

You made it all this way - congrats on getting this far! Seriously! Learning Git is a challenging undertaking. I applaud you on your perseverance.

Take a look at this output from running `git log`:

```
commit 7891da00683480110749e571e9b9edb7bda13c1e
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date:   Mon Dec 5 16:34:15 2016 -0500

    center content on page

commit 2a9e9f319351305a700d7385ddb5050bbe1ad73f
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date:   Mon Dec 5 16:30:40 2016 -0500

    add breakpoint for large-sized screens

commit 137a0bd0c6e17f68a399986774ec8ce71fc13826
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date:   Mon Dec 5 10:39:19 2016 -0500

    add breakpoint for medium-sized screens

commit c5ee895b15fe10583e084d2d87a9f2763feb4626
:
```

The Terminal application showing the output from running `git log`.

We've been looking closely at all the detailed information that `git log` displays. But now, take a step back and look at all of the information as a whole.

Let's think about some of these questions:

- **the SHA** - `git log` will display the complete SHA for every single commit. Each SHA is unique, so we don't really need to see the *entire* SHA. We could get by perfectly fine with knowing just the first 6-8 characters. Wouldn't it be great if we could save some space and show just the first 5 or so characters of the SHA?
- **the author** - the `git log` output displays the commit author for *every single commit*! It could be different for other repositories that have multiple people collaborating together, but for this one, there's only one person making all of the commits, so the commit author will be identical for all of them. Do we need to see the author for each one? What if we wanted to hide that information?
- **the date** - By default, `git log` will display the date for each commit. But do we really care about the commit's date? Knowing the date might be important occasionally, but typically knowing the date isn't vitally important and can be ignored in a lot of cases. Is there a way we could hide that to save space?
- **the commit message** - this is one of the most important parts of a commit message...we usually always want to see this

What could we do here to not waste a lot of space and make the output smaller? We can use a **flag**.

TIP: This isn't a course on the command line, but a flag is used to alter how a program functions. For example, the `ls` command will list all of the files in the current directory. The `ls` command has a `-l` flag (i.e. `ls -l`) that runs the same `ls` command but alters how it works; it now displays the information in the long format (the `-l` for long).

Flags can be used to alter how a program functions and/or what is displayed. To learn more about command line programs and flags, check out our course [Linux Command Line Basics](#).

git log --oneline

The `git log` command has a flag that can be used to alter how it displays the repository's information. That flag is `--oneline`:

```
$ git log --oneline
```

Check out how different the output is!

```
commit 7891da00683480110749e571e9b9edb7bda13c1e
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date:   Mon Dec 5 16:34:15 2016 -0500

    center content on page

commit 2a9e9f319351305a700d7385ddb5050bbe1ad73f
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date:   Mon Dec 5 16:30:40 2016 -0500

    add breakpoint for large-sized screens

commit 137a0bd0c6e17f68a399986774ec8ce71fc13826
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date:   Mon Dec 5 10:39:19 2016 -0500

    add breakpoint for medium-sized screens

commit c5ee895b15fe10583e084d2d87a9f2763feb4626
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date:   Mon Dec 5 10:39:19 2016 -0500

    add space around page edge

commit b552fa5
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date:   Mon Dec 5 10:39:19 2016 -0500

    style page header
```

```

commit 2a9e9f319351305a700d7385ddb5050bbe1ad73f
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date: Mon Dec 5 16:30:40 2016 -0500

    add breakpoint for large-sized screens

commit 137a0bd0c6e17f68a399986774ec8ce71fc13826
Author: Richard Kalehoff <richardkalehoff@gmail.com>
Date: Mon Dec 5 10:39:19 2016 -0500

    add breakpoint for medium-sized screens

commit c5ee895b15fe10583e084d2d87a9f2763feb4626
:~

f8c87c7 convert social links from text to images
f0521d0 add divider between content/footer
1ef56e2 add divider between main/side content
eb08e03 add missing profile picture
2d19c44 style 'read more' links
cd0aa08 set paragraph line-height
7ee6d73 set default text color
d8fc39a set article timestamp color
670c0fb align article header content
bf7138e make article images responsive
0efab71 add 'visuallyhidden' helper class
98f6059 add article images
370c23f set default fonts
0e5f182 give body a default color
:~

```

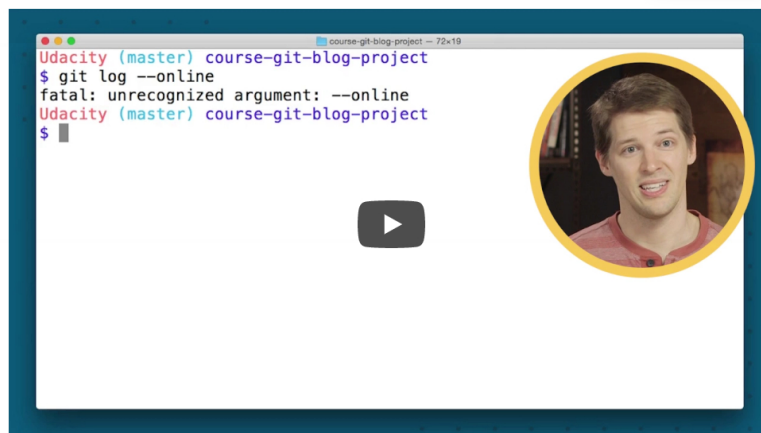
Two Terminal applications side-by-side. The left one shows the result of the `git log` command with all of the information while the right one shows the result of the `git log --oneline` command with just the short SHA and the commit message.

QUIZ QUESTION

You're deep in the weeds of the `git log --oneline` command and want to get out of the `git log --oneline` output and return to the regular command prompt. What do you press on the keyboard to return to the regular command prompt?

- ☐ the `esc` key
- ☒ the `q` key
- ☐ the `ctrl` + `c` keys
- ☐ the `ctrl` + `d` keys

SUBMIT



git log --oneline Recap

To recap, the `--oneline` flag is used to alter how `git log` displays information:

```
$ git log --oneline
```

This command:

- lists one commit per line
- shows the first 7 characters of the commit's SHA

- shows the first 7 characters of the commit's SHA
- shows the commit's message

NEXT