Guide to Installing Git4Win

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Introduction

Git is a popular source / revision control system. Git4Win is one of few Windows GUI front-ends for the Git command line tool. Both of these packages are in public domain, fully available and free to use.

This guide describes how to install Git4Win on Windows and Linux OS'es.

The screenshots shown in this manual may be different from the actual images that you might see due to differences in software versions and those of a particular setup.

Git4Win is written in C# and uses .NET 3.5 framework. The same binary file ("Git4Win.exe") runs as-is on both Windows and Linux OS'es. The tool comprises of only that one file and needs no particular installation – just copy it to a folder of your choice and run it.
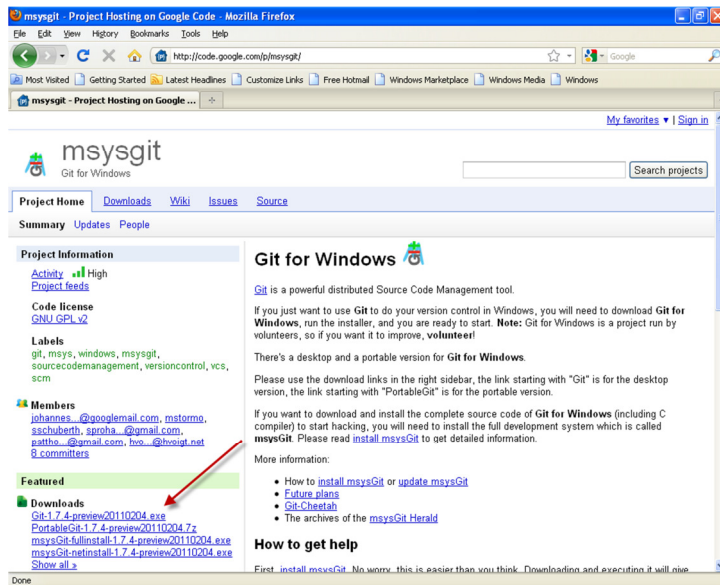
Consequently, the main requirements are having .NET support and the actual git tool.

Prerequisites on Windows OS

Getting git (mSysGit)

When installing Git on Windows, there are basically 2 choices: mSysGit and Cygwin. At this time, Git4Win supports only mSysGit.
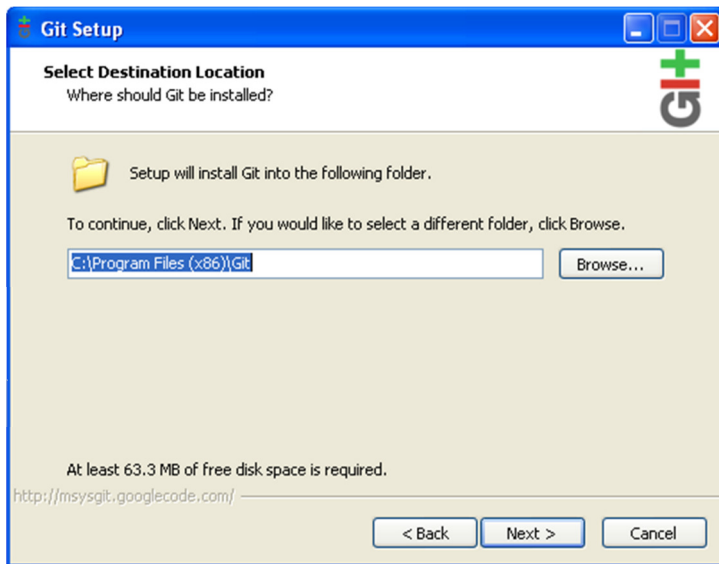
Install Git for Windows from Google code: http://code.google.com/p/msysgit/

Select the "Git-1.7.4-preview20110204.exe" or any newer version, if available. Download it and run it.
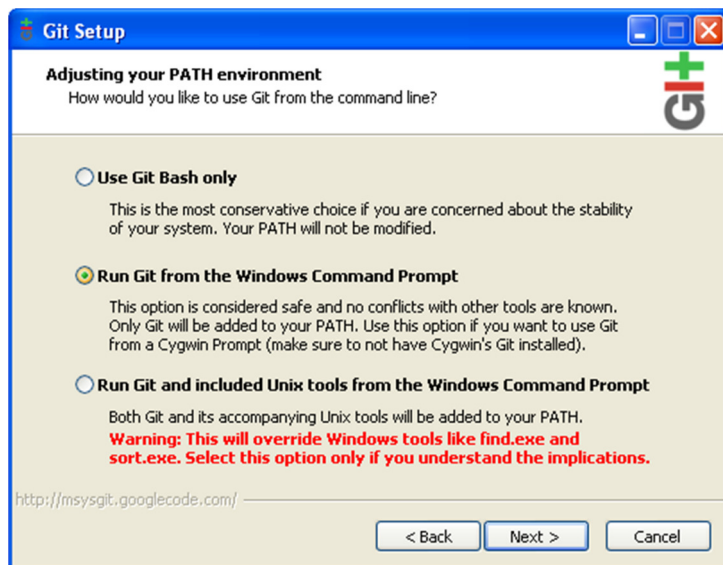
When asked for the destination location, select the default folder:


When asked for the components to install, you can either leave the suggested ones, or you can also select to have Git available from the Explorer context menu (recommended):
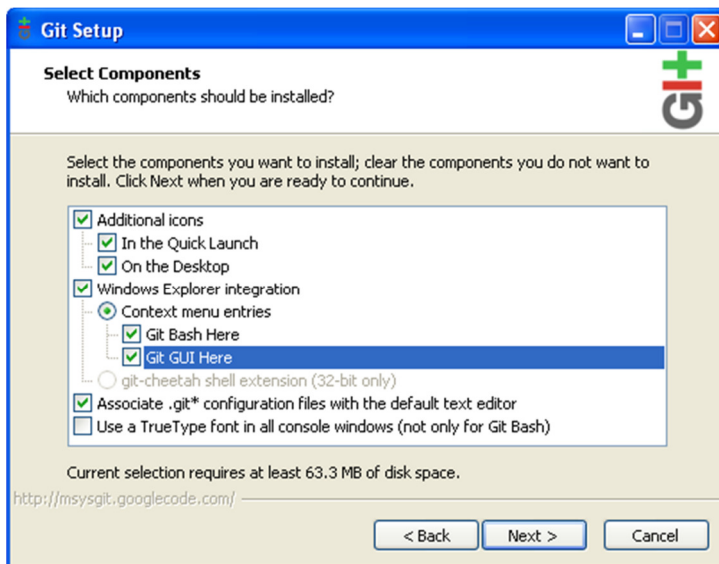
When presented with the PATH option, select to add Git to your path:

The disparity between Windows and Unix line endings can be handled by Git in several ways. I suggest leaving the default option to change the line endings accordingly as this will work with all Windows editors:
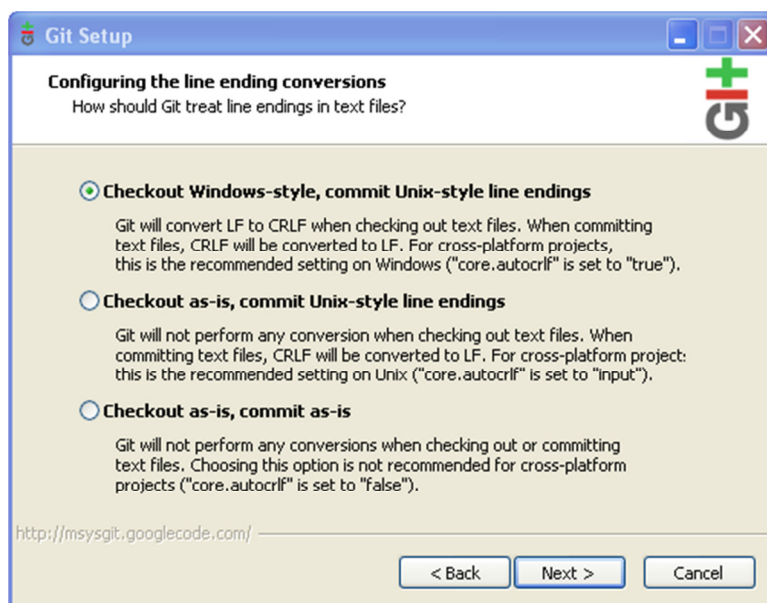
That's it! You have basic Git command line tools installed on your Windows:
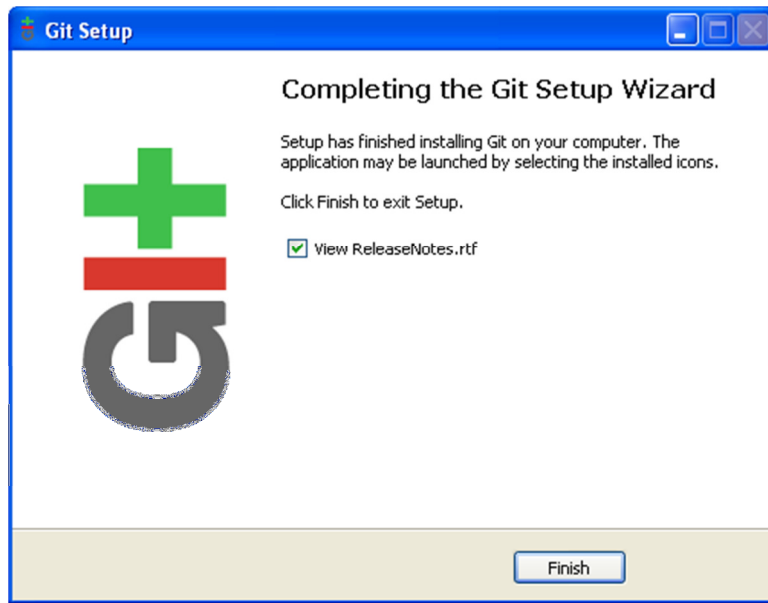
If you selected it during your installation, you will also notice Git added to the Programs Menu and the Explorer shell extension.

Prerequisites on Linux OS

Git4Win has been tested to work on Ubuntu, although it should also work on any other modern Linux distribution if the same supporting environment is present.

These installation steps assume that you have a clean install of the operating system with all recent updates applied (using the Update Manager). Although it assumes x64 versions, x32 versions should work identically.

The installation breaks down into installing the git command line tools and installing the required version of Mono (http://www.mono-project.com) and its supporting WinForms assembly package.

Installing git

By default, Ubuntu does not have git version control system installed. Install git command line tools either using the Synaptic Package Manager (serach for and install "**git**" package) or by issuing a command:

$ **sudo apt-get install git**

Verify that you have git running by issuing a command:

$ **git --version**

Installation on Ubuntu 10.10

This version of Ubuntu comes preinstalled with mono framework supporting the required .NET level. However, the WinForms assembly still needs to be added, "**libmono-winforms2.0-cil**":

Open System->Administration->Synaptic Package Manager, paste that package into the search box, select it for install and install it.

Installation on Ubuntu 10.04 LTS

Ubuntu 10.04 LTS includes mono version 2.4.4 which needs to be updated to 2.6 in order to provide a .NET 3.5 level support. The update is fairly simple (as described on http://badgerports.org):

Badgerports is an Ubuntu repository. In order to use it, you must add it to your Software Sources.

1. Click on "System", "Administration", "Software Sources".
2. Click on the "Other Software" tab.
3. Click on "Add...", and enter the line: "deb http://badgerports.org lucid main"
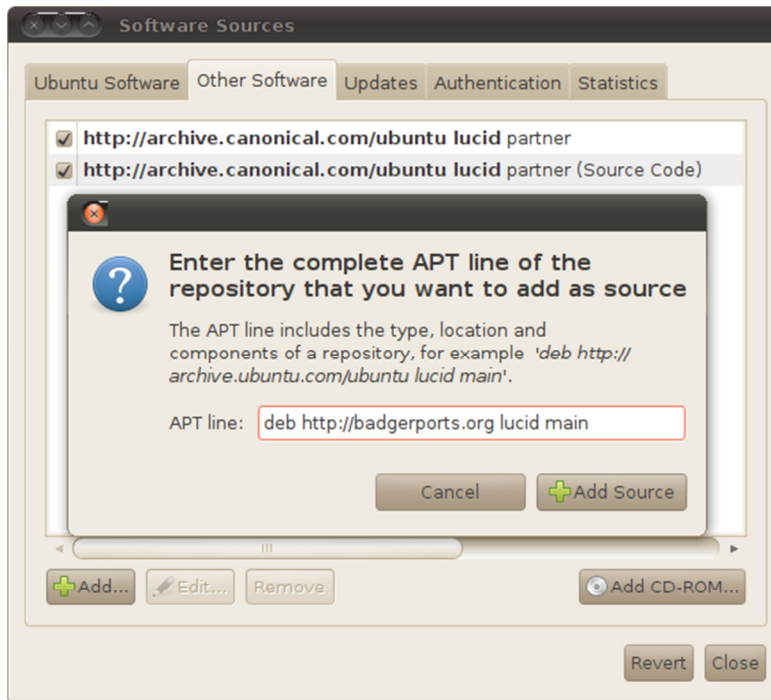
4. Click on "Add Source"
5. Click on "Authentication", then on "Import Key File"
6. Download this PGP file: http://badgerports.org/directhex.ppa.asc , ID 0E1FAD0C, and select it in the "Import Key File" window
7. Click on "Close", then "Reload" when the pop-up appears. You're all set!

From now on, whenever you try to install or update Mono-related packages on your system, you will be given the **badgerports** version for preference. You don't need to do anything more than update your system as usual to get started!

Now update mono via System->Administration->Update Manager:
You may see a download size of 7.5Mb, 21 files selected.

One more component to install is "**libmono-winforms2.0-cil**":

Open System->Administration->Synaptic Package Manager, paste that package into the search box, select it for install and install it.

Diff Tool

When Git4Win starts, it tries to detect a diff utility to use. These are the few common diff utilities that it knows about:

Windows OS:

Perforce Merge Tool	http://www.perforce.com/perforce/products/merge.html
WinMerge	http://winmerge.org
Beyond Compare 3	http://www.scootersoftware.com
KDiff3	http://kdiff3.sourceforge.net

Linux OS:

Meld	http://meld.sourceforge.net/index.html\
KDiff3	http://kdiff3.sourceforge.net
Xxdiff	http://furius.ca/xxdiff

It is strongly recommended to have one of these diff utilities installed before running Git4Win.

Installing Git4Win

Installers are overrated.

Just run the "Git4Win.exe" executable on both Windows or Linux OS and you are done (installing).