

# Intro to git / github.com

Version control and code sharing

Terence Parr

MSDS program

**University of San Francisco**

See <https://github.com/parr/msds501/blob/master/notes/git.md>

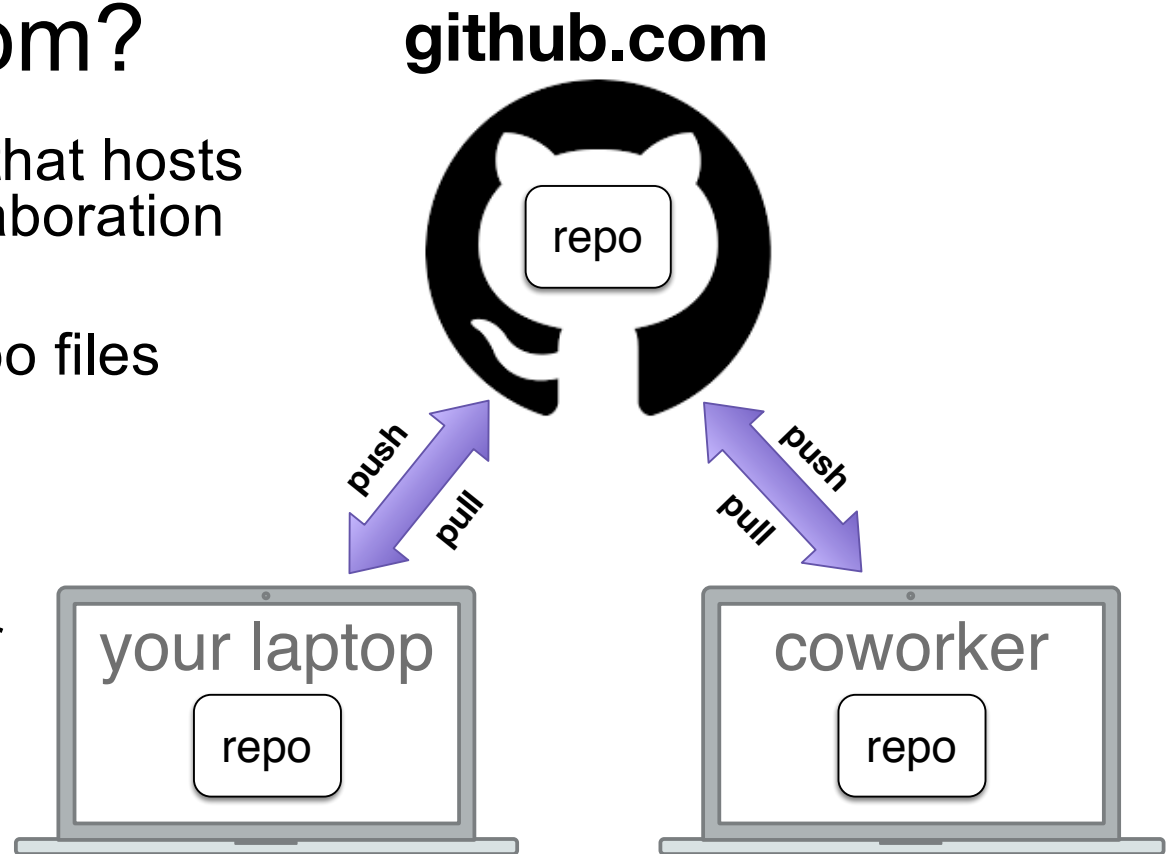
# What is git?

- Git is a version control system that tracks changes to files and directories within a repository
- A repository is just a subtree containing files and directories that we tell git to treat as a repository
- Git allows multiple workers to operate on two different copies of the repository without getting confused or losing changes
- Workers push/pull changes from a repo on one machine to a repo on a collaborator's machine
- Git is a program that runs on your laptop

See <https://github.com/parrt/msds501/blob/master/notes/git.md>

# What is github.com?

- Github.com is a website that hosts repositories, making collaboration much easier
- Web interface to your repo files
- **A free backup!**
- Note: git != github.com
  - git is program
  - github is a web site/server
- For our purposes, we'll ignore the advanced capabilities, such as branching and merging



See [github learning resources](#)

# Motivation

- Every commercial developer uses revision control at work
- Every company you will encounter uses it
- For that reason alone, you need to learn revision control to be functional in a commercial setting, such as your practicum
- In this class and future classes, you will also use revision control to submit your work

# An analogy to backup systems

- If your laptop is stolen, we will be sympathetic but not excuse missing projects
  - github doubles as a backup
  - but I recommend you also get [backblaze](#) to keep off-site backups of your disk
- Personally, I also have a local Timemachine OS X backup drive sitting next to my computer that takes a snapshot every hour
- Using this multi-tiered backup strategy is a good way to think about how programmers use revision control
  - git is kind of like Time Machine, a local backup (that tracks changes)
  - github.com is kind of like the off-site backblaze cloud-based backup
- The difference between git and a backup system is that we tell git **when** to take a snapshot
- Each snapshot should be a logical chunk of work done to your files

# Repositories (Repos)

- Not only do we have to tell git **when** to take a snapshot, we also tell it **what** files to pay attention to (in the repo directory)
- Each project you work on is in a directory and all of the files associated with that project sit somewhere under that subtree
- The file set is called a *repository* and at any given time, my computer has lots and lots of these repositories
- A git repository instance is just a directory but it also has a **.git** (hidden) directory, with a database of all changes
- To remove a repo, just **rm** the whole repo directory; there is no central server to notify

# Committing changes

- As with the Time Machine backup, git tracks snapshots as the difference from the last time you requested a snapshot
- Each snapshot is called a *commit* (and programmers think of these commits as *transactions*)
- Perform a commit to lock in a logical chunk of work, such as the addition of a feature or fixing of a bug

# Commit log (history)

- Having a complete list of changes is extremely useful
- We can revert those change sets later
- We can discover who created or when a bug was introduced
- Can temporarily reset your repository to a moment in time

✓ master	origin/master	1.1.2	set 1.1.2 version for pyspark 2vs3; rer...	parrt	f5152b7	Oct 2, 2020 at 11:05 AM
			set 1.1.2 version for pyspark 2vs3; rerun examples	parrt	68c5daf	Oct 2, 2020 at 11:05 AM
			Merge pull request #107 from tlapusan/support_many_spark_versions	Terence Parr	e559eac	Oct 2, 2020 at 10:47 AM
			Add support for spark 2	tlapusan	0866848	Oct 2, 2020 at 6:51 AM
			Merge pull request #105 from tlapusan/update_readme	Terence Parr	8024e62	Sep 29, 2020 at 10:40 AM
			Add visualization method setup to README.md	tlapusan	f8b287d	Sep 29, 2020 at 10:32 AM
			Add explain_prediction_path to README.md	tlapusan	481bf1a	Sep 28, 2020 at 8:07 AM
			Add viz_leaf_criterion and viz_leaf_samples to README.md	tlapusan	dc78c8f	Sep 27, 2020 at 8:06 AM
			Update image sizes	tlapusan	ca7e87e	Sep 25, 2020 at 7:26 AM
			Add supported libraries and show_just_path	tlapusan	95489a5	Sep 25, 2020 at 7:23 AM
		1.1.1	set new version to fix spark bug	parrt	943d336	Sep 22, 2020 at 9:36 AM
			Merge pull request #103 from tlapusan/fix_bug_issue_101	Terence Parr	edad404	Sep 22, 2020 at 9:35 AM
			Fix bug in case xgboost model has only one tree	tlapusan	9367d4b	Sep 22, 2020 at 12:05 AM
		1.1	Merge pull request #98 from tlapusan/support_spark_decision_tree	Terence Parr	071a07b	Sep 3, 2020 at 12:22 PM
			Fix sklearn notebook	tlapusan	69944e6	Sep 3, 2020 at 11:19 AM



# Cloning from, pushing to github

- Continuing with the analogy now, github.com is like the off-site cloud-based backup
- Each repo you mirror at github is like a free backup
- We'll likely create a repo using a web interface at github then **clone** that repo to an (initially empty) directory on our laptop
- As with committing changes, we also have to specifically **push** changes to the local repository back to github
- Every push ensures that the complete file set and git change database (in **.git** subdirectory) is mirrored at github


# Collaboration

- I can access your repos mirrored on github, whereas I have no access to your laptop hard drive
- To grade projects, I will **clone** your repository onto my hard disk
- If you make changes, I can **pull** those in after you **commit/push**
- I can make comments and then push back to your github repo, which you can then **pull** down to your laptop
- This is how multiple programmers communicate, and how I share work between my work and home machines

# Key commands summary

- I recommend using a git GUI like [fork](#) in practice, but we'll use the command line to learn the actual operations and sequence
- **git clone** *github\_url*
- **git add** *file\_or\_dir*
- **git commit -a -m** '*commit message*'
- **git status**
- **git push origin main** (main could be called master)
- **git pull origin main**
- **git rm** *filename*
- **git mv** *from\_filename to\_filename*
- **git reset --hard HEAD**
- **git checkout –** *filename*

Quick setup — if you've done this kind of thing before

 Set up in Desktop

or

HTTPS

SSH

<https://github.com/USF-MSDS501/images-parrt.git>



# Typical startup sequence

- Click on the invitation URL sent to you by instructor to create a repository, which creates repo at github:  
`https://github.com/USF-MSDS501/images-parrt`
- Get the URL from "Code" dialog at github, which looks similar to repo's github web page URL:  
`https://github.com/USF-MSDS501/images-parrt.git`
- Clone that (empty) repo onto your laptop from command line:

```
beast:~/classes/msds501 $ git clone https://github.com/USF-MSDS501/images-parrt.git
Cloning into 'images-parrt'...
warning: You appear to have cloned an empty repository.
beast:~/classes/msds501 $
```

See project description <https://github.com/parrt/msds501/blob/master/projects/images.md>

# Getting some initial files

- In the directory created during cloning, you will create and edit files associated with the repository
- Let's download and unzip some images needed for your project

```
$ pwd
/Users/parrt/classes/msds501/images-parrt
$ ls
$ wget --quiet https://github.com/parrt/msds501/raw/master/p
rojects/images-project-images.zip
$ ls
images-project-images.zip
$ unzip images-project-images.zip
Archive:  images-project-images.zip
  inflating: phobos2.jpg
  inflating: obama.png
  inflating: Veggies_noise.jpg
  inflating: eye.png
  inflating: guesswho.png
  inflating: pcb.png
  inflating: bonkers.png
$
```

# Adding files to the repo

- git ignores files unless we tell ask it to pay attention; it's not enough just to put files into the repository directory
- Add the files of interest so git knows to manage them
- Check status; git now sees files

```
$ git add *.jpg *.png
$ git status
On branch master

No commits yet

Changes to be committed:
  (use "git rm --cached <file>..." to unstage)
    new file:   Veggies_noise.jpg
    new file:   bonkers.png
    new file:   eye.png
    new file:   guesswho.png
    new file:   obama.png
    new file:   pcb.png
    new file:   phobos2.jpg
```

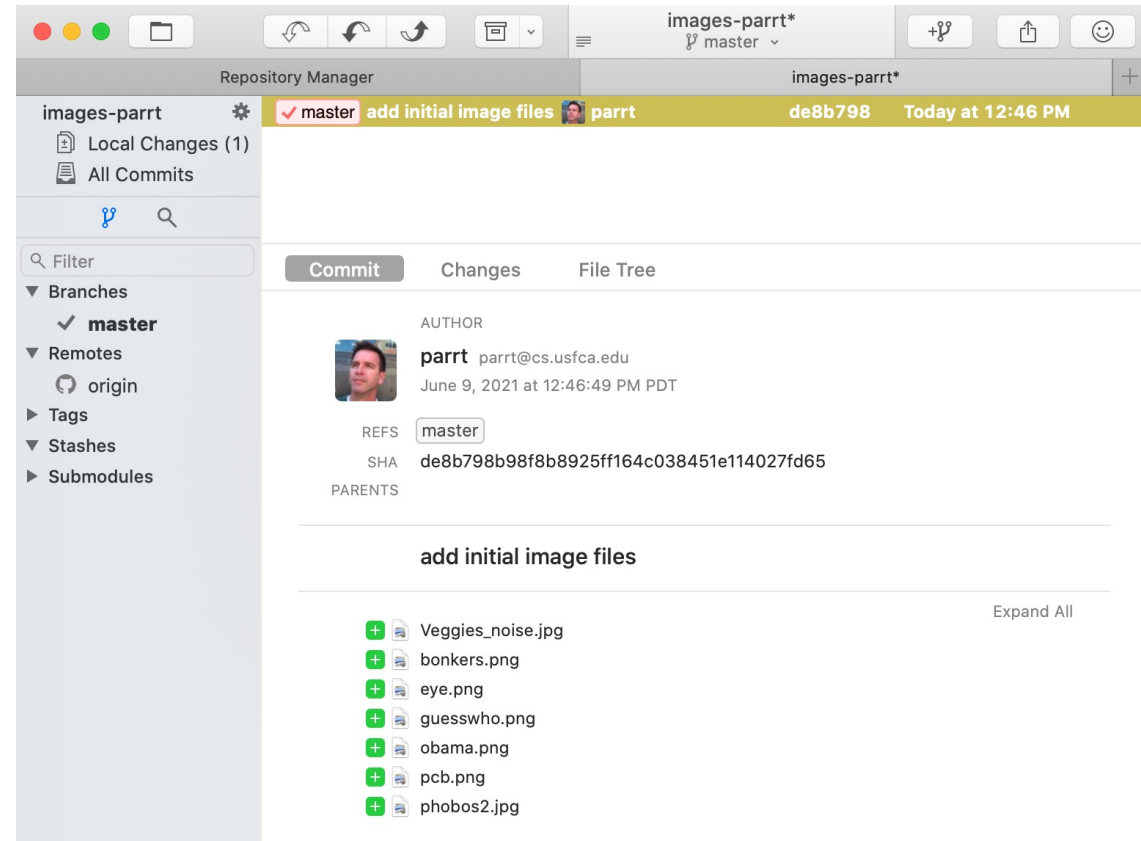
# Commit a transaction

- Commit tells git to take a snapshot and record it in its log of changes
- Additions, deletions, renamings are all considered (reversible) changes
- Use a decent commit message and don't forget the "-a" argument which means *"do what this command should do by default"*

```
$ git commit -a -m 'add initial image files'
[master (root-commit) de8b798] add initial image files
7 files changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
create mode 100644 Veggies_noise.jpg
create mode 100644 bonkers.png
create mode 100644 eye.png
create mode 100644 guesswho.png
create mode 100644 obama.png
create mode 100644 pcb.png
create mode 100644 phobos2.jpg
$
```

# The fork GUI view

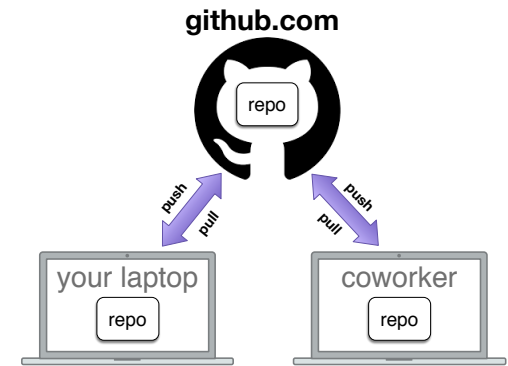
- There is only one commit but you can see the commit message and the files involved in the transaction
- You can also see the **origin** remote repository is connected because it's listed in the left gutter





# Push to github to mirror repo

- Github does not know about your changes unless you explicitly push after committing
  - We're ignoring branches but we need to know what the main branch is called; it's either master or main (legacy is master)
- Check github webpage for your repo and you'll see the files



```
$ git push origin master
Enumerating objects: 9, done.
Counting objects: 100% (9/9), done.
Delta compression using up to 8 threads
Compressing objects: 100% (9/9), done.
Writing objects: 100% (9/9), 862.12 KiB | 28.74 MiB/s, done.
Total 9 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
To https://github.com/USF-MSDS501/images-parrt.git
 * [new branch]      master -> master
$
```

File	Action
Veggies_noise.jpg	add initial image files
bonkers.png	add initial image files
eye.png	add initial image files
guesswho.png	add initial image files
obama.png	add initial image files
pcb.png	add initial image files
phobos2.jpg	add initial image files

See project description <https://github.com/parrt/msds501/blob/master/projects/images.md>

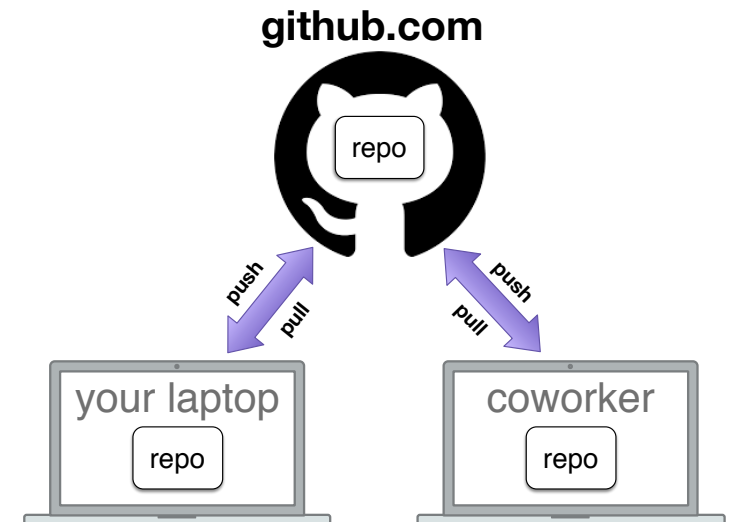
# Making edits, mirroring on github

- During the normal course of software development, you will edit files and then commit these changes, pushing to github
- Here, I'm editing an image to make it a bit smaller

```
$ open eye.png
$ git commit -a -m 'make eye image smaller'
[master 573a6be] make eye image smaller
1 file changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
rewrite eye.png (99%)
$ git push origin master
Enumerating objects: 5, done.
Counting objects: 100% (5/5), done.
Delta compression using up to 8 threads
Compressing objects: 100% (3/3), done.
Writing objects: 100% (3/3), 13.61 KiB | 13.61 MiB/s, done.
Total 3 (delta 1), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
remote: Resolving deltas: 100% (1/1), completed with 1 local object.
To https://github.com/USF-MSDS501/images-parrt.git
   de8b798..573a6be  master -> master
$
```

# Pull in changes from github

- If there are changes pushed to github that you do not have in your laptop copy, you must pull in those changes with:  
**git pull origin main**
- This happens when I have cloned and added grading results to your repository and pushed them back, or you are working with a partner on a project; both of you push/pull via same github repo



# Miscellaneous but useful commands

- **git rm *filename***  
Remove a file from the directory and from git repo tracking
- **git mv *from\_filename to\_filename***  
Rename a file or directory managed by git
- **git reset --hard HEAD**  
Wipe out any changes you've made to managed files, resetting the repository to the most recent commit
- **git checkout -- *filename***  
Undo changes made to a single file managed by git, resetting to the state of that file at the most recent commit

# A warning

- git is ridiculously complicated and has a terrible interface in my opinion
- I recommend sticking with a few commands:  
clone/add/commit/push/pull/rm/mv
- Do NOT do branching/merging until you are much more comfortable with git and version control systems
- Anything beyond these simple commands, I avoid or use very carefully after reading the manual