HOW TO TAKE CONTROL OVER CONFIGURATION FILES

Take control over configuration files and store them in *version control system* using etckeeper utility created by *Joey Hess*, which seamlessly integrates with package management tools inside *Debian* operating system.

Installation

Use the following command to install *etckeeper* utility.

```
$ sudo apt-get install etckeeper
```

Configuration is stored inside /etc/etckeeper directory.

By default configuration files inside /etc directory are stored using git repository.

Usage

Initialize repository

Repository inside /etc is initialized and committed after *etckeeper* installation, use the following command to repeat first step.

```
$ sudo etckeeper init
```

Repository will be **only initialized**, nothing will be committed. In any case the existing repository will be **not** overwritten.

Delete repository

Delete *etckeeper* repository inside /etc directory.

```
$ sudo etckeeper uninit

** Warning: This will DESTROY all recorded history for /etc,

** including the git repository.


Are you sure you want to do this? [yN] y

Proceeding..
```

Commit changes

Commit all changes inside /etc directory.

```
$ sudo etckeeper commit "modified motd file"

[master 24bca01] modified motd file

 Author: milosz <milosz@xmail.sleeplessbeastie.eu>

 1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
```

List changes

List modified, created or deleted files.

```
$ sudo etckeeper vcs status

# On branch master

# Changes not staged for commit:
```

```
#   (use "git add ..." to update what will be committed)

#   (use "git checkout -- ..." to discard changes in working directory)

#

#         modified:   motd

#

no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
```

Reset changes

Reset all modifications.

```
$ sudo etckeeper vcs reset --hard

HEAD is now at 24bca01 modified motd file
```

List log entries

Show commit logs.

```
$ sudo etckeeper vcs log

commit 24bca015d8bad77eaa85bef6988ab2d94928562e

Author: milosz

Date:   Sat Nov 1 23:11:12 2014 +0000


    modified motd file


commit 0ea331237044537e8ebc95020352f60fef068546
```

Author: milosz

Date: Sat Nov 1 23:10:46 2014 +0000

    Initial commit

Recover older version of specified file

Checkout file from specified revision.

$ sudo etckeeper vcs checkout 0ea331 motd

View differences

Show applied but not committed changes.

$ sudo etckeeper vcs diff

diff --git a/motd b/motd

index 2d3a0a3..6c21842 100644

--- a/motd

+++ b/motd

@@ -3,6 +3,3 @@ The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free

 the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the

 individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

-Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent

-permitted by applicable law.

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Check if there are uncommitted changes

The following command will return true if there are uncommitted changes.

```
$ sudo etckeeper unclean
$ if [ "$?" -eq "0" ]; then echo "uncommitted changes"; else echo "no uncommitted changes"; fi
uncommitted changes
```

Additional notes

You are not tied to the /etc directory, as you can always use -d parameter to specify different directory.

Uncommited changes are committed daily (see /etc/cron.daily/etckeeper file), use AVOID_DAILY_AUTOCOMMITS configuration directive to alter this behavior.