

# FAIR and Software

#### Morane Gruenpeter (INRIA) & Gerard Coen (DANS) Tuesday 2nd March, 2021 11:00–13:00 (CET)

FAIRsFAIR "Fostering FAIR Data Practices in Europe" has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 project call H2020-INFRAEOSC-2018-2020 Grant agreement 831558





### Our agenda today

Software in Academia

Research initiatives regarding software:

- FAIRsFAIR FAIR Software & Services
- LCRDM Software archiving Task Group

Pragmatic advice for following the

FAIR Software Route

& using the Software Heritage Archive

### Presenters



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### Software is both for humans & machine

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Programs must be written for people to read, and only incidentally for machines to execute."

Harold Abelson, 1985 Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (1st ed.)



### Software in Research: A pillar of Open Science

Multiple facets, it can be seen as:

- a tool
- a research outcome or result
- the object of research



Three pillars of Open Science Gruenpeter, Software Heritage CC-By 4.0 2019

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### Why are we here? A plurality of needs

#### **Researchers**

- Archive and reference software used and created in articles
- Find useful software
- Get credit for developed software
- Verify/reproduce/improve results

**Laboratories** 

**/Teams** 

#### Research

#### **Organizations**

#### Know its Software assets for:

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- Technology transfer
- Impact metrics
- Strategy
- Track software contributions
- **Produce** reports
- Maintain web page



### Software in the FAIR ecosystem



"Central to the realisation of FAIR are **FAIR Digital Objects**, which may represent data, **software** or other research resources. These digital objects must be accompanied by persistent identifiers, metadata and contextual documentation to enable discovery, citation and reuse. Data should also be accompanied by the **code** used to process and analyse the data."

**Rec. 16:** Apply FAIR broadly: "FAIR should be applied broadly to all objects (including metadata, identifiers, **software** and DMPs) that are essential to the practice of research, and should inform metrics relating directly to these objects."

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#### **Turning FAIR into reality (2018)**

Ecosystem components, to highlight the software roles in the Ecosystem, the symbol </> was added (Original diagram 3 from L'Hours & Von Stein, 2020)



### Software is not just another type of data

#### **Recommendation n°5**:

Recognise that FAIR guidelines will require translation for other digital objects and support such efforts.

### 2019: 'Six Recommendations for Implementation of FAIR Practice'

(FAIR Practice TF, 2020)

**Recommendation n° 2**:

Make sure the specific nature of software is recognized and not considered as "just data" particularly in the context of discussion about the notion of FAIR data.

**2019:** the **Opportunity Note** by the French national Committee for Open Science's Free Software and Open Source Project Group (<u>Clément-Fontaine, 2019</u>)

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### FAIRsFAIR Assessment report on 'FAIRness of software'

- 1. **State-of-the-art overview** of current solutions, challenges and practices in research software
- 2. Literature review on the application of FAIR principles to research software
- 3. **10 recommendations** *for the creation of* FAIR guiding principles for research software



Gruenpeter, M., Di Cosmo, R., Koers, H., Herterich, P., Hooft, R., Parland-von Essen, J., Tana, J., Aalto, T., Jones, S. (2020). M2.15 Assessment report on 'FAIRness of software' (Version 1.1). Zenodo. <u>https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4095092</u>





### LCRDM (National Coordination Point Research Data Management)

Research software sustainability in the Netherlands: Current practices and recommendations







#### **Authors and Contributors:**

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### CREATE AWARENESS

INSTITUTIONS/ INSTITUTE LEADERS	FACULTIES / RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS	RESEARCHERS
Introduce programmes to highlight stories of succes- fully reused research software to demonstrate its advantages	Show your researchers the advantages of reusing software by using examples of good practice	Stay informed about relevant findings, developments and recommendations from e.g. FAIR Software, relevant RDA initiatives, reSA and NL-RSE

National organisations in the digital research infrastructure (eScience Center, DANS, SURF) should take on a more active and visible role in supporting research institutions in their ambitions to develop relevant and high-quality support capacity within research groups and in digital competence centres.







researcher





**CREATE AWARENESS** 

Stay informed about relevant findings, developments and recommendations from e.g. FAIR Software, relevant RDA initiatives, resA and NL-RSE





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#### **Develop policies**

RESEARCH FUNDERS	INSTITUTIONS/ INSTITUTE LEADERS	FACULTIES / RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS	RESEARCHERS
Require software	Develop and imple-	Familiarise your faculty/	Familiarise yourself
developed within funded	ment research software	research group with	with research software
projects to be as open	policies and guidelines,	research software policies	policies and guidelines,
as possible, as closed	including archiving and	and guidelines, including	including archiving
as necessary	licensing	archiving and licensing	and licensing





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Develop and implement research software policies and guidelines, including archiving and licensing



### support staff



Develop and implement policies and guidelines



#### STIMULATE CONSIDERED REUSE OF SOFTWARE



INSTITUTIONS/ INSTITUTE LEADERS FACULTIES / RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS RESEARCHERS

Facilitate paragraph on software management e.g. in the institutional DMP-tool

Oraganise formal registration of research software (using pids) as a scholarly output in research information systems, similar to the registration of publications Encourage researchers to consider which part of their research software will be suitable for reuse, and which part needs to be archived to ensure reproducibility of published results

Encourage researchers to prefer the use of existing and stable software developed and supported by others over developing software from scratch Increase visibility by enabling software citation. Deposit developed software on platforms like GitHub or Gitlab. Archive it on Zenodo or Figshare for long-term preservation and for obtaining a PID

Increase your research efficiency by using software already developed by other researchers

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#### STIMULATE CONSIDERED REUSE OF SOFTWARE



### researcher





Increase visibility by enabling software citation. Deposit developed software on platforms like GitHub or Gitlab. Archive it on Zenodo or Figshare for long-term preservation and for obtaining a PID

Increase your research efficiency by using software already developed by other researchers

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#### **PROVIDE TRAINING & SUPPORT**

INSTITUTIONS/ INSTITUTE LEADERS	FACULTIES / RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS	RESEARCHERS
Facilitate effective and efficient support in the field of software development, sustainability and licensing	Train your researchers in good practices for the development of sustainable software	Participate in training courses on software development
Provide research software engineering support Include guidelines and training for software development in the curriculum	Hire research software engineers as part of the research team	Make use of reseach software engineering expertise





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#### PROVIDE TRAINING & SUPPORT



### support staff



Enable researchers to develop software skills

FACULTIES / RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS

Train your researchers in good practices for the development of sustainable software

Hire research software engineers as part of the research team





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#### ADJUST ACADEMIC EVALUATION

RESEARCH FUNDERS	INSTITUTIONS/ INSTITUTE LEADERS	FACULTIES /RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS
Acknowledge research software as a principal form of academic output	Reward software development capabilities in your evaluation procedures, according to the new Strategy Evaluation Protocol (SEP) guidelines	Include software citations and other relevant metrics when evaluating researchers









Include software citations and other relevant metrics when evaluating researchers



### support staff



Enable citations of software





#### ALLOCATE FUNDING

after the project has finished

RESEARCH FUNDERS	INSTITUTIONS/ INSTITUTE LEADERS	FACULTIES / RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS	RESEARCHERS
Explicitly address sustainable softwar	e Gather information	Include the cost	Include the cost
and sustainable software developmer	about the financial	of archiving software	of archiving software
in funding instruments (e.g. in	needs and required	after the research	after your research
conditions and evaluation criteria)	infrastructures for	has been completed	has been completed
	long-term archiving	in your funding	in your funding
Require a paragraph on financial	and the hosting of	proposals	proposals
needs for software sustainability	sustainable software		
Develop funding instruments for covering the cost of software archiving	q		

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### ALLOCATE FUNDING



### funder



Acknowledge software and create funding lines



#### **RESEARCH FUNDERS**

Explicitly address sustainable software and sustainable software development in funding instruments (e.g. in conditions and evaluation criteria)

Require a paragraph on financial needs for software sustainability

Develop funding instruments for covering the cost of software archiving after the project has finished



POLL #3: Which stakeholder has the biggest responsibility to enable FAIR, and sustainability, for software?

- Research Funders
- Research Infrastructures
- Research Institutions / Institute Leaders
- Faculties / Research Groups leaders
- Researchers













#### Visit the archive

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Prepare your public repository README, AUTHORS & LICENSE files

Save your code

http://save.softwareheritage.org/

B Reference your work (full repository, specific version or code fragment)

**Collect, preserve** and **share** all software source code Preserving our heritage, enabling better software and better research for all



### Save your whole repository in just one click!

	Home Archive Development Documentation	Donate
Software Heritage	≡ Save code now	Betavetsic
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save code now		
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### Reference the code with a SWHID

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	15 LL=0	Add ongininio Add selected intestino		Copy permaink
	16 KP=0			
	17 8 K=0			
	18 11 K=K+1			
	19 IF(K.LE.N)GO TO 12			
	20 LN=LN+1			
	21 IF(LN.GT.5)GO TO 50			
	22 60 70 8			



### A call for Ambassadors Software Heritage

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We are looking for **enthusiastic organizations** and **individuals** to volunteer as ambassadors to help grow the Software Heritage community.

Become a **Software Heritage ambassador** to support this effort in your area by:

- **Presenting Software Heritag**e, the services it provides, and its *long term mission* to key persons in your area
- Sharing information with relevant mailing lists, venues and contacts
- Posting Software Heritage **news** on blogs and social media
- Identifying code hosting platforms in your area that it is urgent and important to archive
- Updating the Software Heritage team with your community's feedback





How to get involved today?

### Join the FAIR for Research Software (FAIR4RS) Working Group

Defining FAIR Principles for Research Software

First subgroup 1 output January 2021:

A Fresh Look at FAIR for Research Software



Steering committee:

Morane Gruenpeter, Paula A. Martinez, Carlos Martinez, Michelle Barker, Daniel S. Katz, Leyla Garcia, Neil Chue Hong, Fotis Psomopoulos and Jennifer Harrow





Software Heritage



## Thank you! Questions?

Special thanks to all of our colleagues for their slides

and materials used for this presentation!



@moraneottilia



@gerardcoen









### CodeMeta initiative

- A subset of schema.org
- An academic community discussing software metadata
- A crosswalk table mapping the metadata landscape

An open source tool to create

codemeta.json files - Contributed to the

community by



### CodeMeta generator

Most fields are optional. Mandatory fields will be highlighted when generating Codemeta.

—The software itself—

#### Name

My Software

the software title

#### Description

My Software computes ephemerides and orbit propagation. It has been developed from early  ${\rm `80.}$ 

#### Creation date

YYYY-MM-DD

#### First release date

YYYY-MM-DD

Use it directly on the CodeMeta hosted version

Contributions are welcome on the code repository

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### How to get involved?

- 1. Participate in the community discussions on FAIR and software
- 2. Join the FAIR4RS Working Group
  - a. Receive updates
  - b. Contribute to the subgroups work
  - c. Discuss the FAIR definition for research software
- 3. Adopt the existing infrastructures and mechanisms
- 4. Spread the word and let's start recognizing software in academia





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- Records changes made to a (set of) source code file (s)
- Allows to operate on versions: diff/merge/fork/recover etc.
- Essential tool for software development

#### 10.2777/28598



### EOSC Scholarly Infrastructures for Research Software (SIRS)

- Focus on Software Source Code
- Four Pillars Archive, Reference, Describe, Credit
- State of the Art
  - Best Practices & Open Problems
  - Cross Cutting Concerns
- The Road ahead
  - Requirements & Criteria
  - 13 Workflows / Use Cases examples
- Recommendations
  - Standards & Tools
  - Policy recommendations
  - Long term perspectives



European Commission. Directorate General for Research and Innovation. (2020). Scholarly infrastructures for research software: report from the EOSC Executive Board Working Group (WG) Architecture Task Force (TF) SIRS. Publications Office. <u>https://doi.org/10.2777/28598</u>



### EOSC SIRS's Four Pillars

« the FAIR Guiding Principles for research do not fit [software source code] well, as they were not designed for it ... »

Introducing four pillars:

#### [Archive]

ensure software artifacts are not lost

[Reference]

ensure software artifacts can be precisely identified

[Describe]

make it easy to discover / find software artifacts

[Credit]

ensure proper credit is given to authors



#### A few reasons we should pay more attention to (Research) Software:

1) A new 2018 OECD pilot survey, the <u>International Survey of Scientific Authors (ISSA)</u>, focuses on measuring the digitalisation of science. Preliminary <u>data</u> analysis shows that, in the Netherlands, 35% or more of **scientific publications generate new software code**. Those reporting generation of new data is just over 45%. (Based on the responses of participating researchers.)

2) Research software is continuingly acknowledged as **a key enabler of breakthrough science** such as the highly publicized <u>first ever</u> <u>image of a black hole</u>; the first detection of <u>gravitational waves from colliding black holes</u>; and significantly <u>reducing the time to clinical</u> <u>insight</u> in drug discovery - to mention just a handful of examples.

3) Researchers in the Netherlands (and internationally) have **acknowledged the importance of software and software sustainability** in a number of ways. The topic features prominently in many Open Science policies.

Under the FAIR Software Open Science Pillar as part of the <u>TU Delft Strategic Plan Open Science 2020-2024</u> 'the project will contribute by developing and facilitating various aspects of research software, including policy, infrastructure and organizational culture' (pg.7). Chapter 4 of the <u>Utrecht University Open Science Programme 2018-2021</u>, "Sharing code and software", states that by 2021, Utrecht University will 'invest in knowledge on software sustainability to ensure software remains functional and usable for the long term' (pg.7). The Dutch <u>National Plan Open Science</u> seeks to include software sustainability 'to ensure the long-term storage of the software belonging to the research data itself as well' (pg.24).

And crucially, researchers themselves are actively engaging with the topic through the establishment of grassroots communities of <u>Research Software Engineers</u> (RSEs) and participation in dedicated events such as the upcoming <u>International Workshop on Software</u> <u>Engineering for Computational Science</u> and the <u>Workshop on Sustainable Software Sustainability</u> 2019 held by DANS, in collaboration with our partners at the NLeSC and the Software Sustainability Institute.

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A few reasons we should pay more **attention** to (Research) Software:

Scientific publications generate new software code. Software is an output of the system of science.
 Research software is a key enabler of breakthrough science.

2) Researchers in the **Netherlands** have acknowledged the importance of software and software sustainability. Declarations in Open Science policies and the presence of grassroots initiatives. <- Communities & increasing importance

3) Just as data stewardship is undergoing a process of professionalisation as part of the drive to **fully implement the FAIR principles**, the role and relevance of research software, research software engineering, and quality software policy is also receiving increased attention. The specific characteristics of software previously mentioned make it necessary to revise and extend the original FAIR data principles. <proliferation of initiatives and recommendations regarding software and examples of national initiatives in the NL. LCRDM group + KLesc & DANS Software Route -> The still remain at a high- mid- Level and need more granularity to be useful for researchers add some pragmatic advice.