

## ***.gitignore***

A **.gitignore file** is a plain text file that tells Git which files or folders it should *ignore* when tracking changes in your project.

Normally, when you create or modify a file in your project, Git notices it and includes it in the list of files to be tracked or committed. But in real-world projects, there are many files you **don't want** in your repository because:

1. **They are automatically generated**

Example: build outputs (/dist, /target, /bin), compiled binaries, minified CSS/JS.

These can be re-generated from the source code and don't need to be stored in Git.

2. **They contain temporary or system-specific data**

Example: .DS\_Store on macOS, Thumbs.db on Windows, editor swap files like file.swp.

These files are unique to your computer and irrelevant to other developers.

3. **They have sensitive or personal information**

Example: API keys, passwords, or environment config files like .env.

These shouldn't be public or even shared with other team members through Git.

4. **They are IDE/editor-specific configuration files**

Example: .idea/, .vscode/ — these are settings for your personal workspace, not part of the actual code.

### **How .gitignore Works**

- You create a file named .gitignore in your project's root (or in subfolders for folder-specific rules).

- Inside it, you list **patterns** that match the files or directories to ignore.
- Git will skip tracking these files when you run `git add` or `git commit`.