



UCF

College of Engineering
and Computer Science

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

APPLeSEEd@UCF

Free Software Enables Free Science

Paul Gazzillo and Joshua Santana



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pgazz.com

About Me

<https://paulgazzillo.com>

Assistant Professor of Computer Science at University of Central Florida

Started Fall 2018

Research areas: programming languages, software engineering, security

Some contributions

- Parsing C without preprocessing
- Detection of side channel vulnerabilities
- Makefile configuration discovery

My Path to Free Software

Childhood



College and work

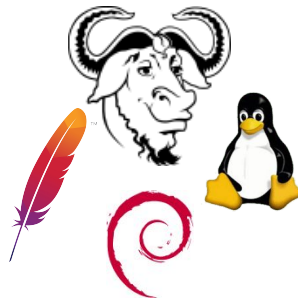


UNIX®

Grad school



Since grad school



Future: services, mobile, hardware



I Love My Job!

Research

- Articulate good problems
- Develop novel solutions
- Make and disseminate new knowledge and tools

Teaching

- Teach computer science principles
- Prepare students for industry and/or academia
- Convey the joy of programming and computing

Working with Students

**An Empirical Study of Real-World Variability Bugs
Detected by Variability-Oblivious Tools**

Austin Mordahl University of Texas at Dallas USA austin.mordahl@utdallas.edu	Jeho Oh University of Texas at Austin USA jeho.oh@utexas.edu	Ugur Koc University of Maryland, College Park USA ukoc@cs.umd.edu
Shiyi Wei University of Texas at Dallas USA swei@utdallas.edu	Paul Gazzillo University of Central Florida USA paul.gazzillo@ucf.edu	

ABSTRACT
Many critical software systems developed in C utilize compile-time configurability. The many possible configurations of this software make bug detection through static analysis difficult. While variability-aware static analyses have been developed, there remains a gap between those and state-of-the-art static bug detection tools. In order to collect data on how such tools may perform and to develop real-world benchmarks, we present a way to leverage configuration sampling, off-the-shelf "variability-oblivious" bug detectors, and automatic feature identification techniques to simulate a variability-aware analysis. We instantiate our approach using four popular static analysis tools on three highly config-

Engineering Conference and Symposium on the Foundations of Software Engineering (ESEC/FSE '19), August 26-30, 2019, Tallinn, Estonia. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 12 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3338906.3338967>

1 INTRODUCTION
Systems developed in C form some of the largest and most important software infrastructure. This software, such as the Linux kernel or the BusyBox embedded toolkit, is used in a broad range of applications, from large-scale datacenters to millions of Internet-of-Things devices. C programmers use *compile-time variability* to enable a single codebase to be customized to this diverse range of settings. They implement software configurations in the Makefile and C preprocessor to decide which part of the source code is built



UCF's Campus Is Beautiful



Incentives in Academia

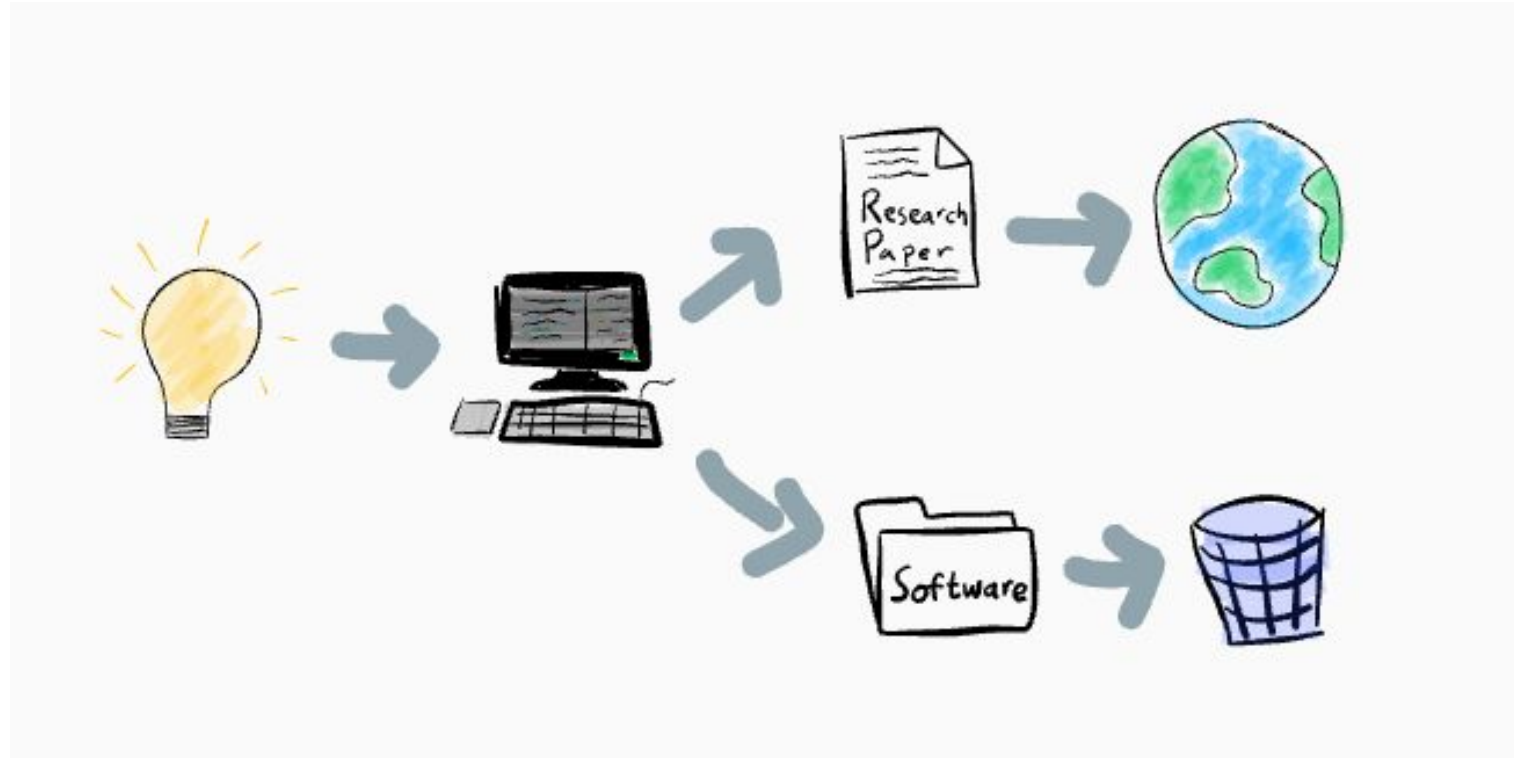
Publish (papers) or perish

Artifacts sometimes gets left behind (about 40% of SE papers release artifacts)

Research is (often) publicly funded

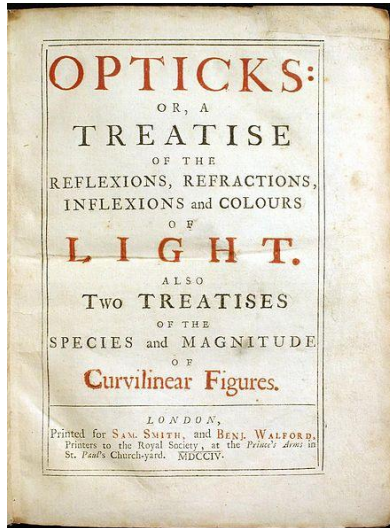


Oversimplified View of Research



Science Depends on Good Tools

Newton's Opticks



Newtons' Notes on Lens Grinding



"If it disagrees with experiment, it's wrong." -Feynman

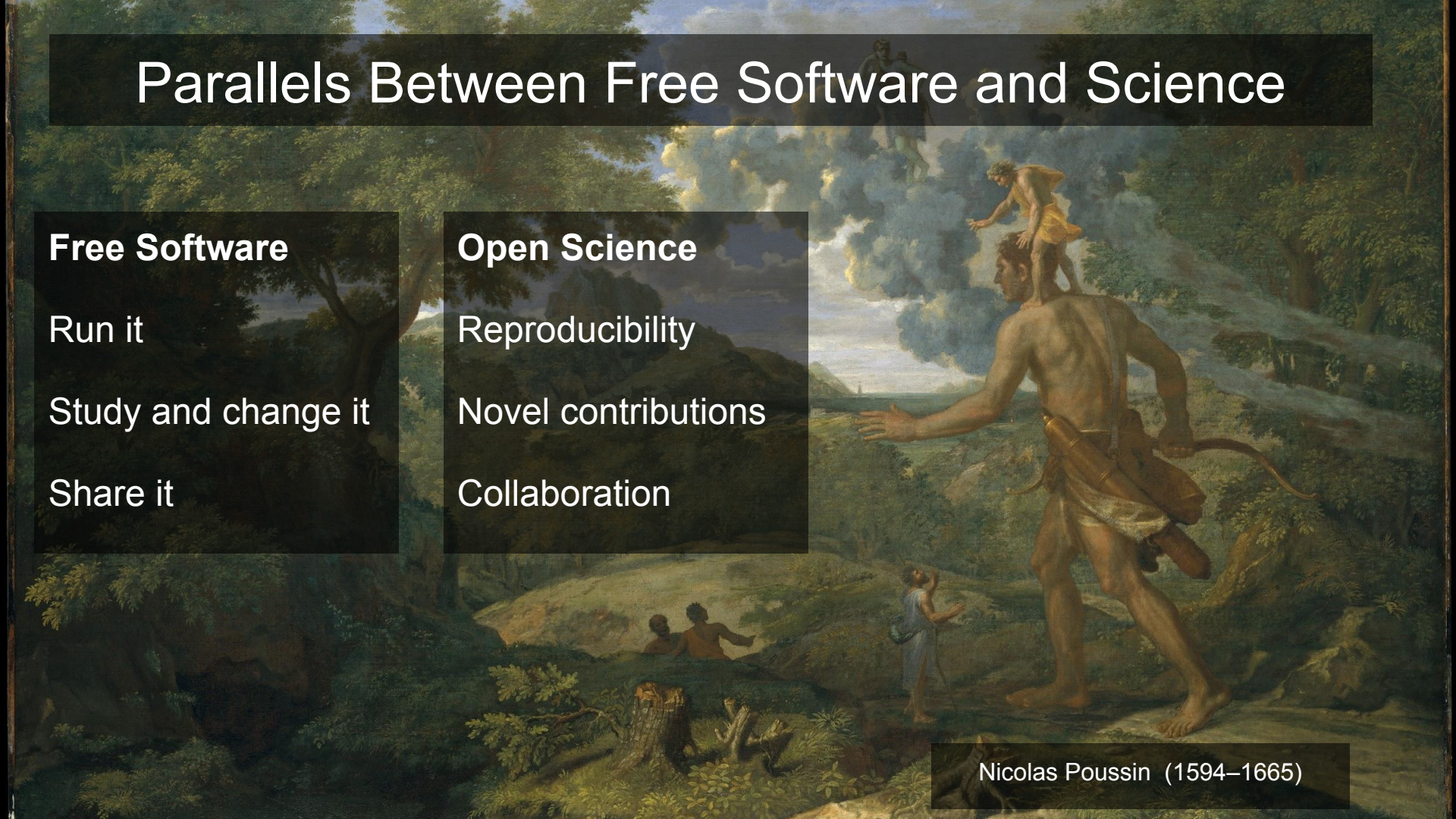
How to Have Real-World Impact: Five Easy Pieces

by Emery Berger on Oct 29, 2019 | Tags: industrial adoption, real-world impact



1. Scratch an itch
 2. Build real systems
 3. Embed yourself
 4. Give great talks
 5. Go to the mountain
- Emery Berger

Parallels Between Free Software and Science



Free Software

Run it

Study and change it

Share it

Open Science

Reproducibility

Novel contributions

Collaboration

Nicolas Poussin (1594–1665)

Free Software in Research

Run It: My Main Tools for Research

Systems and programming: emacs, git, gcc, python, emacs, bash, coreutils

Research libraries: z3, picosat, sat4j

Writing: emacs, latex

Collaboration: google docs, slack, overleaf, office365 (school requirement)



L^AT_EX



Our Research Group Collaboration

Now:

- Google docs: notes, outlines, etc
- Slack: chat, video chat
- Skype: video chat (UCF license)
- Office365: calendar (UCF license)

Next to try:

- Nextcloud: notes, shared calendars
- Matrix: chat
- Jitsi, mumble: group chat

Study and Change It: Reading GCC Source Code

Research problem: parse C across all #ifdefs

Why? bug-finding, security, etc

Needed to replicate how part of GCC worked for C

git://gcc.gnu.org / [gcc.git](https://gcc.gnu.org) / tree

[summary](#) | [shortlog](#) | [log](#) | [commit](#) | [commitdiff](#) | tree
[history](#) | [HEAD](#) | [snapshot](#)

* cpplib.pot: Regenerate.

[\[gcc.git\]](#) / [libcpp](#) /

drwxr-xr-x	..	
-rw-r--r--	79284	ChangeLog blob history raw
-rw-r--r--	8607	Makefile.in blob history raw
-rw-r--r--	998	aclocal.m4 blob history raw
-rw-r--r--	56271	charset.c blob history raw

```
1917 /* Lex a token into pfile->cur_token, which is also incremented
1918    get diagnostics pointing to the correct location.
1919
1920    Does not handle issues such as token lookahead, multiple-in-
1921    optimization, directives, skipping etc. This function is ob-
1922    suitable for use by _cpp_lex_token, and in special cases li-
1923    lex_expansion_token which doesn't care for any of these iss-
1924
1925    When meeting a newline, returns CPP_EOF if parsing a direct-
1926    otherwise returns to the start of the token buffer if permi-
1927    Returns the location of the lexed token. */
1928 cpp_token *
1929 _cpp_lex_direct (cpp_reader *pfile)
```


Share It: Community Makes the Research Better

Kept further development in private repository.

 paulgazz / kmax

My thinking: who would use this anyway?

 paulgazz / kmax-dev Private

This guy found bugs!



Elias Kuiter
ekuiter

Presence conditions obtained are wrong #2



ekuiter opened this issue on May 17, 2018 · 1 comment



ekuiter commented on May 17, 2018

Contributor



Hi,

I'm using Kmax to determine presence conditions for single translation units (for use in the SPLC 18

Share It: Others Can Run, Study, and Change It

Team at another university working on separate project

Met at conference

Working together on tool improvements, publication

Now co-advising



Jeho Oh, PhD Student
University of Texas at Austin

Uniform Sampling from Kconfig Feature Models

Jeho Oh, Don Batory, Marijn Heule, Margaret Myers
University of Texas at Austin
Department of Computer Science
Texas, USA

Paul Gazzillo
University of Central Florida
Department of Computer Science
Florida, USA

Abstract—Random sampling of configuration spaces is a useful tool for working with software product lines (SPLs), enabling analyzing and reasoning about spaces too large for exhaustive exploration. Being able to create uniform sampling is critical for making statistical inferences about SPLs, but it particularly hard for massive, real-world systems. We show how uniform random sampling can be done on systems that use the Kconfig feature modeling language, a popular choice among low-level and embedded systems. Despite its importance, prior work considered uniform random sampling infeasible and sampled configurations

perform multi-objective optimization [20]–[23], and evaluate different sampling approaches to locate variability bugs [13], [15].

As late as 2016, URS of SPL configuration spaces was considered infeasible [15], [19]. In 2017, Oh *et al.* [26] showed how URS could be performed; their techniques relied on BDDs [27], which limited the scope of their tool. A goal of this paper is to scale [26] to URS spaces of colossal size. In this paper, we describe how to scale uniform random sampling

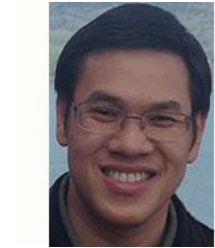
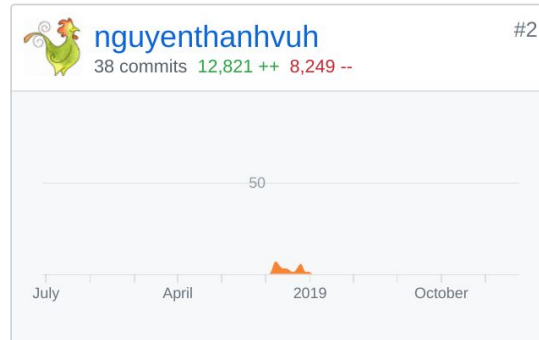
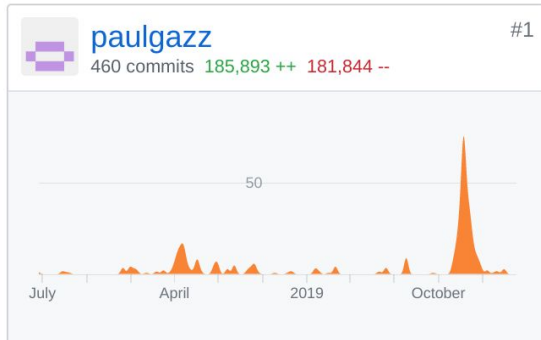
Share It: Others Can Run, Study, and Change It

A researcher interested in the same area

He had an idea to improve performance and scalability

He spent time reengineering the tool

This is enabling our future collaboration



Prof. Vu Nguyen
University of Nebraska--Lincoln

Share It: Using Best Practices

Close collaborators willing to put up with ad-hoc prototypes

Others should not have to

Good engineering takes time

Not very incentivized in academia

But worth it



kmaxtools 2.0rc32

```
pip install kmaxtools
```



Share It: Enabling Real-World Applications

Kernel developer tried the tooling out

Incredibly good feedback from user point of view

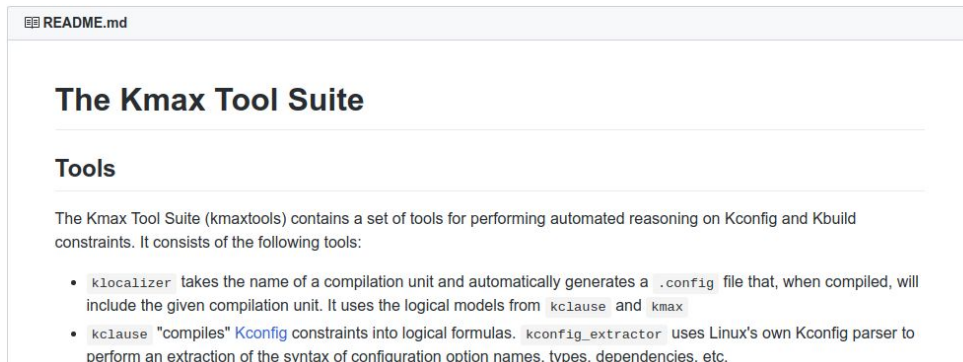
Finding areas of need and applications

More collaboration opportunities



Julia Lawall
Inria/LIP6

Researcher and Linux Kernel Dev



Free Software Enables Science

Study and change it



Novel contributions

Run it



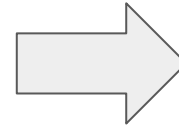
Reproduce results



Share it



Collaborate



Free Software in Education

Teaching Philosophy

A guide to students' own intellectual growth

Students learn self-reliance in the safety of school



Students as empty vessels



Teacher as guide

Challenge: Mass Education

UCF has thousands of CS students

Some classes have hundreds of students

Impossible to be a personal guide to everyone all the time

What helps: consistency, clear expectations, automation, communication, free content



Free Software as a Standard

Instead of one proprietary system, knowledge that generalizes

Endless opportunities exploration

Endless community support

Many students from low income families, first gen college, more economical

Spirit of self learning, do it yourself, community support

Learning GNU/Linux taught me more about OS, PL, SE

Teaching Systems Software

Compilers, Linkers, Loaders, etc

Mostly compilers for undergraduates

Hard topic, project in C

Automation essential for 200 students

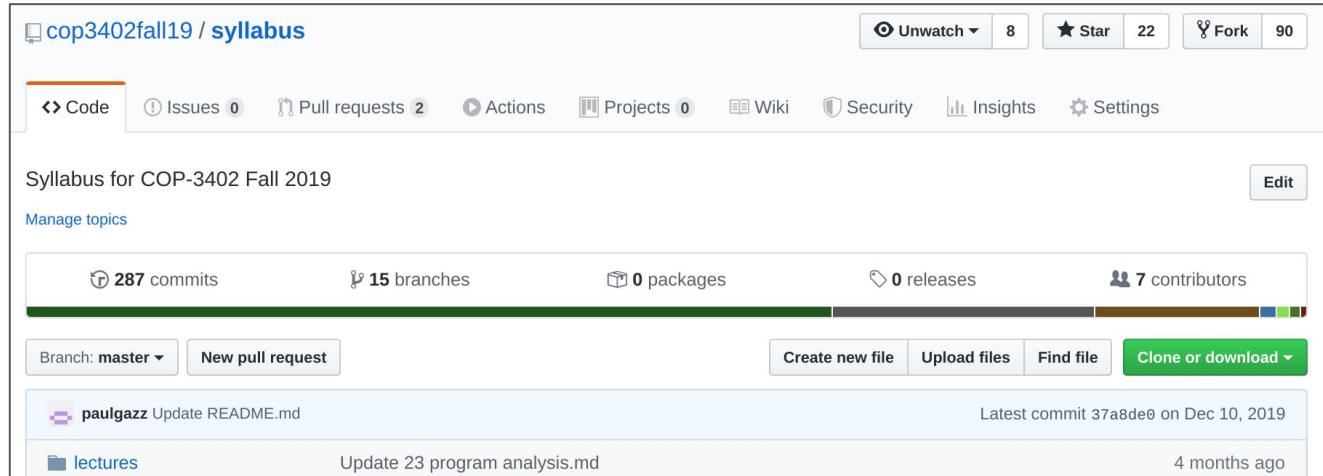


Standardized on GNU/Linux, C, Makefiles, and git

All software submitted via git (GitHub classrooms)

Must compile with make on GNU/Linux

Gave a publicly-available test suite for self-grading



The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository 'cop3402fall19 / syllabus'. At the top right, there are buttons for 'Unwatch' (8), 'Star' (22), and 'Fork' (90). Below this is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Code', 'Issues' (0), 'Pull requests' (2), 'Actions', 'Projects' (0), 'Wiki', 'Security', 'Insights', and 'Settings'. The main heading is 'Syllabus for COP-3402 Fall 2019' with an 'Edit' button. Below the heading is a 'Manage topics' link. A progress bar shows repository statistics: 287 commits, 15 branches, 0 packages, 0 releases, and 7 contributors. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Branch: master', 'New pull request', 'Create new file', 'Upload files', 'Find file', and 'Clone or download'. The commit history shows a commit by 'paulgazz' titled 'Update README.md' from Dec 10, 2019, and a file named 'lectures' with the update 'Update 23 program analysis.md' from 4 months ago.

Many Students Lack Command-Line Experience

I assumed students would know or figure out git and bash

Irony: little systems software used in Systems Software course

Spent much time in office hours on extra tutoring

Many students had never used the command-line on any OS

Useful for any computing job

Empowers students

Gives control over device

```
nod@xps13:~/apps/HCS_Optimizer$ grep "logging.info" *.py
dobuild.py:     logging.info(f'cpu count{cpu_count} load avg {load1}')
dobuild.py:     logging.info(cmd)
dobuild.py:     logging.info(f'run make time {time.time() - time_}')
dobuild.py:     logging.info(f'error: {cmd}')
evaluation.py:     logging.info("Build(s) time: {}".format(time() - time_))
evaluation.py:     logging.info(f'read stats time {time() - time_}')
evaluation.py:         logging.info(f'build size {buildsizes[i]} set{is_set} unset {unset}'))
evaluation.py:     logging.info(f'measuring time: {time() - time_}')
kconfigIO.py:     logging.info(f'write out time {time() - time_}')
kconfigIO.py:     logging.info(f'building with {configs_ + ffile_} check: {os.path.exists(configs_ + ffile_)}')
kconfigIO.py:     logging.info("build time: {}".format(time_))
kconfigIO.py:     logging.info(f'more time {time() - time_}')
kconfigIO.py:     logging.info("build time (failed): {}".format(time() - time_))
sampleLinux.py:     logging.info(f'cp time: {time() - time_}')
sampleLinux.py:     logging.info("Sampling time: {}".format(time() - time_))
sampleLinux.py:     logging.info("Diversity: s: {} m: {} % {} time: {}".format(
sampleLinux.py:     logging.info("Sampling time: {}".format(time() - time_))
sampleLinux.py:     logging.info("Diversity: s: {} m: {} % {} time: {}".format(
sampleLinux.py:         logging.info(cmd)
sampleLinux.py:     logging.info(f'read configs kmax time {time() - time_}')
search.py:     logging.info("Sampling time for rec: {}".format(
search.py:     logging.info("Evaluation time: {}".format(time.time() - eval_time))
search.py:     logging.info(f'noteworthy: {len(noteworthy)}')
```

Incorporated More OS Basics and History

Browser Wars: Netscape vs Microsoft 1995-01

- Netscape had a large market share
- Microsoft bundled Internet Explore (IE)
- Opposing claims
 - Microsoft is using monopoly power to undermine competition
 - IE is an integral to the OS as memory management
- Bill Gates' argument
 - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8Lbfcyh8dCM&t=6m30s>

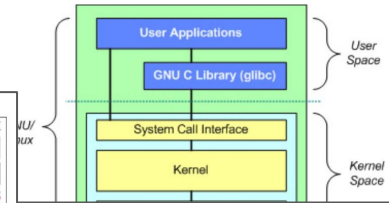


6



Computing Infrastructure Uses a Layered Design

- Hardware
- Firmware (BIOS, UEFI, etc)
 - Programs on ROM, boots an OS



GNU = GNU's Not Unix

Linus Torvalds announces GNU

complete, Unix-like operating system
proprietary, owned by AT&T

development begins

GNOME, bash, binutils, coreutils, etc

GNU Manifesto, Free Software Foundation

free/libre open-source software

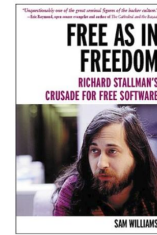
GNU Public License

speech (libre), not beer (gratis)

1990. GNU Hurd kernel

- Most of OS done, except kernel and drivers

8



<https://stallman.org>



Linux Fills in the Missing

Linus Torvalds announces project,

licenses it under GNU Public License

"Linux is obsolete" - Prof. Tannebar

microkernel vs. monolithic kernel debate

found on: distributions of complete OS

Red Hat, Debian, etc

SCO sues distributors

lost legal rights over Unix trademark and source code

Android announced, uses Linux kernel

2011. Linux 3.0

- 2019: Linux is in 100s of millions of devices

9

Lots of Windows and Mac Users: Virtualization

Introduced a VM as an easier way to fulfill course requirements

More opportunity to teach OS basics and command-line

Some students end up installed GNU/Linux on bare metal

Vagrant.



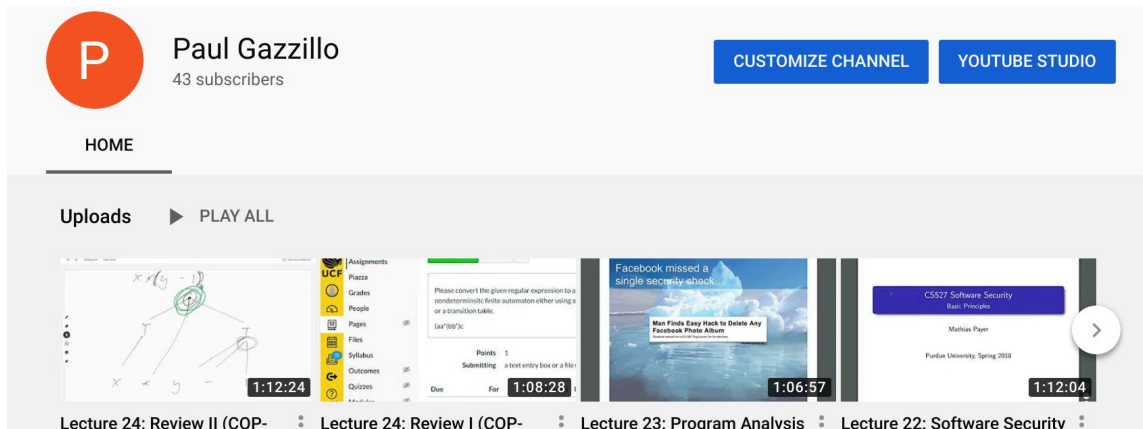
Producing Free and Open Course Content

Ease to screen capture lectures (uncomfortable at first)

Important resource for self-study

Less anxiety about missing content during class

Some (all?) students need repetition and review

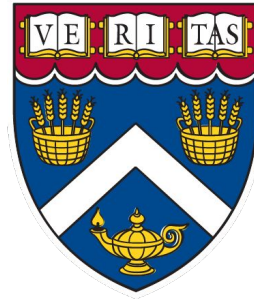


The screenshot shows a YouTube channel page for Paul Gazzillo, who has 43 subscribers. The channel name is Paul Gazzillo, and the profile picture is a red circle with a white 'P'. There are two buttons: 'CUSTOMIZE CHANNEL' and 'YOUTUBE STUDIO'. Below the channel name is a 'HOME' link. The main section is 'Uploads' with a 'PLAY ALL' button. There are four video thumbnails visible:

- Thumbnail 1: A diagram with a tree structure and mathematical symbols like x , y , and -1 . The video title is 'Lecture 24: Review II (COP-)' and the duration is 1:12:24.
- Thumbnail 2: A slide from a presentation with the text 'Please convert the given regular expression to a nondeterministic finite automaton either using a or a transition table. (a*)^3?'. The video title is 'Lecture 24: Review I (COP-)' and the duration is 1:08:28.
- Thumbnail 3: A slide with the text 'Facebook missed a single security check' and 'Man Finds Easy Hack to Delete Any Facebook Photo Albums'. The video title is 'Lecture 23: Program Analysis' and the duration is 1:06:57.
- Thumbnail 4: A slide with the text 'CSS27 Software Security Basic Principles' and 'Muthukumar Pappan'. The video title is 'Lecture 22: Software Security' and the duration is 1:12:04.

Lots of Existing Sources for Self-Study

Education without paying for college



HARVARD
Extension School

Anonymous Feedback from Students

"github process is awesome for helping us understand how it works and using it for personal projects and in our careers later on"

"it has literally made it easier for me to get a research position after mentioning that I know git"

"Very, very meticulously organized - github was utilized beautifully - and everything laid out clearly."

"have a much clearer process on how to set up your environment for doing programming assignments. How to setup the virtual machine, how to use test cases, etc..."

"Lecture a bit slower with some more layman explanations."

"Having more in-class functions or examples for the programming assignments."

"A lot of students come in knowing a lot of the material already presented so the coding assignments come relatively easy for them."

Praise and Criticism

"I liked how clearly he teaches, and he obviously loves what he teaches. His projects are well organized, and he is so personable and truly cares about how his students are doing and how they are doing in the course. He takes their success as a reflection on his teaching and organization"

"I think the course is perfect as is."

"he's boring to listen to"

"The assignments were insanely difficult, so hard to understand. Please make them easier."

"finding a way to make the material more interesting"

Free Software Enables Education

Free software as a standard for computer science education

Students learn self-reliance, control over computing devices

Students learn the community support and sharing ethic

Enables mass education

Enables low-income, first-generation students (*Libre and Gratis*)

I need more free software services and content

- Suggestions for free-software-based learning platforms (git, bash, etc)?
- Suggestions for easy-to-use content creation services?

A Student's Perspective

About me

Undergrad at UCF, pursuing a Bachelors in Computer Science



Getting into Free Software

Free Software is defacto



Becoming aware; not taking freedom for granted



Picture Credits

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<https://gnu.org>
<https://www.debian.org/logos/>
<https://www.apache.org/foundation/press/kit/>
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Vagrant_Logo.svg
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Green_Dragon_Book_\(front\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Green_Dragon_Book_(front).jpg)

What Are Your Questions?