Top Ten Git Tips & Tricks

Let's face facts. Git is not fun. Git is not pretty. Git is not intuitive. It's not infuriatingly useful so we're stuck with it. But what if you could make git more friendly? More convenient? Would that make your day a little less stressful? In this article, Julie Kent shows us how we can do this with just a few simple tweaks.

By Julie Kent May 5, 2021

This article complements 'Understanding How Git Works'. Now that you have an understanding of the plumbing, it's time to level up your skills. Hopefully, these tips and tricks will increase your efficiency and productivity as a developer. It will help you spend more time coding and less time trying to decide whether to `git merge` or `git rebase`. Without further ado, let's get into it!

10. Blank commits

Have you ever found yourself making a small tweak to the README so that you can kick-off a build (or some other integration) and try to debug an issue? I used to do this fairly frequently, until I found out about the command:

```
git commit --allow-empty -m 'it works!'
```

This allows you to trigger a commit and kick off a workflow without having to make a change to a README or some other file.

9. Make your log pretty!

This one is a little more, and sometimes, adding a bit of color does help our eyes and brain read what's on the screen better.

```
git log --pretty=oneline --graph --decorate --all
```

Here's an example of what you can expect:

```
* 7b9a7d7 (origin/master, origin/HEAD) Merge pull request #1 in dev/ui-update-project-dashboard
|\
| * 2a0e0ed (origin/ui-update-project-dashboard) Fix an issue in the date picker
| * 0ed0ed1 Fix a bug in the date picker
| * 0ed0ed1 Add a date picker component
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```