



Reuse count of source files

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

How to count reused source files



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1 Purpose

This document provides some guidance and solution on how to detect reuse of source files in an code archive

2 How to detect a reused file in an CM archive

- Can be based on initial creation date/time stamp of the first file version. An import of files from an external source will created a lot of almost the same time stamps.

Disadvantage:

- Later added reused files are difficult/not to track.

Advantage:

- No CM tool/archive change needed.

- Add an (binary) attribute (e.g. called: Reused) to every file meta data record.

When copying an existing archive for a new development set attribute of all copied filed to Yes. New files will have this attribute not set.

Advantage:

- Clear indication. Reuse Files can be added any time.

Disadvantage:

- CM tool must support creation-of and reporting-on extra attributes.

- Put a baseline label called e.g.: reused on all reused files.

Advantage:

- Can be done with every CM tool. Clear indication. Reuse Files can be added any time.

Disadvantage:

- CM tool must support manual adding of files to the baseline label.
- Can be a lot of manual work.



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- Take into account the number of times a file is check-in and checked-out
Agree on the threshold number to decide if it is still reuse.
Maybe at least on check-out/in is needed to adapt Copyright notice,
project/product name, etc.?

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ImQuSo Improved Quality Solutions.

Po Box 169

5540 AD REUSEL, The Netherlands

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