

Binary File Storage in Surround SCM

In addition to text files, binary files, which include sound and image files, can also be added and versioned using Surround SCM. Other source control tools store a full copy of each version of a binary file in the database. Because binary files can be very large, these redundant files can quickly fill up the database. Instead of storing full copies of binary file versions, Surround SCM stores data about the differences, or deltas, between binary file revisions. This allows more efficient file storage on the Surround SCM Server.

A modified forward-delta scheme is also used in Surround SCM so that each delta contains differences between the checked in version and base version of the file. This means that retrieving any version of the file requires applying only one delta, which increases server performance when using Surround's advanced branching model.

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