

Subversion

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Chapter 1

Subversion

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1.1 Introduction

Subversion is a source-control and revisioning repository. In short, it's a system that allows multiple people to edit files and keep up-to-date with each other's changes. Additionally, it stores all versions of a file as its being edited, so it's simple to restore previous versions of a file in the event of a problem.

At Suffield, we use Subversion to store configuration data, web sites, and documentation (including the document you're reading right now).

1.2 Mac OS X Client Setup

As Mac OS X is a UNIX-like operating system, the command-line parts of Subversion compile cleanly and are easily ported to the system. Several pre-compiled versions of Subversion are available for download on the web in a packaged form. Additionally, you may build Subversion yourself from source, either by hand or by using a port utility.

1.2.1 Precompiled Versions

Martin Ott (one of the developers of SubEthaEdit) has statically-compiled binaries of Subversion for Mac OS X:

<http://homepage.mac.com/martinott/>

Download, install, and you're ready to go! This solution is good for machine that only need Subversion, and not a whole package-management system.

1.2.2 Fink

Subversion is included in the **Fink** project. If you already have Fink installed on your machine, you can easily install it using the package management tools.

1.2.3 DarwinPorts

For machines that will have several open-source packages installed on them (in addition to Subversion), it's best to use a port-management system. Fink works well, but we are now tending towards the **DarwinPorts** system. This system is similar to Fink, except that you compile the software yourself. We choose it because the software tends to be a little more up-to-date than the precompiled versions in the Fink repositories.

To install the Subversion client, you must first install DarwinPorts. Visit the main site (<http://www.darwinports.org/>) and install the Mac OS X installer. (For more information on what DarwinPorts is and how it works, please refer to the documentation on the website.)

Note that DarwinPorts requires a working compiler and other build tools. You can get these by installing the **XCode** tools on your machine (the **XCode** tools can be found on your installation DVD).

If you've just installed DarwinPorts for the first time, you'll need to add a line to your `.bash_profile` that looks like this:

```
# Add DarwinPorts path
export PATH=${PATH}:/opt/local/bin
```

Once you've installed the software, you're ready to update the list of available ports. Type the following in the Terminal:

```
sudo port selfupdate
```

You are now ready to build Subversion. Run the following command:

```
sudo port install subversion
```

DarwinPorts will download, unpack, configure, compile, and clean the distribution for you automatically. When done, you should be able to run the following:

```
svn help
```

You should get a list of Subversion commands on your screen. If you do, then subversion is installed, and you're ready to go!