

git-flow cheatsheet

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efficient branching using git-flow by [Vincent Driessen](#)

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About

git-flow are a set of git extensions to provide high-level repository operations for Vincent Driessen's branching model.

[more](#)

★ ★ ★

This cheatsheet shows the basic usage and effect of git-flow operations

★ ★ ★

Basic tips

- ★ **Git flow provides excellent command line help and output.
Read it carefully to see what's happening...**
- ★ **The macOS/Windows Client *Sourcetree* is an excellent git gui
and provides git-flow support**
- ★ **Git-flow is a merge based solution. It doesn't rebase feature
branches.**

★ ★ ★

Setup

- ★ **You need a working git installation as prerequisite.**
- ★ **Git flow works on macOS, Linux and Windows**



macOS

Homebrew

```
$ brew install git-flow-avh
```

Macports

```
$ port install git-flow-avh
```

Linux

```
$ apt-get install git-flow
```

Windows (Cygwin)

```
$ wget -q -O - --no-check-certificate  
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/pe  
tervanderdoes/gitflow-avh/develop/contrib/gitfl  
ow-installer.sh install  
stable | bash
```

**You need wget and util-linux
to install git-flow.**

For detailed git flow
installation instructions please
visit the ***git flow wiki***.



Getting started

Git flow needs to be initialized in order to customize your project setup.

★ ★ ★

Initialize

**Start using git-flow by
initializing it inside an existing
git repository:**

```
git flow init
```

**You'll have to answer a few
questions regarding the
naming conventions for your
branches.**

**It's recommended to use the
default values.**

Features

★ Develop new features for upcoming releases

★ Typically exist in developers repos only

★ ★ ★

Start a new feature

Development of new features
starting from the 'develop'
branch.

Start developing a new feature
with

```
git flow feature start  
MYFEATURE
```

This action creates a new
feature branch based on
'develop' and switches to it



Finish up a feature

Finish the development of a feature. This action performs the following

- ★ **Merges MYFEATURE into 'develop'**
- ★ **Removes the feature branch**
- ★ **Switches back to 'develop' branch**

```
git flow feature finish  
MYFEATURE
```

Publish a feature

Are you developing a feature in collaboration?

Publish a feature to the remote server so it can be used by other users.

```
git flow feature publish  
MYFEATURE
```



Getting a published feature

Get a feature published by another user.

```
git flow feature pull  
origin MYFEATURE
```

You can track a feature on origin by using

```
git flow feature track  
MYFEATURE
```



Make a release

- ★ Support preparation of a new production release
- ★ Allow for minor bug fixes and preparing meta-data for a release

★ ★ ★

Start a release

To start a release, use the git flow release command. It creates a release branch created from the 'develop' branch.

```
git flow release start  
RELEASE [BASE]
```

You can optionally supply a [BASE] commit sha-1 hash to start the release from. The commit must be on the 'develop' branch.

★ ★ ★

It's wise to publish the release branch after creating it to allow release commits by other developers. Do it similar to feature publishing with the command:

```
git flow release publish  
RELEASE
```

(You can track a remote release with the

```
git flow release track RELEASE  
command)
```



Finish up a release

Finishing a release is one of the big steps in git branching. It performs several actions:

- ★ Merges the release branch back into 'master'
- ★ Tags the release with its name
- ★ Back-merges the release into 'develop'
- ★ Removes the release branch

```
git flow release finish  
RELEASE
```

Don't forget to push your tags
with `git push origin --tags`

Hotfixes

- ★ Hotfixes arise from the necessity to act immediately upon an undesired state of a live production version
- ★ May be branched off from the corresponding tag on the master branch that marks the production version.

★ ★ ★

git flow hotfix start

Like the other git flow commands, a hotfix is started with

```
git flow hotfix start  
VERSION [BASENAME]
```

The version argument hereby marks the new hotfix release name. Optionally you can specify a basename to start from.



Finish a hotfix

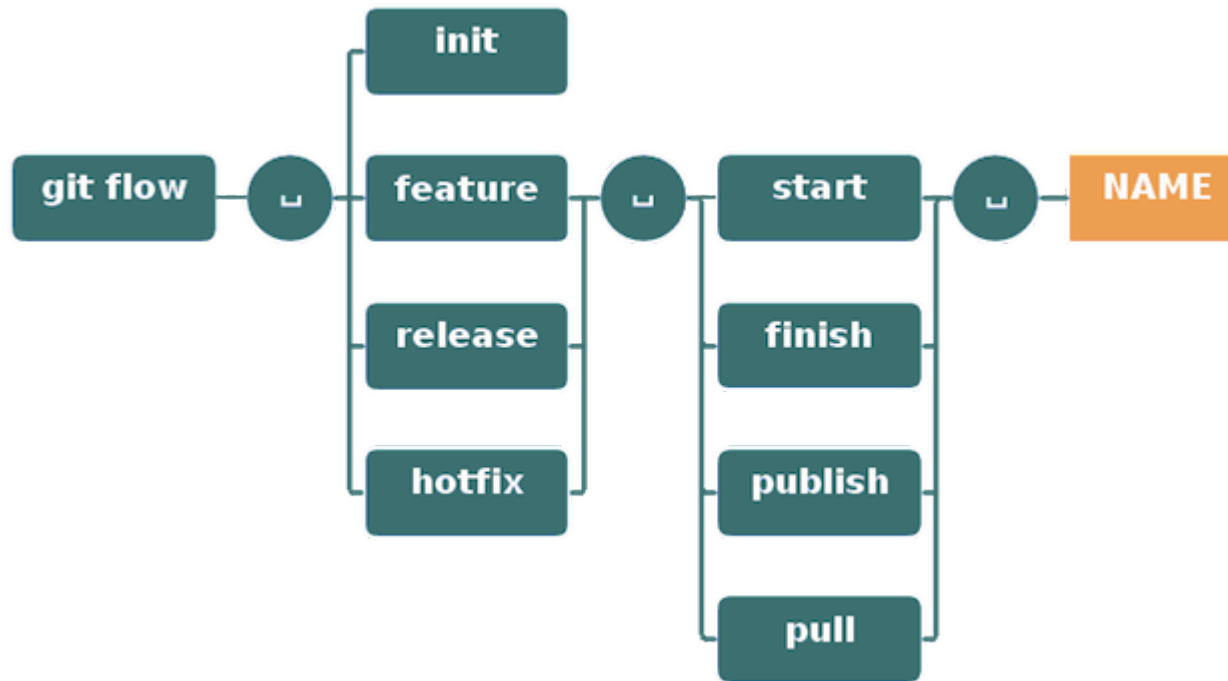
By finishing a hotfix it gets merged back into develop and master. Additionally the

**master merge is tagged with
the hotfix version.**

```
git flow hotfix finish  
VERSION
```



Commands



Backlog

★ ★ ★

- ★ Not all available commands are covered here, only the most important ones
- ★ You can still use git and all its commands normally as you know them, git flow is only a tooling collection
- ★ The 'support' feature is still beta, using it is not advised
- ★ If you'd like to supply translations I'd be happy to integrate them