

Git for Economists

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One thing worth stressing is that there is a lot of helpful information about git out there. We are not aiming to be the most exhaustive or the most authoritative: quite the contrary! The purpose of this document is twofold: first to *convince* economists that they should be using git and second to make it as easy as possible for them to get started doing *basic stuff*.

To Do

1. Illustrate some limitations of Dropbox and people's usual workflow
 - Conflicted version *with yourself*
 - Conflicted version with a co-author
 - Co-author deletes or changes something and it's tricky to undo
 - "Packrat" service now only goes back one year in time
 - Out of control directories with multiple date-stamped versions, futile attempts to use text files to keep records of what you've done.
2. Working alone with git
 - Getting set up
 - Git as the ultimate undo button: recovering deleted files, undoing changes selectively
 - Git as an "intentional backup" pushing and pulling with Github

- Git as a trail of breadcrumbs: git diff and commit messages to stay organized, remember what you've done, and avoid making duplicates of your files
- Trying out new ideas safely with branch-and-merge
- Merge to bring things in from a branch, or fix a conflict with yourself

3. Collaborating with git and Github

- (a) Basic push, pull, merge, correct conflicts workflow
- (b) Working in separate branches to avoid stepping on each other's toes
- (c) Pull requests, etc
- (d) Re-basing

4. Miscellaneous

- How to break up a L^AT_EX document into pieces to make life easier for yourself, your co-authors, and git
- Github pages for your academic website and teaching