

# Version Control Systems

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# What are Version Control Systems (VCS)

- Tracking and managing changes:
  - Work faster and more reliably
- Keeps track of all code modifications:
  - Specialised Database (Repository)
- Solves Common Team Problems:
  - Conflicting concurrent work,
  - incompatibilities due to concurrent working,
  - having unstable releases

# Common Benefits of VCS

**Historical information** : Looking at the history of changes it is a lot easier to find where bugs have originated. Also, it might be easier to find the right team member best suited to fix an error.

**Branching**: Working concurrently on multiple issues, without interference. Working on different types of releases.

**Merging** : Making sure that team members work does not interfere with each other.

**Traceability** : Team members work more fluently together.

**Testing and Documentation**: Comments for each change and its association help producing better documentation. Creating tests is easier.

# Types of VCS

- **Local:**
  - Creates a database on the hardware
- **Centralised:**
  - History of changes kept in a single database in a central server.
  - Clients need to constantly communicate with the database and receive a partial working copy.
- **Distributed:**
  - Single database in a central server that is also distributed among all clients
  - Each client has a full working copy of the repository

# Git

- Version Control Systems: How to safely organise and backup your software code
- Git: Most popular Version Control System
- GitHub: Version Control System host

# Git Characteristics

- A very popular VCS
- Performance
  - Better performance compared to competitors
  - Deals with the data in the file rather than the file properties
- Security
  - Designed to provided security
  - Uses SHA-256
- Flexibility
  - Non-linear development
  - Detailed log information

# GitHub - What is it and features?

- Web-based graphical user interface (GUI)
- Features
  - Can act as a project manager
  - Hosts Git repositories
  - Secure with keys

# Fundamental Git Functions

All commands are prepended with `git`

- `fetch` , `pull` : Get a working copy of a repository
- `add` , `commit` , `push` : Record a change or changes in at least one of the files stored in the repository.
- `branch` : Create a copy of a repository to be worked independently.
- `merge` : Collates changes of two different copies of a repository.
- `log` : Records information of each change within a repository



# Git - Branching

horizontal

- **Main:** The default development branch. Whenever you create a Git repository, a branch named "master" is created, and becomes the active branch.
- **Develop:** This is another branch, which is a way to edit/develop/test code without changing the Master branch. T
- **Topic:** A regular Git branch that is used by a developer to identify a conceptual line of development.

# Git Commands Explained

`clone` : Get a working copy of the repository

`fetch` : Update the working copy of the repository without copying or removing any files.

`pull` : Update the working copy of the repository with copying and removing any files necessary.

`commit` : Update the working copy with all changes

`push` : to the main repository all changes that have been committed to the local working copy.

`branch` : Creates a copy of the repository that can be worked independently from the main branch

`Merge` : Combine two copies of a repository. Conflicts may be present.

# Git Repository Staging Area

As part of the version control features there is the **Staging Area**.

This is feature enables the developer to move files independently of each other `git add <filename>` to the repository. Of course you can do this all in one go with `git commit -a`

# Git Flow Diagram

# Git Beyond Software Development

- Developers
- Marketing
- Management
  - Human Resources
  - Product Management
  - Project Budget
- Customer Support

# Learning Git

<https://learngitbranching.js.org/>