



Git is the free and open source distributed version control system that's responsible for everything GitHub related that happens locally on your computer. This cheat sheet features the most important and commonly used Git commands for easy reference.

Host webpage from GitHub via GitHub pages:  
from a repository >> ... >> settings >> GitHub pages  
select source and save. Note repository must be public

## INSTALLATION & GUIs

With platform specific installers for Git, GitHub also provides the ease of staying up-to-date with the latest releases of the command line tool while providing a graphical user interface for day-to-day interaction, review, and repository synchronization.

### GitHub for Windows

<https://windows.github.com>

### GitHub for Mac

<https://mac.github.com>

For Linux and Solaris platforms, the latest release is available on the official Git web site.

### Git for All Platforms

<http://git-scm.com>

## SETUP

Configuring user information used across all local repositories

```
git config --global user.name "[firstname lastname]"
```

set a name that is identifiable for credit when review version history

```
git config --global user.email "[valid-email]"
```

set an email address that will be associated with each history marker

```
git config --global color.ui auto
```

set automatic command line coloring for Git for easy reviewing

git checkout main^	git checkout [name]~3
goes to parent of main	goes 3 commits up
git checkout HEAD^^	git checkout [name]^2
goes to grandparent of head	goes to parent 2

## SETUP & INIT

Configuring user information, initializing and cloning repositories

```
git init
```

initialize an existing directory as a Git repository

```
git clone [url]
```

retrieve an entire repository from a hosted location via URL

```
git tag [tag name] [optional commit to tag]
```

if no commit is given, the head is tagged  
permanently tags a commit  
cannot checkout a tag

## STAGE & SNAPSHOT

Working with snapshots and the Git staging area

```
git status
```

show modified files in working directory, staged for your next commit

```
git add [file]
```

use: git add . to add all files which are new or changed  
add a file as it looks now to your next commit (stage)

```
git reset [file]
```

unstage a file while retaining the changes in working directory

```
git diff
```

diff of what is changed but not staged

```
git diff --staged
```

diff of what is staged but not yet committed

```
git commit -m "[descriptive message]"
```

commit your staged content as a new commit snapshot

use: --amend to modify the  
most recent commit and  
combine staged changes

## BRANCH & MERGE

Isolating work in branches, changing context, and integrating changes  
HEAD is the current commit checked out

```
git branch
```

list your branches. a \* will appear next to the currently active branch

```
git branch [branch-name]
```

-f option before branch name forces  
branch to be moved, can be used with ~  
-u origin/main [branch-name] set to track remote (relative commits back)  
create a new branch at the current commit  
option to specify branch to move to after branch-name use to move main

```
git checkout [name]
```

-b [branch-name]  
GIT version 2.23 on use: git switch creates and checkout  
switch to another branch and check it out into your working directory

```
git checkout -b [branch-name] origin/main
```

creates new branch and  
git merge [branch] set to track origin/main

merge the specified branch's history into the current one

```
git log
```

show all commits in the current branch's history

```
git describe [commit]
```

if no commit given, head is used  
outputs closest anchor (tag), number of commits and hash (name) from commit  
<tag>\_<numCommits>\_g<hash>



## INSPECT & COMPARE

Examining logs, diffs and object information

<b>git log</b>
show the commit history for the currently active branch
<b>git log branchB...branchA</b>
show the commits on branchA that are not on branchB
<b>git log --follow [file]</b>
show the commits that changed file, even across renames
<b>git diff branchB...branchA</b>
show the diff of what is in branchA that is not in branchB
<b>git show [SHA]</b>
show any object in Git in human-readable format

## TRACKING PATH CHANGES

Versioning file removes and path changes

<b>git rm [file]</b>
delete the file from project and stage the removal for commit
<b>git mv [existing-path] [new-path]</b>
change an existing file path and stage the move
<b>git log --stat -M</b>
show all commit logs with indication of any paths that moved

## IGNORING PATTERNS

Preventing unintentional staging or committing of files

<b>logs/ *.notes pattern*/</b>
Save a file with desired patterns as .gitignore with either direct string matches or wildcard globs.
<b>git config --global core.excludesfile [file]</b>
system wide ignore pattern for all local repositories

## SHARE & UPDATE

Retrieving updates from another repository and updating local repos

<b>git remote add [alias] [url]</b>
add a git URL as an alias
<b>git fetch [alias]</b> <small>git fetch origin source:destination note this does not change local files used to fetch specific commits to fetch down all the branches from that Git remote a specific branch if no source, creates branch</small>
<b>git merge [alias]/[branch]</b>
merge a remote branch into your current branch to bring it up to date
<b>git push [alias] [branch]</b> <small>&lt;place&gt; can also be source:destination git push &lt;remote&gt; &lt;place&gt; updates &lt;remote&gt; based on local &lt;place&gt; Transmit local branch commits to the remote repository branch</small>
<b>git pull</b> <small>delete a branch with git push origin : [branch2delete] use option: --rebase to fetch and rebase instead of fetch and merge fetch and merge any commits from the tracking remote branch git pull origin source:destination can also be used to specify branches</small>
<b>git cherry-pick [commit] [commit] ...</b> Adds copies of commits specified to current branch

## REWRITE HISTORY

Rewriting branches, updating commits and clearing history

<b>git rebase [branch]</b> <small>use: -i option to interactively choose commits to pick</small>
<small>apply any commits of current branch ahead of specified one git rebase &lt;to here&gt; &lt;move this&gt; can move main putting main in &lt;move this&gt;</small>
<b>git reset --hard [commit]</b> <small>works well for local branches, doesn't specify branch to reset to work for remote branches clear staging area, rewrite working tree from specified commit</small>
<b>git revert [commit]</b> <small>reverses changes and shares those with others will add commit specified ahead of old with changes (named: oldname')</small>

## TEMPORARY COMMITS

Temporarily store modified, tracked files in order to change branches

<b>git stash</b>
Save modified and staged changes
<b>git stash list</b>
list stack-order of stashed file changes
<b>git stash pop</b>
write working from top of stash stack
<b>git stash drop</b>
discard the changes from top of stash stack

# GitHub Education

Teach and learn better, together. GitHub is free for students and teachers. Discounts available for other educational uses.

✉ [education@github.com](mailto:education@github.com)  
🌐 [education.github.com](https://education.github.com)