

Last Updated: November 19, 2020

·  58.5K· [henriqueso](#)

# WinMerge as git difftool on Windows

#git

#difftool

#winmerge

In case you're looking for a way to use WinMerge as your git difftool on Windows, this tip may be helpful.

In fact, it's simple to resolve and is also a silly problem but it took me a good amount of time just because of the path where WinMerge was installed at  
`C:\Program Files (x86)\winmerge\winmergeu.exe`

Not surprisingly, I faced problems with characters like the parenthesis(. And that's ok. We know we can put it between double quotes ". But it took me a while to get it right as I wanted.

Browsing over the web you will find many ways of doing this. The way that worked pretty well for me is this one:

1) Open .gitconfig file. It's located at your home directory: `c:\users\username\.gitconfig`

2) Add the lines below. Pay attention to the single quotes wrapping the path to winmerge:

```
[diff]
    tool = winmerge
[difftool "winmerge"]
    cmd = "'C:/Program Files (x86)/WinMerge/WinMergeU.exe'" -e "$LOCAL" "$REMOTE"
```

You can pass other parameters to WinMerge if you want. Follow the whole discussion here:

<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/2468230/how-to-use-winmerge-with-git-extensions>

[Edited] For those wondering how to use the command, here is an example:<br />

```
git difftool HEAD HEAD~1
```

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Written by [Henrique Oliveira](#)



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**yamil777**

Hello, what do you have in \$LOCAL and \$REMOTE ?

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**henriqueso**

That is exactly the line I have in my .gitconfig. They are placeholders for WinMerge parameters. Then you may call like that:

```
git difftool README.md
```

It'll open README.md on WinMerge comparing your local version with the baseline.

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**cythilya**

Thanks for sharing!

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**CapinWinky**

```
[difftool "WinMerge"]
```

```
cmd = \"C:\\Program Files\\WinMerge\\WinMergeU.exe\" -e -u -dl \"Old $BASE\"  
trustExitCode = true
```

```
[mergetool "WinMerge"]
```

```
cmd = \"C:\\Program Files\\WinMerge\\WinMergeU.exe\" -e -u -dl \"Local\" -dn  
trustExitCode = true  
keepBackup = false
```

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