

Sometimes you might have files that you never want Git to track, for example binary files that are generated as by-products of running code (PDFs or images), or secrets like passwords or API keys. A file in your Git repository called `.gitignore` can list names of files and sub-folders, or simple regular expressions (whatever you can use with `ls`) in order to specify files which should never be tracked. Each line of a `.gitignore` file should specify a file or group of files that should not be tracked by Git. Let's make a `.gitignore` file to make sure that we never track image files in this repository:

```
1 touch toby.jpg
2 git status
3
4 ## On branch master
5 ## Untracked files:
6 ##   (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
7 ##
8 ##   toby.jpg
9 ##
10 ## nothing added to commit but untracked files present (use "git add" to track)
```

Now that we've added an image to our repository, let's add a `.gitignore` file to make sure Git doesn't track these kinds of files.

```
1 echo "*.jpg" > .gitignore
2 git status
3
4 ## On branch master
5 ## Untracked files:
6 ##   (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
7 ##
8 ##   .gitignore
9 ##
10 ## nothing added to commit but untracked files present (use "git add" to track)
```

Now we can see that Git has detected the new `.gitignore` file, but it doesn't see `toby.jpg`. Let's add and commit our `.gitignore` file:

```
1 git add -A
2 git commit -m "added gitignore"
3
4 ## [master adef548] added gitignore
5 ##   1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
6 ##   create mode 100644 .gitignore
```

Now if we add another `.jpg` file, Git will not see the file:

```
1 touch bernie.jpg
2 git status
3
4 ## On branch master
5 ## nothing to commit, working tree clean
6
7 ls
8
9 ## bernie.jpg
10 ## toby.jpg
11 ## file1.txt
12 ## file2.txt
13 ## readme.txt
```

Summary

- git help allows you to read the man pages for specific Git commands.
- git log will show you your commit history.
- git diff displays what has changed between the last commit and your current untracked changes.
- You can specify a .gitignore file in order to tell Git not to track certain files.

Mark as completed

