

Bazaar-NG - Distributed version control made fun

September 27, 2007 / Gavin Jackson

bazaar-ng

programming

python

version control

Having used various version control systems over the years (cvs, clearcase, subversion), I have noticed a recent shift to decentralised version control systems (I've only used darcs, but there are a whole heap of others - git, mercurial, svk, bitkeeper). There is a lot of hype surrounding bazaar-ng (<http://bazaar-vcs.org/>), an open source distributed version control system written in Python, and supported by Canonical (the company behind the Ubuntu Linux distribution). Today I went through the bazaar tutorial and printed myself a copy of the "Bazaar quick start guide" (<http://bazaar-vcs.org/Documentation>) - it definitely feels like a polished piece of software, and it is extremely easy to get up and running (particularly for someone who is already familiar with svn and darcs). To install and run bazaar-ng (bzd), all you need is Python 2.4 or greater - which automatically makes it cross platform - no need for the glasgow haskell compiler! To add a new project to bazaar version control, it's as simple as:

```
bzd init myproject
cd myproject
bzd init
bzd add .
bzd commit
```

You can then use the bzd+ssh protocol to push and pull this repository to other boxes:

```
bzd pull bzd+ssh://remoteserver/path/to/myproject
cd myproject
bzd co .
```

You can then start modifying the tree - operations like rm and mv are all supported, you it feels like operating on a standard directory system (no need for fancy commands when creating or removing directories). After making your changes, you can record a revision:

```
cd myproject
bzd add .
bzd commit
```

Then you can push it back to the main server (or pull it in):

```
bzd push bzd+ssh://remoteserver/path/to/myproject
```

I'm sure that there is plenty of stuff I have missed - but it seems pretty good from my days worth of testing.

