

The Missing Semester: Git for Version Control



Sri Venkateswara
College of Engineering



About Git

- Created by Linus Torvalds, Creator of Linux, in 2005
 - Came out of Linux development community
 - Designed to do version control on Linux kernel



- **Goals of Git**

- Speed
- Support for non-linear development (thousands of parallel branches)
- Fully distributed
- Able to handle large projects efficiently
- *(A "git" is a cranky old man. Linus meant himself.)*

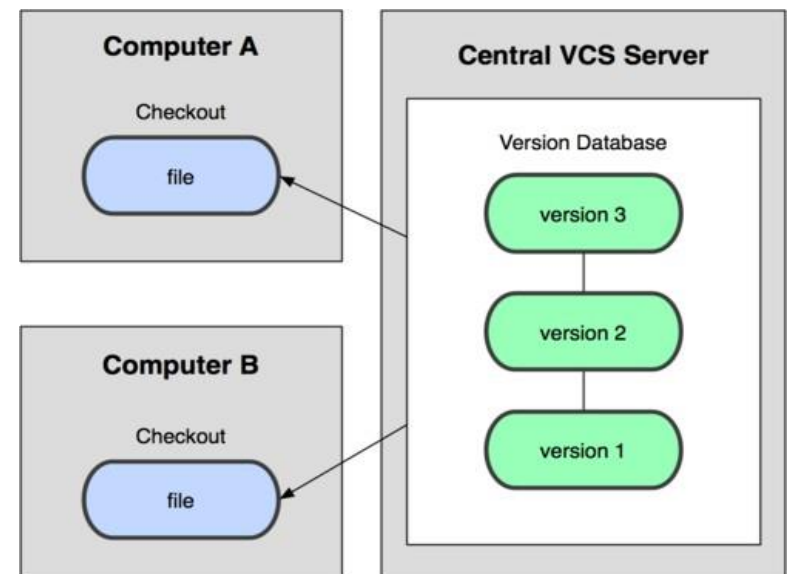


Installing/learning Git

- Git website: <http://git-scm.com/>
 - Free on-line book: <http://git-scm.com/book>
 - Reference page for Git: <http://gitref.org/index.html>
 - Git tutorial: <http://schacon.github.com/git/gittutorial.html>
 - Git for Computer Scientists:
 - <http://eagain.net/articles/git-for-computer-scientists/>
- At command line: (*where verb = config, add, commit, etc.*)
 - `git help verb`

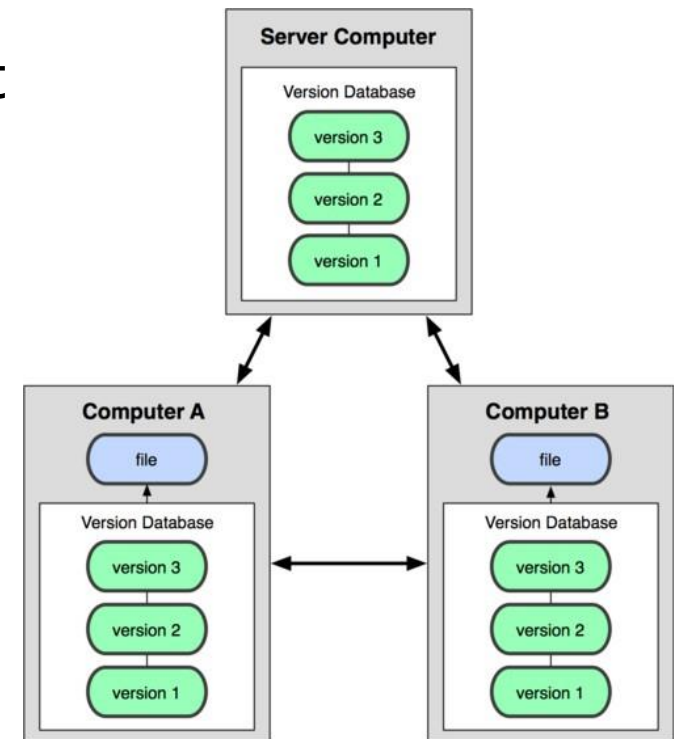
Centralized VCS

- In Subversion, CVS, Perforce, etc.
A central server repository (repo) holds the "official copy" of the code
 - the server maintains the sole version history of the repo
- You make "checkouts" of it to your local copy
 - you make local modifications
 - your changes are not versioned
- When you're done, you "check in" back to the server
 - your checkin increments the repo's version



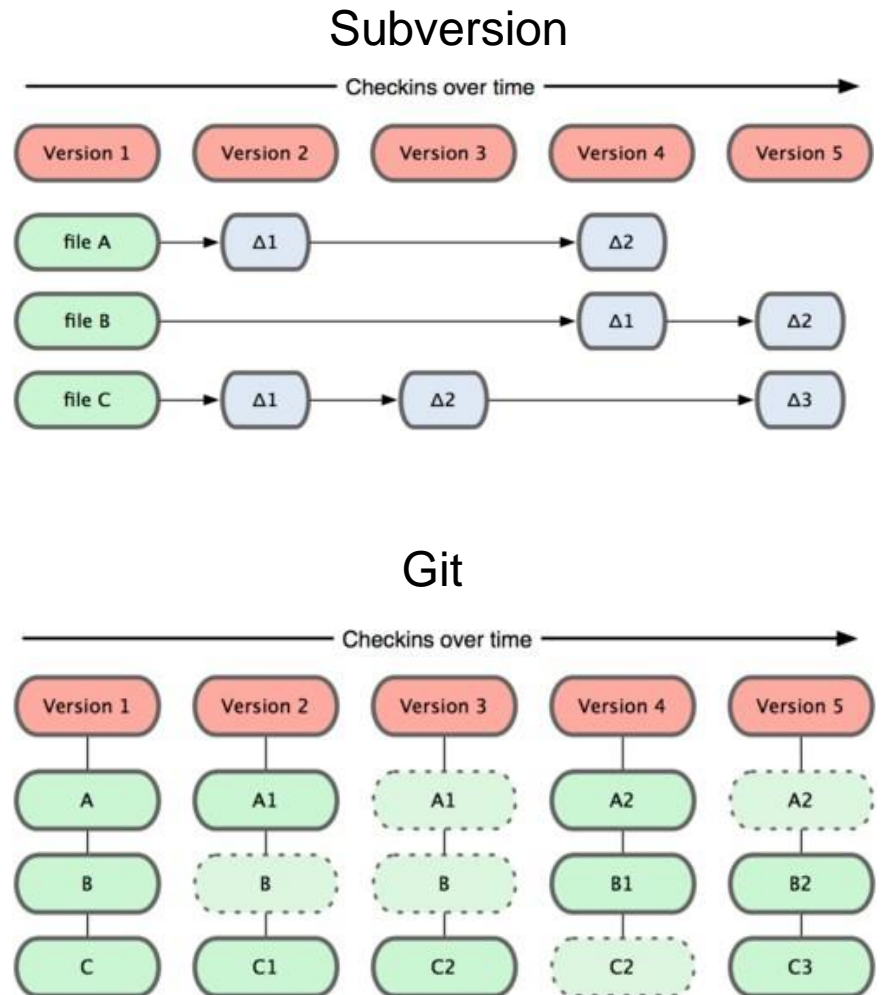
Distributed VCS (Git)

- In git, mercurial, etc., you don't "checkout" from a central repo
 - you "clone" it and "pull" changes from it
- Your local repo is a complete copy of everything on the remote server
 - yours is "just as good" as theirs
- Many operations are local:
 - check in/out from *local* repo
 - commit changes to *local* repo
 - local repo keeps version history
- When you're ready, you can "push" changes back to server



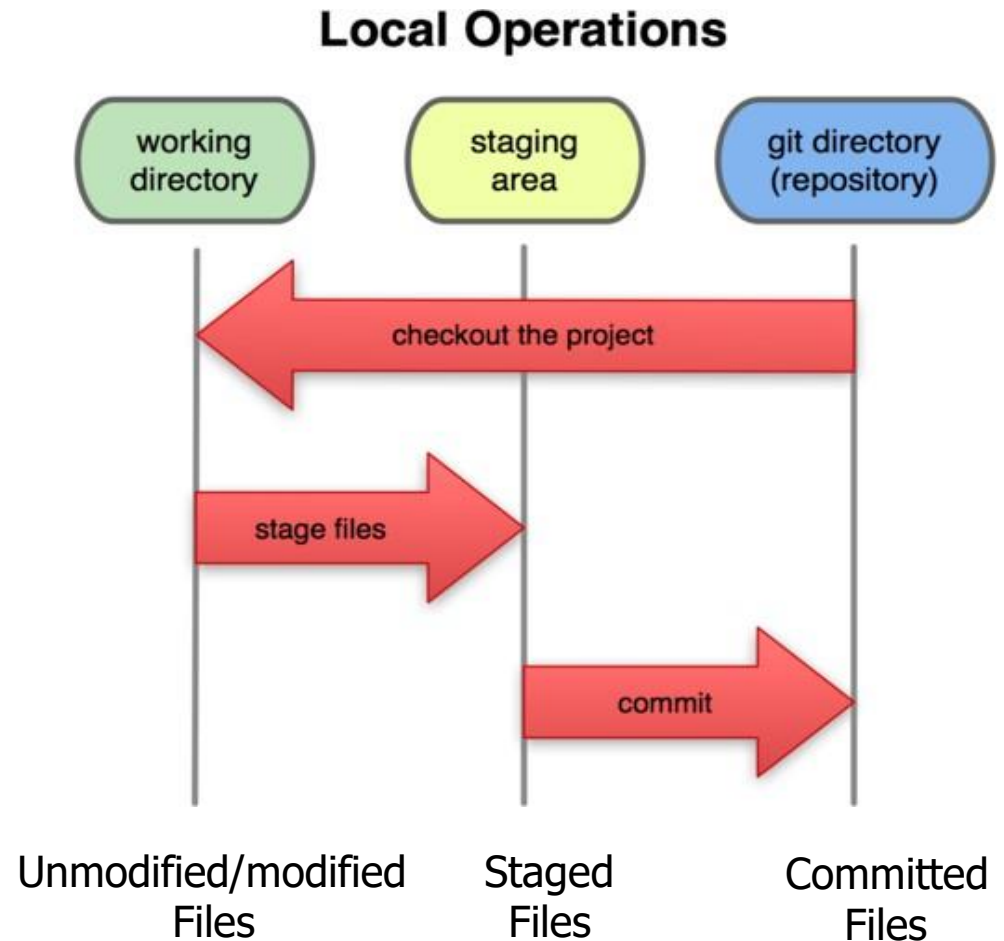
Git snapshots

- Centralized VCS like Subversion track version data on each individual file.
- Git keeps "snapshots" of the entire state of the project.
 - Each checkin version of the overall code has a copy of each file in it.
 - Some files change on a given checkin, some do not.
 - More redundancy, but faster.



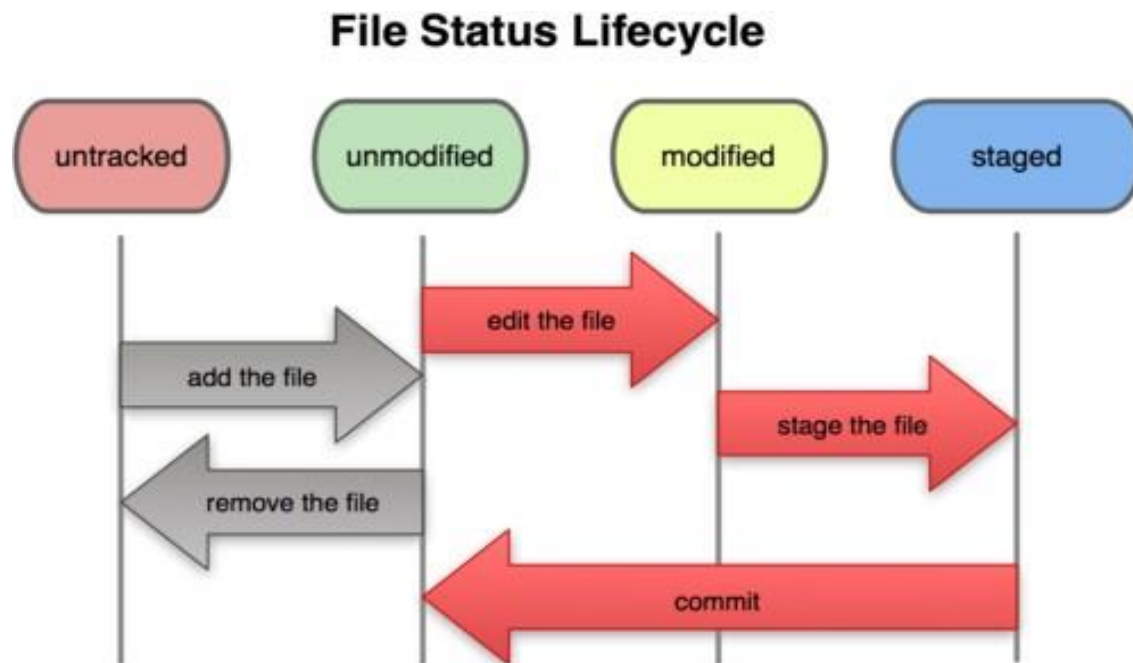
Local git areas

- In your local copy on git, files can be:
 - In your local repo
 - (committed)
 - Checked out and modified, but not yet committed
 - (working copy)
 - Or, in-between, in a **"staging" area**
 - Staged files are ready to be committed.
 - A commit saves a snapshot of all staged state.



Basic Git workflow

- **Modify** files in your working directory.
- **Stage** files, adding snapshots of them to your staging area.
- **Commit**, which takes the files in the staging area and stores that snapshot permanently to your Git directory.



Git commit checksums

- In Subversion each modification to the central repo increments the version # of the overall repo.
 - In Git, each user has their own copy of the repo, and commits changes to their local copy of the repo before pushing to the central server.
 - So Git generates a unique **SHA-1 hash** (40 character string of hex digits) for every commit.
 - Refers to commits by this ID rather than a version number.
 - Often we only see the first 7 characters:
 - 1677b2d Edited first line of readme
 - 258efa7 Added line to readme
 - 0e52da7 Initial commit

Initial Git configuration

- Set the name and email for Git to use when you commit:
 - `git config --global user.name "Bugs Bunny"`
 - `git config --global user.email bugs@gmail.com`
 - You can call `git config -list` to verify these are set.
- Set the editor that is used for writing commit messages:
 - `git config --global core.editor nano`
 - (it is vim by default)

Creating a Git repo

Two common scenarios: (only do one of these)

- To create a new **local Git repo** in your current directory:

- `git init`

- This will create a `.git` directory in your current directory.

- Then you can commit files in that directory into the repo.

- `git add filename`

- `git commit -m "commit message"`

- To **clone a remote repo** to your current directory:

- `git clone url localDirectoryName`

- This will create the given local directory, containing a working copy of the files from the repo, and a `.git` directory (used to hold the staging area and your actual local repo)

Git commands

Command	Description
<code>git clone url [dir]</code>	copy a Git repository so you can add to it
<code>git add file</code>	adds file contents to the staging area
<code>git commit</code>	records a snapshot of the staging area
<code>git status</code>	view the status of your files in the working directory and staging area
<code>git diff</code>	shows diff of what is staged and what is modified but unstaged
<code>git help [command]</code>	get help info about a particular command
<code>git pull</code>	fetch from a remote repo and try to merge into the current branch
<code>git push</code>	push your new branches and data to a remote repository
Others: init, reset, branch, checkout, merge, log, tag	

Add and commit a file

- The first time we ask a file to be tracked, *and every time before we commit a file*, we must add it to the staging area:
 - `git add Hello.java Goodbye.java`
 - Takes a snapshot of these files, adds them to the staging area.
 - In older VCS, "add" means "start tracking this file." In Git, "add" means "add to staging area" so it will be part of the next commit.
- To move staged changes into the repo, we commit:
 - `git commit -m "Fixing bug #22"`
- To undo changes on a file before you have committed it:
 - `git reset HEAD -- filename` (unstages the file)
 - `git checkout -- filename` (undoes your changes)
 - All these commands are acting on your local version of repo.

Viewing/undoing changes

- To view status of files in working directory and staging area:
 - `git status` or `git status -s` (short version)
- To see what is modified but unstaged:
 - `git diff`
- To see a list of staged changes:
 - `git diff --cached`
- To see a log of all changes in your local repo:
 - `git log` or `git log --oneline` (shorter version)
 - 1677b2d Edited first line of readme
 - 258efa7 Added line to readme
 - 0e52da7 Initial commit
 - `git log -5` (to show only the 5 most recent updates), etc.

An example workflow

```
[rea@attu1 superstar]$ emacs rea.txt
[rea@attu1 superstar]$ git status
    no changes added to commit
    (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
[rea@attu1 superstar]$ git status -s
    M rea.txt
[rea@attu1 superstar]$ git diff
    diff --git a/rea.txt b/rea.txt
[rea@attu1 superstar]$ git add rea.txt
[rea@attu1 superstar]$ git status
    #          modified:   rea.txt
[rea@attu1 superstar]$ git diff --cached
    diff --git a/rea.txt b/rea.txt
[rea@attu1 superstar]$ git commit -m "Created new text file"
```

Branching and merging

Git uses branching heavily to switch between multiple tasks.

- To create a new local branch:
 - `git branch name`
- To list all local branches: (* = current branch)
 - `git branch`
- To switch to a given local branch:
 - `git checkout branchname`
- To merge changes from a branch into the local master:
 - `git checkout master`
 - `git merge branchname`

Merge conflicts

- The conflicting file will contain <<< and >>> sections to indicate where Git was unable to resolve a conflict:

```
<<<<<< HEAD:index.html
<div id="footer">todo: message here</div>
=====
<div id="footer">
  thanks for visiting our site
</div>
>>>>>> SpecialBranch:index.html
```

} branch 1's version

} branch 2's version

- Find all such sections, and edit them to the proper state (whichever of the two versions is newer / better / more correct).

Interaction w/ remote repo

- **Push** your local changes to the remote repo.
- **Pull** from remote repo to get most recent changes.
 - (fix conflicts if necessary, add/commit them to your local repo)
- To fetch the most recent updates from the remote repo into your local repo, and put them into your working directory:
 - `git pull origin master`
- To put your changes from your local repo in the remote repo:
 - `git push origin master`

Aren't Git and GitHub the same?

- [GitHub.com](https://github.com) is a site for online storage of Git repositories.
 - You can create a **remote repo** there and push code to it.
 - Many open source projects use it, such as the Linux kernel.
 - You can get free space for open source projects, or you can pay for private projects.
 - Free private repos for educational use: github.com/edu
- Question: **Do I always have to use GitHub to use Git?**
 - Answer: No! You can use Git locally for your own purposes.
 - Or you or someone else could set up a server to share files.
 - Or you could share a repo with users on the same file system, as long everyone has the needed file permissions).