

Scmbug manual

RELEASE_0-18-3

The Scmbug Team

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by The Scmbug Team

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This is the documentation of Scmbug, a system that integrates software configuration management with bug-tracking.

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Chapter 1. About

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No liability for the contents of this document can be accepted. Follow the instructions herein at your own risk.

Acknowledgments

The excellent *Bugzilla Guide*¹ served as an example in preparation of this document. Content and structural document elements were reused from this guide. The *LDP Author Guide*² also served as a good example.

Development of this system benefited from invaluable insight on SCM and bug-tracking issues, along with feedback, from John C. Quillan, Mark S. Reibert, Dave Swegen, the Bugzilla developers, and the Subversion developers.

Document Conventions

This document uses the following conventions:

Descriptions

Appearance

Warning

Don't run with scissors!

Caution

Hint

Tip: Would you like a breath mint?

Note

Note: Dear John...

Descriptions

Information requiring special attention

Appearance**Warning**

Read this or the cat gets it.

File or directory name	<code>filename</code>
Command to be typed	command
Application name	<code>application</code>
Normal user's prompt under bash shell	<code>bash\$</code>
Root user's prompt under bash shell	<code>bash#</code>
Environment variables	<code>VARIABLE</code>
Term found in the glossary	<i>cvs2cl</i>
Code example	<code><para></code> Beginning and end of paragraph <code></para></code>

This documentation is maintained in DocBook 4.2 SGML format.

Notes

1. <http://www.bugzilla.org/docs/tip/html>
2. <http://www.tldp.org/LDP/LDP-Author-Guide/html/index.html>

Chapter 2. Introduction

What Is It?

Scmbug is a system that integrates software configuration management with bug-tracking. It is implemented in Perl and has been successfully deployed on UNIX-like and Windows systems. It is pronounced *Skamm-bag*.

Why Use An SCM System?

Those who do not use a software configuration management (SCM) system do not maintain a history of modifications performed to their software. When bugs creep in their software, they do not have adequate information on how changes to source code came about.

SCM systems, or even simple source code version control systems, make sure that a record of all changes and enhancements to the software is maintained. They provide a method of creating, storing, and labeling software changes.

Why Use A Bug-tracking System?

Those who do not use a bug-tracking system tend to rely on shared lists, email, spreadsheets and/or Post-It notes to monitor the status of defects. This procedure is usually error-prone and tends to cause those bugs judged least significant by developers to be dropped or ignored.

Integrated defect-tracking systems make sure that nothing gets swept under the carpet; they provide a method of creating, storing, arranging and processing defect reports and enhancement requests.

Why Integrate SCM With Bug-tracking?

SCM systems maintain software changes. Bug-tracking systems maintain lists of software enhancements and defects. By examining a log of software changes, it is uncertain *why* the changes occurred. By examining a log of defect reports, it is uncertain *what* changed in software in response to the defects.

Integration of SCM with bug-tracking ties the reason *why* a feature/defect was developed/fixed with *what* software changes occurred in the SCM system to accomplish this.

