Viewing Changes

We know that <code>git log</code> will show us the commits in a repository, and if we add the <code>--stat</code> flag, we can see what files were modified and how many lines of code were added or removed. Wouldn't it be awesome if we could see exactly what those changes were?

If this isn't the best part of a version control system, I don't know what is! Being able to see the exact changes that were made to a file is incredibly important! Being able to say, "oh, ok, so this commit adds 5 pixels of border-radius to the button!".

For example, in the blog project, the commit a3dc99a has the message "center content on page" and modifies the CSS file by adding 5 lines. What are those five lines that were added? How can we figure out what those 5 lines are?

The Terminal application. The command <code>gitlog--stat</code> is run. It displays commits and zooms in on the first commit's stats showing the CSS file with 5 lines added.

git log -p

The <code>git log</code> command has a flag that can be used to display the actual changes made to a file. The flag is <code>--patch</code> which can be shortened to just <code>-p</code>:

```
$ git log -p
```

Run this command and check out what it displays.

```
course-git-blog-project - git log -p - git - less - 66×26
commit a3dc99a197c66ccb87e3f4905502a6c6eddd15b1
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date: Mon Dec 5 16:34:15 2016 -0500
    Center content on page
diff --git a/css/app.css b/css/app.css
index 07c36fa..3cbd0b8 100644
 --- a/css/app.css
+++ b/css/app.css
@@ -38,6 +38,11 @@ p {
     line-height: 1.5;
}
+.container {
     margin: auto;
     max-width: 1300px;
+}
 /*** Header Styling ***/
 .page-header {
commit 6f04ddd1fb41934c52e290bc937e45f9cd5949aa
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
: 1
```

The Terminal application showing the output of the git log -p command. Note - the colors in your terminal might differ.

```
commit 7891da00683480110749e571e9b9edb7bda13c1e
```

```
Date: Mon Dec 5 16:34:15 2016 -0500

center content on page

diff --git a/css/app.css b/css/app.css
index 07c36fa..3cbd0b8 100644
---- a/css/app.css
+++ b/css/app.css
@@ -38,6 +38,11 @@ p {
    line-height: 1.5;
}

+.container {
    margin: auto;
    + max-width: 1300px;
+}

+
```

```
. .
                             richardkalehoff - bash - bash - less - 71×19
diff --git a/index.html b/index.html
index 0381211..43f5b28 100644
--- a/index.html ==
+++ b/index.html
@@ -15,83 +15,85 @@
         3 +15,85 @@ 🔍
<h1>Expedition</h1> 🔌
     </header>
          <h2 class="visuallyhidden">Articles</h2>
      <div class="container">
          <main>
               <h2 class="visuallyhidden">Articles</h2>
          <article>
               <header>
                   <h3>Chasing the Snow</h3>
:
```

The Terminal application showing the output of the <code>gitlog-p</code> command. Check below for a detailed description of the output.

Annotated git log -p Output

Using the image above, let's do a quick recap of the git log -p output:

- O the file that is being displayed
- \blacklozenge the hash of the first version of the file and the hash of the second version of the file
 - not usually important, so it's safe to ignore
- 🛡 the old version and current version of the file
- \mathbf{Q} the lines where the file is added and how many lines there are
 - [-15,83] indicates that the old version (represented by the [-) started at line 15 and that the file had 83 lines
 - [+15,85] indicates that the current version (represented by the +) starts at line 15 and that there are now 85 lines...these 85 lines are shown in the patch below
- ullet the actual changes made in the commit
 - lines that are red and start with a minus () were in the original version of the file but have been removed by the commit
 - lines that are green and start with a plus (+) are new lines that have been added in the commit

Further Research

• Generating patches with -p from the Git docs



line 155 SUBMIT QUESTION 2 OF 4 Using git log and any of its flags, what code was added in by commit 4a60beb? color: #352d2d; color: #250808; color: #333333; SUBMIT QUESTION 3 OF 4 $\boxed{ \texttt{git log --stat} } \ \, \texttt{and} \ \, \boxed{ \texttt{git log -p} } \ \, \texttt{are both really helpful commands.} \ \, \texttt{Wouldn't it be}$ great if we could have both of their output at the same time? Hmmm... What happens when <code>git log -p --stat</code> is run? it displays only the patch information it displays only the stats it displays both with the patch info above the stats info it displays both with the stats info above the patch info SUBMIT In the video above, we looked at a commit that indents a lot of code. The patch output shows all of those lines as having been removed and then added again at their new level of indentation. Showing all of the indent changes makes it hard to tell what was actually added, though. QUESTION 4 OF 4 What does the —w flag do to the patch information? For help, check this Git docs page. it displays non-whitespace characters in blinking text

QUESTION 4 OF 4
What does the —w flag do to the patch information? For help, check this Git docs page.

it displays non-whitespace characters in blinking text

it displays non-whitespace changes in bold

it ignores whitespace changes

it shows a separate patch area with just new/removed content

SUBMIT

git log -p Recap

To recap, the $\begin{bmatrix} -p \end{bmatrix}$ flag (which is the same as the $\begin{bmatrix} --patch \end{bmatrix}$ flag) is used to alter how $\begin{bmatrix} git & log \end{bmatrix}$ displays information:

\$ git log -p

This command adds the following to the default output:

- displays the files that have been modified
- dienlare the location of the lines that have been added/removed

- displays the location of the lines that have been added/removed
- displays the actual changes that have been made

NEXT