



# Add files to your branch

Use Git to add files to a branch in your local repository. This action creates a snapshot of the file for your next commit and starts version control monitoring. When you add files with Git, you:

- Prepare content for version control tracking.
- Create a record of file additions and modifications.
- Preserve file history for future reference.
- Make project files available for team collaboration.

## Add files to a Git repository

To add a new file from the command line:

1. Open a terminal.
2. Change directories until you are in your project’s folder.

Shell 

```
cd my-project
```

3. Choose a Git branch to work in.
  - To create a branch: `git checkout -b <branchname>`
  - To switch to an existing branch: `git checkout <branchname>`
4. Copy the file you want to add into the directory where you want to add it.
5. Confirm that your file is in the directory:
  - Windows: `dir`
  - All other operating systems: `ls`

The filename should be displayed.


6. Check the status of the file:

Shell 

```
git status
```

The filename should be in red. The file is in your file system, but Git isn’t tracking it yet.

7. Tell Git to track the file:

Shell 

```
git add <filename>
```


8. Check the status of the file again:

Shell 

```
git status
```

The filename should be green. The file is staged (tracked locally) by Git, but has not been [committed and pushed](#).

To add changes to a file to the last commit, instead of to a new commit, amend the existing commit:

Shell 

```
git add <filename>
git commit --amend
```

If you do not want to edit the commit message, append `--no-edit` to the `commit` command.

## Related topics

- [Add file from the UI](#)
- [Add file from the Web IDE](#)
- [Sign commits](#)

### Help & feedback