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Version-aware browsing

Initial problem:

When I browse “the world” (not just the Web, but also other places – like a repository or my file system), I would often like to know what has happened since I last visited a place.

Some people try to solve the problem by “highlighting” things that are new – but that doesn’t quite work. If I visit the place only once a month and another person visits it every week, then what is new to me might not be new to the other person, because he already saw it two or more weeks ago – and if the “new-flag” is not “trustable” then no-one will care about it.

Another way to try to solve the problem is to make a chronological list of changes that have happened to the place. However, if I have to maintain the place, I don’t want to spend time on this extra overhead – and if I do, I will sometimes forget to update the list (especially for small changes). Likewise, users of the place would find it too much extra work to have to consult a separate list, when all they want to do is look at a page – and would not even trust the list if it could have omissions.

So something better has to be proposed.

The investigation could/should look into not only changes to one single entity but also to an entire structure.

Research method:

Either primarily analysis and design – theoretical thesis
or primarily implementation and experiments – experimental thesis

If you are interested:

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