

# The COOPY Toolbox

0.5.8

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## 1 COOPY Guide

The COOPY project contains programs and libraries to help you:

- Describe the difference between two tables (see [ssdiff](#)).
- Apply the difference between two tables to a table (see [sspatch](#)).
- Merge tables that came from the same source but have been modified independently (see [ssmerge](#)). Two- and three-way merges supported.
- Maintain a repository of tables with multiple active contributors (see [ssfossil](#) and the [coopy](#) program).
- Supported table formats include CSV, sqlite, mysql, Excel, Access (read only).

### 1.1 Tutorials

- [Contribute to data collection projects using ssdiff](#)
- [Pulling in a repository with Coopy](#)
- [Creating a new repository for Coopy](#)
- [Pushing out a repository with Coopy](#)
- [Forking a repository for Coopy](#)
- [Resolving conflicts with Coopy](#)
- [Using ssmerge with git \(advanced\)](#)

### 1.2 Command line tools

- [ssdiff](#)
- [sspatch](#)
- [ssmerge](#)

- [ssresolve](#)
- [ssformat](#)
- [ssrediff](#)
- [coopy](#)

### 1.3 Reference material

- [Diff format](#).
- [Supported table formats](#).
- [What are all these funny files in a Coopy directory?](#)
- [ssfossil](#) reference.

And if COOPY isn't quite right for you?

- [Related projects](#).

Code in the COOPY project is all free and open source (licensed under the GPL; LGPL port in the works). The [ssmerge](#) and [ssdiff](#) programs currently make use of [libcsv](#). The [ssfossil](#) program is a thin wrapper around [fossil](#). The [coopy](#) program uses [wxWidgets](#). Optionally, programs also make use of the spreadsheet library within [Gnumeric](#).

## 2 Pulling in a repository with Coopy

The [coopy](#) program is a graphical interface for "pulling" new or updated repositories onto one's computer, and for "pushing" modified repositories out to a server. It is specialized for spreadsheets and databases. Advanced users who need maximum flexibility may wish to try to the [ssfossil](#) command-line tool rather than the [coopy](#) program. It is fine to use both on the same repository.

When you start the [coopy](#) program, you see something like this:



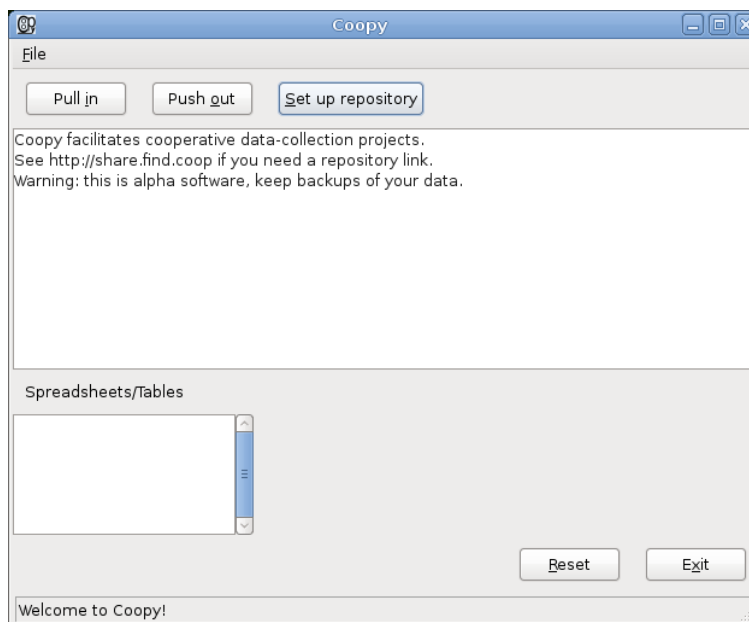


Figure 1: Here's Coopy!

Here are the main parts of the interface:

- Buttons!
- A big text box, called the "activity log". When we start working with Coopy, messages will roll past in this box. This is a user interface designed by a computer scientist, sorry...
- A box labeled "Spreadsheets/Tables". A list of available databases appears here. Just now, there are none. We need to set up a repository first.

To do anything useful with Coopy, we need to get a repository. Click on the "Pull in" button to pull data in to your computer from the web, and you'll see:

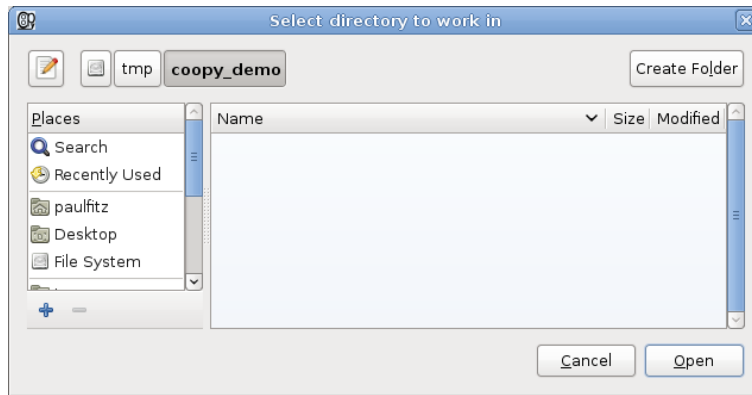


Figure 2: Select or create an empty directory.

What Coopy is looking for here is a fresh, clean, empty directory in which to store a bunch of repository files. It is a good idea to create a new folder for this purpose.

Once you've given Coopy an empty directory to fool around in, you're prompted for an address of a repository:

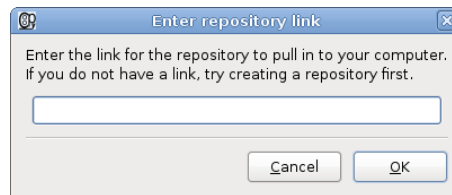


Figure 3: What to put here?

What the heck do we put here? Repositories live on the web, and have addresses like any webpage. We could make our own (see [Creating a new repository for Coopy](#)), but for now let's use one I've prepared earlier - this:

<https://chiselapp.com/user/coopy/repository/coopy-demo/index>

If you click on that link, you'll see something that has a little logo of a fossil. Don't bother poking around there yet, we'll come back to it later. For now, just paste in the link to Coopy:

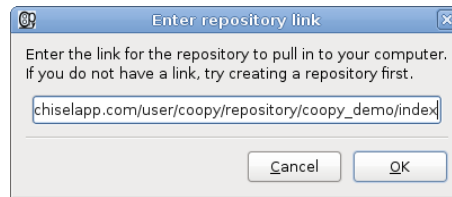


Figure 4: Fill in demo repository link.

Click OK, and Coopy chirps away merrily to itself, throwing messages into the activity log:

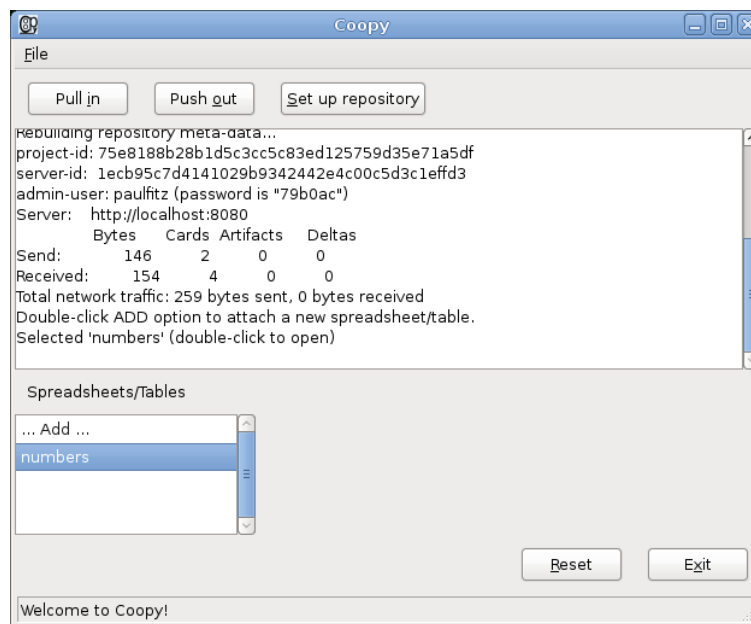


Figure 5: Our first repository has arrived!

No error messages, that's good. The "Spreadsheets/Tables" area has changed. It gives a list of databases in the repository. There is in fact just one, called "numbers". Double-click on it, and you're asked where you want to save the database, and in what format:

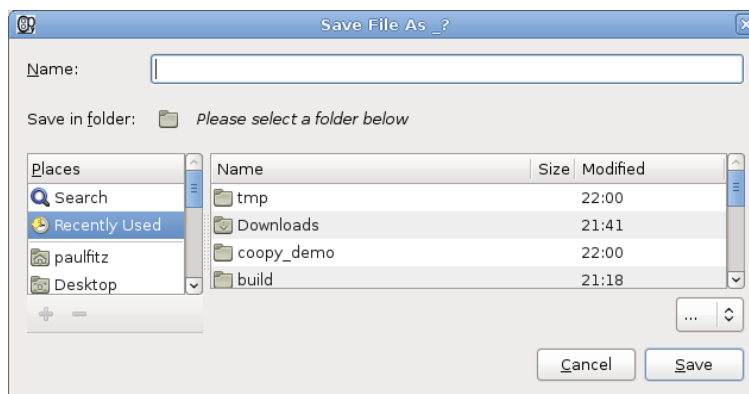


Figure 6: Save database as...

You can choose to save the database in a number of formats: principally Excel, Sqlite, or CSV (for single-table databases). The choice is yours. For now, save the database as an \*.xls file, and it will open in whatever you use to view spreadsheets on your computer (if you have nothing, install OpenOffice, Gnumeric, or something along those lines).

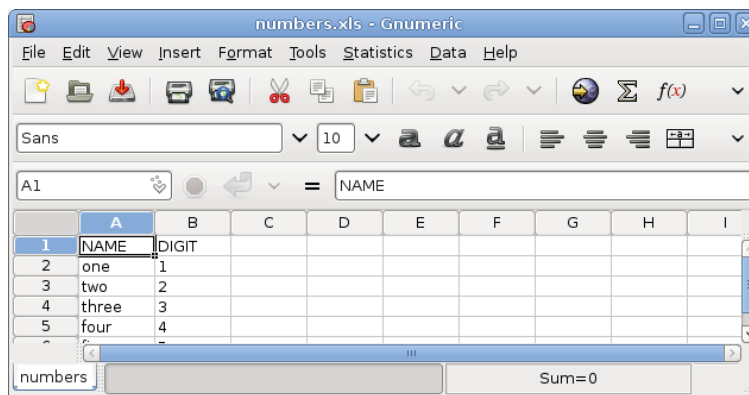


Figure 7: The numbers spreadsheet.

What happens when we start making changes in the spreadsheet? That's the topic of this tutorial: [Pushing out a repository with Coopy](#).

### 3 Creating a new repository for Coopy

A repository is a collection of files. For Coopy, collections of files are managed by [fossil](#), a distributed version control system. What does this mean?

- A revision history is kept for all files in the collection.
- The repository can be "cloned" on another computer or another location, in such a way that changes to the repository can be passed on easily.
- Clones of the repository can be changed by different people, and then have those changes merged intelligently.

It is possible to set up a repository using the fossil or [ssfossil](#) program. Alternatively, you can find or create a fossil repository online. Here are known hosting services for fossil repositories:

- [chiselapp.com](http://chiselapp.com)
- [share.find.coop](http://share.find.coop)

You can find this list by starting [coopy](#), then clicking on "Set up repository":

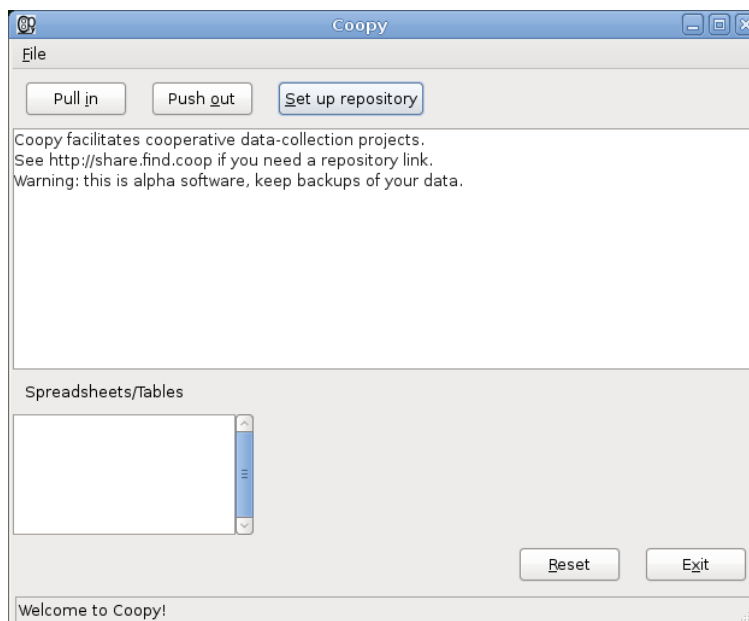


Figure 8: Click on: Set up repository

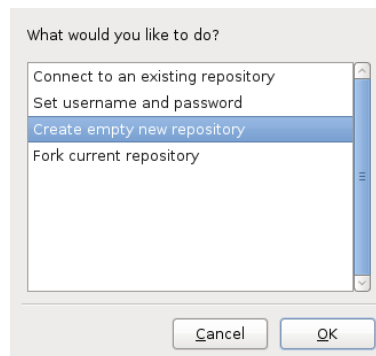


Figure 9: Select: Create new repository

When we choose the new repository option, we are offered a list of hosts:

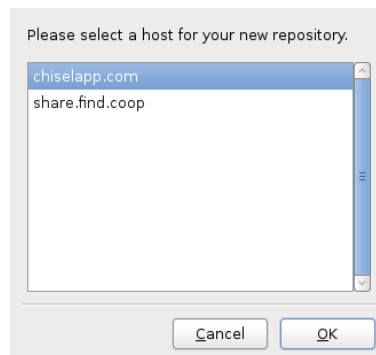


Figure 10: Select a host.

Choose a website to host your repository. You can also have your own website to host a fossil repository (see [self-hosting instructions](#)), you don't need to stick with this list. For now, let's go with [chiselapp.com](#).

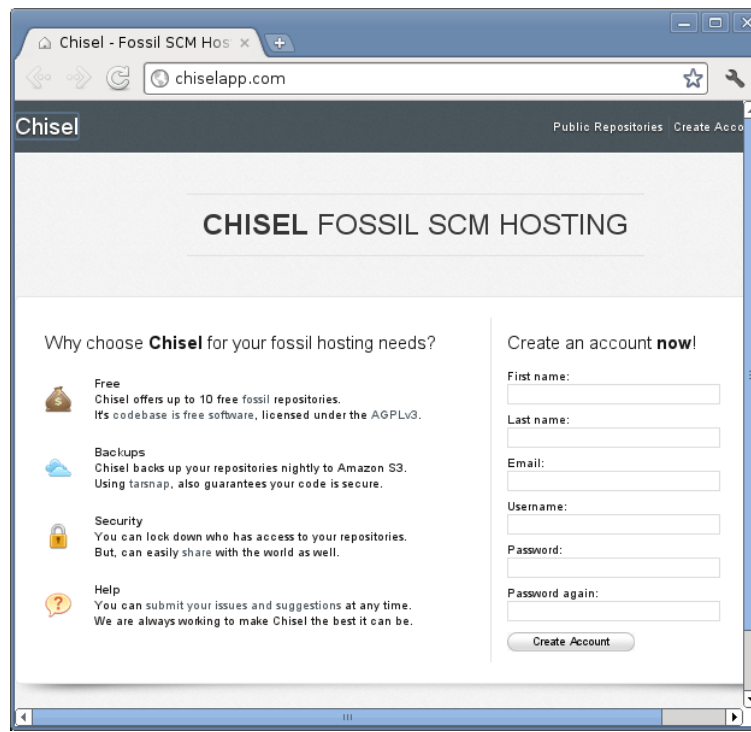


Figure 11: Chisel

After you register and log in, you'll see a dashboard that looks like this (except emp-tier):

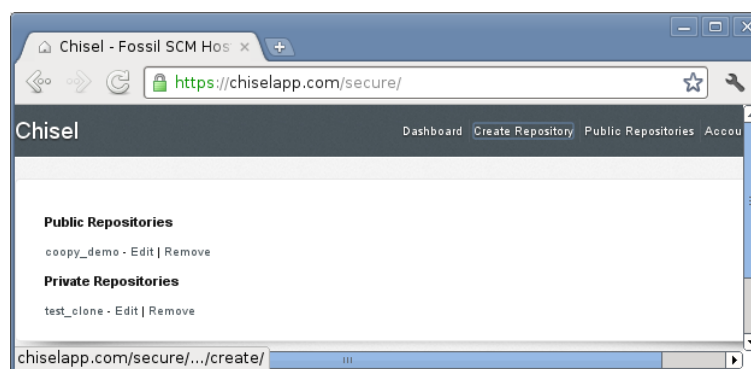


Figure 12: Chisel dashboard

To make a repository, click on "Create repository".

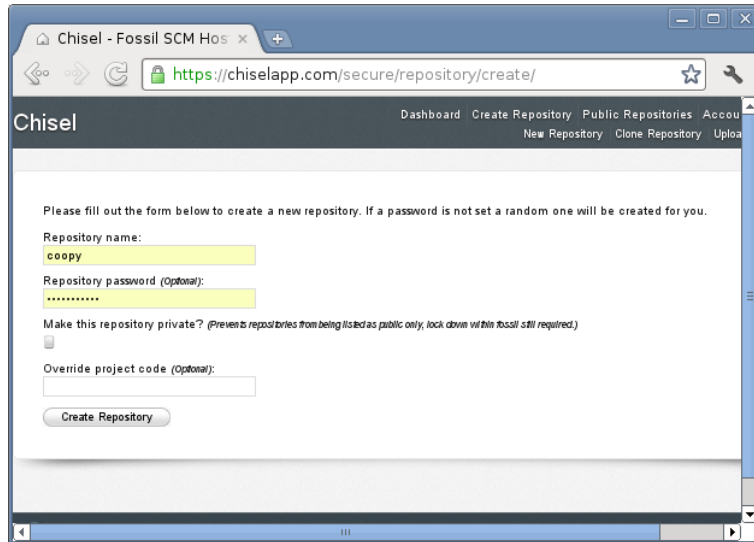
A screenshot of a web browser window showing the 'Chisel - Fossil SCM Host' page. The address bar shows 'https://chiselapp.com/secure/repository/create/'. The page has a navigation bar with links: 'Dashboard', 'Create Repository', 'Public Repositories', 'Account', 'New Repository', 'Clone Repository', and 'Upload'. The main content area contains a form with the following fields: 'Repository name:' with the value 'coopy', 'Repository password (Optional):' with a masked password '\*\*\*\*\*', a checkbox for 'Make this repository private?' (checked), and 'Override project code (Optional):' which is empty. A 'Create Repository' button is at the bottom of the form.

Figure 13: Create repository

Set the repository up as you like. The "Override project code" field is not needed when setting up a fresh, empty repository. Once you've set up a repository, on the dashboard find a link to it, like the one shown in a box here:

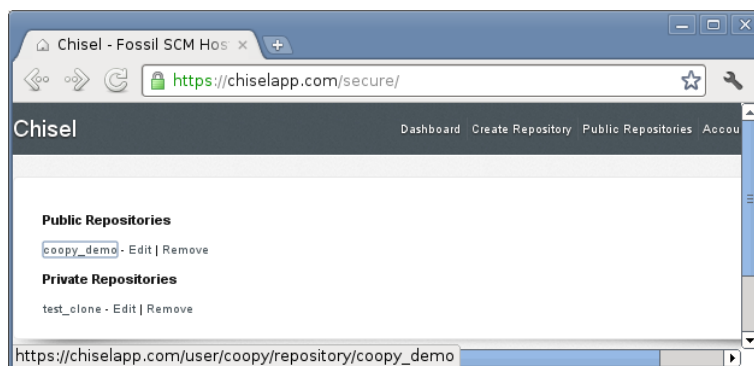


Figure 14: Find the repository link

When you click that link, you should see a page in a different style with a picture of a fossil. This is your repository, and the link shown in your browser is the "repository link" that Coopy needs.



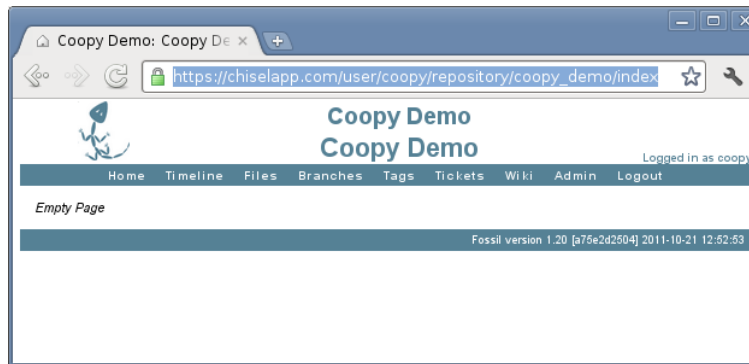


Figure 15: Fossil

You could now follow the instructions in this tutorial: [Pulling in a repository with Coopy](#). Just replace the demo repository link with your own. You can also follow this tutorial: [Pushing out a repository with Coopy](#), using your Chiselapp username, and the password you chose for the repository.

## 4 Pushing out a repository with Coopy

Do this tutorial first: [Pulling in a repository with Coopy](#)

Now, change some number in your \*.xls file, then save it.

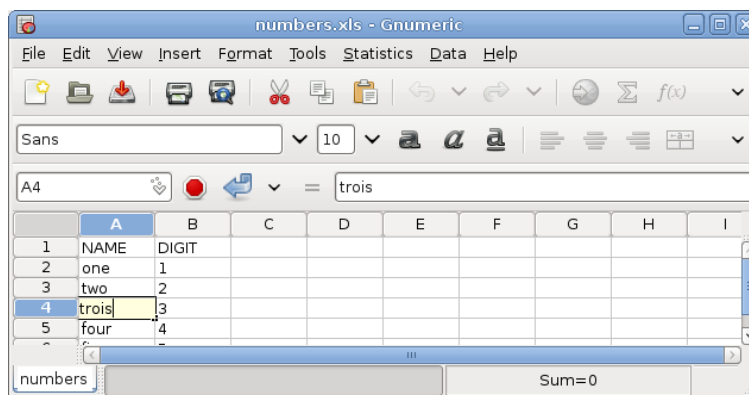


Figure 16: Making a change...

Now to send the updates to the repository, we click the "Push out" button. We're

prompted to make a brief description of our changes (called a commit message). Write anything you like here. Typically this should be a brief message that will let a collaborator understand your change quickly.

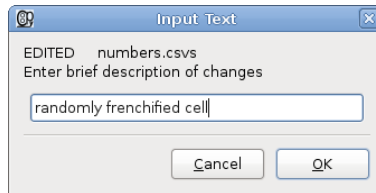


Figure 17: Add a commit message.

The next thing that is likely to happen is an access denied message. Repositories can be set up so that random folks can commit changes to them, but normally you need a username and password. Let's see how things work if you have a username/password (otherwise consider following: [Forking a repository for Coopy](#)).

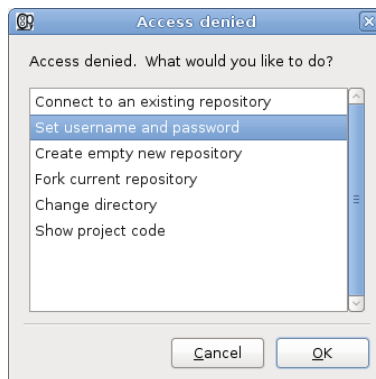


Figure 18: Access denied.

Fill out a username and password:

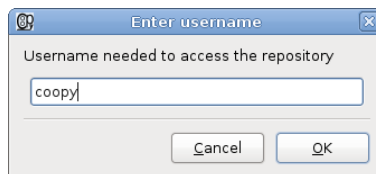


Figure 19: Username.

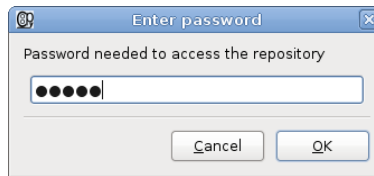


Figure 20: Password.

And we're done:

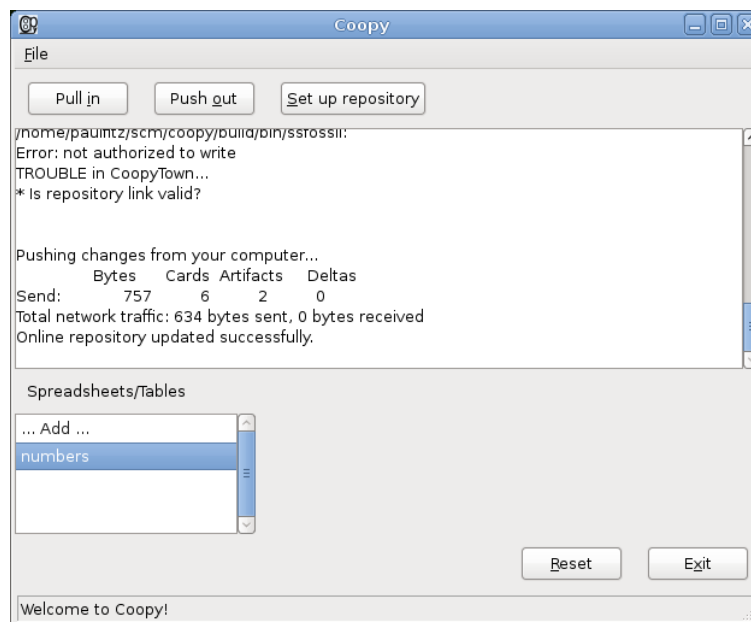


Figure 21: A successful push.

If you want to push out to a new repository, follow: [Forking a repository for Coopy](#).

## 5 Forking a repository for Coopy

Suppose you pulled in the demo repository in [Pulling in a repository with Coopy](#), then made modifications to it, but didn't want to (or couldn't) push those modifications back to the original repository. One option is to fork the repository and store it elsewhere.

The procedure is just like [Creating a new repository for Coopy](#), except with one wrin-

kle: when making your new repository, you need to give it a "project code" that is identical to the one you pulled in. You can find that code by clicking on the "Set up repository" link:

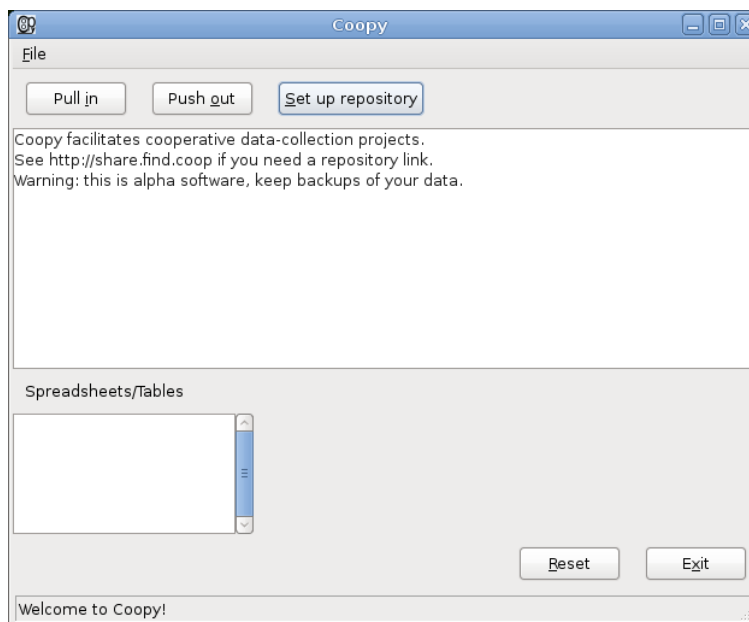


Figure 22: Click on: Set up repository

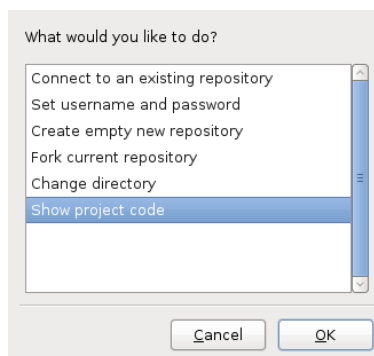


Figure 23: Select: Show project code

When we choose the project code option, Coopy gives us a big string of numbers and letters:

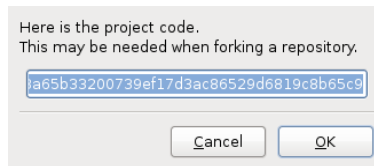


Figure 24: Project code

We will need the code a little later, don't worry about it for now, just be aware of where to find it. Clicking on the "Set up repository" link again and this time select the "fork repository" option:

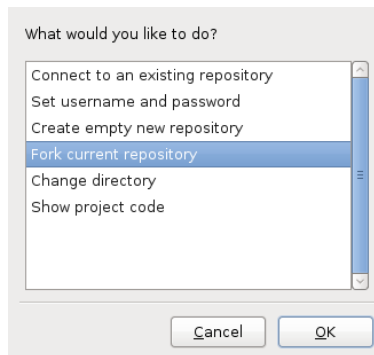


Figure 25: Fork repository option

We get a list of possible hosts for our repository:

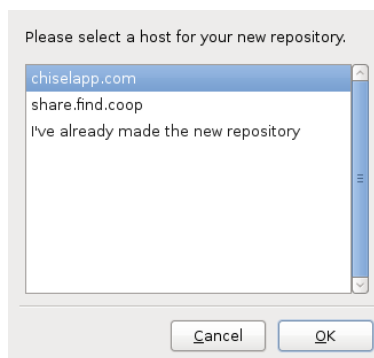


Figure 26: Fork host

Suppose we pick the first one. Then we follow the same sequence as in [Creating a new repository for Coopy](#), up to this point:

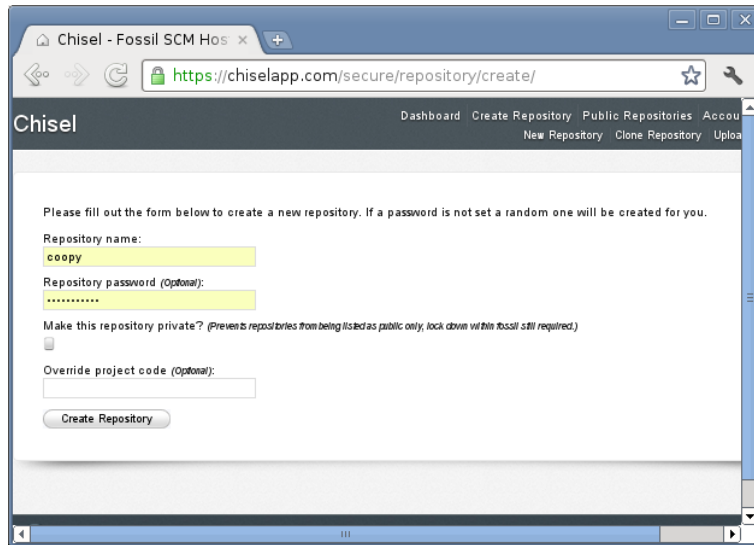
A screenshot of a web browser window showing the 'Chisel - Fossil SCM Host' page. The address bar shows 'https://chiselapp.com/secure/repository/create/'. The page has a navigation bar with links: 'Dashboard', 'Create Repository', 'Public Repositories', 'Account', 'New Repository', 'Clone Repository', and 'Upload'. The main content area contains a form with the following fields: 'Repository name:' with the value 'coopy', 'Repository password (Optional):' with a masked password '\*\*\*\*\*', a checkbox for 'Make this repository private?' (checked), and 'Override project code (Optional):' which is empty. A 'Create Repository' button is at the bottom of the form.

Figure 27: Create repository

Here we get the project code from Coopy and fill it in in the "Override project code" slot. Then, we get the repository link just like in [Creating a new repository for Coopy](#), and give it to Coopy:

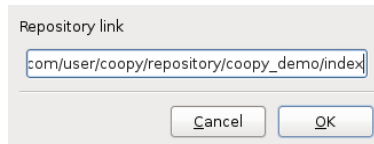
A small dialog box titled 'Repository link'. It contains a text input field with the value 'com/user/coopy/repository/coopy\_demo/index'. Below the input field are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'OK'.

Figure 28: Provide new repository link

Now, we continue on to provide a username and password to Coopy as in [Pushing out a repository with Coopy](#). Done!

## 6 Resolving conflicts with Coopy

When working collaboratively, conflicts may occasionally happen. Suppose Alice and Bob both share the following table with Coopy:

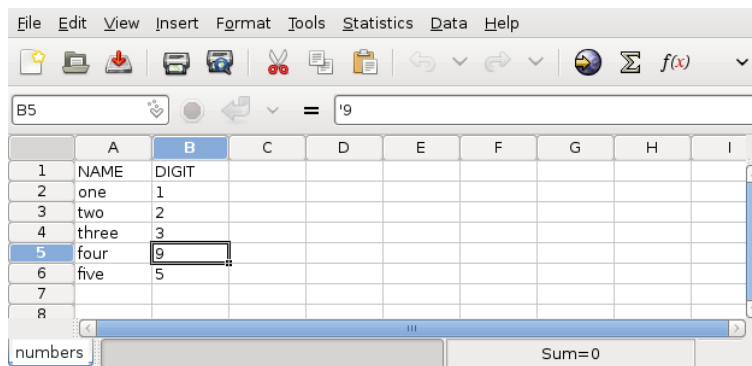


Figure 29: The starting point.

Both independently notice that the number "9" in this table is wrong, and fix it. Bob accidentally goofs:

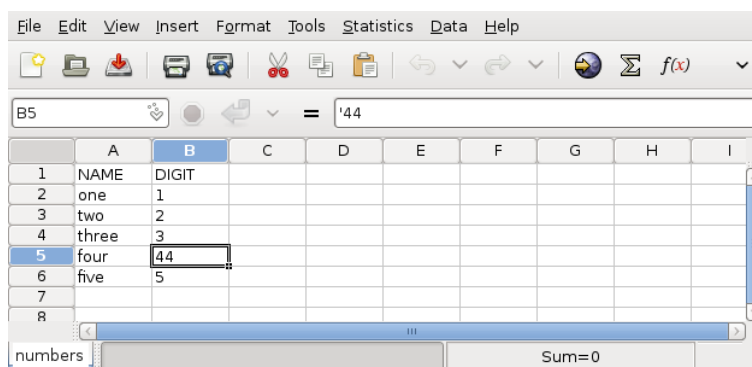


Figure 30: Bob's fix

Alice gets it right:

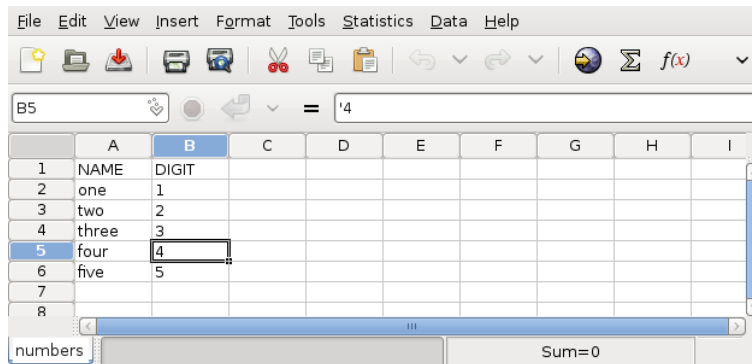


Figure 31: Alice's fix

Suppose Bob pushes his "fix" first to their shared repository. When Alice tries to push her fix, Coopy gives this message:

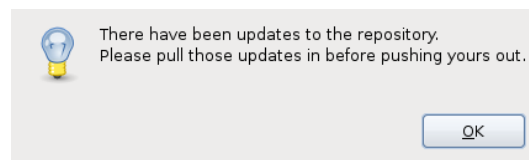


Figure 32: Pull needed.

Alice goes ahead and pulls. Compatible changes would get merged, but Coopy doesn't know what to do with the conflicting change. So it leaves Alice's table like this:

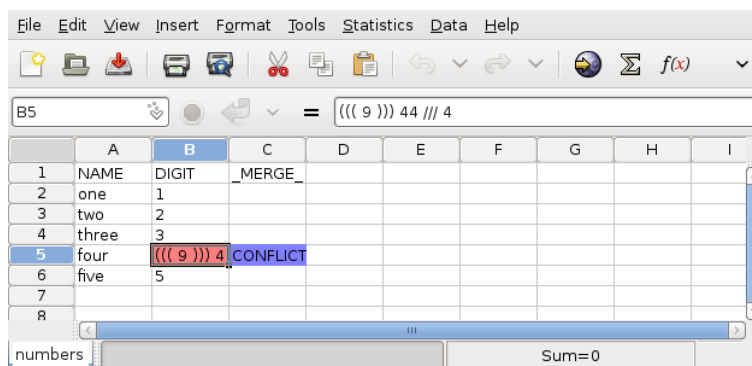


Figure 33: Conflicted table



Alice can recognize that "9" was replaced by either "4" (her choice) or "44" (Bob's choice). Using her magical human intelligence, she decides "4" is the right choice, and simply rewrites the conflicted cell, and deletes the "\_MERGE\_" column. Now she can push without trouble.

The Coopy toolbox has a [ssresolve](#) tool to speed up conflict resolving. Currently this works from the command-line only. Lots of graphical options should be integrated in the Coopy GUI soon.

## 7 Contribute to data collection projects using ssdiff

You can use [ssdiff](#) to summarize changes you've made between two versions of a table (or tables). Suppose you are a bridge geek, and have been working with this table of New York bridges compiled by a friend:

bridge	designer	length
Brooklyn	J. A. Roebling	1595
Williamsburg	D. Duck	1600
Queensborough	Palmer & Hornbostel	1182
Triborough	O. H. Ammann	1380,383
Bronx Whitestone	O. H. Ammann	2300
Throgs Neck	O. H. Ammann	1800
George Washington	O. H. Ammann	3500
Spamspan	S. Spamington	10000

That table has some problems (D. Duck? Spamington?). So you fix them.

bridge	designer	length
Brooklyn	J. A. Roebling	1595
Manhattan	G. Lindenthal	1470
Williamsburg	L. L. Buck	1600
Queensborough	Palmer & Hornbostel	1182
Triborough	O. H. Ammann	1380,383
Bronx Whitestone	O. H. Ammann	2300
Throgs Neck	O. H. Ammann	1800
George Washington	O. H. Ammann	3500

As a public-spirited type, you'd like to offer your fixes to your friend. But you don't want to spend much time at it. The easiest would be to just send your updated table. But that may be ignored, since there's no clear signal of what you've changed and whether it is worthwhile. So you run a quick diff and instead send this:

@	bridge	designer	length
	Brooklyn	J. A. Roebling	1595
+++	<b>Manhattan</b>	<b>G. Lindenthal</b>	<b>1470</b>
->	Williamsburg	<b>D. Duck-&gt;L. L. Buck</b>	1600
	Queensborough	Palmer & Hornbostel	1182
	Triborough	O. H. Ammann	1380,383
...	...	...	...
	Throgs Neck	O. H. Ammann	1800
	George Washington	O. H. Ammann	3500
---	<b>Spamspan</b>	<b>S. Spamington</b>	<b>10000</b>

(produced with `ssdiff --format hilite --output patch.xls FILE1 FILE2`)

Or, if you and your friend are more unix-y, this:

```
* |bridge=Brooklyn|
+ |bridge:->Manhattan|designer:->G. Lindenthal|length:->1470|
= |bridge=Williamsburg|designer=D. Duck->L. L. Buck|
- |bridge=Spamspan|
```

(produced with `ssdiff FILE1 FILE2`)

Or, if you and your friend are more database-y, this:

```
INSERT INTO bridges (bridge, designer, length) VALUES ('Manhattan', 'G. Lindenthal', '1470');
UPDATE bridges SET designer='L. L. Buck' WHERE bridge='Williamsburg' AND designer='D. Duck' AND length='1600';
DELETE FROM bridges WHERE bridge='Spamspan' AND designer='S. Spamington' AND length='10000';
```

(produced with `ssdiff --format sql --default-table bridges FILE1 FILE2`)

Now your friend can quickly see what changes you made, and update her/his own table either manually or using [sspatch](#).

## 8 Using ssmerge with git (advanced)

You can use [ssmerge](#) to do smarter merges of tables stored in git.

- [Add custom merge driver](#)
- [Add attributes file](#)
- [Worked example](#)
- [Troubleshooting](#)
- [Useful commands for testing](#)

The basic steps are:

- Add "custom merge driver" lines to your .gitconfig file, to add coopy's [ssmerge](#) command as a merge option.
- Add format handlers to a .gitattributes file, to make sure the files you want are merged using ssmerge.

### 8.1 Add custom merge driver

Find or create a .gitconfig file in your home directory, OR find the file .git/config in a repository. Add to the end of this file lines like this:

```
[merge "coopy-csv"]
  name = coopy csv data merge
  driver = ssmerge --output dbi:csv::file=%A dbi:csv::file=%O dbi:csv::file=%A dbi:csv::file=%B
```

You'll need a variant of this stanza for each format you want ssmerge to handle. It is best to stick with text formats. The "dbi:csv::file=" part above is to force files to be in csv format (during merging their filename extensions are not known). If ssmerge is not in your path, replace "ssmerge" above with something like "/the/full/path/to/ssmerge".

### 8.2 Add attributes file

Find or create a .gitattributes file in the same directory as the files you want coopy to handle (there are other options for where to put this file, read the gitattributes documentation if you're interested). Add to the end of this file a line or lines like this:

```
*.csv merge=coopy-csv
```

The .gitattributes file can be placed under version control, so this only needs to get set up once. The custom merge driver step, on the other hand, needs to be set up for each collaborator.

## 8.3 Worked example

Let's make an empty git repository:

```
mkdir -p coopy_test/repo
cd coopy_test/repo
git init
```

Now, let's place a table in the repository. There are several options for the format we could use. For simplicity, let's start with a CSV file called "numbers.csv" with content like this:

```
NAME,DIGIT
one,1
two,2
thre,33
four,4
five,5
```

There are two intentional typos on the "thre" line. Add "numbers.csv" to the repository:

```
git add numbers.csv
git commit -m "add csv example"
```

Now, let's tell git to use a custom merge driver for .csv files. In the same directory as "numbers.csv", create a file called ".gitattributes" containing this:

```
*.csv merge=coopy-csv
```

Let's add this to the repository too:

```
git add .gitattributes
git commit -m "add coopy rule"
```

Now, at the end of \$HOME/.gitconfig (create this file if it doesn't already exist), add on the following:

```
[merge "coopy-csv"]
  name = coopy csv data merge
  driver = ssmerge --format csv --output %A %O %A %B
```

Now let's set up a clone of this repository for testing:

```
cd .. # should be in coopy_test directory now
git clone repo2
cd repo2
ls -a # should see numbers.csv and .gitattributes
```

Good. Now, to test, we'll make two non-conflicting changes on the same row, and see if they get merged without a problem. Regular text-based merges will choke on this. So, in repo2, modify "numbers.csv" to make "thre" be "three", and commit:

```
git commit -m "fix three" numbers.csv
```

Now, in repo, modify "numbers.csv" to make "33" be "3", and commit:

```
cd ../repo
git commit -m "fix 3" numbers.csv
```

Now try merging:

```
git pull ../repo2
```

Happy result:

```
From ../repo2
 * branch                HEAD                -> FETCH_HEAD
Auto-merging numbers.csv
Merge made by recursive.
 numbers.csv | 12 ++++++-----
 1 files changed, 6 insertions(+), 6 deletions(-)
```

And the contents of numbers.csv should be:

```
NAME,DIGIT
one,1
two,2
three,3
four,4
five,5
```

## 8.4 Troubleshooting

If for some reason git doesn't use the coopy merge rule, then something like the following message will be shown during merge:

```
remote: Counting objects: 5, done.
remote: Total 3 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0)
Unpacking objects: 100% (3/3), done.
From ../repo2
 * branch                HEAD                -> FETCH_HEAD
Auto-merging numbers.csv
CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in numbers.csv
Automatic merge failed; fix conflicts and then commit the result.
```

and numbers.csv will contain the following:

```
NAME,DIGIT
one,1
two,2
<<<<<<< HEAD
thre,3
=====
```

```
three,33
>>>>>> b37613ebac50b552b4dd967c0f134930361c9070
four,4
five,5
```

This is the regular text merging algorithm. Undo the merge as follows:

```
git reset --hard HEAD # remove any uncommitted changes
```

Then check:

- That the `.gitconfig` exists in your home directory and contains the `coopy-csv` rule described earlier.
- That there is a `.gitattributes` file in the same directory as `numbers.csv`, and that it has the contents described earlier.
- That the `"ssmerge"` command is in your path. If you run `"ssmerge"` you should see a help message.
- That `"ssmerge"` is a sufficiently recent version. Running `"ssmerge --format csv"` should not give an error message (compare against `"ssformat --unknown-option csv"`)

## 8.5 Useful commands for testing

```
git reset --hard HEAD # remove any uncommitted changes, such as a bad merge
git reset --hard HEAD^ # remove any uncommitted changes, and revert the last
                        # commit
git pull ../path      # merge in changes from another version of repo
git pull              # merge in changes from same repo as last time
```

## 9 ssdiff

Show the difference between two tables/databases/spreadsheets.

### 9.1 Usage

- `ssdiff [options] FILE1 FILE2`

### 9.2 Index

- [Option summary](#)
- [Option details](#)

- [Examples](#)
- [Patch formats](#)
- [Database/spreadsheet file formats](#)
- [Version](#)

### 9.3 Option summary

- [--apply](#)
- [--bid=COLUMN](#)
- [--default-table=TABLE](#)
- [--fixed-columns](#)
- [--format=FORMAT](#)
- [--head-trimmed](#)
- [--help](#)
- [--id=COLUMN](#)
- [--input-formats](#)
- [--named](#)
- [--omit-format-name](#)
- [--omit-sheet-name](#)
- [--output=OUTPUTFILE](#)
- [--parent=PARENT](#)
- [--patch-formats](#)
- [--table=TABLE](#)
- [--tail-trimmed](#)
- [--unordered](#)

## 9.4 Option details

**--apply**

apply difference between FILE1 and FILE2 immediately to FILE1

**--bid=COLUMN**

boost a column (repeat option for multiple columns)

**--default-table=TABLE**

name to use when a table name is needed and not supplied

**--fixed-columns**

ignore new or removed columns

**--format=FORMAT**

set difference format for output

**--head-trimmed**

ignore rows removed at the beginning of a table (such as a log file)

**--help**

show how to use this program

**--id=COLUMN**

set primary key (repeat option for multi-column key)

**--input-formats**

list supported input database formats

**--named**

trust names of columns, omitting checks for column renames

**--omit-format-name**

omit any version-dependent header from diff

**--omit-sheet-name**

omit any sheet/table name from diff

**--output=OUTPUTFILE**

direct output to this file (default is standard output)

**--parent=PARENT**

use named workbook/database as common ancestor in difference calculations

**--patch-formats**



list supported patch formats

**--table=TABLE**

operate on a single named table of a workbook/database

**--tail-trimmed**

ignore rows removed at the end of a table (such as a log file)

**--unordered**

treat order of rows as unimportant

## 9.5 Examples

You can generate test file(s) for the examples that follow:

```
ssdiff --test-file numbers.csv
ssdiff --test-file numbers.sqlite
ssdiff --test-file numbers_buggy.csv
ssdiff --test-file numbers_buggy.sqlite
```

### 9.5.1 Example 1

```
ssdiff numbers_buggy.csv numbers.csv
```

Compare two tables. Output goes to standard output.

### 9.5.2 Example 2

```
ssdiff --unordered numbers_buggy.csv numbers.csv
```

Compare two tables, neglecting row order.

### 9.5.3 Example 3

```
ssdiff --format sql numbers_buggy.sqlite numbers.sqlite
```

Compare two databases, with output in SQL format.

### 9.5.4 Example 4

```
ssdiff --format hilite --output review.csv numbers_buggy.csv numbers.csv
```

Generate tabular diff for eyeballing. If ssdiff is compiled with gnumeric support, and output format is \*.xls, color highlighting is added.

## 9.6 Patch formats

- **tdiff**: *[default]* vaguely similar to a standard unix diff
- **csv**: csv-compatible diff format
- **hilite**: colorful spreadsheet format
- **index**: tabular output showing relationship between rows and columns
- **ops**: summarize modified rows in a table
- **raw**: verbose diff format for debugging
- **review**: spreadsheet diff format suitable for quickly accepting or rejecting changes
- **sql**: SQL format (data diffs only)

## 9.7 Database/spreadsheet file formats

CSV: plain-text delimiter-separated family of formats

- **.csv**: Comma-separated values
- **.tsv**: Tab-separated values
- **.ssv**: Semicolon-separated values
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "csv",  
  "file": "fname.dsv",  
  "delimiter": "|" }  
}

SQLITE: file-based database

- **.sqlite**: Sqlite database file
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "sqlite",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}  
• **dbi:sqlite:fname.db** (Force sqlite interpretation)

SQLTEXT: sqlite-format sql dump

- **.sqltext**: SQL dump of Sqlite database
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "sqltext",  
  "file": "fname.sql"  
}
- **dbi:sqltext:fname.sql** (Force sqltext interpretation)

JSONBOOK: Spreadsheet formats in json

- **.jsonbook**: Json spreadsheet

GNUMERIC: Spreadsheet formats (via gnumeric)

- **.xls**: Excel spreadsheet
- **.xlsx**: Excel spreadsheet
- **.gnumeric**: Gnumeric spreadsheet
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "gnumeric",  
  "file": "fname.sheet"  
}
- **dbi:gnumeric:fname.sheet** (Force Gnumeric interpretation)

MDB: Access database format (via Mdbtools, READ-ONLY)

- **.mdb**: Access database file
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "access",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}
- **dbi:access:fname.db** (Force Access interpretation)

MYSQL: database connector

- **.json:** {  
  "type": "mysql",  
  "database": "db\_name",  
  "host": "localhost",  
  "port": "1111",  
  "username": "root",  
  "password": "\*\*\*\*"  
}
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name** (Use default port, username, etc)
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:username=USER:password=PASS**
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:host=HOST:port=PORT**

## 9.8 Version

ssdiff version 0.5.8

## 10 sspatch

Modify a table/database/spreadsheet to integrate the changes described in a pre-computed difference.

### 10.1 Usage

- `sspatch [options] DATAFILE PATCHFILE`
- `sspatch [options] --cmd PATCHSTRING DATAFILE`

### 10.2 Index

- [Option summary](#)
- [Option details](#)
- [Examples](#)
- [Patch formats](#)
- [Database/spreadsheet file formats](#)
- [Version](#)

### 10.3 Option summary

- `--cmd=CMD`
- `--default-table=TABLE`
- `--help`
- `--inplace`
- `--input-formats`
- `--output=OUTPUTFILE`
- `--patch-formats`
- `--table=TABLE`

### 10.4 Option details

**--cmd=CMD**

specify a patch (in tdiff format) with a string rather than as a file, useful to make a quick change to a table that does not merit a full patch file

**--default-table=TABLE**

name to use when a table name is needed and not supplied

**--help**

show how to use this program

**--inplace**

if modifications are made, make them in place without a copy

**--input-formats**

list supported input database formats

**--output=OUTPUTFILE**

direct output to this file (default is standard output)

**--patch-formats**

list supported patch formats

**--table=TABLE**

operate on a single named table of a workbook/database

## 10.5 Examples

You can generate test file(s) for the examples that follow:

```
sspatch --test-file numbers.csv
sspatch --test-file numbers_buggy.csv
sspatch --test-file numbers_buggy.sqlite
```

### 10.5.1 Example 1

```
sspatch numbers_buggy.csv numbers_patch.tdiff
```

Apply a patch to a table. Output goes to standard output. Input file is untouched.

### 10.5.2 Example 2

```
sspatch --inplace numbers_buggy.csv numbers_patch.tdiff
```

Apply a patch to a table. Input file is modified.

### 10.5.3 Example 3

```
sspatch --tmp tmp.sqlite numbers_buggy.sqlite numbers_patch.tdiff
```

Apply a patch to a sqlite database. Input file is not modified. Space for a temporary database is needed to do this. If not supplied, sspatch will ask for it.

### 10.5.4 Example 4

```
sspatch - numbers_patch.tdiff < numbers_buggy.csv
```

Apply a patch to a table read from standard input.

### 10.5.5 Example 5

```
sspatch numbers_buggy.csv - < numbers_patch.tdiff
```

Apply a patch read from standard input.

### 10.5.6 Example 6

```
sspatch --cmd "+ |two|2|" numbers_buggy.csv
```

Add a new row to a table.

### 10.5.7 Example 7

```
sspatch --cmd "- |NAME=four|" numbers.csv
```

Remove a row from a table

### 10.5.8 Example 8

```
sspatch --cmd "= |NAME=four|DIGIT:*->4|" numbers_buggy.csv
```

Change the DIGIT column on a row with NAME=four.

## 10.6 Patch formats

- **tdiff**: *[default]* vaguely similar to a standard unix diff
- **csv**: csv-compatible diff format
- **hilite**: colorful spreadsheet format
- **index**: tabular output showing relationship between rows and columns
- **ops**: summarize modified rows in a table
- **raw**: verbose diff format for debugging
- **review**: spreadsheet diff format suitable for quickly accepting or rejecting changes
- **sql**: SQL format (data diffs only)

## 10.7 Database/spreadsheet file formats

CSV: plain-text delimiter-separated family of formats

- **.csv**: Comma-separated values
- **.tsv**: Tab-separated values
- **.ssv**: Semicolon-separated values
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "csv",  
  "file": "fname.dsv",  
  "delimiter": "|"  
}

SQLITE: file-based database

- **.sqlite**: Sqlite database file
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "sqlite",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}
- **dbi:sqlite:fname.db** (Force sqlite interpretation)

SQLITE: sqlite-format sql dump

- **.sqltext**: SQL dump of Sqlite database
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "sqltext",  
  "file": "fname.sql"  
}
- **dbi:sqltext:fname.sql** (Force sqltext interpretation)

JSONBOOK: Spreadsheet formats in json

- **.jsonbook**: Json spreadsheet

GNUMERIC: Spreadsheet formats (via gnumeric)

- **.xls**: Excel spreadsheet
- **.xlsx**: Excel spreadsheet
- **.gnumeric**: Gnumeric spreadsheet
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "gnumeric",  
  "file": "fname.sheet"  
}
- **dbi:gnumeric:fname.sheet** (Force Gnumeric interpretation)

MDB: Access database format (via Mdbtools, READ-ONLY)

- **.mdb**: Access database file



- **.json:** {  
  "type": "access",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}
- **dbi:access:fname.db** (Force Access interpretation)

MYSQL: database connector

- **.json:** {  
  "type": "mysql",  
  "database": "db\_name",  
  "host": "localhost",  
  "port": "1111",  
  "username": "root",  
  "password": "\*\*\*\*\*"  
}
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name** (Use default port, username, etc)
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:username=USER:password=PASS**
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:host=HOST:port=PORT**

## 10.8 Version

sspatch version 0.5.8

## 11 ssmerge

Merge table/database/spreadsheets. The first file must be a common ancestor of the remaining two.

### 11.1 Usage

- **ssmerge [options] FILE1 FILE2 FILE3**

## 11.2 Index

- [Option summary](#)
- [Option details](#)
- [Examples](#)
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## 11.3 Option summary

- [--bid=COLUMN](#)
- [--default-table=TABLE](#)
- [--fixed-columns](#)
- [--head-trimmed](#)
- [--help](#)
- [--id=COLUMN](#)
- [--inplace](#)
- [--input-formats](#)
- [--named](#)
- [--output=OUTPUTFILE](#)
- [--patch-formats](#)
- [--table=TABLE](#)
- [--tail-trimmed](#)
- [--unordered](#)

## 11.4 Option details

**--bid=COLUMN**

boost a column (repeat option for multiple columns)

**--default-table=TABLE**

name to use when a table name is needed and not supplied

**--fixed-columns**

ignore new or removed columns

**--head-trimmed**

ignore rows removed at the beginning of a table (such as a log file)

**--help**

show how to use this program

**--id=COLUMN**

set primary key (repeat option for multi-column key)

**--inplace**

if modifications are made, make them in place without a copy

**--input-formats**

list supported input database formats

**--named**

trust names of columns, omitting checks for column renames

**--output=OUTPUTFILE**

direct output to this file (default is standard output)

**--patch-formats**

list supported patch formats

**--table=TABLE**

operate on a single named table of a workbook/database

**--tail-trimmed**

ignore rows removed at the end of a table (such as a log file)

**--unordered**

treat order of rows as unimportant

## 11.5 Examples

You can generate test file(s) for the examples that follow:

```
ssmerge --test-file numbers.csv
ssmerge --test-file numbers_buggy.csv
ssmerge --test-file numbers_buggy_add.csv
ssmerge --test-file numbers_conflict.csv
```

### 11.5.1 Example 1

```
ssmerge numbers_buggy.csv numbers.csv numbers_buggy_add.csv
```

Merge two CSV tables (numbers.csv and numbers\_buggy\_add.csv) with a common ancestor (numbers\_buggy.csv).

### 11.5.2 Example 2

```
ssmerge --theirs numbers_buggy.csv numbers.csv numbers_conflict.csv
```

Merge numbers.csv and numbers\_conflict.csv (with common ancestor numbers\_buggy.csv), deferring to numbers\_conflict.csv in the case of conflict.

### 11.5.3 Example 3

```
ssmerge --ours numbers_buggy.csv numbers.csv numbers_conflict.csv
```

Merge numbers.csv and numbers\_conflict.csv (with common ancestor numbers\_buggy.csv), deferring to numbers.csv in the case of conflict.

### 11.5.4 Example 4

```
ssmerge --inplace --theirs numbers_buggy.csv numbers.csv numbers_conflict.csv
```

Merge directly into numbers.csv. Without --inplace, output goes to standard output.

## 11.6 Patch formats

- **tdiff**: *[default]* vaguely similar to a standard unix diff
- **csv**: csv-compatible diff format
- **hilite**: colorful spreadsheet format

- **index**: tabular output showing relationship between rows and columns
- **ops**: summarize modified rows in a table
- **raw**: verbose diff format for debugging
- **review**: spreadsheet diff format suitable for quickly accepting or rejecting changes
- **sql**: SQL format (data diffs only)

## 11.7 Database/spreadsheet file formats

CSV: plain-text delimiter-separated family of formats

- **.csv**: Comma-separated values
- **.tsv**: Tab-separated values
- **.ssv**: Semicolon-separated values
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "csv",  
  "file": "fname.dsv",  
  "delimiter": "|" }  
}

SQLITE: file-based database

- **.sqlite**: Sqlite database file
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "sqlite",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}
- **dbi:sqlite:fname.db** (Force sqlite interpretation)

SQLITEXT: sqlite-format sql dump

- **.sqlitext**: SQL dump of Sqlite database
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "sqlitext",  
  "file": "fname.sql"  
}

- **dbi:sqlitext:fname.sql** (Force sqlitext interpretation)

JSONBOOK: Spreadsheet formats in json

- **.jsonbook**: Json spreadsheet

GNUMERIC: Spreadsheet formats (via gnumeric)

- **.xls**: Excel spreadsheet
- **.xlsx**: Excel spreadsheet
- **.gnumeric**: Gnumeric spreadsheet
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "gnumeric",  
  "file": "fname.sheet"  
}
- **dbi:gnumeric:fname.sheet** (Force Gnumeric interpretation)

MDB: Access database format (via Mdbtools, READ-ONLY)

- **.mdb**: Access database file
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "access",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}
- **dbi:access:fname.db** (Force Access interpretation)

MYSQL: database connector

- **.json**: {  
  "type": "mysql",  
  "database": "db\_name",  
  "host": "localhost",  
  "port": "1111",  
  "username": "root",  
  "password": "\*\*\*\*\*"  
}

- **dbi:mysql:database\_name** (Use default port, username, etc)
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:username=USER:password=PASS**
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:host=HOST:port=PORT**

## 11.8 Version

ssmerge version 0.5.8

## 12 ssresolve

Resolve a file with conflicts from ssmerge.

### 12.1 Usage

- ssresolve [options] FILE

### 12.2 Index

- [Option summary](#)
- [Option details](#)
- [Examples](#)
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### 12.3 Option summary

- [--default-table=TABLE](#)
- [--dry-run](#)
- [--help](#)
- [--neither](#)
- [--ours](#)
- [--theirs](#)

## 12.4 Option details

**--default-table=TABLE**

name to use when a table name is needed and not supplied

**--dry-run**

make no changes, just describe what would happen

**--help**

show how to use this program

**--neither**

in case of conflict use cell value from common ancestor

**--ours**

in case of conflict use cell value that was the local choice

**--theirs**

in case of conflict use cell value that wasn't the local choice

## 12.5 Examples

You can generate test file(s) for the examples that follow:

```
ssresolve --test-file numbers.csv
ssresolve --test-file numbers_buggy.csv
ssresolve --test-file numbers_conflict.csv
```

### 12.5.1 Example 1

```
ssresolve numbers_muddle.csv
```

Check if file is resolved.

### 12.5.2 Example 2

```
ssresolve --ours numbers_muddle.csv
```

Resolve conflicts in favor of local/left values.

### 12.5.3 Example 3

```
ssresolve --theirs numbers_muddle.csv
```



Resolve conflicts in favor of remote/right values.

#### 12.5.4 Example 4

```
ssresolve --neither numbers_muddle.csv
```

Resolve conflicts in favor of ancestral values.

## 12.6 Patch formats

- **tdiff**: *[default]* vaguely similar to a standard unix diff
- **csv**: csv-compatible diff format
- **hilite**: colorful spreadsheet format
- **index**: tabular output showing relationship between rows and columns
- **ops**: summarize modified rows in a table
- **raw**: verbose diff format for debugging
- **review**: spreadsheet diff format suitable for quickly accepting or rejecting changes
- **sql**: SQL format (data diffs only)

## 12.7 Database/spreadsheet file formats

CSV: plain-text delimiter-separated family of formats

- **.csv**: Comma-separated values
- **.tsv**: Tab-separated values
- **.ssv**: Semicolon-separated values
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "csv",  
  "file": "fname.dsv",  
  "delimiter": "|"   
}

SQLITE: file-based database

- **.sqlite**: Sqlite database file
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "sqlite",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}
- **dbi:sqlite:fname.db** (Force sqlite interpretation)

SQLITEXT: sqlite-format sql dump

- **.sqltext**: SQL dump of Sqlite database
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "sqltext",  
  "file": "fname.sql"  
}
- **dbi:sqltext:fname.sql** (Force sqltext interpretation)

JSONBOOK: Spreadsheet formats in json

- **.jsonbook**: Json spreadsheet

GNUMERIC: Spreadsheet formats (via gnumeric)

- **.xls**: Excel spreadsheet
- **.xlsx**: Excel spreadsheet
- **.gnumeric**: Gnumeric spreadsheet
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "gnumeric",  
  "file": "fname.sheet"  
}
- **dbi:gnumeric:fname.sheet** (Force Gnumeric interpretation)

MDB: Access database format (via Mdbtools, READ-ONLY)

- **.mdb**: Access database file

- **.json:** {  
  "type": "access",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}
- **dbi:access:fname.db** (Force Access interpretation)

MYSQL: database connector

- **.json:** {  
  "type": "mysql",  
  "database": "db\_name",  
  "host": "localhost",  
  "port": "1111",  
  "username": "root",  
  "password": "\*\*\*\*\*"  
}
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name** (Use default port, username, etc)
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:username=USER:password=PASS**
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:host=HOST:port=PORT**

## 12.8 Version

ssresolve version 0.5.8

## 13 ssformat

Reformat tables/databases/spreadsheets.

### 13.1 Usage

- ssformat [options] FILE
- ssformat [options] FILE1 FILE2

## 13.2 Index

- [Option summary](#)
- [Option details](#)
- [Examples](#)
- [Patch formats](#)
- [Database/spreadsheet file formats](#)
- [Version](#)

## 13.3 Option summary

- [--default-table=TABLE](#)
- [--header](#)
- [--help](#)
- [--index](#)
- [--input-formats](#)
- [--table=TABLE](#)

## 13.4 Option details

### **--default-table=TABLE**

name to use when a table name is needed and not supplied

### **--header**

extract column names only

### **--help**

show how to use this program

### **--index**

extract content of key columns only

### **--input-formats**

list supported input database formats

### **--table=TABLE**

operate on a single named table of a workbook/database

## 13.5 Examples

You can generate test file(s) for the examples that follow:

```
ssformat --test-file numbers.csv
ssformat --test-file numbers.sqlite
```

### 13.5.1 Example 1

```
ssformat numbers.csv numbers_converted.sqlite
```

Convert CSV format table to an Sqlite database table.

### 13.5.2 Example 2

```
ssformat numbers.sqlite numbers_converted.csv
```

Convert Sqlite database table to a CSV format table.

### 13.5.3 Example 3

```
ssformat numbers.sqlite -
```

Display contents of an Sqlite database table.

## 13.6 Patch formats

- **tdiff**: *[default]* vaguely similar to a standard unix diff
- **csv**: csv-compatible diff format
- **hilite**: colorful spreadsheet format
- **index**: tabular output showing relationship between rows and columns
- **ops**: summarize modified rows in a table
- **raw**: verbose diff format for debugging
- **review**: spreadsheet diff format suitable for quickly accepting or rejecting changes
- **sql**: SQL format (data diffs only)

## 13.7 Database/spreadsheet file formats

CSV: plain-text delimiter-separated family of formats

- **.csv**: Comma-separated values
- **.tsv**: Tab-separated values
- **.ssv**: Semicolon-separated values
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "csv",  
  "file": "fname.dsv",  
  "delimiter": "|" }  
}

SQLITE: file-based database

- **.sqlite**: Sqlite database file
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "sqlite",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}
- **dbi:sqlite:fname.db** (Force sqlite interpretation)

SQLITEXT: sqlite-format sql dump

- **.sqltext**: SQL dump of Sqlite database
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "sqltext",  
  "file": "fname.sql"  
}
- **dbi:sqltext:fname.sql** (Force sqltext interpretation)

JSONBOOK: Spreadsheet formats in json

- **.jsonbook**: Json spreadsheet

GNUMERIC: Spreadsheet formats (via gnumeric)

- **.xls**: Excel spreadsheet
- **.xlsx**: Excel spreadsheet
- **.gnumeric**: Gnumeric spreadsheet
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "gnumeric",  
  "file": "fname.sheet"  
}
- **dbi:gnumeric:fname.sheet** (Force Gnumeric interpretation)

MDB: Access database format (via Mdbtools, READ-ONLY)

- **.mdb**: Access database file
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "access",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}
- **dbi:access:fname.db** (Force Access interpretation)

MYSQL: database connector

- **.json**: {  
  "type": "mysql",  
  "database": "db\_name",  
  "host": "localhost",  
  "port": "1111",  
  "username": "root",  
  "password": "\*\*\*\*"  
}
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name** (Use default port, username, etc)
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:username=USER:password=PASS**
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:host=HOST:port=PORT**

## 13.8 Version

ssformat version 0.5.8

## 14 ssrediff

Reformat a tabular diff file. Converting to hilite/review formats will require supplying the original spreadsheet/database. Not every diff format supported as output by ssdiff can be read as input by ssrediff.

### 14.1 Usage

- `ssrediff [options] PATCHFILE`
- `ssrediff [options] DATAFILE PATCHFILE`

### 14.2 Index

- [Option summary](#)
- [Option details](#)
- [Examples](#)
- [Patch formats](#)
- [Database/spreadsheet file formats](#)
- [Version](#)

### 14.3 Option summary

- `--default-table=TABLE`
- `--format=FORMAT`
- `--help`
- `--omit-format-name`
- `--omit-sheet-name`
- `--output=OUTPUTFILE`
- `--patch-formats`



## 14.4 Option details

**--default-table=TABLE**

name to use when a table name is needed and not supplied

**--format=FORMAT**

set difference format for output

**--help**

show how to use this program

**--omit-format-name**

omit any version-dependent header from diff

**--omit-sheet-name**

omit any sheet/table name from diff

**--output=OUTPUTFILE**

direct output to this file (default is standard output)

**--patch-formats**

list supported patch formats

## 14.5 Examples

You can generate test file(s) for the examples that follow:

```
ssrediff --test-file numbers.csv
ssrediff --test-file numbers_buggy.csv
```

### 14.5.1 Example 1

```
ssrediff --format sql numbers_patch.tdiff
```

Convert tdiff format file to SQL

### 14.5.2 Example 2

```
ssrediff --format csv numbers_patch.tdiff
```

Convert tdiff format file to a CSV-readable diff format

### 14.5.3 Example 3

```
ssrediff --format hilite --output review.csv numbers_buggy.csv numbers_patch.tdiff
```

Generate tabular form of diff for eyeballing. If ssrediff is compiled with gnumeric support, and output format is \*.xls, color highlighting is added.

## 14.6 Patch formats

- **tdiff**: *[default]* vaguely similar to a standard unix diff
- **csv**: csv-compatible diff format
- **hilite**: colorful spreadsheet format
- **index**: tabular output showing relationship between rows and columns
- **ops**: summarize modified rows in a table
- **raw**: verbose diff format for debugging
- **review**: spreadsheet diff format suitable for quickly accepting or rejecting changes
- **sql**: SQL format (data diffs only)

## 14.7 Database/spreadsheet file formats

CSV: plain-text delimiter-separated family of formats

- **.csv**: Comma-separated values
- **.tsv**: Tab-separated values
- **.ssv**: Semicolon-separated values
- **.json**: {  
  "type": "csv",  
  "file": "fname.dsv",  
  "delimiter": "|"   
}

SQLITE: file-based database

- **.sqlite**: Sqlite database file

- **.json:** {  
  "type": "sqlite",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}
- **dbi:sqlite:fname.db** (Force sqlite interpretation)

SQLITEXT: sqlite-format sql dump

- **.sqltext:** SQL dump of Sqlite database
- **.json:** {  
  "type": "sqltext",  
  "file": "fname.sql"  
}
- **dbi:sqltext:fname.sql** (Force sqltext interpretation)

JSONBOOK: Spreadsheet formats in json

- **.jsonbook:** Json spreadsheet

GNUMERIC: Spreadsheet formats (via gnumeric)

- **.xls:** Excel spreadsheet
- **.xlsx:** Excel spreadsheet
- **.gnumeric:** Gnumeric spreadsheet
- **.json:** {  
  "type": "gnumeric",  
  "file": "fname.sheet"  
}
- **dbi:gnumeric:fname.sheet** (Force Gnumeric interpretation)

MDB: Access database format (via Mdbtools, READ-ONLY)

- **.mdb:** Access database file
- **.json:** {  
  "type": "access",  
  "file": "fname.db"  
}

- **dbi:access:fname.db** (Force Access interpretation)

MYSQL: database connector

- **.json:** {  
  "type": "mysql",  
  "database": "db\_name",  
  "host": "localhost",  
  "port": "1111",  
  "username": "root",  
  "password": "\*\*\*\*"  
}
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name** (Use default port, username, etc)
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:username=USER:password=PASS**
- **dbi:mysql:database\_name:host=HOST:port=PORT**

## 14.8 Version

ssrediff version 0.5.8

## 15 ssfossil

This is a thin wrapper around the [fossil](#) version control system. It modifies the **merge** operation within fossil to use the algorithm behind the [ssmerge](#) command.

For usage information, see the [fossil reference](#).

The ssfossil client can interoperate with fossil used as a server, or vice versa.

## 16 coopy

Manage a repository of spreadsheets and databases. Usually run without options, for a graphical interface.

### 16.1 Usage

- coopy [options]
- coopy [options] DIRECTORY

## 16.2 Index

- [Option summary](#)
- [Option details](#)
- [Examples](#)
- [Version](#)

## 16.3 Option summary

- [--add=FILE](#)
- [--clone=URL](#)
- [--export=FILE](#)
- [--gui](#)
- [--help](#)
- [--key=KEY](#)
- [--message=MESSAGE](#)
- [--new](#)
- [--pull](#)
- [--push](#)
- [--silent](#)

## 16.4 Option details

### **--add=FILE**

attach the given spreadsheet/database to the repository

### **--clone=URL**

clone the given repository

### **--export=FILE**

export the given spreadsheet/database from the repository

### **--gui**

force GUI to be shown

### **--help**

show how to use this program

**--key=KEY**

use specified key when adding or exporting a spreadsheet/database

**--message=MESSAGE**

use the specified message as a log entry

**--new**

create a new, empty repository

**--pull**

pull in data from remote repository to local clone

**--push**

push out data to remote repository from local clone

**--silent**

keep output to a minimum

## 16.5 Examples

### 16.5.1 Example 1

```
coopy
```

run the coopy GUI from the current directory. All the actions in these examples can be achieved from the GUI.

### 16.5.2 Example 2

```
coopy --new
```

create a new empty repository in the current directory.

### 16.5.3 Example 3

```
coopy --key=people --add=people.xls
```

add people.xls to the repository, with key 'people'.

### 16.5.4 Example 4

```
coopy --key=orgs --export=organizations.sqlite
```

export organizations.sqlite from the repository, with key 'orgs'.

## 16.6 Version

coopy version 0.5.8

## 17 Related projects

(limited to free and open source projects)

- [datacouch](#), turn spreadsheets into APIs, fork datasets.
- [google-refine](#), a power tool for working with messy data.
- [diffkit](#), diff for tables, targets enterprises.
- [google-diff-match-patch](#), for synchronizing plain text.
- [SpreadSheet Compare](#), an Excel plugin.

## 18 What are all these funny files in a Coopy directory?

There are some special files that fossil uses to store information about a repository. They are:

- `_FOSSIL_`: this file identifies a directory as a fossil repository.
- `manifest`: this is a list of all managed files in the repository.
- `manifest.uuid`: this is a unique identifier. In addition, coopy will place this file in the same directory:
- `repository.coopy`: this is a database containing information about the repository. In fossil terms, this is the "real" repository, and the rest is just a "view" or "source tree". So as not to confuse people who have not used a version control system before, the coopy program does not emphasize this distinction. The fossil or [ss-fossil](#) program can be used to create multiple views of the same fossil repository.

## 19 Diff format

- [TDIFF tabular diff format](#) - this is the main supported format. It has the aesthetics of classic diffs.

- [CSV DTBL diff format](#) - this is another supported format. It is a CSV readable file.
- `patch_format_csv_v_0_2` - an older format, deprecated but still supported.
- Raw format - a verbose format useful for debugging. Cannot be read for patching.

## 20 TDIFF tabular diff format

### Version

0.3

This page describes the TDIFF diff format. This is the main format to be used by the COOPY toolbox for representing differences between tables. It is based on a draft specification with Joe Panico, see [version history](#).

### 20.1 General structure

TDIFF documents use the UTF-8 character encoding.

TDIFF documents comprise any number of [comment blocks](#), [control blocks](#), and [diff hunks](#), interleaved in any order. Each diff hunk describes a related set of differences between two tables. Each hunk could stand on its own as an independent TDIFF document. When there is a choice in how to decompose differences between two tables as a sequence of hunks, generators are encouraged to choose a decomposition that minimizes ordering effects between hunks.

Example:

```
# tdiff version 0.3

/*
 * fix some goofs
 */
* |bridge=Brooklyn|designer:'J.A.Roebling'|length:1595|
= |bridge=Williamsburg|designer:'D.D.Duck'->'L.L.Buck'|length:1600|
* |bridge=Queensborough|designer:'Palmer & Hornbostel'|length:1182|

/*
 * remove spam and add a missing bridge
 */

- |bridge=Spamspan|designer:'S.Spamington'|length:10000|
+ |bridge=Manhattan|designer:'G.Lindenthal'|length:1470|

/*
 * we are done!
 */
```



## 20.2 Comment blocks

Comment blocks are delimited using:

```
/* */
```

(C style). Any content can occur within a comment block. Examples:

```
/* This is an example single-line comment */
/* This is an
   example multi-line
   comment */
```

## 20.3 Control blocks

Control blocks begin with "# ", and are delimited by a newline or linefeed. Control blocks may hold meta information about diffs, or environmental information that might be useful to an interpreter. Apart from the special [header control block](#), they lie outside of the scope of this specification.

## 20.4 Header control block

A TDIFF document should begin with a special [control block](#) called the header. The header begins with the characters "# tdiff". It is there to aid in rapid identification of tdiff documents. Example:

```
# tdiff version 0.3
```

## 20.5 Hunk

A hunk is a series of one or more adjacent [diff lines](#), optionally preceded by a [column line](#), where each diff line represents the differences between the source tables for a single row. The lines within a hunk should be separated by only the newline characters that terminate each diff line, so that they all appear as adjacent lines within a text editor. Within a TDIFF document, hunks are delimited from each other via intermediate filler or comment blocks.

Example hunk:

```
- |bridge=Spamspan|designer:'S.Spamington'|length:10000|
= |bridge=Williamsburg|designer:'D.D.Duck'->'L.L.Buck'|length:1600|
+ |bridge=Manhattan|designer:'G.Lindenthal'|length:1470|
```

## 20.6 Diff line

A diff line describes differences in a single row of the two tables that were compared. One table is designated the left or local table (called **L**) and the other table is designated the right or remote table (called **R**).

There are three types of diff lines:

- **MISSING** line: describes a row that is present in **L** but absent in **R**.
- **EXTRA** line: describes a row that is absent in **L** but present in **R**.
- **CHANGE** line: describes a row that is present in both tables, but differs in some specific column values.

Each diff line occupies its own line in the document, and begins with one of three characters. These three characters are called "line type" characters:

- **MISSING** lines begin with plus: '+'. In order to make **R** look like **L** we would have to add the missing row to **R**.
- **EXTRA** lines begin with minus: '-'. In order to make **R** look like **L** we would remove the extra row from **R**.
- **CHANGE** lines begin with equals: '='. In order to make **R** look like **L** we would update some of its column values.

The line type character can be left or right padded with any amount of whitespace, for readability. The line type character is followed by any number of name-value pairs, where the names represent column names, and the values are the values for the corresponding column name in that particular row. The name is separated from the value by an equals ('=') sign for identifying columns (usually part of the primary key, but see [Keys versus identity](#)) or a colon (':') sign for all other columns. The name-value pairs, as well as the line type character, are delimited by a pipe '|' character.

Example diff line:

```
= |bridge=Williamsburg|designer:'D.D.Duck'->'L.L.Buck'|length:1600|
```

## 20.7 Column line

Optionally, key names can be "factored out" of diff lines and placed in a special column line. A column line lists column names, followed by "=" for identifying columns. New columns that were not present in the input should have "->" appended, to flag that cells in such columns have no prior values.

Here's a column line example:

```
@ |bridge=|designer|length|
```

This establishes bridge as an identifying column that appears first, followed by designer and length columns. We can now rewrite this:

```
= |bridge=Williamsburg|designer:'D.D.Duck'->'L.L.Buck'|length:1600|
```

as this:

```
= |Williamsburg|'D.D.Duck'->'L.L.Buck'|1600|
```

The effect of column lines should be limited to within a single hunk.

In the case of column diffs, for each cell that was different between **L** and **R**, both the old and new values are displayed. The old value must come first, followed by `'->'` (dash greater than), followed by the new value. For all three diff line types, the generator may include **L** name-value pairs that are not strictly needed, but may help with row identification.

## 20.8 Keys versus identity

Determining whether a row is present in **L** and **R** requires a judgment about row identity. This judgment may be simple. For example, the identity of a row may simply be the value of its primary key. However, it is possible that the identity of a row is distinct from its primary key. Consider for example a table with an auto-incrementing integer primary key, rather than something derived from the row data. Comparison of that key between separately maintained copies of that table will be meaningless. For meaningful comparison, an alternate row identity would need to be constructed.

This issue lies outside the TDIFF specification, but it is important that implementors be aware that columns used for identification may or may not be part of the primary key.

## 20.9 Appendix: Quoting

Names or values may be quoted in a TDIFF document. Quoting is done as follows:

- All instances of the single-quote character are duplicated into pairs.
- All control characters and the backslash character are escaped as for C literals.
- The name or value is wrapped in single-quotes

It is always safe to single-quote a name or value. Names or values *must* be quoted in any of the following conditions:

- A name or value conflicts with the reserved word: NULL
- A name or value contains any character in the 7-bit ASCII range that is *not* in the following set: [A-Za-z0-9+. ]
- A *name* begins with any of the characters [0-9+..].

## 20.10 Appendix: Grammar

```

document ::= header ((space)? block)*
block ::= hunk | control | comment | filler

hunk ::= (hunk_header)? ((space)? diff_line)+
hunk_header ::= '@' (space)+ divider (column divider)* break
diff_line ::= ('-' | '+' | '=') (space)+ divider (term divider)* break
term ::= (name ('=' | ':' )?) (value '->')? value
column ::= name ('=' | '->')?
break ::= divider? linebreak

control ::= "#" (divider value)* break

comment ::= ("/*" comment_body "*/")

filler ::= (linebreak | divider)+

header ::= "# tdiff" ([^r\n])* break

divider ::= '|'
linebreak ::= ('\r\n' | '\r' | '\n')

```

The linebreak non-terminal needs to be handled more carefully than the grammar suggests, since the number of linebreaks is significant in the grammar. The comment\_body non-terminal is as for the C language.

## 20.11 Appendix: Complete examples

In example one, both tables are in an RDBMS, both tables have the same column names, and the rows are identified using column1.

Example 1:

L:	R:							
column1,	column2,	column3,	column4		column1,	column2,	column3,	column4
1,	0000,	x,	aaaa		-----			
3,	2222,	x,	aaaa	2,	1111,	x,	aaaa	
4,	3333,	x,	aaaa	3,	2222,	y,	aaaa	
5,	4444,	x,	aaaa	4,	0000,	z,	bbbb	
				5,	4444,	z,	bbbb	

```

6,      5555,   x,      aaaa      6,      5555,   u,      aaaa
-----      7,      0000,   v,      aaaa
-----      8,      1111,   x,      aaaa
-----

```

#### Example 1 diff, variant 1:

```

# tdiff version 0.3

/*
 * this is the tDiff document for example 1, using 1 hunk only and no context.
 * Note the "|" usage varies from previous examples in this document.
 * "|" plays the same role as spaces and tabs in the spec, so varying
 * styles are possible.
 */
- | column1=1
+ | column1=2| column2:1111| column3:x| column4:aaaa
= | column1=3| column3:x->y
= | column1=4| column2:3333->0000| column3:x->z| column4:aaaa->bbbb
= | column1=5| column3:x->z| column4:aaaa->bbbb
= | column1=6| column3:x->u
+ | column1=7| column2:0000| column3:v| column4:aaaa
+ | column1=8| column2:1111| column3:x| column4:aaaa
/*
 * end of tDiff document
 */

```

#### Example 1 diff, variant 2:

```

# tdiff version 0.2

/*
 * here is a tDiff document that is equivalent to the document above, except
 * that it uses 8 hunks, more comments, and adds in some context
 */
/*
 * hunk 1: notice that columns 2,3,4 are context-- not strictly necessary
 * to specify a remove
 */
- | column1=1| column2:0000| column3:x| column4:aaaa

/*
 * hunk 2: notice that the hunks are separated by standalone newline
 */
+ | column1=2| column2:1111| column3:x| column4:aaaa

/*
 * hunk 3: notice that column2 and column4 are merely context
 */
= | column1=3| column2:2222| column3:x->y| column4:aaaa

/*
 * hunk 4: notice that the column diff line is surrounded by context rows, and
 * that the context rows describe the values on the RHS.
 */

```

```

* | column1=3| column2:2222| column3:x| column4:aaaa
= | column1=4| column2:3333->0000| column3:x->z| column4:aaaa->bbbb
* | column1=5| column2:4444| column3:x| column4:aaaa

/*
* hunk 5
*/
= | column1=5| column3:x->z| column4:aaaa->bbbb

/*
* hunk 6
*/
= | column1=6| column3:x->u

/*
* hunk 7
*/
+ | column1=7| column2:0000| column3:v| column4:aaaa

/*
* hunk 8
*/
+ | column1=8| column2:1111| column3:x| column4:aaaa

```

## 20.12 Appendix: Version history

TDIFF version 0.2 was co-developed by COOPY author Paul Fitzpatrick and [diffkit](#) author Joe Panico ([TDIFF 0.2 draft](#), [diffkit-user thread](#)). Version 0.3 contains extensions to deal with schema changes and the like, and hasn't been sanity checked by Joe.

Differences between version 0.2 and 0.3:

- 0.3 drops specification of ROW pseudo column
- 0.3 drops specification of Column Numbers
- 0.3 drops specification of Context

## 21 CSV DTBL diff format

### Version

0.5

This page describes the diff format (called DTBL) generated by "ssdiff --format-csv". This is the main format used in the COOPY toolbox for representing differences between tables. The diff format is itself tabular, so that diff files can be loaded by spreadsheet and database tools without writing a special parser. Within this document, we assume the diff is represented as a CSV file. Some simplification is possible if the diff

can be stored directly in a format that allows NULLs and other types, see [Representing NULLs and other types](#).

## 21.1 General structure

A diff file consists of a series of lines in CSV format, following [RFC4180](#) (see [CSV details](#)). The first two cells should evaluate to the strings "dtbl" and "csv" (see [First row](#)).

Here's an example:

```
dtbl,csv,version,0.5
column,name,number,digits
column,move,digits,number
```

In words, this would mean:

- Start with a table whose columns are called "number" and "digits".
- Reorder the columns, so the "number" column comes after "digits".

The width of the diff file in cells has no significance. Extra empty columns can be added to the end of rows without affecting the interpretation of the diff.

## 21.2 First row

The first row contains at least four non-empty cells.

- The first cell of the first row should have the value "dtbl" (a four-character string). The representation of that value may be quoted or unquoted.
- The second cell of the first row should have the value "csv" (a three-character string). The representation of that value may be quoted or unquoted.
- The third cell of the first row should have the value "version" (a seven-character string). The representation of that value may be quoted or unquoted.
- The fourth cell of the first row may have any non-empty value. The representation of that value may be quoted or unquoted.

This means that a CSV format diff file will begin with one of the following sequence of bytes (ascii/utf8 encoding):

- dtbl,csv,...
- "dtbl","csv",...

- "dtbl",csv,...
- dtbl,"csv"...

This set is effectively the format's "magic number".

Here's an example of a first row:

```
dtbl,csv,version,0.5,, ,
```

### 21.3 Config rows

The first row may be followed by a series of rows, each of which has the value "config" in its first cell. The second and third cells on such rows are interpreted as key-value pairs. The values of keys may affect the interpretation of the rest of the diff. For example:

```
config,param1,va11,, ,
```

There are currently no specified configuration parameters. This functionality is reserved for possible future use.

### 21.4 Operation rows

The remaining rows describe properties and transformations of a table. These rows are called "operations". Operations assume that the rows of the diff file are considered in order from the beginning of the file to the end.

The values of the first and second cells may be:

- [table name](#)
- [column name](#)
- [column insert](#)
- [column delete](#)
- [column move](#)
- [column rename](#)
- [link name](#)
- [link act](#)
- [row update](#)
- [row select](#)



- row insert
- row delete

## 21.5 table name

Specifies the table/sheet name. Useful for working with multi-table differences and patches.

```
table,name,"Outcome Measurement",,,
```

## 21.6 column name

This gives arbitrary labels for the columns in the table. The labels are those used to refer to the columns within the patch file. Trailing blank cells are ignored. For example:

```
column,name,number,digits,,
```

This specifies that two columns are expected, and those columns are labeled "number" and "digits".

Note that for some tables, such as those from CSV files, column names may be arbitrary or "guessed". This should be borne in mind in tools that apply diffs as patches to tables.

A "column name" row is mandatory if there are operations on columns to be performed ("column move", "column insert", or "column delete"). Otherwise, it is optional.

## 21.7 column move

This operation specifies the movement of a single column. The move is specified by giving the resultant order of columns after the move. For example:

```
column,name,[0],[1],,  
column,move,[1],[0],,
```

All operations of the form "column \*" are specified by giving the resultant order of columns after that operation.

## 21.8 column insert

This operation specifies the insertion of a single column. It has the same format as a "column move" row. The point of insertion is specified by giving the resulting column order, with a new column label inserted appropriately. Example:

```
column,name,[0],[1],,
column,insert,[0},{4},[1],
```

All operations of the form "column \*" are specified by giving the resultant order of columns after that operation.

## 21.9 column delete

This operation specifies the removal of a single column. It has the same format as the "column move" row. The point of insertion is specified by giving the resulting column order, with the unwanted column removed. Example:

```
column,name,{3},[1],[0},{4}
column,delete,{3},[0},{4},
```

All operations of the form "column \*" are specified by giving the resultant order of columns after that operation.

## 21.10 column rename

This operation specifies that a single column should be renamed. The specification is given by repeating the column names, with one name changed. For example:

```
column,name,number,digits
column,rename,number,digit
```

All operations of the form "column \*" are specified by giving the resultant order of columns after that operation.

## 21.11 link name

To allow tidy descriptions of operations on rows in tabular form (see the "row \*" operations), the DTBL format allows for flexibility in the **roles** assigned to diff columns. That role can be controlled using [link name](#) and [link act](#). The role of a diff column is:

- The **data column** it is associated with, if any. Data columns are columns in the table being transformed, whereas diff columns are columns in the diff file itself.
- The activity the diff column is associated with (such as matching or assigning data).

The first two diff columns are never associated with data columns; they instead contain operation tags such as "link name". The remaining diff columns may be associated with data columns as follows.

After any "column \*" operation, the association of patch columns is set to match one-to-one where they appear in that row. For example, after:

```
column,move,digits,number
```

the third patch column is associated with the data column called "digits", and the fourth patch column is associated with the data column called "number".

It is possible to change the association using the "link name" command. For example, after:

```
link,name,number,digits,digits
```

the third patch column is associated with the data column called "number", and the fourth and fifth patch columns are associated with the data column called "digits". It is acceptable for multiple patch columns to be associated with a single data column, since the those patch columns may have distinct actions (see [link act](#)). It is also acceptable to have patch columns associated with non-existent/virtual data columns. The interpretation of such columns must be resolved with a [link act](#) operation.

## 21.12 link act

This operation controls the action associated with patch columns. It assumes that associations between patch columns and data columns have already been set up (see [link name](#)). For example:

```
link,name,number,digits,digits
link,act,*,*,=
```

This associates the action "match" (or "\*") with the third and fourth column, and the action "assign" (or "=") with the fifth column. Here's another example:

```
link,name,number,digits
link,act,*,*=
```

This associates the action "match" (or "\*") with the third column, and the actions "match" and "assign" (or "\*=") with the fourth column.

See [row update](#) and [row select](#) to understand why this kind of flexibility is useful.

Possible actions are:

- "": none - no action, ignore this column.
- "\*": match - match against the data in this column.
- "=": assign - assign data in this column.
- "\*=": match and assign.
- "ROW": row - match a row identifier against the data in this column. The data column association is ignored in this case.
- "#": context - no action, ignore this column. However, the column will contain data just as for "\*" for the benefit of a reader.

## 21.13 row update

Modifies the values of a row. If not preceded by a [row select](#), it will select a row to modify using the same rules as [row select](#). It then makes changes according to the assignment actions in effect (see [link act](#)). Here's an example which would change a row whose first column contains "Paul" such that the second column becomes "Fitzpatrick":

```
column,name,first,last,age
link,act,*,=,
row,update,Paul,Fitzpatrick,
```

Here's an alternate example using [row select](#).

```
column,name,first,last,age
link,act,*,=,
row,select,Paul,,
row,update,,Fitzpatrick,
```

Here's an example that would select a row whose first column is "Paul" and change "Paul" to be "Peter".

```
column,name,first,last,age
link,name,first,first,
link,act,*,=,
row,update,Paul,Peter,
```

Here's an alternate example to achieve the same result:

```
column,name,first,last,age
link,act,*,=,
row,select,Paul,,
row,assign,Peter,,
```

## 21.14 row select

Selects a row matching the given values. Matches are made based on the actions linked with diff columns (see [link act](#)). This example selects a row whose first column is "Paul":

```
column,name,first,last,age
link,act,*, ,
row,select,Paul,,
```

The selection is stored until the next [row update](#), [row insert](#), or [row delete](#).

## 21.15 row insert

Inserts a row with the given values. Some table formats allow control over row order. In this case, if an insertion is preceeded by a [row select](#), the insertion is done before the selected row, otherwise it is done after the last existing row. Values are specified as for [row update](#).

## 21.16 row delete

Deletes a row matching the given values. Values are specified as for [row select](#).

## 21.17 CSV details

Since the CSV format has some variability, here are some notes on the variant expected. In summary, keep to [RFC4180](#) as closely as you can.

- If a cell begins with a double quote, the extent of the cell is determined by quoting rules. It is important to note that a cell may extend across line boundaries. The cell will extend to the next unpaired double quote in the patch. A pair of double quotes (") found by scanning forwards through the file is interpreted as the double quote character, and not used to delimit the cell's extent. Once the extent of a cell is determined, if a double quote is present at the beginning of that cell, it is stripped, along with the matching quote at the end.
- Otherwise, a cell extends until a comma, CR, or LF character, or the end of the file.
- An unquoted CRLF sequence is treated as a single delimiter.
- Cells should be quoted if they contain any whitespace or the comma character.

## 21.18 Representing NULLs and other types

The DTBL format, as represented in CSV, needs a way to describe all cell types as text. So far, only the issue of representing "NULL" has been addressed. The rule adopted is as follows:

- the four-letter string "NULL" is interpreted as a cell whose value is NULL (in the database sense).
- the five-letter string "\_NULL" is interpreted as a cell whose value is the four-letter string "NULL".
- the six-letter string "\_\_NULL" is interpreted as a cell whose value is the five-letter string "\_NULL".

- ...

There are other possibilities, such as distinguishing between a completely blank cell and a cell containing a pair of quotes, but such possibilities are unlikely to survive a round-trip through a graphical CSV editor and so could cause more problems than they solve.

## 21.19 Pending issues

- Control of row order (when possible) is not fully resolved.
- Typing of columns or cells is not resolved, especially for newly inserted columns. For existing columns/cells, it is not so big a problem, if the diff is interpreted in a type-preserving way.
- Comparing e.g. date/times is currently prone to differences in representation causing false mismatches.
- This list of pending issues has not been fully fleshed out.

## 22 Supported table formats

Programs in the COOPY toolbox can work with tables represented in the following formats:

- CSV (or other delimiter-separated formats).
- SQLite tables.
- MySQL tables (partial support at the time of writing).
- Spreadsheet sheets (.xls, .xlsx, .ods, etc).

CSV support is most complete, followed by SQLite, followed by Gnumeric, followed by MySQL. Good support for all four formats is targeted for version 1.0 of the toolbox.

### 22.1 Specifying sources

The COOPY tools expects to work with files as inputs and outputs. For example:

```
ssdiff ver1.sqlite ver2.sqlite
```

To use a database as an input or output, or to add configuration options on how a file should be interpreted, more information needs to be supplied. This can be done in two ways. One is to use a "dbi:\*" string. For example:

```
ssdiff ver1.sqlite dbi:mysql:ver2:username=root
```

This would compare the sqlite database in "ver1.sqlite" with the mysql database called "ver2". Alternatively, the extra information can be placed in a "proxy" file with a .json extension, in the **JSON** format. Here is a file users.json to refer to a table called "users" in a mysql database called "db":

```
{
  "type": "mysql",
  "database": "db",
  "username": "testy",
  "password": "*****",
  "host": "127.0.0.1",
  "port": 3333,
  "table": "users"
}
```

More example dbi strings:

```
dbi:csv:file=hello           # file "hello" is in csv format
dbi:csv::file=hello:there    # file "hello:there" is in csv format
# the use of "::" means that the following key/value pair is the
# last one, and ":" characters should no longer be used as a divider.
```