Git is a distributed version control system that is used to monitor source code changes made while developing software. One of the most used version control systems in the world, it was developed by Linus Torvalds in 2005.

1. **Version Control:** Git allows developers to keep track of changes made to their codebase over time. It records every change made to files, including additions, deletions, and modifications.
2. **Distributed**: Git is a distributed version control system, meaning that every developer working on a project has their own local copy of the entire repository, including its complete history. This allows developers to work offline and collaborate with others without requiring a centralised server.
3. **Branching and Merging:** Git makes it easy to create branches, which are separate lines of development that can be used for implementing new features or experimenting with changes. Branches can be merged back into the main codebase when the changes are complete.
4. **Collaboration:** Git enables multiple developers to work on the same project simultaneously. Changes made by different developers can be merged together, and conflicts can be resolved using Git's built-in tools.
5. **History and Tracking:** Git maintains a complete history of all changes made to the codebase, along with metadata such as who made the changes and when they were made. This makes it easy to track down bugs, revert to previous versions, or analyse the evolution of the codebase over time.
6. **Open Source:** Git is open source software, which means that its source code is freely available for anyone to view, modify, and distribute. This has led to a vibrant ecosystem of tools and services built around Git, including hosting platforms like GitHub, GitLab, and Bitbucket.

Overall, Git provides developers with a powerful and flexible tool for managing and collaborating on software projects of all sizes. Its distributed nature, branching model, and extensive features make it an essential tool for modern software development workflows.