**OBJECTIVE**

**What is .gitignore?**

* .gitignore is a special text file in a Git repository that tells Git which files or directories to ignore.
* Any file or folder listed in .gitignore will:
  + Not be tracked by Git (not shown in git status).
  + Not be pushed to the remote repository.
* This is useful for excluding:
  + Temporary files (e.g., .log, .tmp)
  + Build artifacts (e.g., dist/, bin/)
  + IDE/editor settings (e.g., .vscode/, .idea/)
  + Sensitive files (e.g., API keys, .env)

**How Git Decides What to Ignore**

1. Git first looks for .gitignore in the repository root.
2. It applies the rules listed in that file.
3. Already-tracked files will not be removed from Git just by adding them to .gitignore

**Explain how to ignore unwanted files using git ignore**

* **Step 1 — Create a .gitignore file**
* touch .gitignore
* **Step 2 — Add ignore patterns  
  Example** .gitignore content:

\*.log

build/

secrets.txt

tmp/\*

!tmp/important.txt

* **Step 3 — Save and commit .gitignore**
* git add .gitignore
* git commit -m "Add .gitignore to exclude unwanted files"
* **Step 4 — If a file was already tracked**If i added a file to .gitignore but it’s still tracked by Git, remove it from the index:
* git rm --cached filename

Example:

* git rm --cached secrets.txt