# Hands-on Lab: Getting started with branches using git commands on a local repository.

IBM Developer
SKILLS NETWORK

**Effort** : 25 mins

## Objectives

After completing this lab you will be able to use git commands to work with branches on a local repository, including:

1. create a new local repository using `git init`
2. create and add a file to the repo using `git add`
3. commit changes using `git commit`
4. create a branch using `git branch`
5. switch to a branch using `git checkout`
6. check the status of files changed using `git status`
7. review recent commits using `git log`
8. revert changes using `git revert`
9. get a list of branches and active branch using `git branch`
10. merge changes in your active branch into another branch using `git merge`

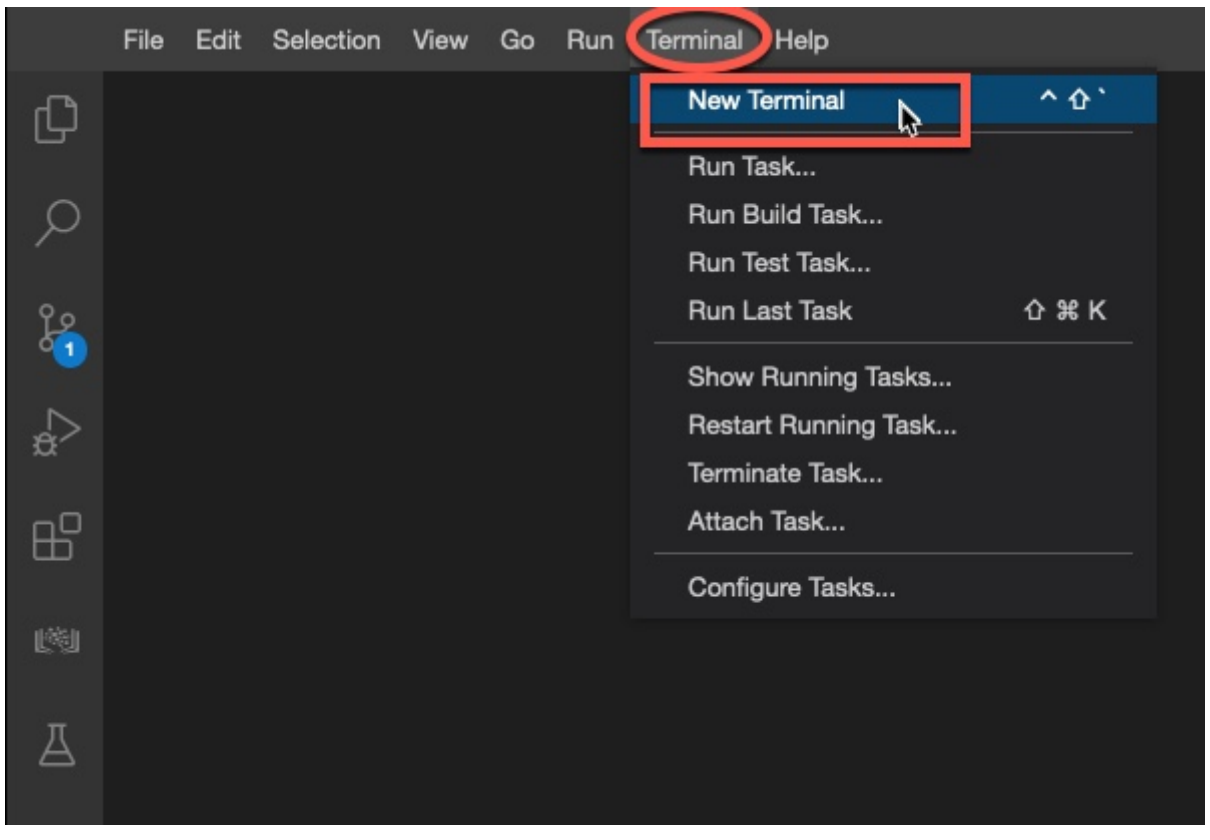
## Pre-requisites

This lab is designed to be run on Skills Network - Cloud IDE which is runs on a Linux system in the cloud and already has git installed. If you intend to run this lab on your own system, please ensure you have git (on Linux or MacOS) or GitBash (on Windows) installed.

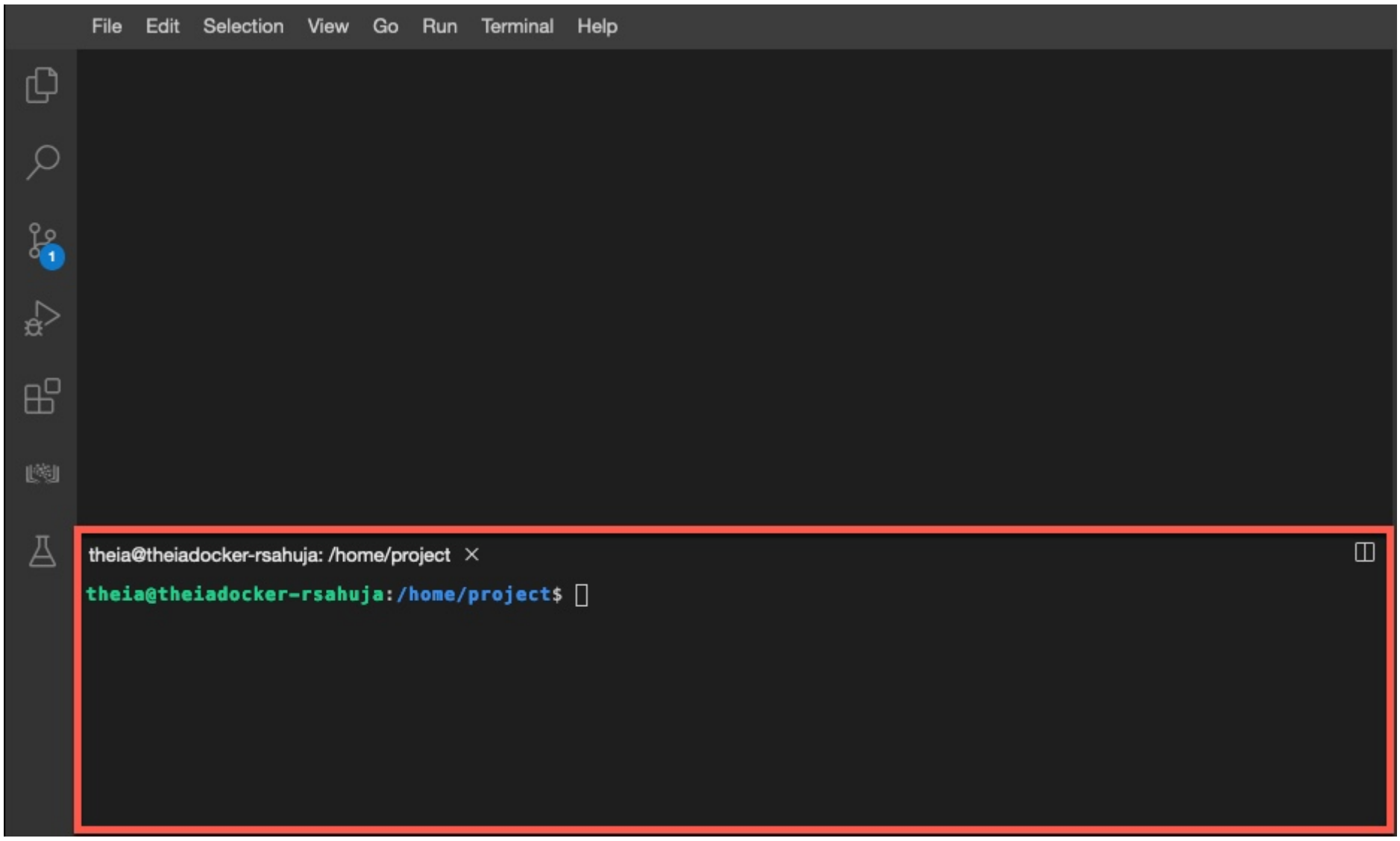
# Initialize: Open a new terminal window

Let's first open a terminal window in our IDE where we can start entering our shell and git commands.

1. Click on the `Terminal` menu to the right of this instructions pane and then click on `New Terminal`.




2. This will add a new Terminal window at the bottom where you can start entering commands.

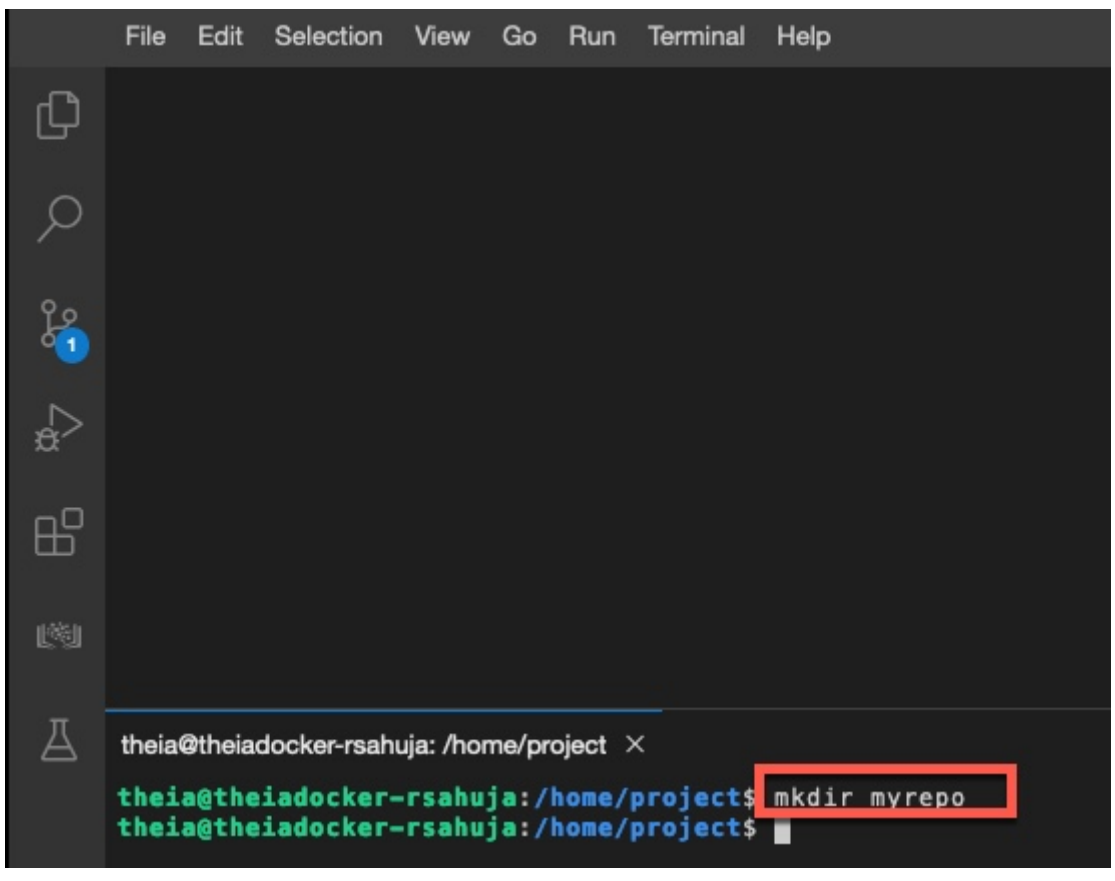



# Exercise 1: Create a new local repo

1. Now let us create a new directory for our local repository.

Create a `myrepo` directory by copying and pasting the `mkdir` command below into the terminal:

```
mkdir myrepo
```




2. Go into the `myrepo` directory by copying and pasting the `cd` command below:

```
cd myrepo
```

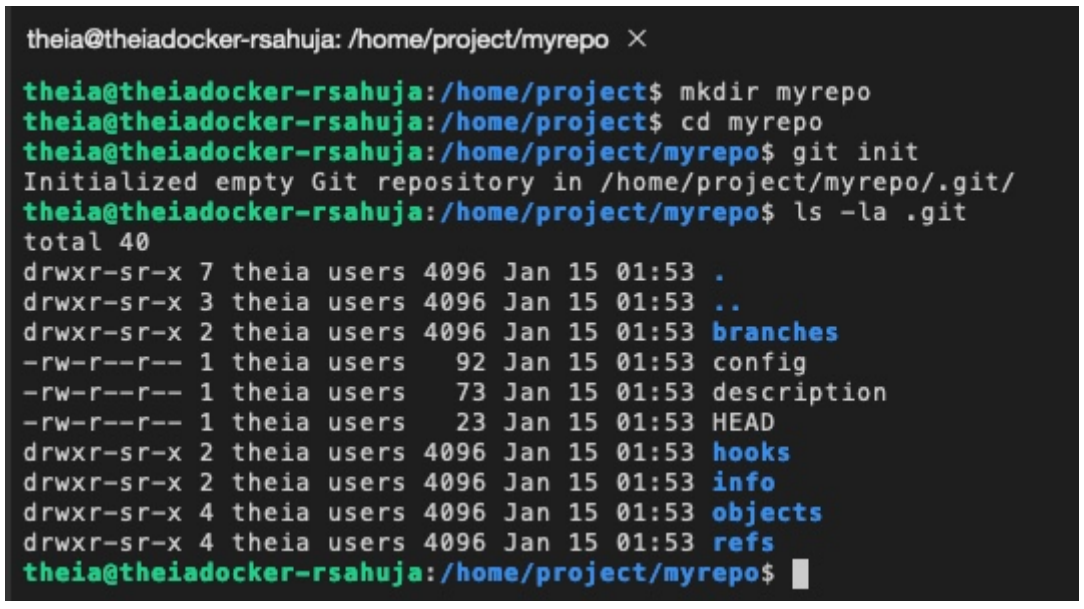
3. In this `myrepo` directory lets create a new local git repository using the `git init` command. Copy and paste the command below into the terminal:

```
git init
```

4. A new local repository is now created, which you can verify by doing a directory listing by pasting the following command into the terminal window:

```
ls -la .git
```

The output shows the contents of the `.git` sub-directory which houses the local repo:




# Exercise 2: Create and Add a file to the local repo

1. Now lets create an empty file using the following `touch` command:

```
touch newfile
```

2. Add this file to the repo using the following `git add` command:

```
git add newfile
```

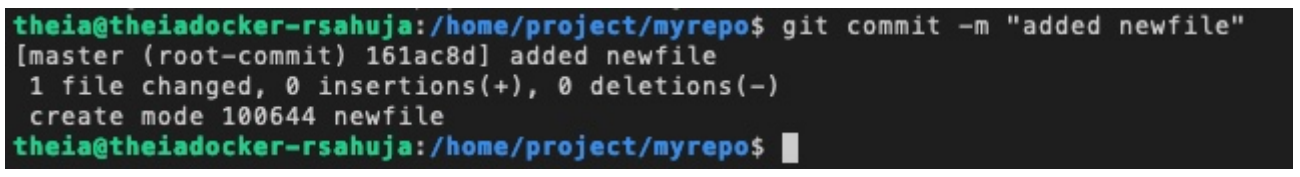

# Exercise 3: Commit changes

1. Before we can commit our changes, we need to tell git who we are. We can do this using the following commands (you can copy these commands as is, no need to enter your actual information):

```
git config --global user.email "you@example.com"
git config --global user.name "Your Name"
```

2. Once the repo has the `newfile` in it let's commit our changes using the the following `git commit` command. Note that the commit requires a message which we include using the `-m` parameter:

```
git commit -m "added newfile"
```




# Exercise 4: Create a branch

0. Our previous commit created a default main branch called `master`.

1. To make subsequent changes in our repo, lets create a new branch in our local repostitory. Copy and paste the following `git branch` command into the terminal to create a branch called `my1stbranch`:

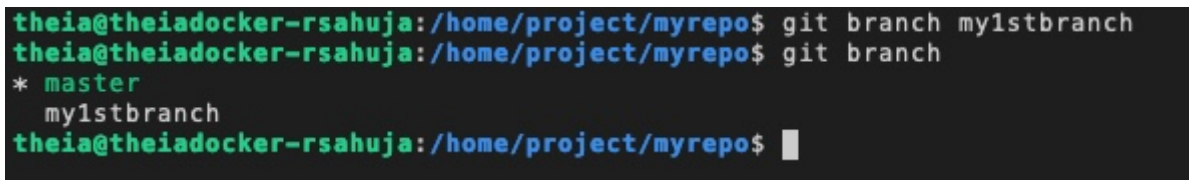
```
git branch my1stbranch
```

# Exercise 5: Get a list of branches and active branch

1. Let's check which branches our repo contains by pasting the following `git branch` command into the terminal:

```
git branch
```

2. Note the output lists two branches - the default `master` branch with an asterix `*` next to it indicating that it is the currently active branch, and the newly created `mys1stbranch`:




# Exercise 6: Switch to using a different branch

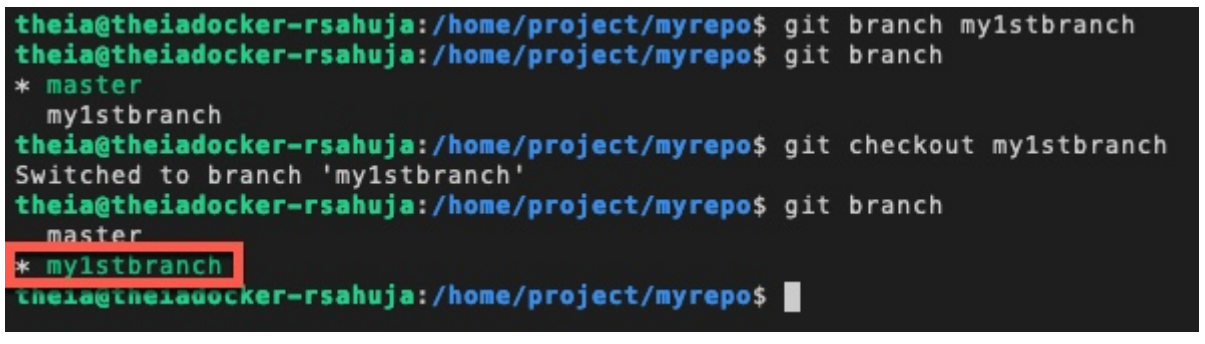
1. Since we now want to work in the new branch issue the following `git checkout` command to make it the active branch to make your changes in:

```
git checkout my1stbranch
```

2. Let's verify that the new branch is now the active branch by issuing the following `git branch` command:

```
git branch
```

3. Note that the asterix `*` is now next to the `my1stbranch` indicating that it is now active:




> As a shortcut to creating and branch using `git branch` and then making it active using `git checkout` you can use the shortcut like follows with the `-b` option that creates the branch and makes it active in one step:

```
git checkout -b my1stbranch
```

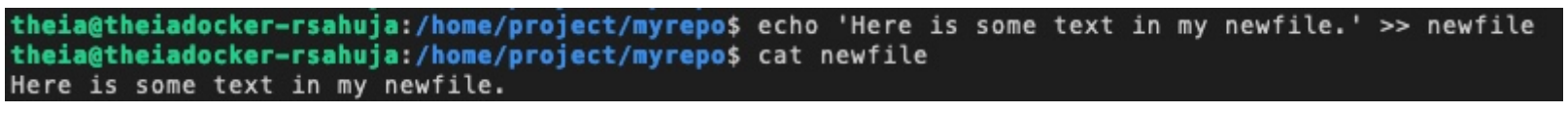
# Exercise 7: Make changes in your branch and check the status of files added/changed

1. Lets make some changes in your new branch called `my1stbranch`. Start by adding some text to `newfile` by pasting the following command into the terminal that will append the string "Here is some text in my newfile." into the file:

```
echo 'Here is some text in my newfile.' >> newfile
```

2. Verify the text has been added by pasting the following `cat` command:

```
cat newfile
```




3. Now let's create another file called `readme.md` using the following command:

```
touch readme.md
```

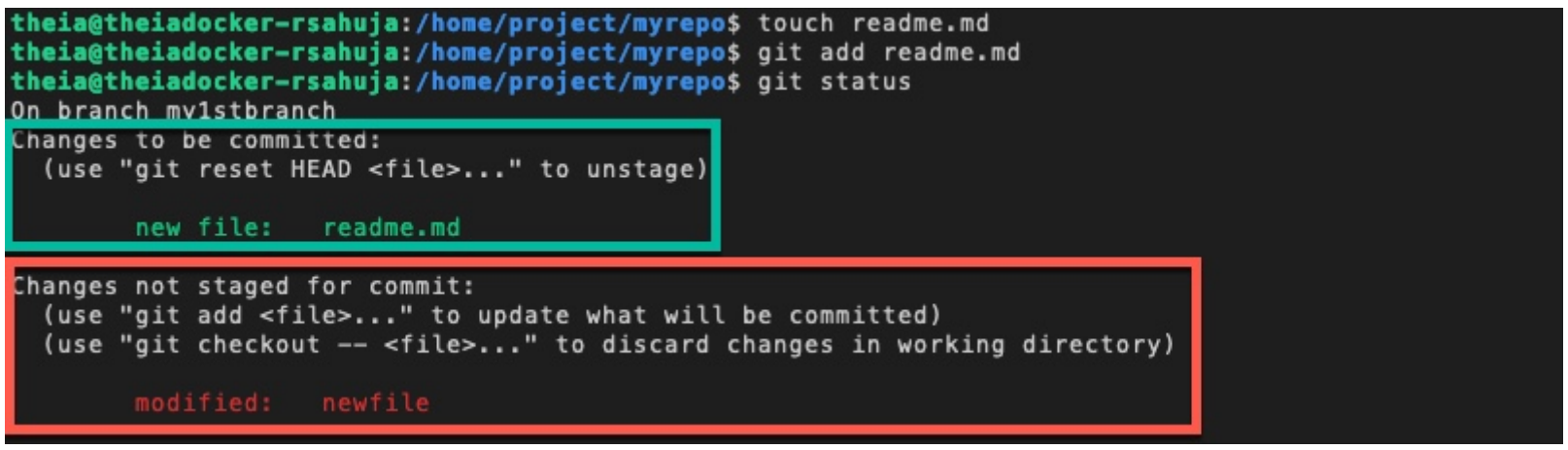
4. And now add it to the repo with the following `git add` command:

```
git add readme.md
```

5. So far in our new branch we have edited the `newfile` and added a file called `readme.md`. We can easily verify the changes in our current branch using the `git status` command:

```
git status
```

6. The output of the `git status` command shows that the files `readme.md` has been added to the branch and is ready to be committed, since we we added it to the branch using `git add` . However, even though we modified the file called `newfile` we did not explicitly add it using `git add` and hence it is not ready to be committed:



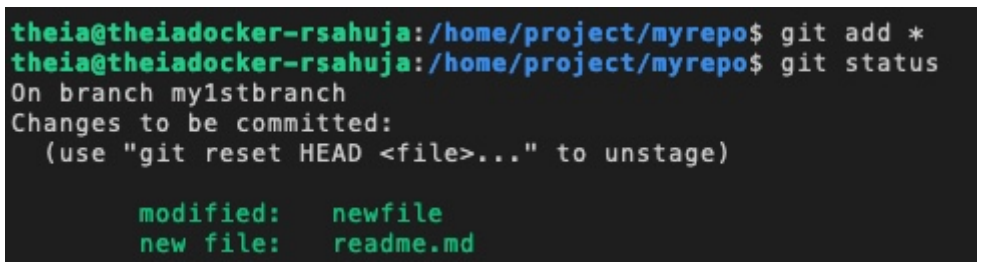

7. A shortcut to adding all modifications and additions is to use the following `git add` command with an asterix `*` ... this will also add the modified file `newfile` to the branch and make it ready to be committed:

```
git add *
```

8. Let's check the status again:

```
git status
```

9. The output now shows both the files can now be comitted:




# Exercise 8: Commit and review commit history

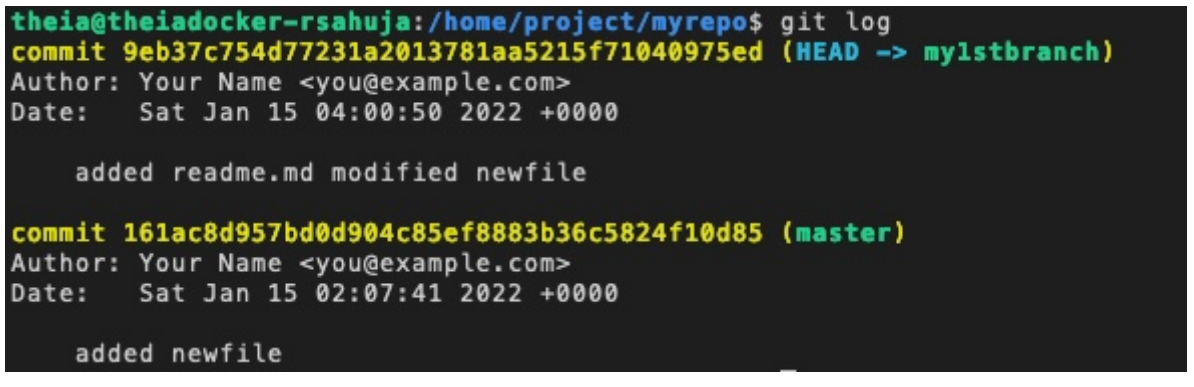
1. Now that our changes are ready, we can save them to the branch using the following commit commmand with a message indicating the changes:

```
git commit -m "added readme.md modified newfile"
```

2. We can issue the follwoing `git log` command to get a history of recent commits:

```
git log
```

3. The log shows 2 recent commits - the last commit to `my1stbranch` as well as the previous commit to `master`:




# Exercise 9: Revert committed changes

1. Sometimes you may not fully test your changes before comitting them and may have undesirable consequences ... you can back out your changes by using a `git revert` command like the following. You can either specify the id of your commit that you can see from the previous log output or use the shortcut `HEAD` to rollback the last commit:

```
git revert HEAD --no-edit
```

> NOTE: If you don't specify the `--no-edit` flag you may be presented with an editor screen showing the message with changes to be reverted. In that case, press the `Control` (or Ctrl) key simultaneously with `X`.

2. The output shows the most recent commit with the specified id has been reverted:

```
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$ git revert HEAD --no-edit
[my1stbranch f4f5600] Revert "modified newfile added readme.md"
 Date: Sat Jan 15 04:39:38 2022 +0000
 2 files changed, 1 deletion(-)
 delete mode 100644 readme.md
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$
```

# Exercise 10: merge changes into another branch

1. Lets make one more change in your currently active `my1stbranch` using the following commands:

```
touch goodfile
git add goodfile
git commit -m "added goodfile"
git log
```

2. The output of the log shows the the newly added `goodfile` has been comitted to the `my1stbranch` branch:

```
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$ git status
On branch my1stbranch
nothing to commit, working tree clean
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$ touch goodfile
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$ git add goodfile
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$ git commit -m "added goodfile"
[my1stbranch d8680b4] added goodfile
 1 file changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
 create mode 100644 goodfile
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$ git log
commit d8680b4cf63ff3e97b2970704806c14dc6134dd1 (HEAD -> my1stbranch)
Author: Your Name <you@example.com>
Date:   Sat Jan 15 04:53:27 2022 +0000

    added goodfile
```

3. Now let's merge the contents of the `my1stbranch` into the `master` branch. We will first need to make the `master` branch active using the following `git checkout` command:

```
git checkout master
```

4. Now lets merge the changes from `my1stbranch` into master

```
git merge my1stbranch
git log
```

5. Output and log shows the successful merging of the branch:

```
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$ git checkout master
Switched to branch 'master'
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$ git merge my1stbranch
Updating 8954f54..d8680b4
Fast-forward
 goodfile | 0
 1 file changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
 create mode 100644 goodfile
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$ git log
commit d8680b4cf63ff3e97b2970704806c14dc6134dd1 (HEAD -> master, my1stbranch)
Author: Your Name <you@example.com>
Date:   Sat Jan 15 04:53:27 2022 +0000

    added goodfile
```

6. Now that changes have been merged into `master` branch, the `my1stbranch` can be deleted using the following `git branch` command with the `-d` option:

```
git branch -d my1stbranch
```

```
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$ git branch -d my1stbranch
Deleted branch my1stbranch (was d8680b4).
theia@theiadocker-rsahuja:/home/project/myrepo$
```

# Exercise 11: Practice on your own

1. Create a new directory and branch called `newbranch`
2. Make `newbranch` the active branch
3. Create an empty file called `newbranchfile`
4. Add the newly created file to your branch
5. Commit the changes in your `newbranch`
6. Revert the last committed changes
7. Create a new file called `newgoodfile`
8. Add the latest file to `newbranch`
9. Commit the changes
10. Merge the changes in `newbranch` into `master`

# Summary

In this lab, you have learned how to create and work with branches using git commands in a local repository. In a subsequent lab you will learn how to synchronize changes in your local repository with remote GitHub repositories.

# Author(s)


## Rav Ahuja


## Other Contributor(s)

## Richard Ye

# Changelog

| Date | Version | Changed by | Change Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2022-01-14 | 1.0 | Rav Ahuja | Initial version created |
| 2022-01-27 | 1.1 | Richard Ye | Added git config instructions |