



SKILLPILLS

Skill Pill: Introduction to Git and Version Control

Lecture 1: Git ready!

Christopher Buckley

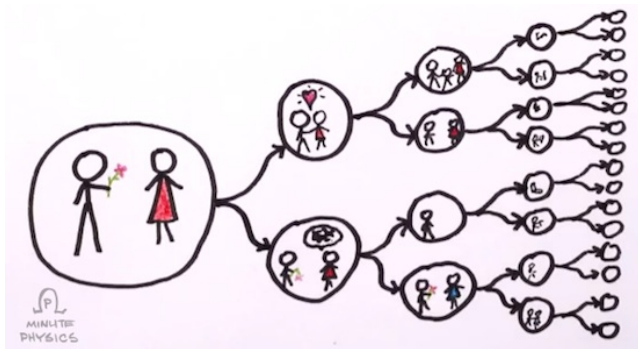
Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology

November 19, 2020



Slides by James Schloss, 2016

- 1 What is Version Control
- 2 Terminal Talk
- 3 Git basics
 - Local code
 - Nonlocal repos / github
- 4 Working alone



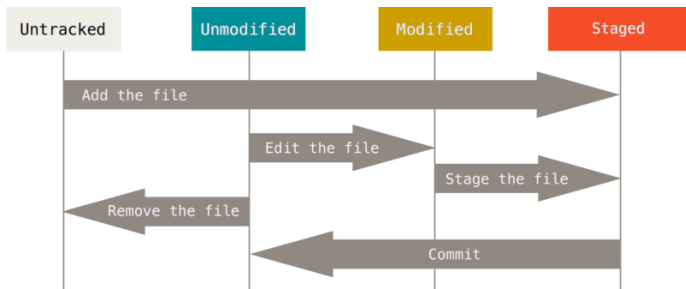
- Version control is a method that allows you to control different versions of things (Not necessarily universes).
- Version control stores history and allows restoration to specific points in that history.

- There are multiple GUIs available for Git, such as one from GitHub called the **GitHub Desktop**. We will not be using this for religious perfectly scientific reasons.
- These reasons primarily revolve around flexibility and improved understanding of the Git tools.
- Everything we do will be usable on Sango.
- The **Pro Git** book is available online at git-scm.com/book
- There is a cheatsheet for Git available here: <https://www.git-tower.com/learn/cheatsheets/git>



- A **repository** is a place to store code.
 - There are many sites to host your repository on (github, bitbucket), including your own local machine.
 - All of the essential parts of your repository can be found in the **.git** directory
 - GitHub (a website hosting Git repositories) \neq Git (a set of tools for creating and managing those repositories).





- A new file is initially **untracked**
- When you use **git add**, it moves to the staging area and becomes **staged**
- After being committed (using **git commit**), a file is up-to-date and considered **unmodified**
- Changing a file makes it modified, but doesn't add it to the staging area

Finally, what is actually happening with your commits under the hood?

- Git has a staging area before commits that can be checked with **git status**. Anything in **green** is staged.
- If you wish to unstage the commit, simply type **git reset**.
- **git reset** will work for individual files and you may go back to any commit in the history.

```
git reset HEAD~1
```

- If you wish to undo a commit entirely, use the **git revert** command.
- **git clean** (with appropriate flags!) will remove any untracked files.



EXERCISE

- 1 Stage a commit
- 2 Unstage the commit
- 3 Make a commit
- 4 Undo the commit (**DON'T DO THIS AFTER YOU PUSH!!!!!!11111!!!!11!!**)

Let's **git** started.

- To initialize a git repository, simply type **git init** in a directory (preferably empty for now)
- This creates a folder **.git/**, where all your repository information is held.
- Git tracks **commits**. Check these commits with **git log**.
- **git status** checks any changes since the last commit.
- **git add** adds new files.
- **git commit** commits anything in the *staging area* - git status shows these files in **green** by default.



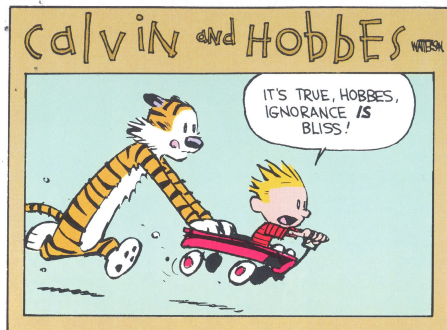
EXERCISE

- 1 Open a terminal
- 2 Create a new directory and run **git init**
- 3 Create a file and run **git status**
- 4 Use a combination of **git add** and **git commit** to add a new file to the git repository.
- 5 Check the **git log**.

- Keep your repository clean! Do your best to commit as few images and data files as possible!
- You can do this by ignoring certain file extensions in a **.gitignore** file.

```
# Example gitignore  
configuration
```

```
*.log  
*.tar  
*.gz  
*.exe  
*.dat  
*.lvls
```



EXERCISE

- 1 Touch multiple files with various extensions, one of which should be **.dat**.
- 2 Ignore the **.dat** file, but commit all the others.
- 3 Be sure to write a clear message describing what you did.
- 4 Check the **git log**

Now we move to the fun* stuff: working with **online repositories**.

- For this, we will be using **github**.
- We'll begin by creating a GitHub repository using the website.
 - If we're working on a project that's already hosted on a remote Git server, we can skip this step.
- Next, we use **git clone** to download a copy.
- From here, you can do the following:
 - **git push** to push any changes you may have to the online repository.
 - **git pull** to take any changes from the repository.

*Here, the word *fun* is subject to interpretation.



EXERCISE

- 1 Create a new GitHub repository using a browser.
- 2 Clone the new repository* to our local disk:

```
git clone git@github.com:oist/skillpill-git.git
```

or

```
git clone https://github.com/oist/skillpill-git.git
```

- 3 Make some simple commits and test the process of **pushing** and (with the help of a partner) **pulling** stuff from that repo.

*The examples here show cloning the SkillPill Git repository - replace the links as appropriate!

- git is not intuitive to start with, but it's a powerful tool for storing and restoring history, and working collaboratively with other people.
- The more you use it, the more you will like it. Think Stockholm syndrome.
- Operations that you use frequently will become easy.
- Operations you use infrequently, you can Google!



	COMMENT	DATE
○	CREATED MAIN LOOP & TIMING CONTROL	14 HOURS AGO
○	ENABLED CONFIG FILE PARSING	9 HOURS AGO
○	MISC BUGFIXES	5 HOURS AGO
○	CODE ADDITIONS/EDITS	4 HOURS AGO
○	MORE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
○	HERE HAVE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
○	AAAAAAAAA	3 HOURS AGO
○	ADKFJSLKDFJSDKLFT	3 HOURS AGO
○	MY HANDS ARE TYPING WORDS	2 HOURS AGO
○	HAAAAAAAAAANDS	2 HOURS AGO

AS A PROJECT DRAGS ON, MY GIT COMMIT MESSAGES GET LESS AND LESS INFORMATIVE.

We now know how to work with both local and online repositories, but what about using different versions?

- **git checkout** allows you to view the repository at any commit (found with **git log**).
- You may also checkout specific files like so:

```
git checkout a1e8fb5 hello.py
```

- Note that the most recent commit is **HEAD** and the one just before that is **HEAD~1**
- This command will be used later, so keep it in mind!

- git is weird. It's not intuitive, but it's the best way to collaborate with people on open projects.
- It's also great even if you don't collaborate!
- Whenever you are using git, think about other people and how they will perceive your comments. **Would you be able to understand your own cryptic commit messages?**
- You will make mistakes. Don't worry about it. Your entire history is backed up already. Learn from your mistakes and don't make them again!
- Read error messages carefully - they can be useful/informative/instructive.

