Free Software and Version Control 101

A introductory course on FOSS, git, curl and web integrations

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Version control?

What is version control?

Version control is the practice of managing and documenting *data* (code, schematics, etc.) iterations.

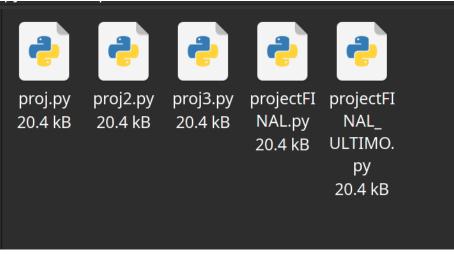
It is particularly important in our context of Free and Open Source software, as a careful documentation of alterations between versions and the ability to inspect older or deprecated sources can make issue resolution and feature integration much more agile.

git?

Git is a version control software created by Linus Torvalds (which also created the Linux Kernel). Its free software under the GPL v2.0.

Git allows cloning, pulling, pushing, etc. of data stored in git instances.

It has happened to all of us!



Time to ditch this...

For something waaaay better

```
* commit eebc2e011fa88bfae93e8105e665fa5873499569 (HEAD -> master, origin/master)
 Author: Francisco Carvalho <franciscojcarvalho@tecnico.ulisboa.pt>
 Date: Thu Oct 13 16:42:39 2022 +0100
     Database changes (to be implemented in backend)
 commit bf2162b4080243bb4458f916319a53ebfa3d9253
 Author: Francisco Carvalho <franciscojcarvalho@tecnico.ulisboa.pt>
 Date: Sat Oct 8 19:36:46 2022 +0100
     Login system bypass as it's not needed. LF endings
 commit bf5c4c51b9fba1ffdc18b44abf24491d7a1bf6c4
 Author: Francisco Carvalho <franciscoicarvalho@tecnico.ulisboa.pt>
 Date: Fri Oct 7 14:32:27 2022 +0100
      .desktop file and autorun script
 commit 0b9bfc255efc9fc897189b46885acc7d51251e2c
 Author: Francisco Carvalho <franciscoicarvalho@tecnico.ulisboa.pt>
 Date:
         Fri Sep 30 21:01:59 2022 +0100
     Code cleanup
 commit 764c31a6c26b3ef19e8921895cbeb50cc271920f
 Author: Francisco Carvalho <franciscojcarvalho@tecnico.ulisboa.pt>
 Date:
         Fri Sep 30 20:51:04 2022 +0100
     Bug: week number stuck at 1
```

schema.sql:9: CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS etcs_users(

```
9 course varchar,
10 primary key (ist_id)
);

12 CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS etcs_subjects(
13 subject_id numeric,
14 term varchar,
```

• schema.sql:37: CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS etcs_subjects(

• schema.sql:71: CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS ects_academic_terms(

```
course varchar.
10
        primary key (ist id)
11
12
    CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS ects work(
14
        identifier numeric,
        name varchar,
16
        primary key (identifier)
18
19
   CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS ects extra activity(
20
        identifier numeric.
        description varchar,
        type numeric,
        foreign key (identifier)
24
            REFERENCES ects_work(identifier),
        primary key (identifier)
26
28
   CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS etcs subjects(
29
        subject id numeric.
30
        term varchar,
```

```
37 subject_ta numeric,
38 subject_t numeric,
39 subject_period numeric,
40 foreign key (subject_ld)
41 REFERENCES ects_work(identifier),
42 primary key (subject_ld)
43 );
44 [CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS etcs_enrolled_in(
```

curl?

Curl (short for client-url), is the command line tool that makes use of libcurl, a data transfer library that supports a array of network protocols such as FTP, HTTP, etc.

We will use curl to communicate with the GitHub API in the next sections.

Curl and libcurl are FOSS licensed under the curl license, based on the MIT License, and compatible with the GPL v3.0

How does git instance work?

Repositories and actions

Git Data Transport Commands

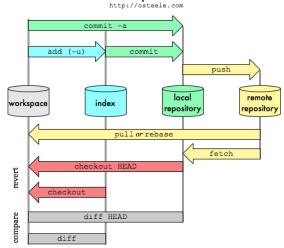


Figure 2: Actions and interactions between repositories

Let's Start!

Setting up your git/GitHub environment

- Create a GitHub account (using your institutional e-mail is often valuable).
- Get the git and curl packages.
- Generate a OAuth key, ssh key, or any mean of remote authentication.
- Save it somewhere safe (encrypt it with gpg, or use a password manager (for example: keepass).

Let's waddle back to the terminal

```
git config --global user.name "@user.name"
git config --global user.email @user.email
```

Setting up a GitHub repository with curl and git

```
Let's start with creating a remote and local repository
curl -u @user https://api.github.com/user/repos -d \
'{"name":"@string", "private":false}'
mkdir @string && cd @string
Now we can initialize our local repo and link it to the remote one
git init
git remote add origin https://github.com/@name/@string.git
```

Your first commit!

Git Status

This command allows you to view the state of your project (repo)

```
francisco@archboxSigma:~/repos/studyTracker$ git status
On branch master
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/master'.
Changes not staged for commit:
  (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
  (use "git restore <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)
        modified:
                    main.pv
                  templates/dash.html
        modified:
Untracked files:
  (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
        README.md
        __pycache__/
        app/
        config.ini.old
        diagramaEA.png
        ects weeks.pv
        etcs.db
        populate.sql
        static/favicon.svg
        templates/timer.html
        test.sql
no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
```

Add

- When we want the git log changes made to a file git add <file_path>
- When the file hasn't ever been tracked git will start to
- This command only selects the files/modifications, it does not commit

```
francisco@archboxSigma:~/repos/studyTracker$ git add main.py README.md
francisco@archboxSigma:~/repos/studyTracker$ git status
On branch master
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/master'.

Changes to be committed:
    (use "git restore --staged <file>..." to unstage)
        new file: README.md
        modified: main.py

Changes not staged for commit:
    (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
    (use "git restore <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)
        modified: templates/dash.html
```

Figure 3: Git Add

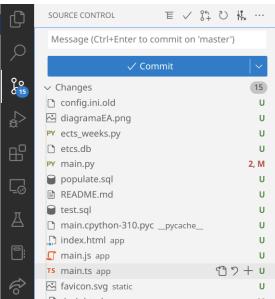
Commit

 To commit (record the selected changes to the history) we use the command git commit -m "commit message"

Push

- You can push your history to a remote repo using the command git push <name_of_remote_repo>
 - Usually when using Github this remote is called origin
- You can even have multiple remotes!
 - to add one use git remote add <name> <url>, as seen in the curl
 part of this presentation

Frontends (Vscode)



Working together!

Cloning

Pulling

Forking with the web

Merging with the web

Other Actions!

Tying our work with freedom

On FOSS

Licenses