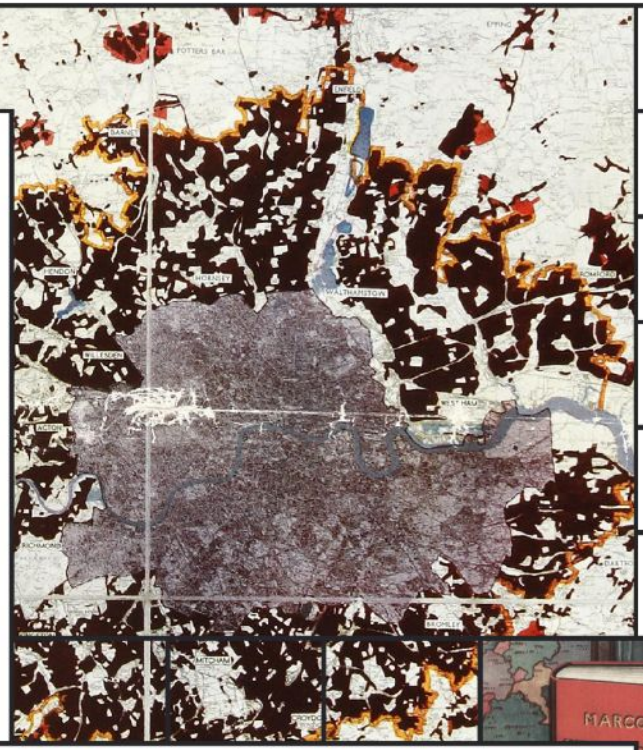
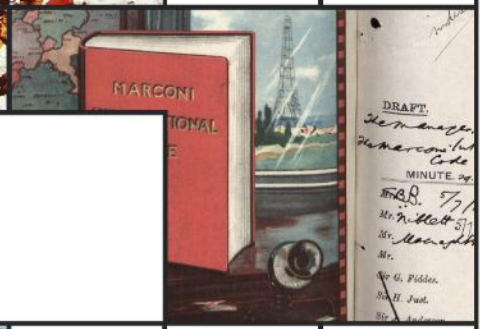
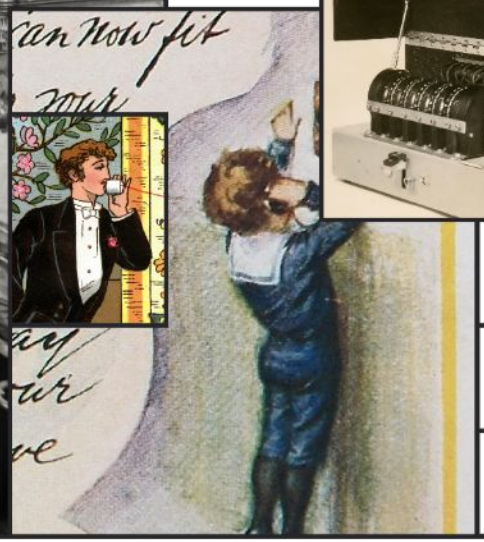
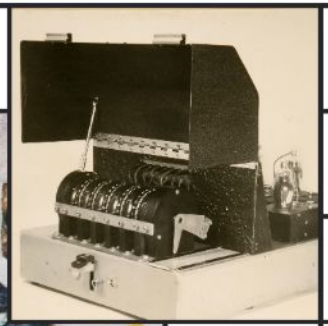
Miiify: distributed crowdsourced annotations









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An embodiment of things

- Creating interactive public displays
- The public walk up and interact with image collections
- Can we emulate a physical interactive public display in a 3D environment?
- IIIF experience in 3D supporting the annotation of images
- Technologies are being developed to help support these interactions such as Mozilla Hubs
- The same problem exists in both environments: Who are the users and how do we verify the content they create?

Apart: Posters From a Social Distance

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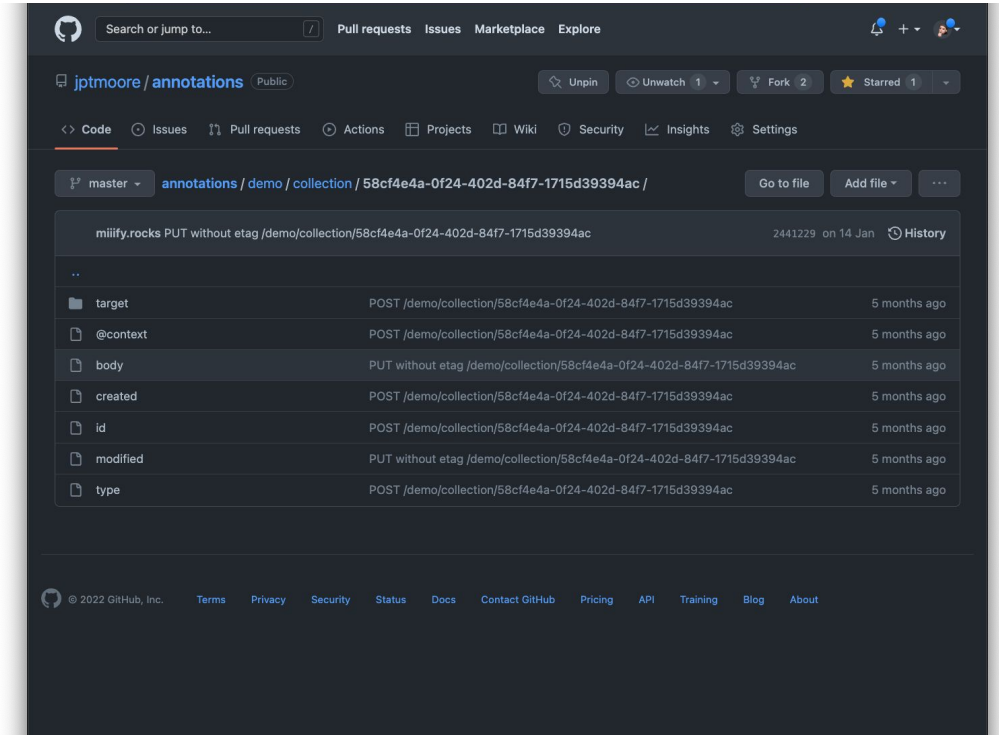
Fork and pull

- The problem of curating public content is well understood by the open-source community
- Coding platforms have established ecosystems around reviewing content from the public
- On GitHub this process is known as a Pull Request (PR)
- Like code, image annotations are human-readable text so they are well suited to code platforms
- Could we apply the methods of code review to image annotations generated from interactions with public displays?



Web annotations on GitHub

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Image annotation

- We annotate images by adding textual descriptions and tags
- A IIIF viewer can allow the user to interact with these annotations as they view image collections
- Annotations can be stored within a IIIF manifest or externally in an annotation server such as Miiify
- Miiify is an annotation server built using the same principles behind the distributed version control software Git
- A core principle is that changes are made to copies of data

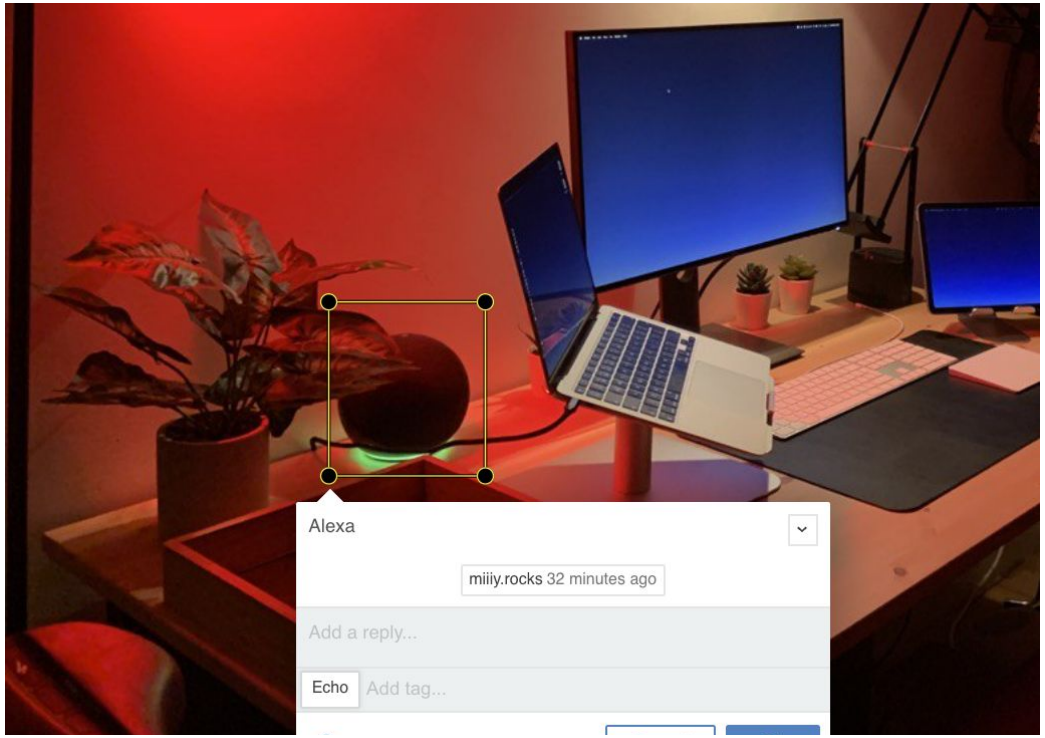

Image annotation

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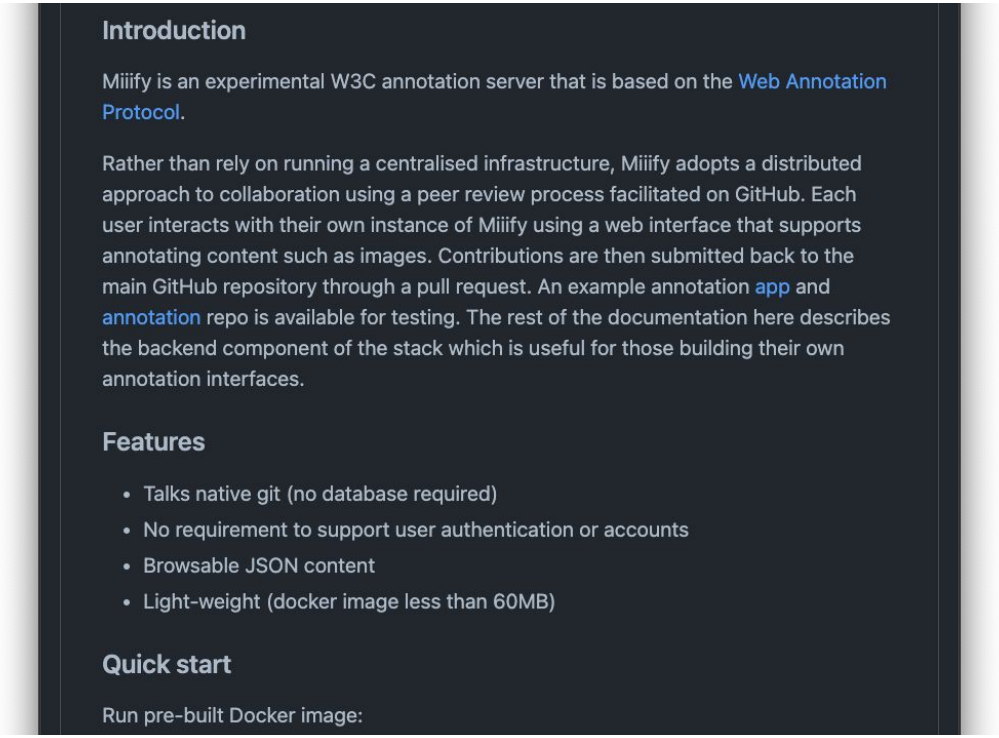
Miiify

- W3C web annotation server
- Does not use a traditional database to store annotations
- Stores annotations in the Git format
- Annotations can be shared across distributed deployments the same way open-source software is
- New annotations can be shared back through a single curated repository on GitHub
- New annotations can go through the traditional review process facilitated on GitHub



Introduction

Miiify is an experimental W3C annotation server that is based on the Web Annotation Protocol.

Rather than rely on running a centralised infrastructure, Miiify adopts a distributed approach to collaboration using a peer review process facilitated on GitHub. Each user interacts with their own instance of Miiify using a web interface that supports annotating content such as images. Contributions are then submitted back to the main GitHub repository through a pull request. An example annotation app and annotation repo is available for testing. The rest of the documentation here describes the backend component of the stack which is useful for those building their own annotation interfaces.

Features

- Talks native git (no database required)
- No requirement to support user authentication or accounts
- Browsable JSON content
- Light-weight (docker image less than 60MB)

Quick start

Run pre-built Docker image:

Miiify

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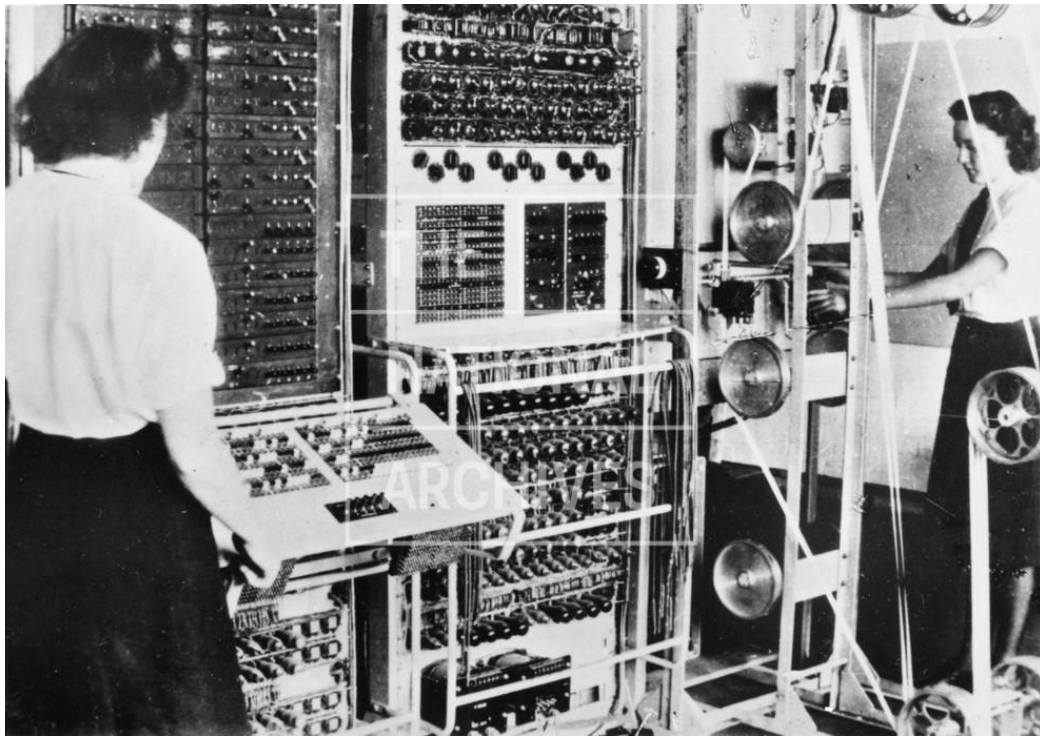
In Summary

- Miiify works on the idea of taking copies of data
- That data is mutated in insolation but shared back through review
- It might not be important who made the changes or where they were made
- A human or machine needs to accept those changes
- But who gets to decide what data has value or not?



Colossus electronic digital computer

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