

# RCS

ISOC ccTLD Workshop  
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# Revision Control System

- RCS is a tool which helps you edit files, retaining earlier revisions in a structured way
- Written in the 1980s; unix tool; designed as an improvement over an earlier tool, SCCS
- <http://www.gnu.org/software/rcs/rcs.html>

# RCS Can Help

- Allows multiple people to edit the same file without unfortunate accidents
- Allows changes to be rolled back
- Allows changes made at specific times to be identified

# The Basics

- RCS stores all revisions of a file in a specially-named companion file
- Revisions for “some\_file” are stored in “some\_file,v”
- The “,v” file is stored in an “RCS” subdirectory, if one exists, to help keep things tidy

# Audit Trail

- For each revision of a file, RCS stores:
  - the changes that were made
  - the time and date of the changes
  - the person making the changes
  - a log message

# Easy Recipe: Step 1

- First, make sure an “RCS” subdirectory exists
  - `mkdir RCS`

# Easy Recipe: Step 2

- If the file you want to edit has not already been checked into RCS (check the RCS directory for a “,v” file):
  - `ci -u file_name`
- You will be prompted for a brief description of the file

# Easy Recipe: Step 3

- If you want to edit a file, you first check it out and lock it:
  - `co -l file_name`
- The “-l” flag applies a weak lock to the file
  - other people who try to edit it will get a warning message



# Easy Recipe: Step 4

- Edit the file, using whatever editor you like

# Easy Recipe: Step 5

- Check the file back in, and unlock it:
  - `ci -u file_name`
- RCS will ask you for a log message, to help people in the future understand the change you made
  - e.g. “added cctld.or.ke, updated SOA serial”

# Easy Recipe Summary

- `mkdir RCS` (*if necessary*)
- `ci -u file_name` (*if necessary*)
- `co -l file_name` (*check out, lock*)
- `edit file`
- `ci -u file_name` (*check in, unlock*)

# Managing Revisions

- You can check out and lock the revision of a file corresponding to a particular date:
  - `co -d "8:00 pm" file_name`
  - `co -d "2005-09-02 16:00:00+03" file_name`
- See “man co” for all the date formatting options

# Managing Revisions

- You can view the RCS log for a file to see what has happened to it recently:
  - `rlog file_name`

# For More Information

- `man rcs`
- `man ci`
- `man co`
- `man rlog`
- <http://www.gnu.org/software/rcs/rcs.html>