

Git uses a distributed model. This means that every computer that has cloned the repository has the full repository history and full version tracking independent of the original source repository. Changes can be pushed to any computer that has cloned the repository. In comparison SVN uses a centralised model. All changes are pushed to the master server.

Git is completely free to use. If you do not wish to maintain your own master repository then sites such as Github will do it for you for free, with fees for extra features beyond basic hosting such as private repositories. In comparison Code Co-op is a version control system that requires a \$150 payment per user.<sup>1</sup>

Git offers command line and GUI tools. In addition there are several third party options for GUI tools.<sup>2</sup> For Apache's Subversion there are no official GUI tools, but there are third party ones.<sup>3</sup>

Git allows changes to a file to be merged, meaning that files do not have to be locked when multiple users are editing a single file. In comparison another version control system called GNU Bazaar only supports file locking. With file locking only a single user can edit a file at a time<sup>4</sup>.

Git uses the GPL license, so you are free to make changes, fix bugs, and improve it in other ways. In comparison Microsoft's Visual Studio Team Services version control system uses a proprietary license, so you are reliant on Microsoft for new features, bug fixes and so on.

Git is available for all POSIX compliant operating systems (so Linux, Mac, etc) and Windows. Because it is open source support can be added for any other operating systems. Microsoft's Visual Studio Team Services is only available for Windows, and users cannot add support for their preferred operating system.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://relisoft.com/co\\_op/](http://relisoft.com/co_op/)

<sup>2</sup> <https://git-scm.com/download/gui/windows>

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_Subversion\\_clients](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_Subversion_clients)

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_version\\_control\\_software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_version_control_software)