



Building software: Version control with Git

Data Sciences Institute
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Course objective

How to write **robust software** in a **team** that we, our colleagues, and the public can **trust** and **use with confidence**.

What is version control?

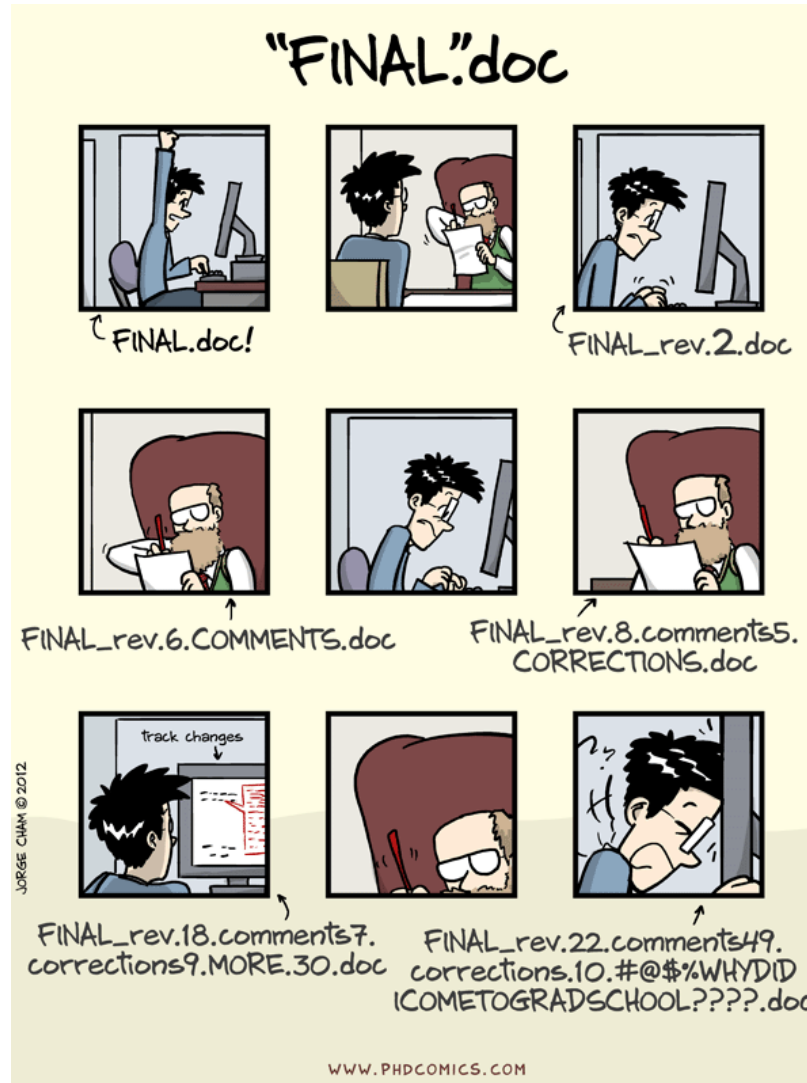
- A system that records changes to a file or a set of files over time
- Enables us to recall a specific version later
- **e.g.** Copying files to another directory to save past versions is a form of version control.
 - While it is simple, it lacks flexibility and ability to handle complexity

What is version control?

Version Control Systems (VCS) can do a number of things and can be applied on nearly any type of file on our computers:

- revert files to a previous state
- revert entire project to a previous state
- compare changes over time
- see who modified something last
- who introduced an issue and when
- recover lost files

Why version control for software?



Why version control for software?

- Robust software is documented as it is written
 - Log changes and reasoning for why changes are made
- Working in teams requires code-specific version control
 - Changing one part of a code project can affect behaviour in seemingly unrelated features
 - In-progress state of one component can render the entire program temporarily unusable (e.g. syntax error)
- Backup of your work

Git: Installation

System check!

1. Open your terminal
2. Type
`git --version`

You should see something like this:

```
simeo@chronos2 MINGW64 ~  
$ git --version  
git version 2.39.2.windows.1
```

Git: Installation

Installing Git

Please see the environment setup instructions in the Onboarding repository:

https://github.com/UofT-DSI/Onboarding/tree/main/environment_setup

Git configuration

\$> Interactive live coding

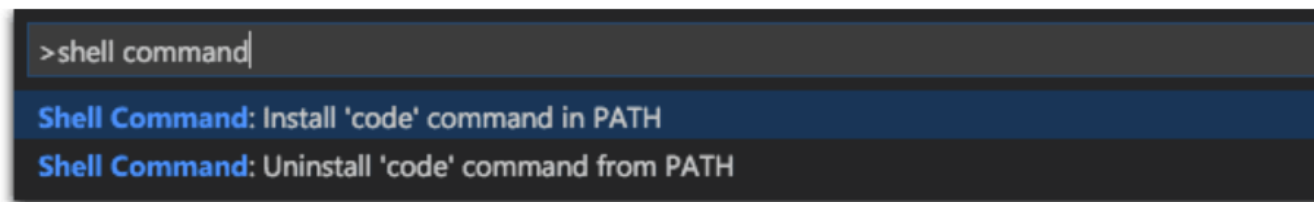
Setup identity information on the Git command line:

1. `git config --list`
2. `git config --global user.name`
3. `git config --global user.email`
4. `git config --global core.editor "code --wait"`

Launching from the command line

You can also run VS Code from the terminal by typing 'code' after adding it to the path:

- Launch VS Code.
- Open the **Command Palette** (`Cmd+Shift+P`) and type 'shell command' to find the **Shell Command:**
Install 'code' command in PATH command.



- Restart the terminal for the new `$PATH` value to take effect. You'll be able to type 'code .' in any folder to start editing files in that folder.

Git

Getting help

- `git help <verb>`
- `git <verb> --help`

Git reference manual: <https://git-scm.com/docs>

What questions do we have?

Meet our analyst, Alex

- Alex is a data engineer
- Alex works on a team at a mid-sized company
- Alex is starting a new project:
 - develop a data processing pipeline that aggregates sales data from multiple sources into a centralized data warehouse
 - develop a new module for the sales business intelligence dashboard with this analysis
- Follow along as Alex uses Git to simplify her work

Git: Getting started

\$> Interactive live coding

Alex sets up a code repository before writing any code.

1. `mkdir myproject ; cd myproject`
2. `git init`
 - Initialize a new repository
3. Create README.md
4. `git status`
 - Query the current state

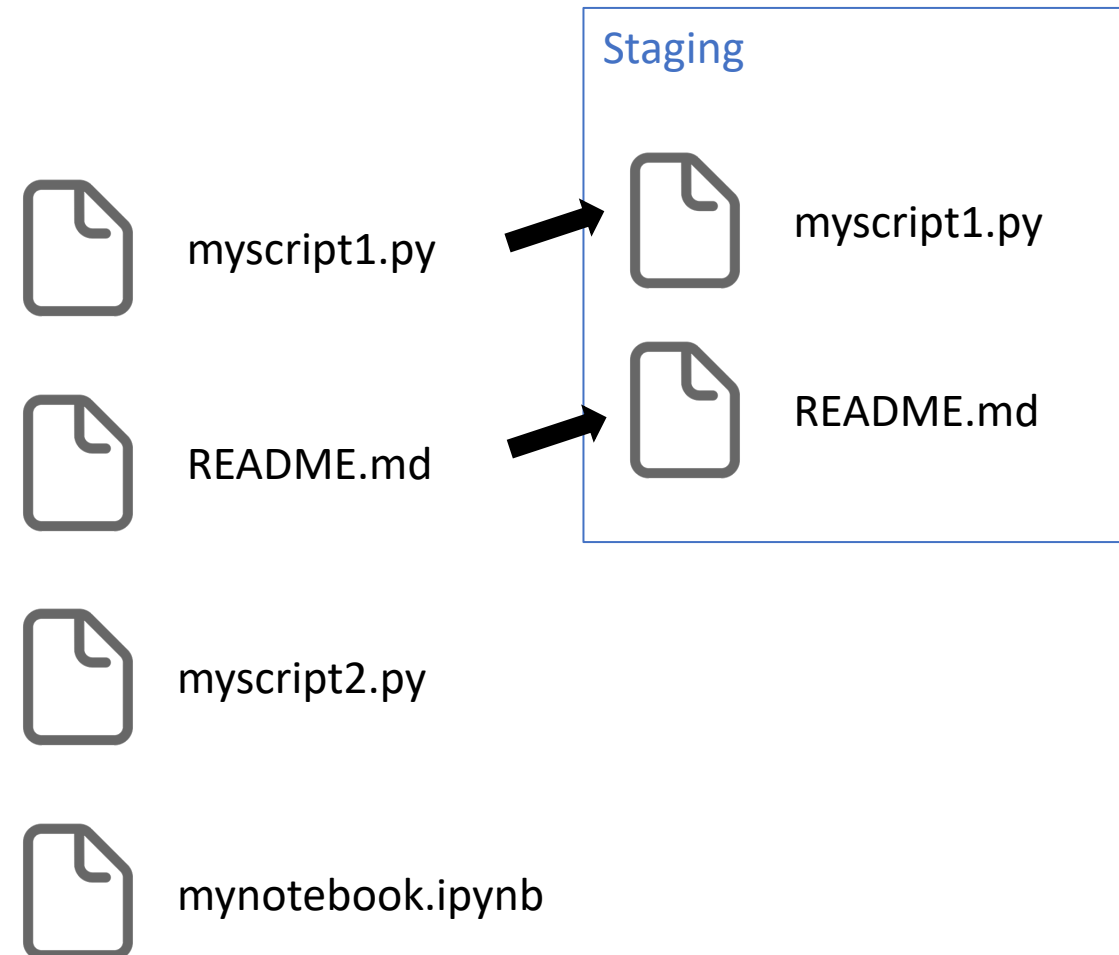
Git: Basic commands

Add to cart

- We need to tell Git which files it should **track**
- Indicate that the current state of a file should be tracked by **adding** it to the git **staging** area

```
git add myscript1.py README.md
```

- Note: If a file is modified after staging, this doesn't change the copy in the staging area



Git: Basic commands

Add to cart

- Remove from staging: `git reset <file>`
- Update staging area with new changes: `git add <file>`
- Add all files in the repository folder: `git add -A`

Git: Basic commands

\$> Interactive live coding

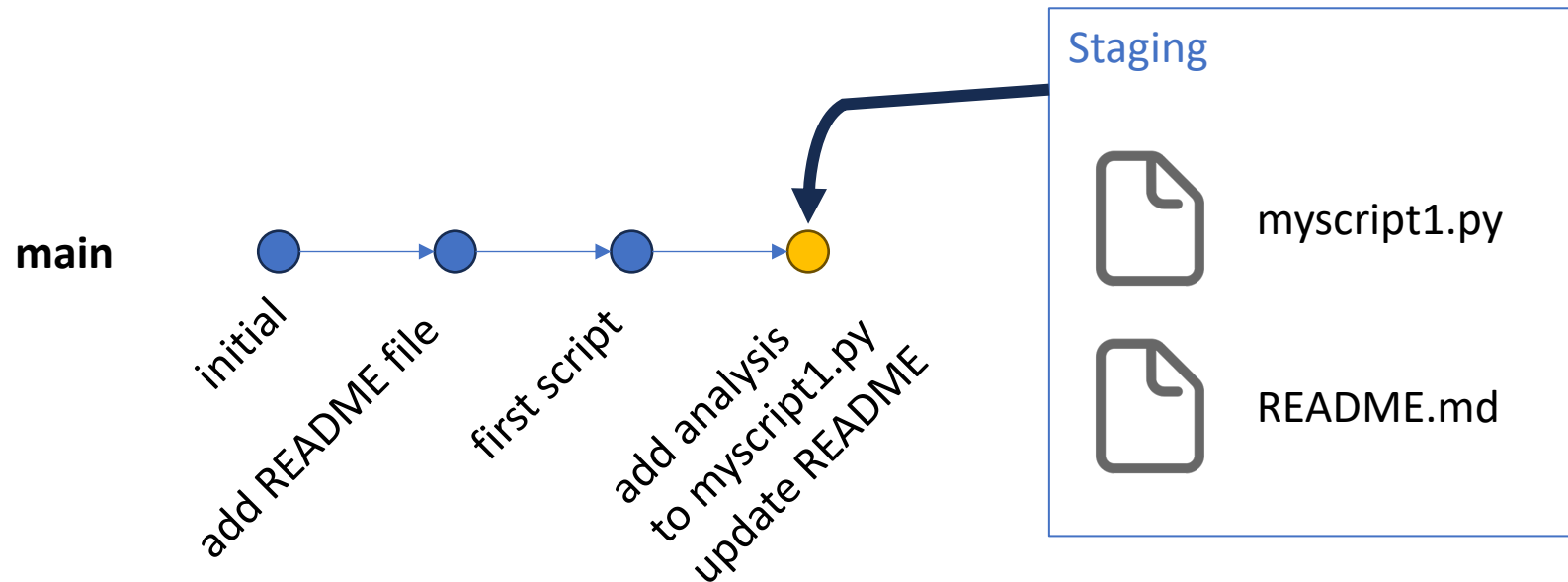
Alex adds her README file into staging.

1. `git add README.md`
2. `git status`
 - Query the current state
3. `git reset README.md`
4. `git status`

Git: Basic commands

Commit staged changes

- Applies to all changes in the staging area, but not changes made since adding to staging
- Appends to the git tree (repository history) with a commit message
 - The tree can have multiple branches (more on this tomorrow)



Git: Basic commands

\$> Interactive live coding

Alex makes a commit with her README file.

1. `git add README.md`
2. `git status`
 - Query the current state
3. `git commit`

Also try:

```
git commit -m "commit message here"
```

```
git commit -a
```

Git: Basic commands

Best practices for git commits

- Commit messages are extremely important:
 - for our own records as a reminder for we did
 - when collaborating with others
- Commit often
 - mistakes are easier to locate and fix
- Committed code can always be fixed with another commit

Git: Basic commands

Exercise: Commit some files

- Try staging and committing some more files:
 - your Python files that you wrote earlier in this course
 - random files you create now
- Try different parameters:
 - `git add -A` add all files to staging
 - `git reset` unstage files
 - `git commit -am "msg"` commit all modified files with message

Git: Basic commands

Tracking changes with Alex

- Follow along as Alex uses Git to simplify her work
 - Created a new repository: `git init`
 - Added a new file to staging: `git add README.md`
 - Committed that file to the version history: `git commit`
 - Checked status of repository: `git status`

What questions do we have?

Tracking changes with Alex

- Oh no, Alex's current code has an error!
- She wants to find out what changed in her code since the last commit

Git: History

Viewing commit history

- To see a history of our commits:

```
git log
```

- For more details:

```
git log --stat
```

- For less details:

```
git log --oneline
```

Looking for differences

- Compare the current directory with a previous commit

```
git diff <commit id>
```

- Compare two different commits using

```
git diff <commit 1 id> <commit 2 id>
```

Git: History

\$> Interactive live coding

Alex looks through the commit history and compares differences.

1. `git log --stat`
2. `git diff <commit id>`

Tracking changes with Alex

- Oh no, Alex's current code has an error!
- She compared her current file with one from before and wants to revert to a previous version

Reverting to a previous commit

- Revert the entire repository to a previous commit:

```
git switch -c <newname> <commit id>
```

 create new branch

- Revert a single file to a previous commit:

```
git restore -s <commit id> <file name>
```

 source to revert to

- **Be careful:** this could overwrite uncommitted changes

Git: History

\$> Interactive live coding

Alex looks through the commit history and reverts her code to a previous known good state.

1. `git log --stat`
2. `git switch -c prev1 <commit id>`
3. `git restore -s <commit id> <file>`

Git: History

Tracking changes with Alex

- Follow along as Alex uses Git to simplify her work
 - Looked through the history: `git log`
 - Compared differences: `git diff`
 - Reverted to a previous version: `git restore`

What questions do we have?

Git: Remote repositories

GitHub

- GitHub is an online service for hosting and collaborating on code
- Based on Git version control software
- Graphical display of code history, commit messages
- Code review, project management, and many other useful features!

Login to GitHub in the command-line

- **Git Credential Manager** stores your GitHub account details safely:
 - enables the Git command to authenticate with GitHub
 - without needing to type your password every time

- Check if you're logged in:

`git-credential-manager github list`

- If not, login on Git Credential Manager:

`git-credential-manager github login`

Tracking remote repositories

- Manage remote repositories you are **tracking** using git remote
- View list of tracked repositories

```
git remote -v
```

- Add / remove tracked repositories

```
git remote add <nickname> <url>
```

```
git remote rm <nickname>
```

- Default name is origin

Git: Remote repositories

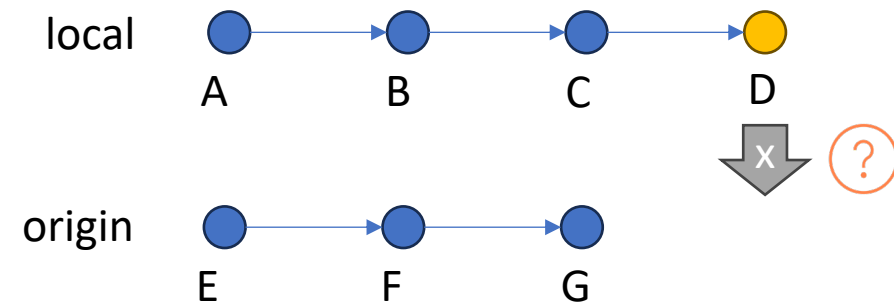
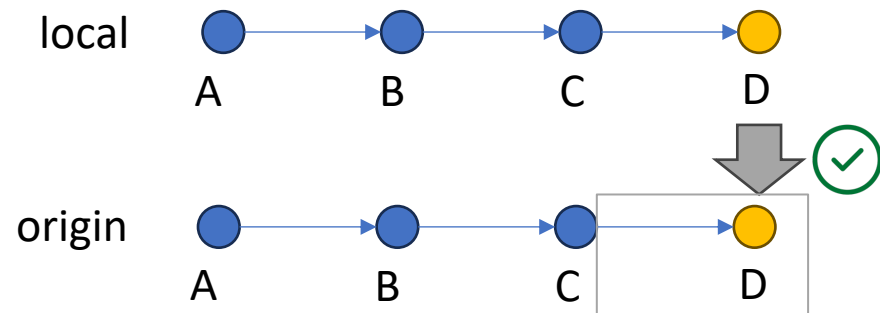
Git push

- Upload new commits using

`git push <remote nickname> <branch name>`

`git push origin main`

- Can only push commits with matching histories



Git: Remote repositories

\$> **Interactive live coding**

Alex uploads her code to GitHub.

1. Create a repository on GitHub
2. `git remote add origin <url>`
3. `git remote -v`
4. `git push origin main`

What questions do we have?

Tracking changes with Alex

- Alex is asked by a teammate to help with a part of their code.
- Alex needs to:
 - download their code
 - make edits
 - track her changes
 - upload her changes

Cloning a remote repository

- Cloning downloads an entire code repository and all its history
 - Enables quick browsing and navigation through history
 - Allows you to add your commits to that history!

```
git clone <url>
```


Git: Remote repositories

\$> Interactive live coding

Alex downloads her colleagues' repository.

1. `cd ~`
2. `git clone https://github.com/dtxe/DSI_assignmentpkg`
3. `git status`
4. `git log`

Tracking changes with Alex

- Alex is asked by a teammate to help with a part of their code.
- Alex needs to:
 - download their code
 - make edits
 - track her changes
 - upload her changes

Git: Remote repositories

\$> **Interactive live coding**

Alex makes edits to the code.

1. `git commit -am "commit message"`
2. `git status`
3. `git log`
4. `git push`
 - Why doesn't this work?

Forking a repo on GitHub

- We don't usually have permission to edit/write to other people's repositories
- To make changes, we can **fork** (create a working copy of) a public repository that we can write to
- Then, we can ask the original repository owner to incorporate our changes
 - This is called a **Pull Request** (we will discuss this later!)

Git: Remote repositories

\$> **Interactive live coding**

Alex makes a copy of the repo and uploads her changes.

1. Fork https://github.com/dtxe/DSI_assignmentpkg
2. `git remote rename origin upstream`
3. `git remote add origin <your repo>`
4. `git push origin main`

Git: Remote repositories

Tracking changes with Alex

- Alex is asked by a teammate to help with a part of their code.
- Alex needs to:
 - download their code `git clone`
 - make edits `git add`
 - track her changes `git commit`
 - upload her changes `git push`
 - update tracked repos `git remote`

What questions do we have?