# Table of contents

Contents

[Table of contents 1](#_Toc13494296)

[Introduction 1](#_Toc13494297)

[Basic operations 2](#_Toc13494298)

[Add File 2](#_Toc13494299)

[Commit File 5](#_Toc13494300)

[Push (no conflicts) 8](#_Toc13494301)

[Pull (no conflicts) 12](#_Toc13494302)

[Appendix A 14](#_Toc13494303)

[Appendix B 15](#_Toc13494304)

[Troubleshooting 15](#_Toc13494305)

[Advanced Troubleshooting 17](#_Toc13494306)

[Appendix C 19](#_Toc13494307)

# Introduction

This is how-to style document on how to use Git.

His dedicated audience is new Git user.

In general, it has Windows-oriented, but it should be pretty straight-forward to apply it on another platform.

If you have some SVN knowledge, please see [Appendix A](#_Appendix_A).

For troubleshooting see [Appendix B](#_Appendix_B). It uses command line command to resolve some troubles that you can encounter with.

There some choices and assumptions that was made deliberately and they not discussed in the document. There is no assumption, however, on your remote repository, it can be any Git provider such as GitHub, GitLab, etc.

PyCharm is used as git client through this document. See [Appendix C](#_Appendix_C) for details. All examples are deliberately provided on PyCharm.

Document start with [basic opertaions](#_Basic_operations) sush as [“git add”](#_Add_File), [“git commit”](#_Commit_File), [“git push”](#_Push_(no_conflicts)) and [“git pull’](#_Pull_(no_conflicts)).

Then there is pretty elaborate section on [Merge](#_Merge) It described many day-to-day use-cases and pitfalls. It is essential to understand how you can resolve conflicts.

Next section is about [Stash](#_Appendix_A).You should use it occasionally.

Next section is [Theory](#_Theory). I deliberately differ theoretical explanation as far as possible in order that you will have good basic understanding on how you’re going to work with Git. Further section assume that you read it.

Next section describe how to [create new project](#_Create_New_Project). You are not going to create new project every day, but you definitely should know how to do it. Usually, you will [create new project from existing project (git clone)](#_From_existing_project). Another way is to [create new project from scratch (git init)](#_From_Scratch_(git).

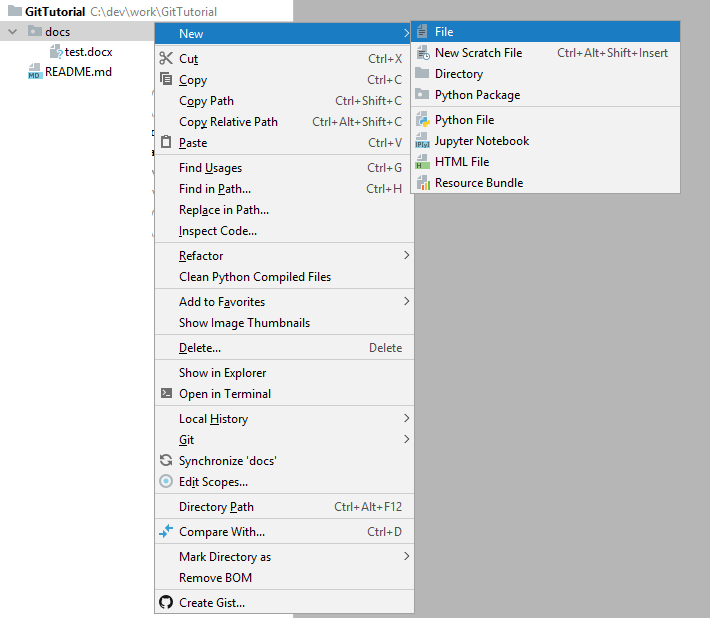
[Why not master only?](#_Why_not_master) section start the discussion of the best practices of working with Git.

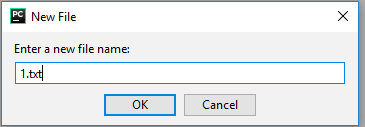
[Feature branch](#_Feature_branch) section describes one of the best practice that I recommend to do.

# Basic operations

## Add File

* If you are adding new file through Pycharm, it will be automatically added to Git (you will be able to commit it without any addition actions).





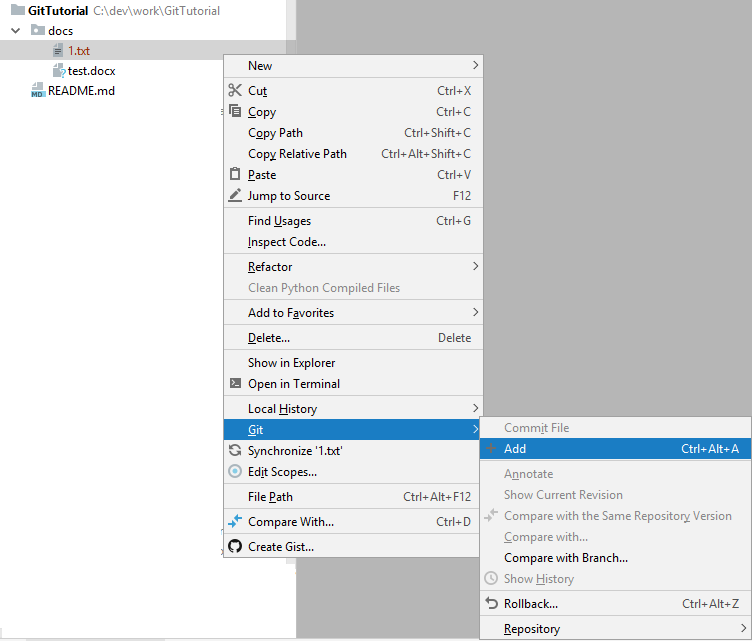
In such a case you just do nothing.

Note: If you copy/move file with PyCharm it will be also automatically added to Git and will be available for commit alter.

This are typical cases of working with files. PyCharm will “git add” it for you.

* Occasionally, you will want to add files outside PyCharm.
* For instance, you will copy this file from another location in Windows.
* Or you’re creating new file in CMD\Terminal (you better put some text there).
* Another use-case, when PyCharm is not added this file. See in commit section, how do you know.

Right-click on file that you want to add (you can select directory/project instead) -> Git -> Add.



Note: ”Commit file” is not available (it is greyed out).

Note: It is safe to add file multiple times; it will do nothing (after first time).

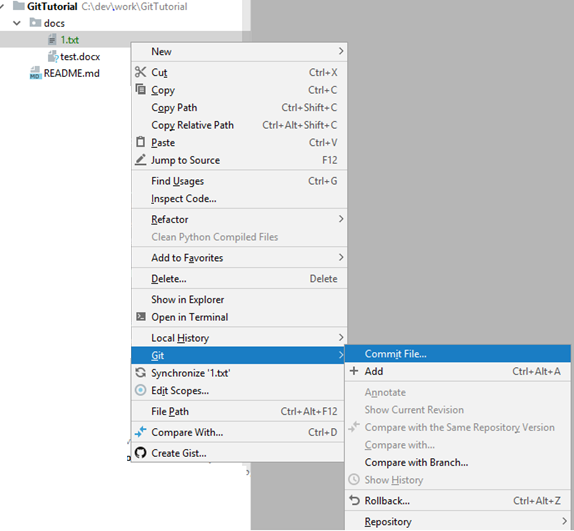
## Commit File

In order to commit file, it should be added first.

Note: In PyCharm it will be usually added (to index) automatically.

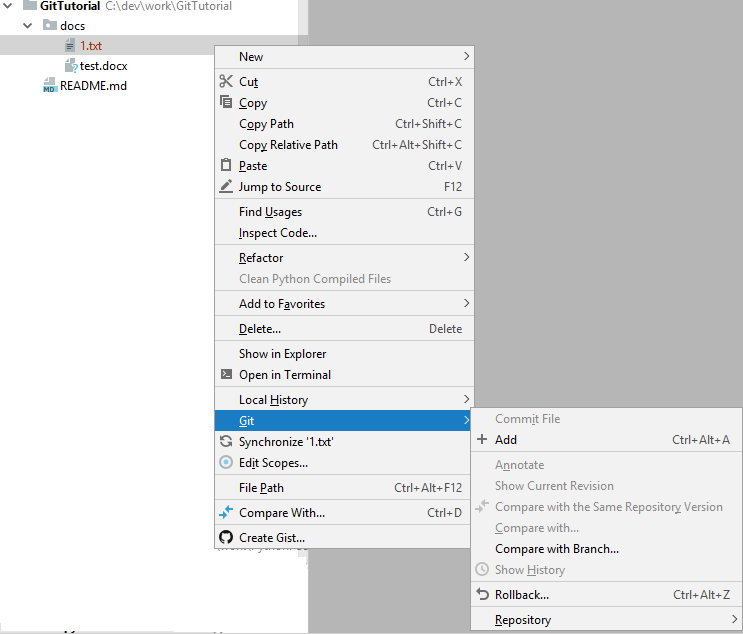
In order to commit file, you can

right-click on file that you want to commit (you can select directory/project instead) -> Git -> Commit.



* How can you check that file you are about to commit was added (to index)? One way is simply try to commit:

right-click on file that you want to commit (you can select directory/project instead) -> Git -> if commit is not available (is greyed out) than you should add the file (directory/project) first.



## Push (no conflicts)

After you commit your changes, you want them to be available to everybody. This is what “git push” does. Before, “git push”, all your commits are “visible” only for you.

Note: **If push failed due the conflict,** see [“merge” section](#_If_you_have) for details.

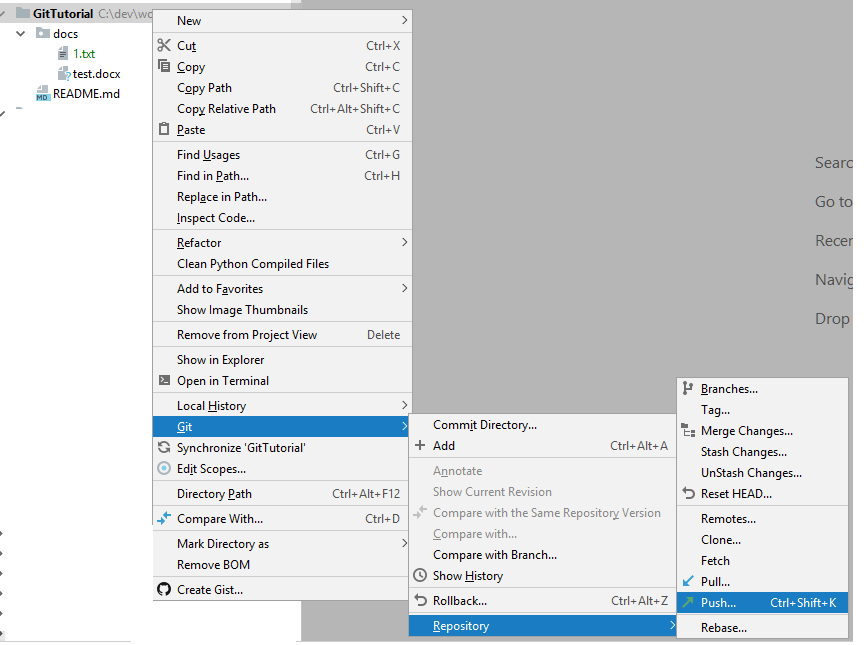
Note: Typically, you should do “git pull” first.

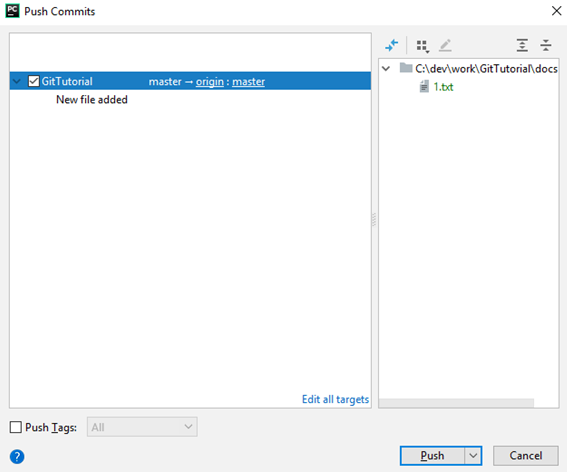
Note: Anyway, in this section I’m assuming that there are no conflicts in “git push”. Conflict resolution is walked through in “[Merge” section](#_Merge). See subsection “[If you have conflict when you’re pushing to git”](#_If_you_have).

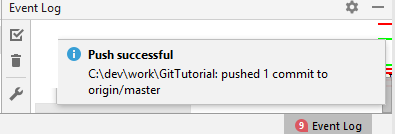
Right-click project -> Git -> Repository ->Push

In the popup window check the project you want to Push. Click on “Push” button.

You should see in the right left corner in the floating window “Push successful”.





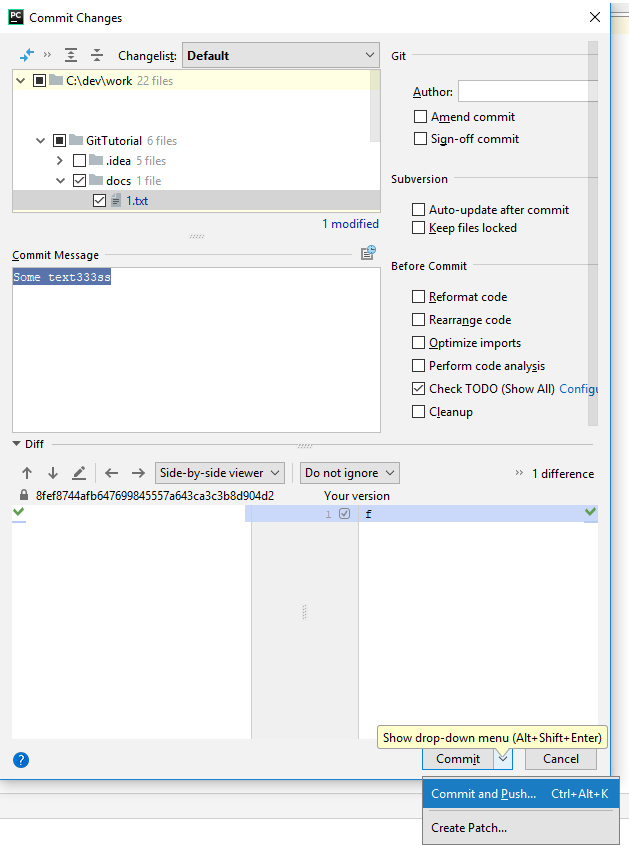


In the push commits window, you see all the Git project. In every Git project you see message of every commit that you’re about to push. On the right you can see from what files each commits consists of.

Note: **If push failed due the conflict,** see [“merge” section](#_If_you_have) for details.

Note: You can also commit&push together. This is not atomic operation, it will be translated to “git commit” and “git push” (last one can fail if there is conflict).

In the “commit changes” window near the commit button, you can click on “v” and you will see sub-menu in which you can chose commiy&push.



## Pull (no conflicts)

This operation takes changes that somebody else did and integrate them to your project.

Note: In this section I’m assuming that there are no conflicts in “git pull”. Conflict resolution is walked through in [“Merge” section](#_Merge), see subsection [“if you have conflict when you’re pulling from git, just resolve conflict as described”.](#_If_you_have_1)

Note: It is advised to do “git pull” once in a while.

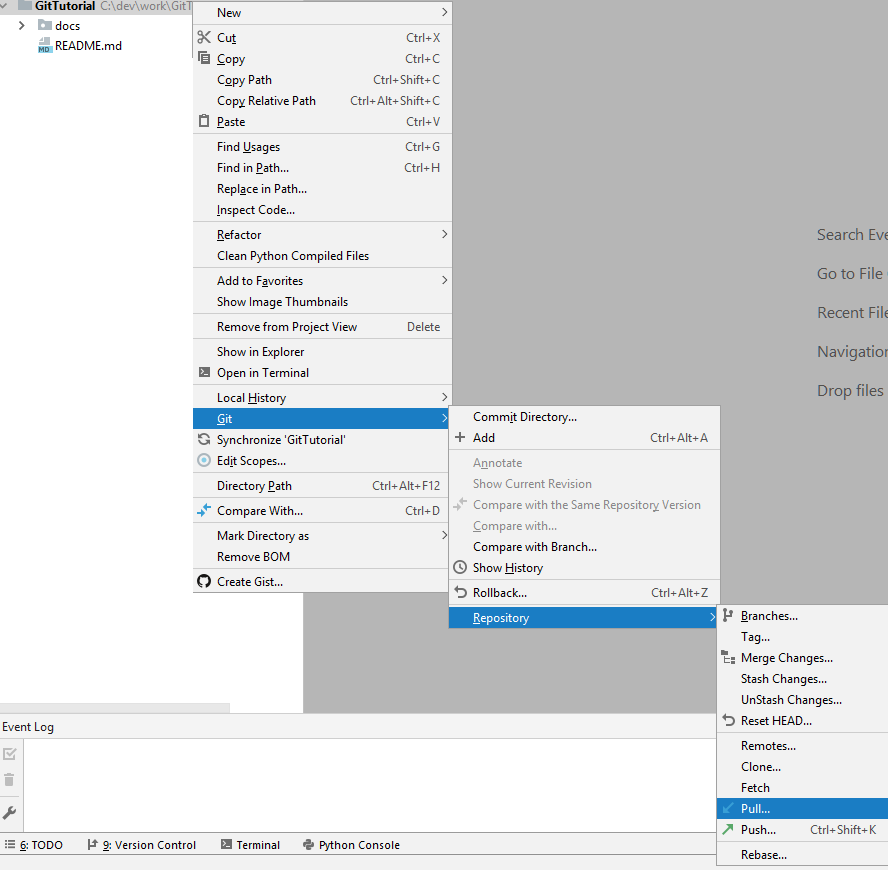
Important: It is better that **you will not have any uncommitted files before** you do “git pull”.

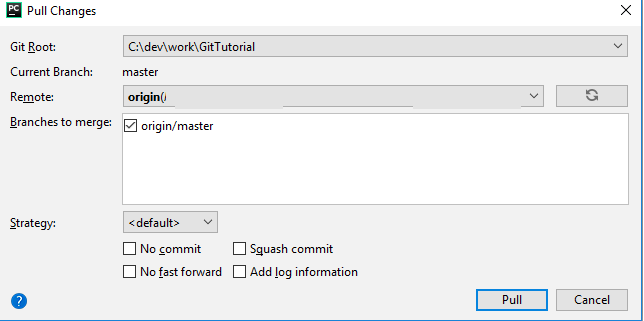
Note: If you make some changes, but didn’t finish you work and you want to pull the changes, you can stash (see [section on Stash](#_Stash)) your changes first, then make pull (resolve conflicts with your previous commits, if any), unstash (it will apply you changes on updated code-bases; you may require to resolve conflicts (again)). It is better to have all your changes committed.

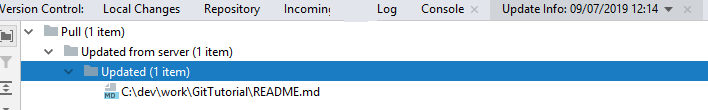
Righ-click on the project->Git>Reposiotry>Pull…

In the popup window click on “Pull” button.

You should see “Updated Info: *some\_datetime”* tab in the button of the Pycharm.







# Merge

This operation is crucial for day-to-day work. There are many use-cases when you need to do merge. They will be discussed below.

Merge is the operation that you need to do in order to *resolve conflicts*. What conflicts? Conflict between what do you have and what another people have.

How conflicts created? There are multiple ways, below only some of them are listed:

* Suppose, you change some file, say 1.txt. You didn’t commit it. Now, you’re **pulling** the other’s changes, and somebody else also change 1.txt. That is, **you and somebody else change the same file**. There is conflict.
* Suppose, you change some file, say 1.txt. You commit the change. Now, you’re **pulling** the other’s changes, and somebody else also change 1.txt. That is, **you and somebody else change the same file**. There is conflict.
* Suppose, you change some file, say 1.txt. You commit the change. Now, you’re **pushing** your changes (maybe by commit&push option), but somebody else also change 1.txt. That is, **you and somebody else change the same file**. There is conflict.

Note: it is recommended to always pull before push, but there is still time window between pull and push, that you can receive new changes.

Note: If you change some file 1.txt and somebody else changes 2.txt, and you pull your changes, there will be no conflict. **Conflicts are detected on per file bases.**

Note: Because conflict detection is on per file, this also means that if you’re doing refactoring moving some part of the file to another file and there is conflict with second file it is hard to resolve such a conflict. This use-case will be discussed below.

You can need to make merge in these cases:

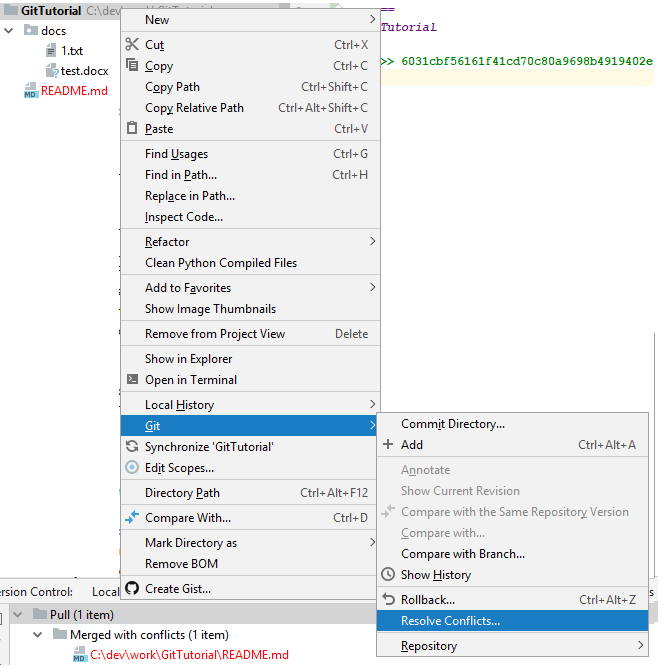
* On “git pull” – this is typical case.
* On “git push”. This can happen, but should be rare.
* When you specifically merge different branches (this will be discussed in separate section).

Before we will go through the merge flow I want to emphasis when *conflicts* can occur:

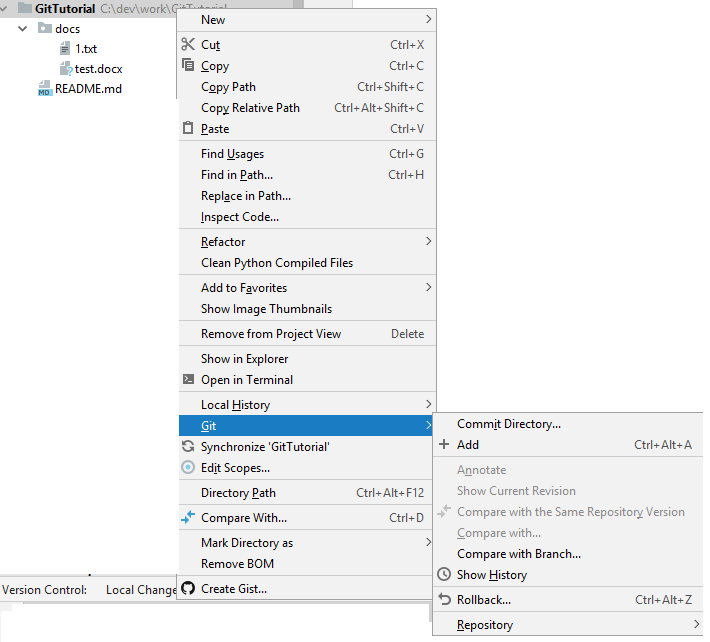
* If you add file to git, no conflict can occur on this operation.
* If you commit file, then on commit operation, no conflict can occur.

Typically, PyCharm will open popup window “Files Merged with Conflicts” automatically.

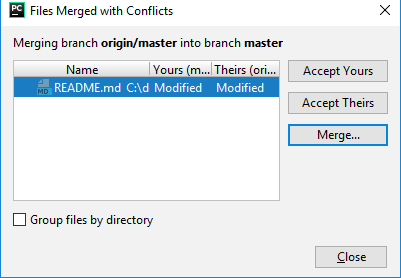
If not, right-click on the project->Git->Resolve conflicts…



Note: “Resolve Conflicts..” option will not be available (even as greyed out) if you don’t have any conflict to resolve.



What you should see is the following window:



Let’s examine what we actually see.

1. You see list of files that have conflicts. In this example, there is only one file README.md.
2. You see that you modified the file.
3. You see that “they” modified the file
4. For each file in the list you can:

* click on "Accept Yours” button – this will leave all you did, and will discard others changes.

Note: There is some caveat here. It will be discussed later.

Note: Don’t do it blindly. You’re going to discard some other changes.

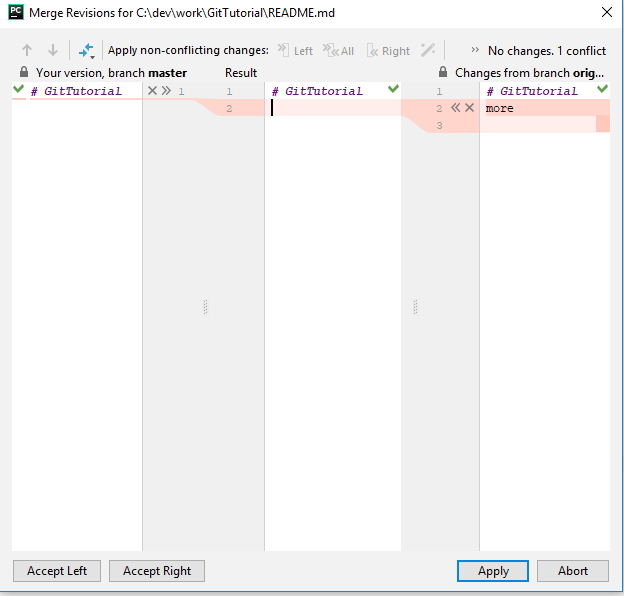
* click on "Accept Theirs” button – this will discard all your changes, and you will receive all “theirs” changes.

Note: Don’t do it blindly. You should know why it is ok to discard your changes (maybe your changes are meaningless, maybe you know what is incoming change, etc).

* click on “Merge..” button.

This preferred option.

After clicking on “Merge..” button new windows will be opened:



Let’s explain what are you looking on:

* The Left panel contains your version of the file (it has your changes)
* The Right panel contains “theirs” version of the file (it has others changes)
* The middle panel contains result of the merge.
* Near every difference you can see “X”, “>>”, “<<” signs.
* “X” means – discard this change. This change will not get in to the result.
* “>>” means – take the change from the left panel. This change will get in to the result.
* “<<” means – take the change from the right panel. This change will get in to the result.

Note:

1. You can write free text on Result. In general, it is not adviced.
2. **You should go over every conflict and either take it or discard it**. In other words, you should click on every “X/”>>”, “<<” sign (On every conflict you should chose on these options).

* click on "Accept Yours” button – this will leave all you did, and will discard others changes.

Note: There is some caveat here. It will be discussed later.

Note: Don’t do it blindly. You’re going to discard some other changes.

* click on "Accept Theirs” button – this will discard all your changes, and you will receive all “theirs” changes.

Note: Don’t do it blindly. You should know why it is ok to discard your changes (maybe your changes are meaningless, maybe you know what is incoming change, etc).

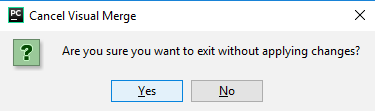
* “Abort” button will abort merging, See details below.
* “Apply” button will save you changes and close the merge window.

Note: As far as git concern, the **merge process will end only after you will commit your changes** (git commit)**.**

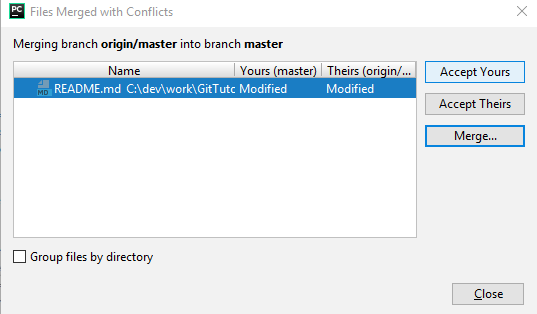
Note: If for all files in the merge you click on "Accept Yours” button, you will have no files to commit. So, PyCharm will not let you commit your merge. This is caveat from above. I will discuss it more below.

## *What to do if you realize that you’ve messed up with your merge, in other words you did something wrong in your conflict resolution.*

1. Click on “Abort” button
2. This will open the following popup



Click yes to abort the merge, no if you want to undo you clicking on “Abort” button.



1. Now, you can click on “merge” button again and restart the merging of the changes of file

Note: This is equivalent to writing the following command in CMD/Terminal

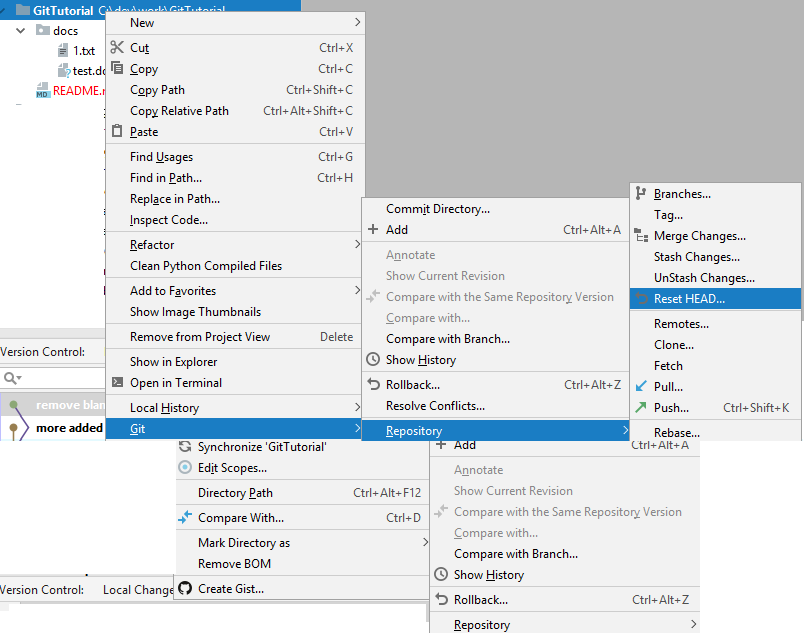
git merge --abort

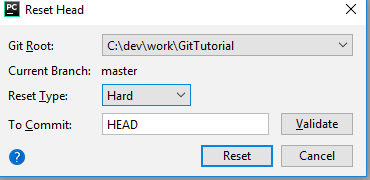
## *What if I’ve messed file with the files that are not present in the list?*

In such case you should “RESET head”.

Right-click project -> Git -> Repository ->Reset head..

“Reset Head” window should be opened.

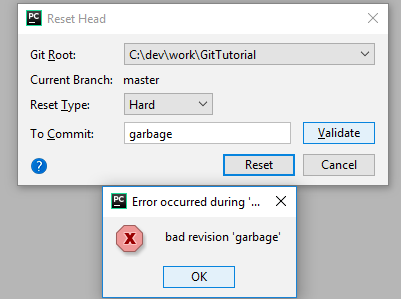




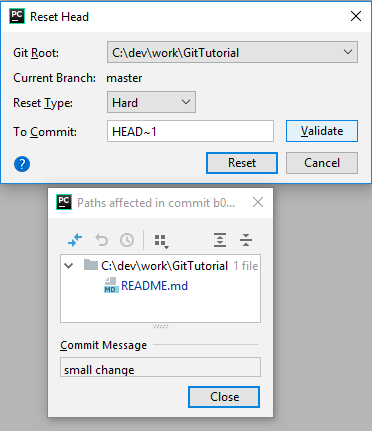
* Reset Type “Hard” means that any change that was made locally will be lost. This is typical case.
* Reset Type “Soft“ means that no changes to files will be done. If you want to “undo” merge operation, this is not very helpful.
* Reset Type “Mixed” means that any change (with exception of files that wasn’t ‘git added”) that was made locally will be lost. If you have some files that wasn’t ‘git added” they will remain. This is PyCharm default. Typically, you don’t have files that are not “git added”, in this case the behavior will be identical to “Hard”.
* To commit: to what commit to reset the head. Typically, you will write HEAD here, this means, typically, the latest commit.

You can also write HEAD~1. HEAD~1 is a shorthand for the commit before HEAD. Alternatively, you can refer to the SHA-1 of the hash you want to reset to.

* You can optionally validate that your type valid value to “To Commit” box. Click on “validate” button.  
    
  - If you put invalid commit identifier, you will receive “Error occurred during..”



* If you put vaild commit identifier, you will receive “Paths affected in commit …” windows with commit message and files affected by the commit.



Note: It will generate “git reset --hard HEAD~1” command under the hood (or “git reset --hard HEAD” if you will type HEAD~1 in “To commit” row).

Note: See also [“Git Delete Last Commit”](#_Git_Delete_Last) in [Appendix B](#_Appendix_B) [Troubleshooting](#_Troubleshooting).

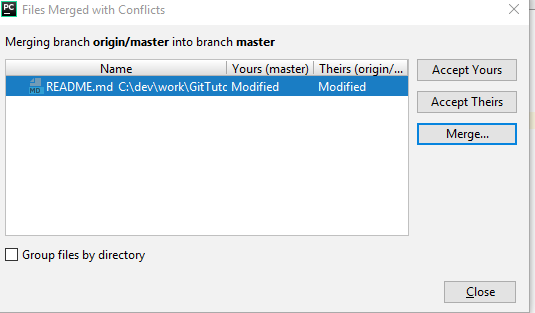
## *What if I want to delete my last commit?*

This should be very rare. But if you want not do it, see [“Git Delete Last Commit”](#_Git_Delete_Last) in [Appendix B](#_Appendix_B) [Troubleshooting](#_Troubleshooting).

## *If you have conflict when you’re* ***pulling*** *from git, just resolve the conflict as described.*

Note: I’m assuming that you don’t have any **uncommitted files before** you do “git pull”.

You should see the following window after you pull the changes.



Resolve conflicts. Don’t forget to do “git commit” at the end.

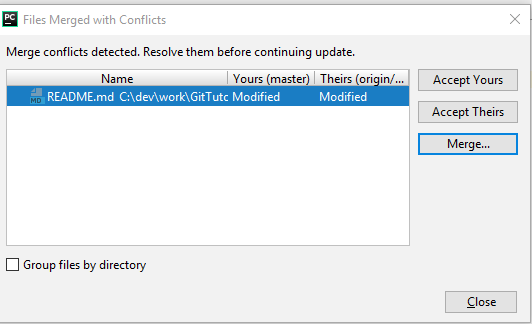
Note: See also [*Troubleshooting*](#_If_Pull_failed,_1) section.

## *If you have conflict when you’re* ***pushing*** *to git*

Note: I’m assuming that you don’t have any **uncommitted files before** you do “git push”.

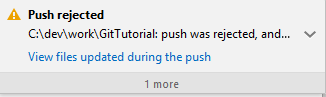
Note: Typically, you should do “git pull” first.

You should see the following window:



**Click on Close button.** On this stage, we’re refusing to do merge.

You should see the following pup window in the right corner after you pull the changes.

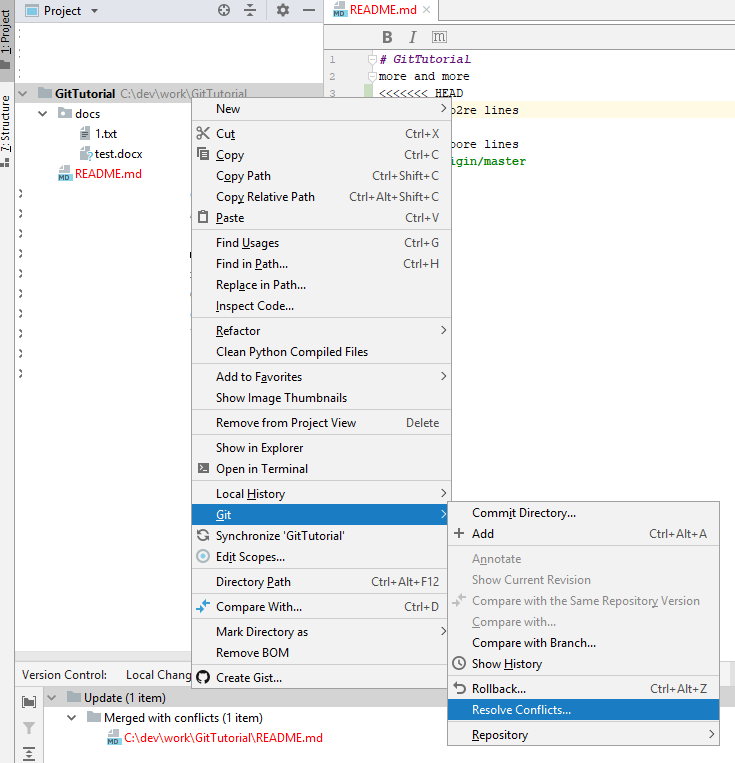


Now, PyCharm pulled the changes to our workspace.

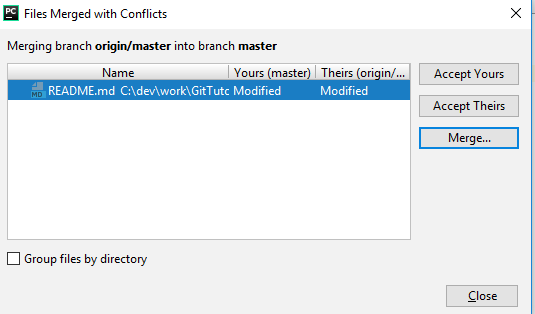
We should manully open the window and start merging process.

Right-click project -> Git -> Resolve Conflicts… This will create new commit with the merge changes.

Push your changes again.



You should see the following window:



Resolve conflicts. Don’t forget to do “git commit” at the end.

## *All conflicts fixed but you are still merging.*

How do you do that merge wasn’t concluding?

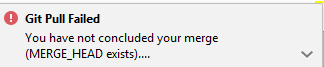
In theory, you can open cmd/terminal and type

git status

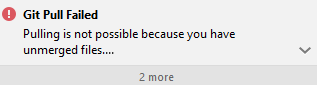
If you see something like



In practice, it would be when some action that you want to do with git will fail. For example, when you make “git pull” you may see the following message in the right corner of the window:



Note: If you didn’t resolve some conflict, you will see the following message instead:



What should you do?

1. First of all, in the future, when you’re solving merge conflicts it is better to introduce at least one change in some file.

* If you want to accept only your changes and ignore other’s changes (please verify, that this is indeed what you want to do), find some file and make some innocent change (such as adding new line or comment or removing new line).

1. Find some file in your project and make some innocent change (such as adding new line or comment or removing new line). Make commit. This will resolve your merge conflict and commit your changes.
2. Alternatively, you can open cmd/terminal and type

git commit  
  
Close opened editor, ignore it.

You should have additional commit “Merge branch ‘master’ of”.

or to abort merge

git merge --abort

* If you abort your merge, you can redo it implementing recommendation in 1. above.
* Alternatively, you can reset the HEAD. See subsection “[What if I’ve messed file with the files that are not present in the list?”](#_What_if_I’ve) above.

# Stash

## What if you’re in the middle of the work and you want to make “git pull”?

Let’s be more concrete. You’ve changed couple of the files and you’ve been asked to pull the changes (maybe, there was some bug fix that prevent to some of the functionality to work properly that you need).

* Possible solution will be to commit your incomplete work, pull the changes and resolve possible conflicts.

There are 2 problems with this solution:

1. You will commit with incomplete work (the application may even to compile)
2. Resolving merge conflict may be difficult (For example, if you modify 10 files and you are in the middle of refactoring).

* Another alternative is to manually copy your changes file aside, revert you changes in the PyCharm project, make “git pull”, potentially resolve merge conflict (which should be in usual complexity), redo you work (for example, by copy&paste relevant parts of the file from you aside directory) – this is essentially *manual* merge
* Stash make the (manual) process described above more manageable.

Let’s go through it.

## What if you have complicated merge and you prefer to make it in more controlled way?

s

# Theory

# Create New Project

## From Scratch (git init)

## From existing project (git clone)

# Why not master only?

# Feature branch

# Appendix A

This section contains **rough** “translation” of familiar terms from SVN to Git.

This may be useful if you know SVN and start to use Git. Note, that in any place in the document, except introduction, there is no assumption on SVN knowledge.

* Trunk in SVN is roughly corresponds to master on Git.
* Update (without conflicts) in SVN – to pull.
* Commit (without conflicts) in SVN to (add file)+commit+push.
* Checkout of entire repository in SVN is clone (there is also another way).
* Branch on SVN is chain of commits. Merge of 2 branches is simply created new commit that copies changes from another branch. This is “hard branches”.  
  Branches in Git are not “hard branches”, *they are only pointers on commits*.
* Commit in Git can have more than one parent.

More advanced (you can skip it, especially in your first read):

* Commit history saved in different way than in SVN. I will point only on 1 of them:
* On SVN history is stored on your central repository. Each operation on it, requires call to it. On SVN each local repository has full copy of the history. Each operation on it are local.
* Update (with conflicts) in SVN – pull + resolve/merge conflicts+commit. Commit is used to conclude merge.
* Commit (with conflicts) in SVN (typically due SVN commit which fails as “out of date”, svn update resolve the issue, svn update typically it works without conflicts, you can commit after this) – (commit can’t case conflicts, you are working locally) git push + resolve conflicts.

# Appendix B

## Troubleshooting

### If you close merge resolution windows and when you want to commit your merge changes, you don’t see any file that change

Type in the terminal/cmd

git commit

See next section for more details.

### If you successfully resolve all merge conflicts, but you receive error message “You have not concluded your merge (MERGE\_HEAD exists)”

Type in the terminal/cmd

git commit

or to abort merge

git merge --abort

Note: If you should absolutely sure that all conflicts where resolved, you can try also.

del /q /s /f .git\MERGE\*

Or you can type

rm -fr .git/MERGE\*

See <https://stackoverflow.com/a/21829654>

### If Pull failed, you should merge your changes first and then

Type in the terminal/cmd

git commit

Close opened editor, ignore it.

You should have additional commit “Merge branch ‘master’ of”.

And push your changes in regular way.

Note: See also [Troubleshouthing](#_If_Pull_failed,) version below for another option. In this option you have auto-generate message for merge commit.

Note: For additional merge problem, See section on [*Merge*](#_Merge).

### **Git Delete Last Commit**

Once in a while late at night when I ran out of coffee, I commit stuff that I shouldn't have. Then I spend the next 10 - 15 minutes googling how to remove the last commit I made. So after third time I wanted to make a record of it so I can refer to it later.

If you have committed junk but not pushed,

git reset --hard HEAD~1

HEAD~1 is a shorthand for the commit before head. Alternatively, you can refer to the SHA-1 of the hash you want to reset to. Note that when using --hard any changes to tracked files in the working tree since the commit before head are lost.

If you don't want to wipe out the work you have done, you can use --soft option that will delete the commit but it will leave all your changed files "Changes to be committed", as git status would put it.

Now if you already pushed and someone pulled which is usually my case, you can't use git reset. You can however do a git revert,

git revert HEAD

This will create a new commit that reverses everything introduced by the accidental commit.

<https://superuser.com/a/319587>

## Advanced Troubleshooting

This subsection some dangerous command that should be used only if you know what are you doing.

### If Pull failed, you should merge you changes first and then

Make some little change to any file, commit your changes (you should have additional commit “Merge branch ‘master’ of”), commit&push your changes and undo you change.

Note: For additional merge problem, See section on [*Merge*](#_Merge).

Note: See also [Troubleshouthing](#_If_Pull_failed,_1) version below for another option. In this option you have auto-generate message for merge commit.

### If you want to move remote branch (for example origin/master), move your local branch to the desired point (Reset current branch to Here…) and then type.

* If you want to move remote branch (for example origin/master), move your local branch to the desired point (Reset current branch to Here…) and then type

git push --force origin master

Note: This operation should be extremely rare. Do this with care.

Note: Change master to your local current branch name if needed.

Note: If you do this on long lived branch (such as master) you should say to everybody to pull from this repository (to reflect your change in their local repository)

* Update git. See <https://stackoverflow.com/a/48924212>

git update-git-for-windows

* If you have following error message:

fatal: unable to access 'https://somepath/ProjectName.git/': SSL certificate problem: self signed certificate

You have two options (see <https://stackoverflow.com/a/9008394> ):

1. Open cmd/terminal and type

git config http.sslVerify false

This will disable SSL certificate checking the repository in which you type this command only.

1. Open cmd/terminal and type

git config --global http.sslVerify false

This will disable SSL certificate checking globally.

Note: Seems the --global option IS needed when a repo is NOT yet checked out (can't set options for a repo that doesn't exist yet locally). One can always turn it back on after.

# Appendix C

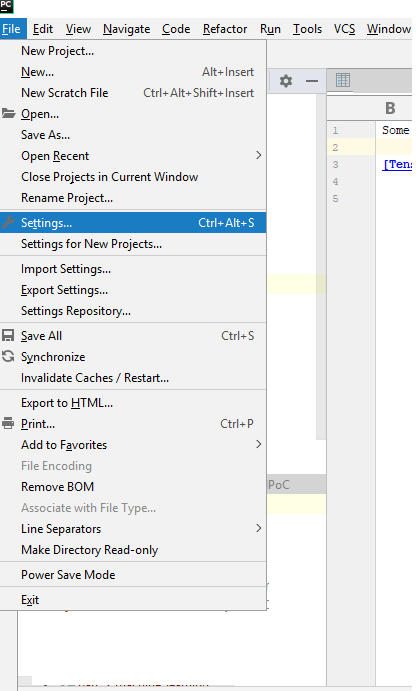
This appendix contains step to reproduce my local environment.

1. Install git client.

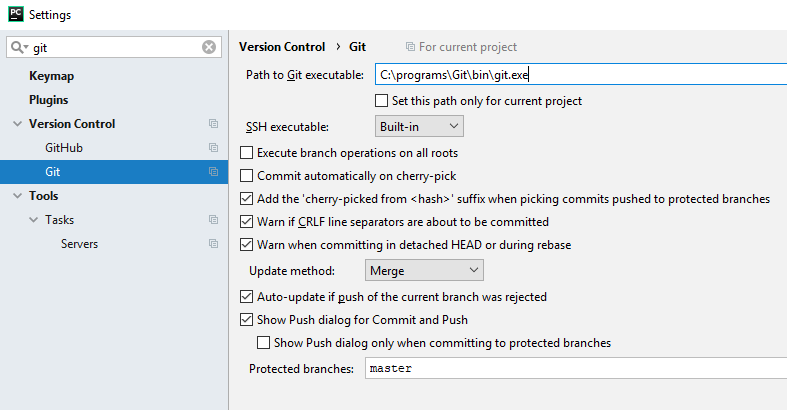
* Go to <https://git-scm.com/downloads> and download appropriate one. I use 2.22.0.windows.1 (latest for the day this document was written).
* Install it.
* You can see Appendix B->Advance Troubleshooting->Update git section if you need to update it.
* Add path to git.exe to your Path environment variable (or it’s equivalent on another OS).

1. PyCharm 2018.2.4 (Communnity edition) is used as Git UI in this document.

* See <https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/download/previous.html>
* In Pycharn open Settings. File->Settings



Ensure that you have following settings:



Note:

* Path to Git executable may differ on your machine.
* Ensure that “Update method“ is Merge
* Ensure that check-box “Warn when committing in detached HEAD or during rebase is checked.
* (you can also do git init, and git remote add origin, create local master, and git push -u origin master)