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Start Using Git

To call Git intriguing doesn't quite do it justice, git is a wonderful piece of technology that has the potential to greatly enhance one's workflow. Basically git is a versioning software that allows you to keep track of all changes you make. That being said there is more to git than just watching change.

The basics of git come with staging and committing all changes. Staging is simply readying a change to be sent to the server. It's an opportunity to check and double check your work. Once your certain that you want to keep these changes you commit, or send, the information to the server so it can update the files. It is during the committing process that your changes are actually recorded. As such it is important to commit often so you can discard unwanted changes or go back to previous saves.

Perhaps one of git's best abilities is the fact that you can undo unwanted commits or revert back to a previous commit, if needed. This is done by clicking the undo button (seriously, it's that complicated) or by right-clicking on a previous commit and selecting “revert commit”. The important thing to know is that if you revert to a previous commit you loose ALL changes in the commits which came after.

This is where branching comes in: Branching is the ability to create copies of your repository (database). Once a copy of your repository has been made you can delete any unneeded data so you can work on specific parts of your project. Deleting such data won't destroy it permanently as it's just a copy, and the best part is you can merge any new data you create into the original with no problems. Not only that but with branches you don't have to worry about accidentally destroying other parts of your project.

Another impressive aspect is git's potential for group-work. With branching many people can work on multiple aspects of a project without worrying about harming other work. One of the main ways that this is accomplished is through pull requests. A pull request is when one person asks another

to look over their work and accept it into the main branch of the project. Usually the person looking is a project lead who has say in these matters. Upon okaying the pull request the lead can then merge the changed branch into the main and then send out the changes to all other members of the team or just those who need the changes.

After all is said and done git is an extremely powerful tool with great potential for group, and individual, work. Committing, pull-requesting, branching, merging and many other abilities allow great control over your projects and the changes they undergo. Due to this amazing ability git is a must have for any project, especially those that are being undertaken by large groups, or even those done by a single person who has to hop from computer to computer.