

Skill Pill: Introduction to Git and Version Control

Lecture 1: Git ready!

James Schloss

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology james.schloss@oist.jp

June 1, 2016

OIST

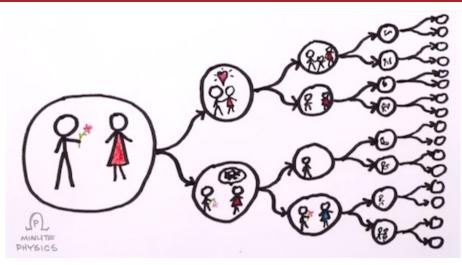
Overview



- What is Version Control
- 2 Terminal Talk
- Git basics
- Working alone

Version Control





• Version control is a method that allows you to control different versions of things (Not necessarily universes).

Terminal Talk



- We had a terminal skill pill and I have included the cheatsheet from that.
- There is a GUI downloadable from GitHub called the GitHub Desktop. We will not be using this for religious reasons.
- Everything we do will be usable on Sango.



Your first repository



- A **repository** is a place to store code.
 - There are many sites to host your repository on (github, bitbucket), including your own local machine.
 - All of the essential parts of your repository can be found in .git file



The local repo



Let's git started.

- To initialize a git repository, simply type git init in a directory (preferably empty for now)
- This creates a folder .git/, where all your git information is held.
- Git tracks commits. Check these commits with git log.
- git status checks any changes since the last commit.
- git add adds new files.
- git commit commits anything git status shows in green.





EXERCISE

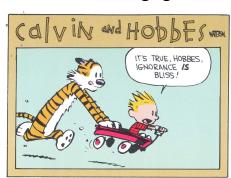
- Open a terminal
- Create a new directory and run git init
- Create a file and run git status
- Use a combination of git add and git commit to add a new file to the git repository.
- Oheck the git log.

Ignorance is bliss



- Keep your repository clean! Do your best to commit as few images and data files as possible!
- You can do this by ignoring certain file extensions in a .gitignore file.

- # Example gitignore configuration
- *.log
- *.tar
- *.gz
- *.exe
- *.dat





EXERCISE

- Touch multiple files with various extensions, one of which should be .dat.
- 2 Ignore the .dat file, but commit all the others.
- Be sure to write a clear message describing what you did.
- Check the git log

git with it!



Now we move to the fun* stuff: working with **online repositories**.

- For this, we will be using **github**.
- To use an online repository, we need to synchronize our local machine with the master repository held elsewhere. This is done with the clone command.
- From here, you can do the following:
 - git push to push any changes you may have to the online repository.
 - git pull to take any changes from the



*Here, the word fun is subject to interpretation.

Z

10 / 18



EXERCISE

Clone our skillpill repository:

```
git clone git@github.com:oist/skillpill-git.git
```

or

```
git clone https://github.com/oist/skillpill-git.git
```

Working with a small group, make commits and push and pull stuff from that repo.

What it will feel like...



- git is not intuitive to start with, but it's the best way to work collaboratively with other people.
- The more you use it, the more you will like it. Think Stockholm syndrome.

THIS IS GIT. IT TRACKS COLLABORATIVE WORK ON PROJECTS THROUGH A BEAUTIFUL DISTRIBUTED GRAPH THEORY TREE MODEL. COOL. HOU DO WE USE IT? NO IDEA. JUST MEMORIZE THESE SHELL COMMANDS AND TYPE THEM TO SYNC UP. IF YOU GET ERRORS, SAVE YOUR WORK ELSEWHERE, DELETE THE PROJECT, AND DOWNLOAD A FRESH COPY.



Coders and Relationships: 5 Signs He'll Never Commit



Write clear commit messages!



	COMMENT	DATE
Q	CREATED MAIN LOOP & TIMING CONTROL	14 HOURS AGO
ф	ENABLED CONFIG FILE PARSING	9 HOURS AGO
φ	MISC BUGFIXES	5 HOURS AGO
φ	CODE ADDITIONS/EDITS	4 HOURS AGO
Q_	MORE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
Ιþ	HERE HAVE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
Ιþ	ARAAAAA	3 HOURS AGO
φ .	ADKFJ5LKDFJ5DKLFJ	3 HOURS AGO
ф	MY HANDS ARE TYPING WORDS	2 HOURS AGO
þ	HAAAAAAAANDS	2 HOURS AGO

AS A PROJECT DRAGS ON, MY GIT COMMIT MESSAGES GET LESS AND LESS INFORMATIVE.

Checking out your versions



We now know how to work with both local and online repositories, but what about using different versions?

- git checkout allows you to view the repository at any old commit (found with git log).
- You may also checkout specific files like so:

git checkout a1e8fb5 hello.py

- Note that the most recent commit is ${\sf HEAD}$ and the one just before that is ${\sf HEAD}{\sim}1$
- This command will be used later, so keep it in mind!



Cleaning the stage



Finally, what is actually happening with your commits under the hood?

- Git has a staging area before commits that can be checked with git status. Anything in green is staged.
- If you wish to unstage the commit, simply type git reset.
- git reset will work for individual files and you may go back to any commit in the history.

git reset HEAD~1

- If you wish to undo a commit entirely, use the git revert command.
- git clean will remove any untracked files.





EXERCISE

- Stage a commit
- Unstage the commit
- Make a commit
- Undo the commit

Final Comments



- git is weird. It's not intuitive, but it's the best way to collaborate with people on open projects.
- Whenever you are using git, think about other people and how they will perceive your comments. Would you be able to understand your own cryptic commit messages?
- You will make mistakes. Don't worry about it.
 Your entire history is backed up already. Learn from your mistakes and don't make them again!
- Listen to git. It's smarter than you.

