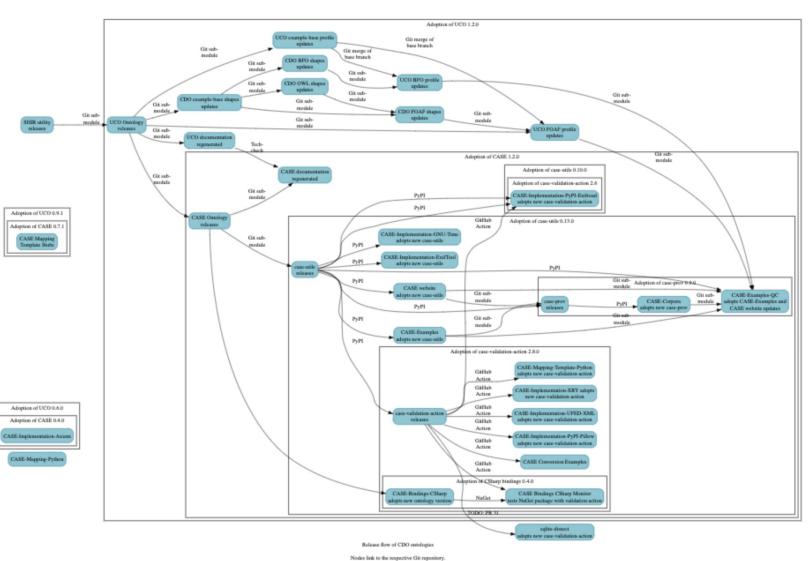


The chart on the right is the Cyber Domain Ontology's (CDO) "Release Flow" diagram.

Each teal node is a public GitHub repository, providing an ontology, software, or example data.

Each arrow shows how updates propagate between repositories.

Experience has encouraged keeping update procedures small in human effort, including from external dependencies (e.g. Python code formatters pinned to latest versions).



https://cyberdomainontology.org/resources/project_release_flow.html

Outline



- Background: NVD and CPE
- Package managers and swid-reg
- A light touch of ontology, tailored to software supply chain

NVD and CPE



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NATIONAL VULNERABILITY DATABASE NVD

Problem: CPEs are a significant labor point in NVD.

+



₩ NVD - CVE-2022-39280 ×

C https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2022-39280

Known Affected Software Configurations Switch to CPE 2.2

Configuration 1 (hide)

<pre> cpe:2.3:a:pyup:dependency_parser:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*</pre>	Up to (excluding)		
Show Matching CPE(s)	0.5.1		

From "dependency_parser, all versions <0.5.1", NVD enumerates affected versions.

Problem: CPEs are a significant labor point in NVD.



🗞 NVD - CVE-2022-39280 🛛 🗙 🕂

C 1/2 https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2022-39280

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 cpe:2.3:a:pyup:dependency_parser:0.1.0:*:*:*:*:* 	
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 cpe:2.3:a:pyup:dependency_parser:0.3.0:*:*:*:*:* 	
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 cpe:2.3:a:pyup:dependency_parser:0.5.0:*:*:*:*:*:* 	
 cpe:2.3:a:pyup:dependency_parser:0.5.0.4:*:*:*:*:* 	

From "dependency_parser, all versions <0.5.1", NVD enumerates affected versions.

Step 1: Enumerate all versions, or most in range's ballpark.

Step 2: Identify affected subset and define CPEs.

For open source software...

Up to (excluding)

0.5.1

...why not crawl?

₩ NVD - CVE-2022-39280 × +

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Known Affected Software Configurations Switch to CPE 2.2

Configuration 1 (<u>hide</u>)

- cpe:2.3:a:pyup:dependency_parser:0.1.0:*:*:*:*:*:*
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- cpe:2.3:a:pyup:dependency_parser:0.5.0.4:*:*:*:*:*

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	0.6.2 Sep 19, 2022	
	0.6.1 Sep 19, 2022	
	0.6.0 Sep 10, 2022	
	0.5.2 Aug 9, 2022	
	0.5.1 Apr 26, 2020	
	0.5.0	
	Mar 14, 2020	

SWID, swid-reg, and CPE mapping



SWID is a metadata format for software.

A SWID Tag, XML, can map to CPE.

For example, this CPE ...

cpe:2.3:a:alex_nelson:case-prov:0.8.0:*:*:*:*:*:*

... generates from that:

• • • • 2023-09-13-SSCA — vi case prov-0.8.0-py3-none-any.whl.1.corpus.... <SoftwareIdentity xmlns="http://standards.iso.org/iso/19770/-2/2015/schema.xsd" xmlns:n8060="http://csrc.nist.gov/ns/swid/2015-extensions/1.0" name="case-prov" version="0.8.0" versionScheme="multipartnumeric" tagId="dd4a5b57-59e3-5a3c-8524-be5170d5d57a" corpus="true" tagVersion="5" xml:lang="en-us"> <Entity role="softwareCreator" name="Alex Nelson" regid="mailto:alexander.nelson@nist.gov"/> <Entity role="aggregator" name="Python Software Foundation" regid="python.org"/> <Entity role="taaCreator" name="National Institute of Standards and Technology" regid="nist.gov"/> <Payload> <Directory name="."> <File name="case_prov-0.8.0-py3-none-any.whl" size="53338" SHA1:hash="03d63a1..." SHA256:hash="7960501..." SHA512:hash="741242e... swidreg:sha3_256="a7e03de..." swidreg:sha3_512="df7934c..."/> </Directory> </Payload> </SoftwareIdentity>

SWID and CPE differ in precision

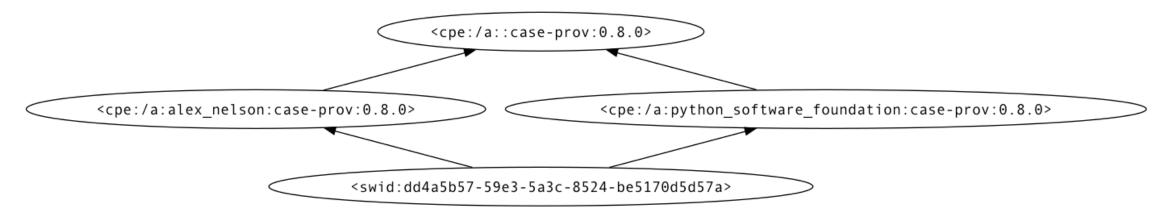


One SWID tag can induce many CPEs.

E.g. 1 per involved entity (aside from tagCreator). Each "CPE Vendor" variant could assist with finding distributor-modified software.

cpe:2.3:a:alex_nelson:case-prov:0.8.0:*:*:*:*:*:*:*
cpe:2.3:a:python_software_foundation:case-prov:0.8.0:*:*:*:*:*:*:*

Could be more helpful to consider as classes. These CPEs describe all software named case-prov, versioned 0.8.0, vended by Alex Nelson (or separately, vended by the Python Software Foundation).



Classes...?



Treat classes synonymous with sets.

A key ITAM objective: Knowledge of assets. "How big is the set of computers in my org?" "How big is the set of software licenses in use right now? "...Versus how many we've paid for?"

CPE describes sets of software.

CPE *name* serializes the set description. CPE *URI* identifies the set. E.g. all software: <cpe:/a>

SWID describes smaller sets.

"Never underestimate the power of a theorem that counts something."

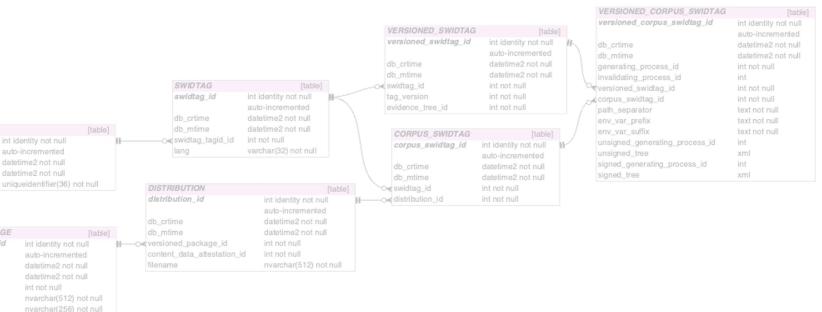
Crawling package managers with swid-reg

swidtag_tagid_id

VERSIONED_PACKAGE

db_crtime

tag_id



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 PACKAGE
 [table]

 package_id
 int identity not null

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 db_crtime
 datetime2 not null

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 int identity not null

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 db_mtime
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db_mtime

Package managers

Package managers provide:

- Authorship information
- Package update discovery
- Dependency graphs
- Payload files
- Project pages <u>https://pypi.org/project/case-prov/</u>

swid-reg calls package managers ecosystems,

and crawls them to produce SWID tags.

(And from SWID tags, CPEs will be generated.)

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case-prov 0.9.0 pip install case-prov	
Latest version Released: Aug 30, 2023	
A mapping of CASE to W3C PROV	
Project details	
S Release history	
🛓 Download files	
Project description	
CASE Implementation: PROV-O	
This repository maps <u>CASE</u> to <u>W3C PROV-O</u> and <u>OWL-Time</u> . Note that contrary to other CASE implementations, this maps CASE out to another data model, instead of mapping another data model or tool into CASE. Full documentation is available at the <u>project homepage</u> .	

Package managers and swid-reg

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Package managers provide:

- Authorship information
- Package update discovery
- Dependency graphs
- Payload files
- Metadata feeds <u>https://pypi.org/pypi/case-prov/0.9.0/json</u>

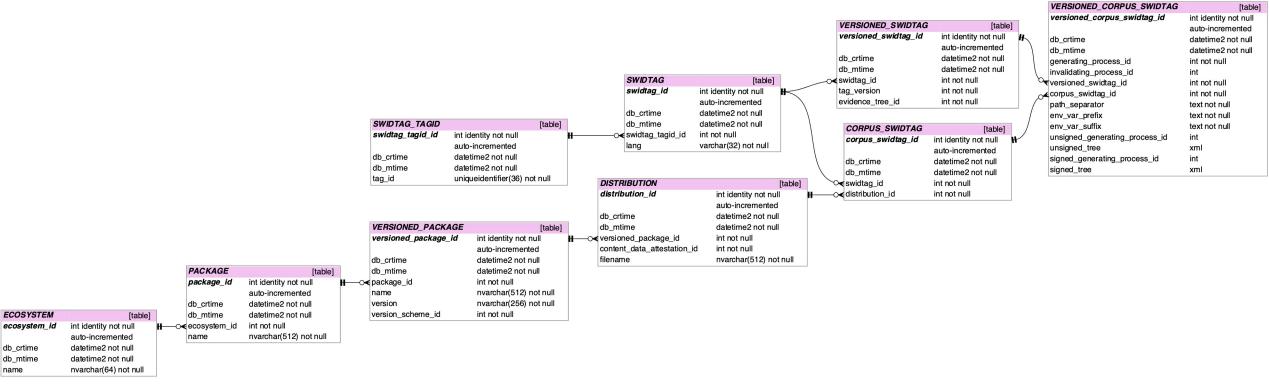
swid-reg calls package managers **ecosystems**, and crawls them to produce SWID tags.

(And from SWID tags, CPEs will be generated.)

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swid-reg data model: From ecosystem to SWID tag





What does one download from a package manager? – A **distribution**.

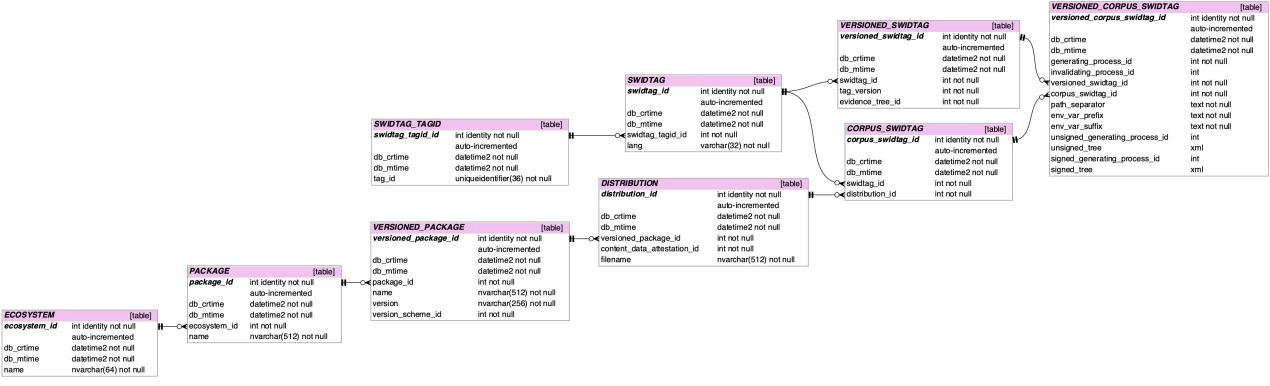
What bears the version?

– A versioned package.

What do swidtags describe in swid-reg? – A **distribution**.

swid-reg data model: From ecosystem to SWID tag





What does one download from a package manager? – A **distribution**.

But...

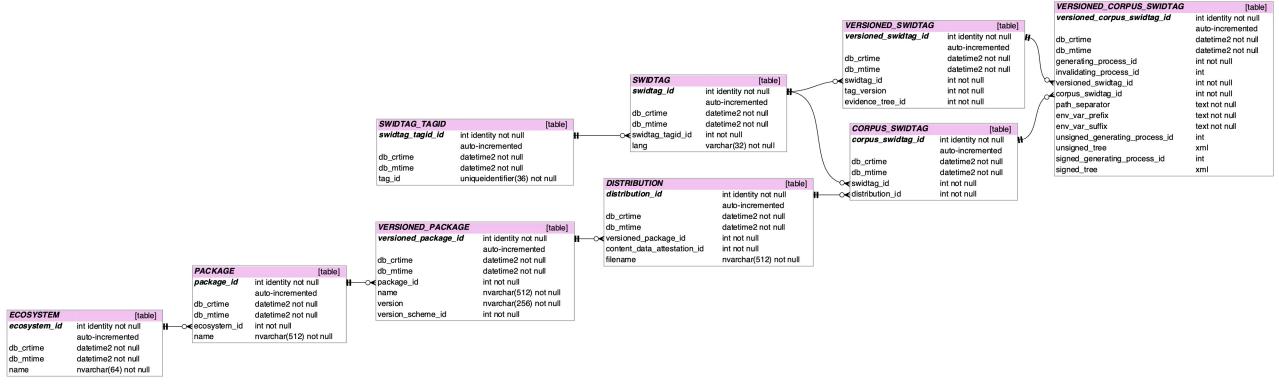
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Difference between Projects and Packages: Packages are in ecosystems.





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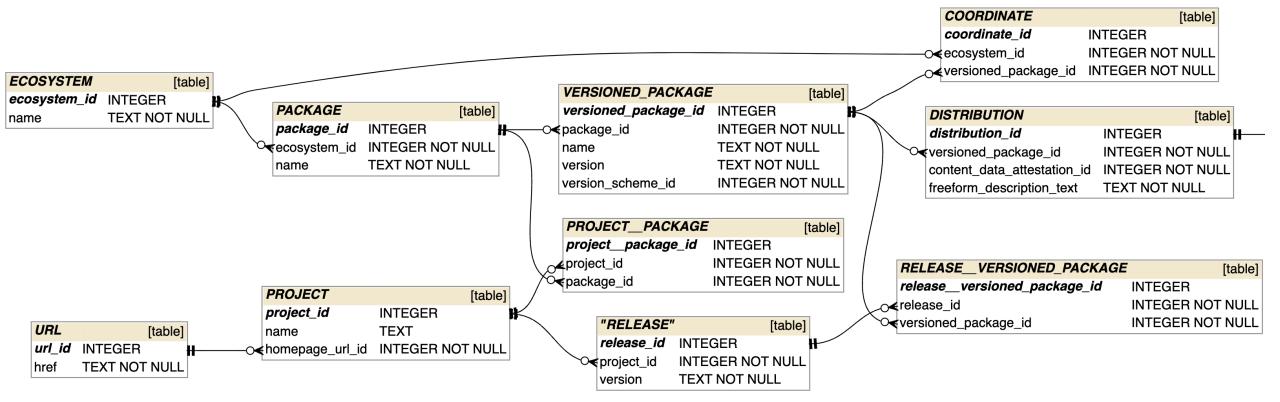
What do swidtags describe in swid-reg? – A **distribution**.

But...

What are vulnerabilities reported against?

A release, bearing a version of a project.
 (Not depicted.)

Difference between Projects and Packages: Packages are easier to crawl.



What does one download from a package manager? – A **distribution**.

What bears the version?

A versioned package.

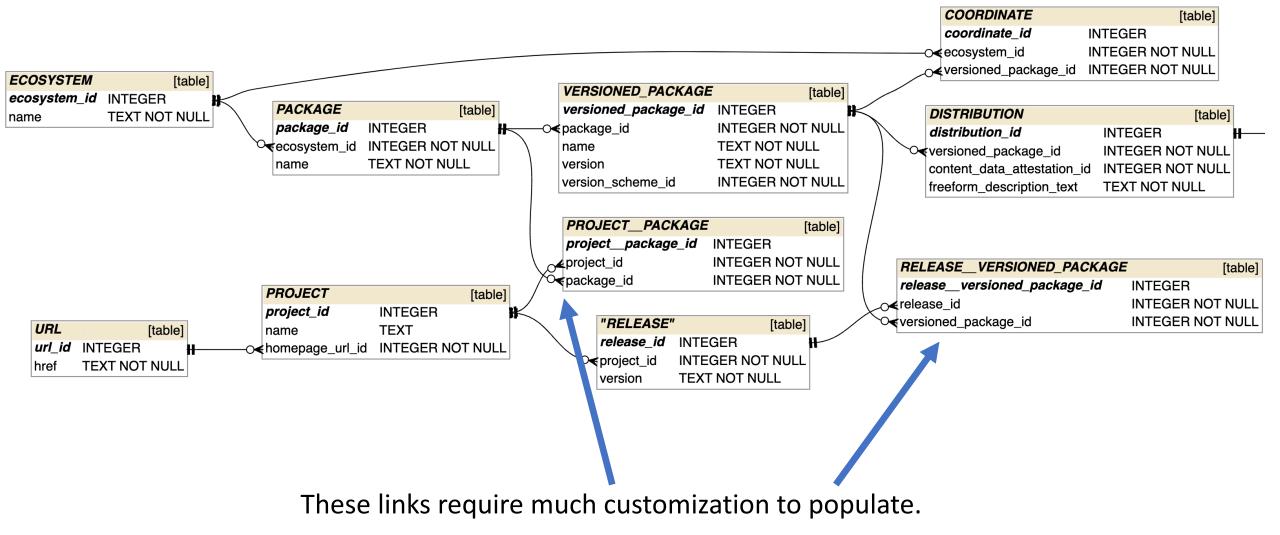
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But...

What are vulnerabilities reported against? – A **release**, bearing a version of a **project**.

Bridging Projects and Packages: A challenge.





Planned open-source ecosystems

Crawlers have been designed for:

- PyPI (activating)
- Maven
- Debian

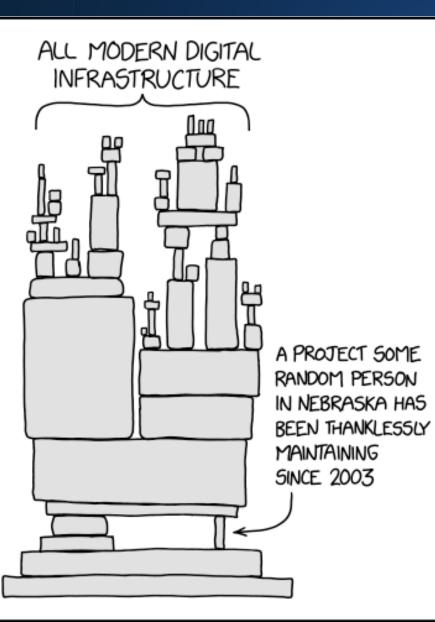
- CPAN
- RubyGems

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• NPM

...did he say CPAN?

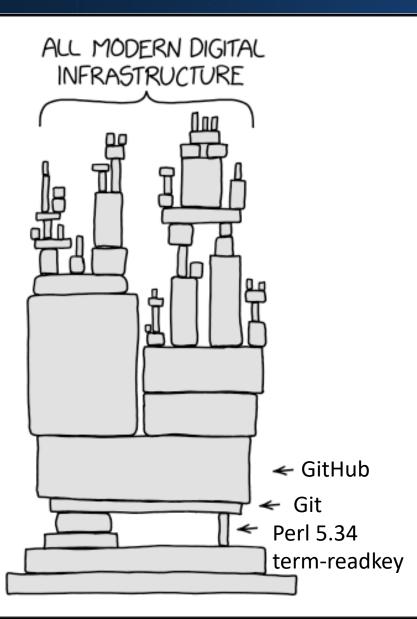




https://xkcd.com/2347/

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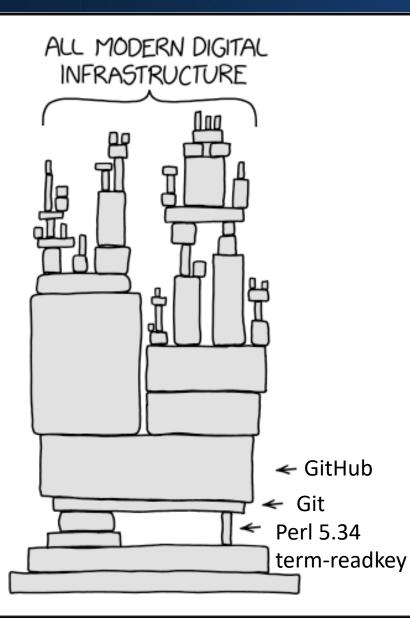




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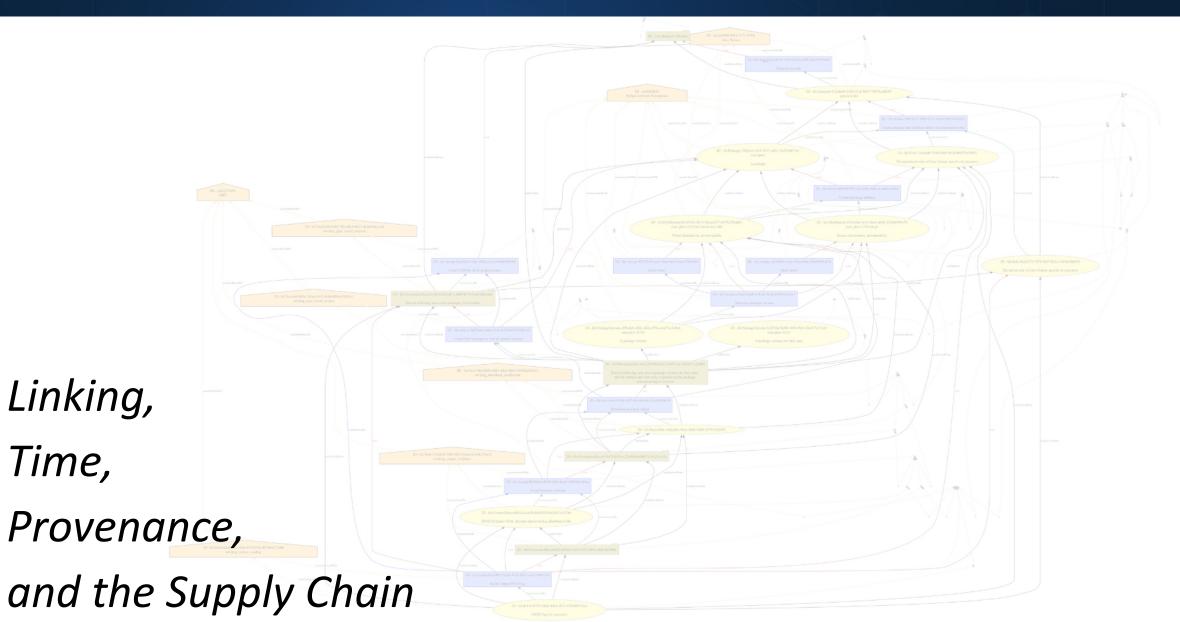
Per: https://ports.macports.org/port/git/details/

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p5.34-term-	rsync					
readkey						
<u>build (2)</u>						
clang-15	gettext					

https://xkcd.com/2347/

A light touch of ontology





Supply chain review is relationship analysis. NGT

Package managers provide:

- Authorship information
- Package update discovery
- Dependency graphs
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- Metadata feeds https://pypi.org/pypi/case-prov/0.9.0/json

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Graphs link objects in several ways.



Three ways to relate two objects, O1 and O2, are **properties**, **qualities**, and **relationships**.

(In some cases, O2 is a literal-data value, like a string or integer.)

- **Property** The linked thing is fundamental to the identity of O1. *E.g. A package in an ecosystem has a name as an identifier. Changing the name creates a new package.*
- **Quality** The linked thing is mutable. *E.g. A package's download count does not change the identity of the package when it ticks up.*
- **Relationship** Neither O1 nor O2 need each other to exist. A relationship ties them together.

E.g. a package's maintainer can change from release to release.

• The relationship can end without inducing O1 or O2 to also end.



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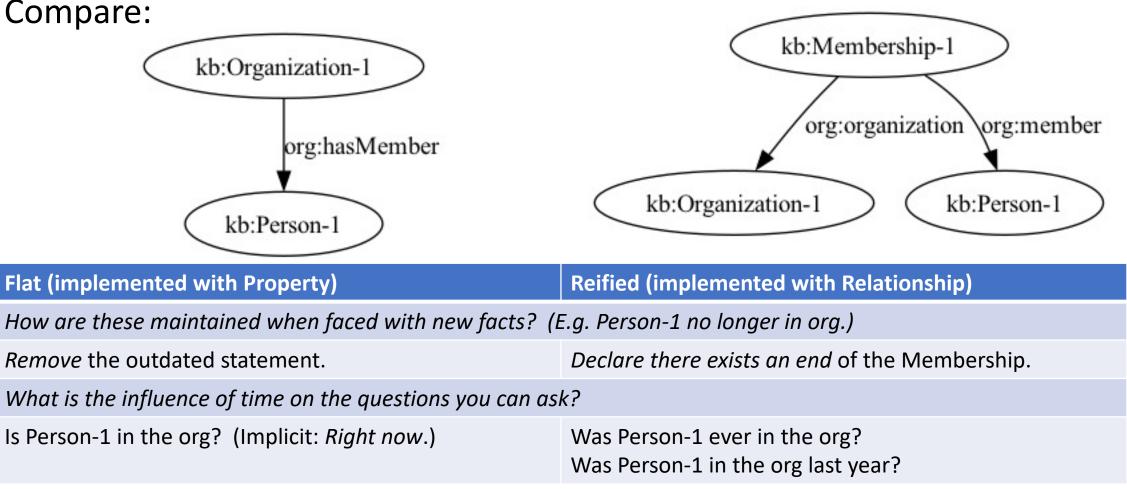
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● ● ● ■ 2023-09-13-SSCA — vi myp	Two versions of the project parked at "mypy" on PyPI: The first (0.1), and today's (1.5.1), 14 years apart.		
<pre>"info": { "name": "mypy", "version": "0.1", "summary": "A wsgi framework", "home_page": "UNKNOWN", "author": "zsp", "author_email": "zsp0070gmail.com" }, "urls": [{ "filename": "mypy-0.1.tar.gz", "upload_time_iso_8601": "2009-09-09T17:34:48.9688692", "digests": { "sha256": "0055650b0b17702e5b7d82a5b09330f9a7d500 c829e9967e169bd773d538eb6b" }, "url": "https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/b5/ 9e/ab36e384db3602fdd3729fbb3a467949c40758361f244a379b75 53683663/mypy-0.1.tar.gz", "yanked": false }] } ** mypy-0.1-trimmed.json</pre>	<pre>"info": { "name": "mypy", "version": "1.5.1", "summary": "Optional static typing for Python", "home_page": "https://www.mypy-lang.org/", "author": "Jukka Lehtosalo", "author_email": "jukka.lehtosalo@iki.fi" }, "urls": [{ "filename": "mypy-1.5.1.tar.gz", "upload_time_iso_8601": "2023-08-16T16:54:46.922907Z", "digests": { "sha256": "b031b9601f1060bf1281feab89697324 726ba0c0bae9d7cd7ab4b690940f0b92" }, "url": "https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages /33/f9/c84b68e4a754f5ce200dcf0786aa489164fa9d9dee84e375 bd7d99caf637/mypy-1.5.1.tar.gz", "yanked": false }] } mypy-1.5.1-trimmed.json</pre>	 Summary is different. Home page now recorded. Author-role now held by someone else. Was never yanked (retracted). What are properties? Name What are qualities? Version Summary What are independent and related?	
		 Person in author role 	

Home page

Example: W3C ORG demonstrates two linking styles



When reviewing deployed software configurations, time information is essential.

A detour on time, for consistency review



The W3C's *OWL-Time* is an OWL-based ontology.

Defines Intervals, Instants, interval-relating algebra (right), plus more.

Timeline *consistency review* can use interval predicates, such as time: intervalDuring.

Example: All actions requiring a PKI signature SHOULD take place during the certificate's interval of validity.

Else, the knowledge base is *inconsistent*.

Some predicates make strong implications: "*i* before *j*" means *i* has a definite end, even if the specific timestamp is not known.

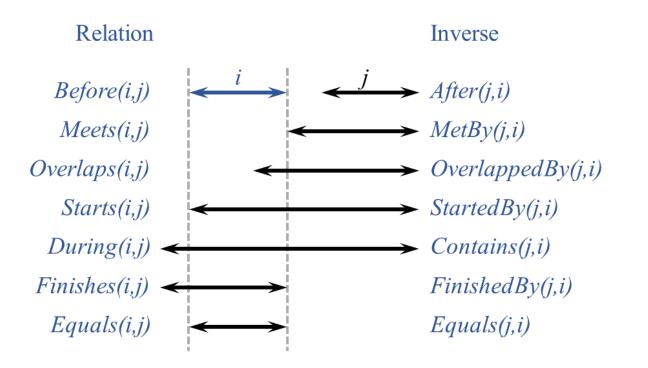
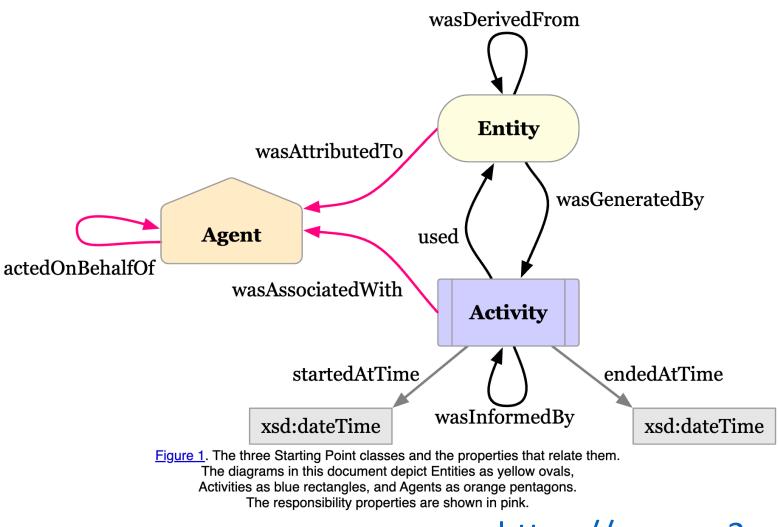


Figure source: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-0-585-28322-7_7</u>, via Figure 2 of <u>https://www.w3.org/TR/owl-time/</u>

A detour on provenance, for history description





https://www.w3.org/TR/prov-o/

PROV concepts can align with OWL-Time NIST

OWL-Time defines instants and intervals. PROV-O specializes these.

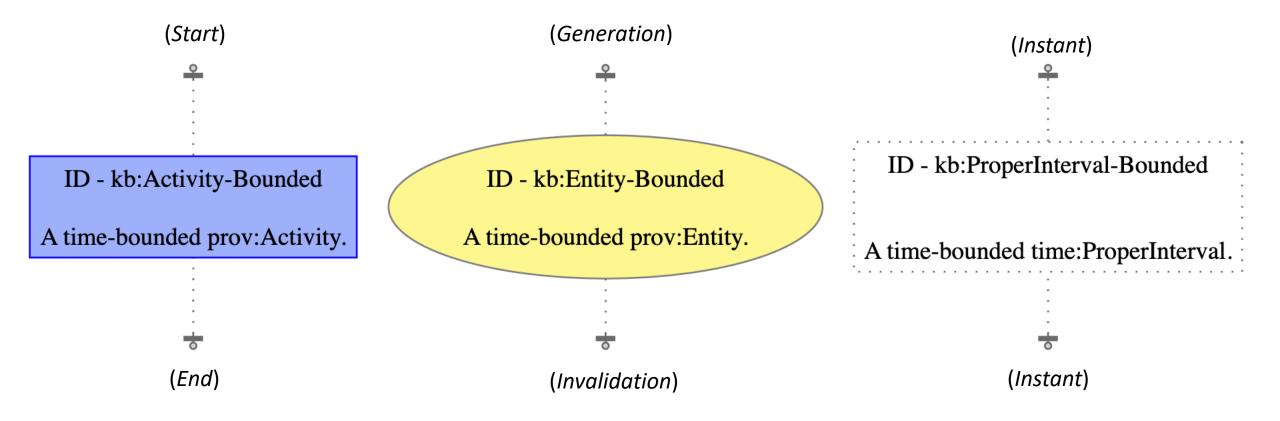


Figure source: case-prov's README

Provenance analysis uses links and/or time NIST

(Left and right displays only toggle time object visibility.)

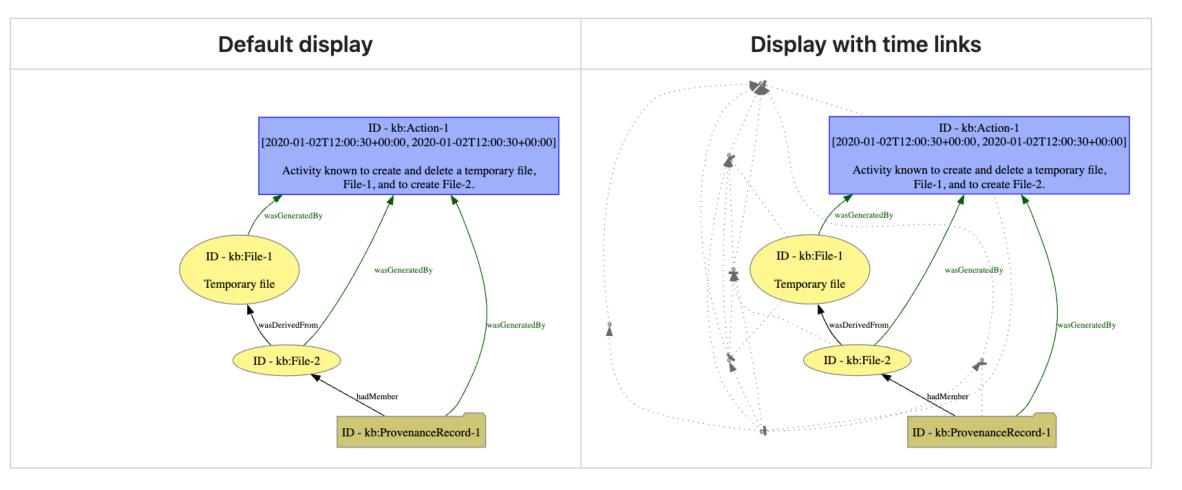


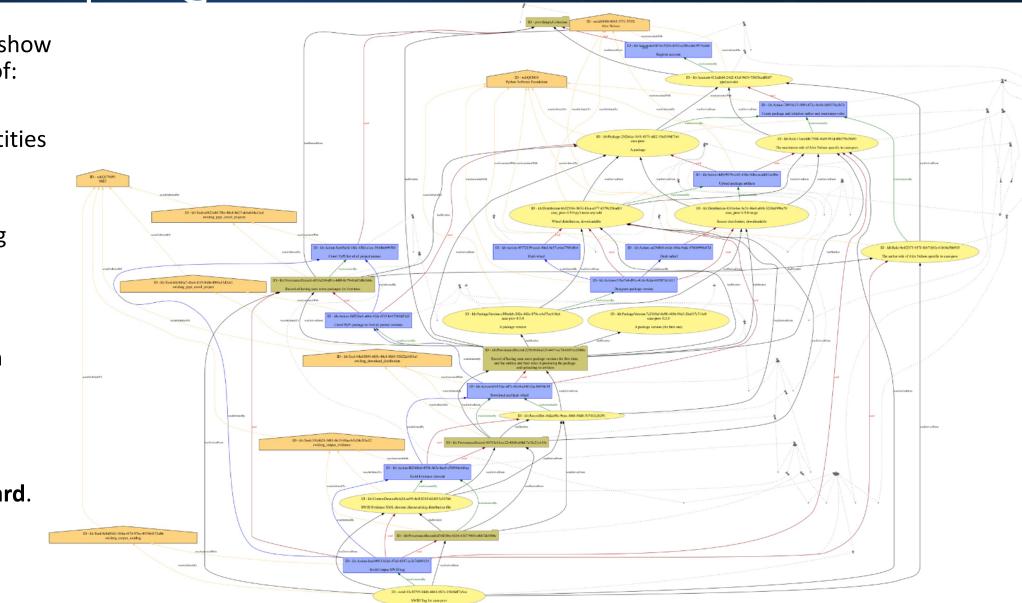
Figure source: case-prov's README

Provenance example: History of swid-reg generated tag for case-prov@0.9.0

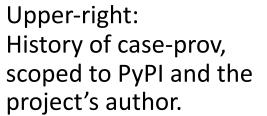
Provenance graphs show interwoven chains of:

- *Derivation*: entities from entities (yellow)
- Communication: Activities sharing entities (blue)
- Delegation: Agents acting on behalf of agents (orange)

Time flows downward.

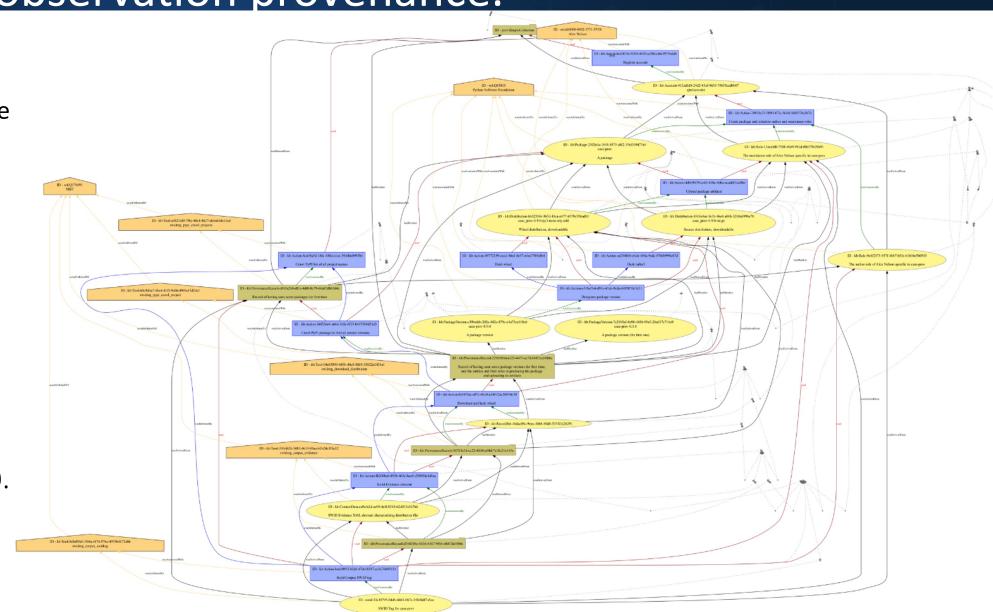


Swid-reg separates ecosystem's posting history from crawler's observation provenance.



Lower-left: swid-reg actions observing, downloading, hashing artifacts.

Bottom: The SWID tag for case-prov@0.9.0.

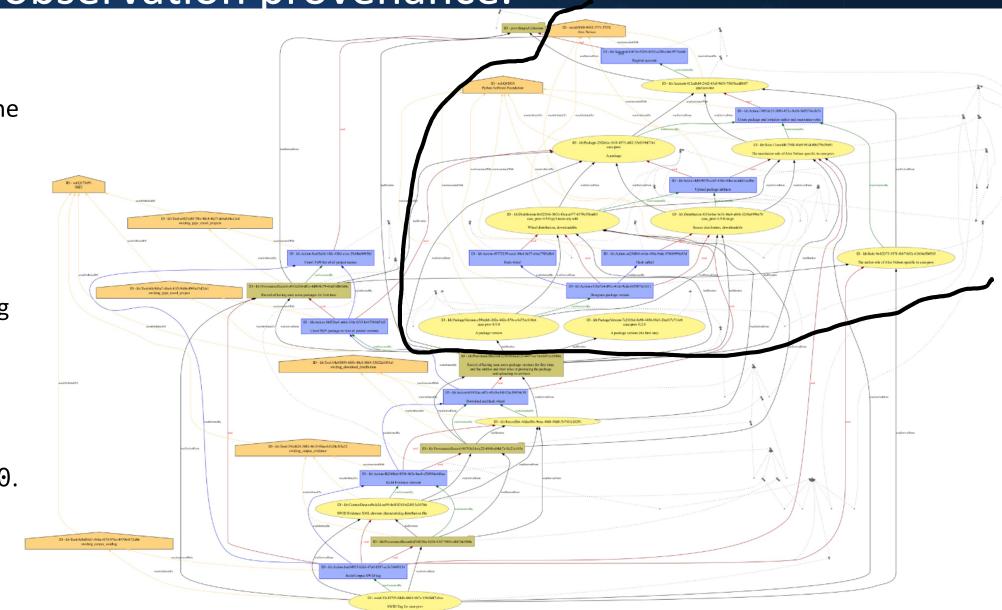


Swid-reg separates ecosystem's posting history from crawler's observation provenance.

Upper-right: History of case-prov, scoped to PyPI and the project's author.

Lower-left: swid-reg actions observing, downloading, hashing artifacts.

Bottom: The SWID tag for case-prov@0.9.0.



Provenance-oriented model enables flexible swid-reg augmentation of hashes.



Compare PyPI's JSON feed to Maven's detached signature files.

swid-reg confirms provided file measurements (size, hashes), records as "attestation" from ecosystem.

Time of signatures' observation is recorded, in case of later change.

Then, augments hashes to include:

- MD5*, SHA-1*
- SHA2-256 and -512
- SHA3-256 and -512
- File size
- Modification time of distribution file (if appears stable)

•••	Central Repository: gov/nist/se × +	~
\leftrightarrow \rightarrow G	🔒 repo.maven.apache.org/maven G 🖞 🛧 👳 🖨 🔺	:

gov/nist/secauto/swid/swidval/0.7.0

<u>/</u>			
swidval-0.7.0-javadoc.jar	2022-01-07	00:27	468072
swidval-0.7.0-javadoc.jar.asc	2022-01-07	00:27	659
swidval-0.7.0-javadoc.jar.md5	2022-01-07	00:27	32
swidval-0.7.0-javadoc.jar.shal	2022-01-07	00:27	40
swidval-0.7.0-sources.jar	2022-01-07	00:27	64649
swidval-0.7.0-sources.jar.asc	2022-01-07	00:27	659
swidval-0.7.0-sources.jar.md5	2022-01-07	00:27	32
swidval-0.7.0-sources.jar.shal	2022-01-07	00:27	40
swidval-0.7.0-swidval.tar.bz2	2022-01-07	00:27	8439469
swidval-0.7.0-swidval.tar.bz2.asc	2022-01-07	00:27	659
swidval-0.7.0-swidval.tar.bz2.md5	2022-01-07	00:27	32
swidval-0.7.0-swidval.tar.bz2.shal	2022-01-07	00:27	40
swidval-0.7.0-swidval.zip	2022-01-07	00:27	8451289
swidval-0.7.0-swidval.zip.asc	2022-01-07	00:27	659
swidval-0.7.0-swidval.zip.md5	2022-01-07	00:27	32
swidval-0.7.0-swidval.zip.shal	2022-01-07	00:27	40
swidval-0.7.0.jar	2022-01-07	00:27	55693
swidval-0.7.0.jar.asc	2022-01-07	00:27	659
swidval-0.7.0.jar.md5	2022-01-07	00:27	32
swidval-0.7.0.jar.shal	2022-01-07	00:27	40
swidval-0.7.0.pom	2022-01-07	00:27	5805
swidval-0.7.0.pom.asc	2022-01-07	00:27	659
swidval-0.7.0.pom.md5	2022-01-07	00:27	32
swidval-0.7.0.pom.shal	2022-01-07	00:27	40

Future work



- Augmentation of NVD vulnerability feeds with more than CPE
- Setting up feed for NIST-produced SWID tags
- Accepting submissions of SBOMs from partnering organizations to expand software knowledge base beyond open source ecosystems
- Researching "at-scale" association of Packages with Projects
- Better versioning: Using Git-based Projects' histories to establish stronger partial-order package version graphs, improving "Affected versions" vulnerability associations



Questions?

https://github.com/usnistgov/swid-reg/

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