



# 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**



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Skill Pill

Skill Pill: Introduction to Git and Version Control  
Lecture 1: Git ready!

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

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Skill Pill

└ Overview

Overview

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

- Version control
- Easily compare and merge changes between any version
- Organize your work items



Before

After

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## Skill Pill

### └ Why Git?

Imagine I asked you to remove the red sharpie marker from the left hand side?

- Difficulty finding it
- Could dive right in, but might get poked by lot of sharp things on the way in
- Or you could dump everything out and start all over

- Version control
- Easily compare and merge changes between any version
- Organize your work items



# Traditional vs. Git Versioning

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- What changed when
- Not limited to file name length to inform user of changes

```
christopher@christopher-ThinkPad-W541:~/git/mythesis$ ls -ltr
total 4
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 51 Nov 17 18:22 thesis
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_v1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_v2
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_v3
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_v4
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_final
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_final1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_final2
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_final3
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_finalfinal
christopher@christopher-ThinkPad-W541:~/git/mythesis$

christopher@christopher-ThinkPad-W541:~/git/mythesis$ git log --reverse
commit 839a476257310df071ac829cdefc64a60b86944 (master)
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:14:52 2020 +0900

    Added empty thesis template

commit e017bf79743fa7724d4c35f430e1e78064823e1a
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:19:14 2020 +0900

    Added initial title

commit 750455880517cbdd5db25054e0e9015ed67da185
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:20:30 2020 +0900

    Added initial summary section

commit a83135a08c1343723a7973a879e2431008b5a466
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:21:09 2020 +0900

    Added initial bulk of main body section

commit 98c17b7472ef14bd75804d4dddb990de92f211ba
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:21:31 2020 +0900

    Added initial conclusions

commit aa3034ffb24084d3f95e37ae222f265da07d3590
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:22:03 2020 +0900

    Changed conclusions to reflect new findings on Mars

commit d918fbfd436cf474a34c6cde86ccf845f63e9cb4 (HEAD -> new_versioning)
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:22:31 2020 +0900

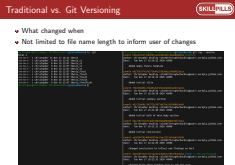
    Changed title after finding typo in teh the word
```

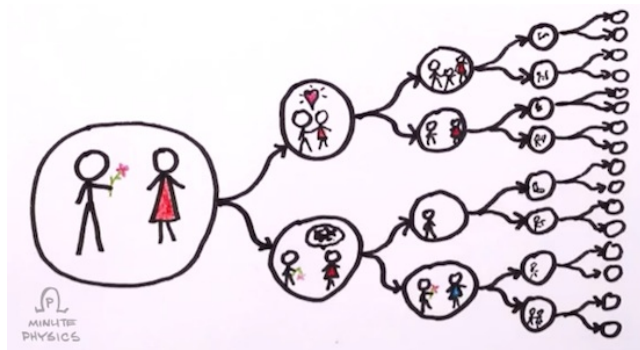
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└─What is Version Control

└─Traditional vs. Git Versioning





- Version control is a method that allows you to control different versions of things.
- Version control stores history and allows restoration to specific points in that history.

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## Skill Pill

└ What is Version Control

└ Version Control



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- 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 Deigo.
- The **Pro Git** book is available online at [git-scm.com/book](https://git-scm.com/book)
- There is a cheatsheet for Git available here: <https://www.git-tower.com/learn/cheat-sheets/git>



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└ Terminal Talk

└ Terminal Talk

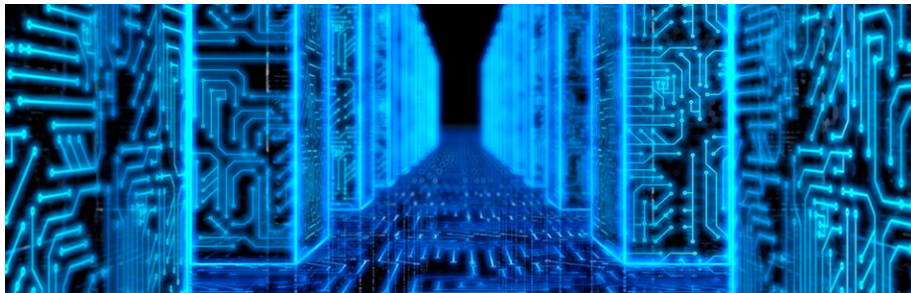
Terminal Talk

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- 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).



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└ Terminal Talk

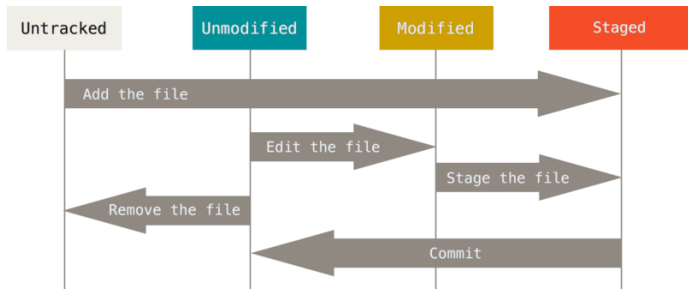
└ Your first repository

Your first repository

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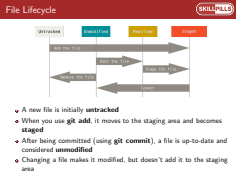
- A new file is initially **untracked**
- When you use **git add**, it moves to the staging area and becomes **staged**
- After being committed (using **git commit**), a file is up-to-date and considered **unmodified**
- Changing a file makes it modified, but doesn't add it to the staging area

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└ Terminal Talk

└ File Lifecycle





# Cleaning the stage

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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.



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## Skill Pill

### Terminal Talk

#### Cleaning the stage

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## EXERCISE

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

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- 2 Unstage the commit
- 3 Make a commit
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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.



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└ Terminal Talk

└ The local repo

The local repo

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## 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**.

### EXERCISE

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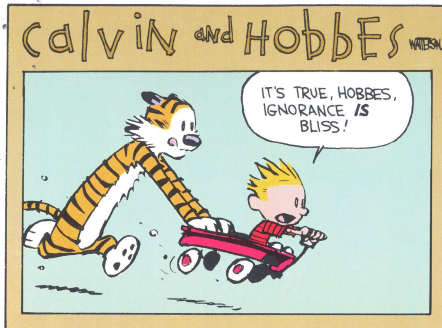
- Keep your repository clean! Do your best to commit as few images and data files as possible!
- You can do this by ignoring certain file extensions in a **.gitignore** file.
- Great templates for projects of many types found at <https://github.com/github/gitignore>

---

# Example gitignore  
configuration

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

---



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## Skill Pill

### └ Terminal Talk

### └ Ignorance is bliss

Ignorance is bliss

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## 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**

### EXERCISE

- 1 Touch multiple files with various extensions, one of which should be **.dat**.
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- 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.



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## Skill Pill

Terminal Talk

Nonlocal repos / github

**git** with it!

git with it!

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## EXERCISE

❶ Create a new GitHub repository using a browser.

❷ 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
```

❸ 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!

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## Skill Pill

└ Terminal Talk

└ Nonlocal repos / github

└ Quick Exercise

### EXERCISE

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- 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!



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## Skill Pill

### Terminal Talk

#### Nonlocal repos / github

#### What it will feel like...

What it will feel like...

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# Write clear commit messages!

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	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
○	ADKFJSLKDFJSDKLFJ	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.

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## Skill Pill

Terminal Talk

Nonlocal repos / github

Write clear commit messages!

Write clear commit messages!

COMMENT	DATE
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○ MORE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
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○ 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!

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└─ Terminal Talk

└─ Nonlocal repos / github

└─ Checking out your versions

Checking out your versions



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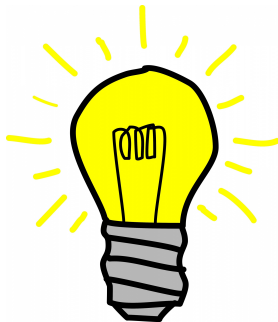
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- git is weird. It's not intuitive, but it's the best way to collaborate with people on open projects.
- It's also great even if you don't collaborate!
- Whenever you are using git, think about other people and how they will perceive your comments. **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.



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## Skill Pill

└ Working alone

└ Final Comments

- ♦ 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?**
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