

Is there some way to commit a file "partially" in TortoiseSVN?

Asked 16 years, 1 month ago Modified 10 years, 7 months ago

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I'd like to commit just a part of a file using TortoiseSVN, is there some way to do that?

49



I'll give an example to make it clearer why I want to do that.



I have a file with some defines that are replaced in the build process, something like this:



```
#define SOME_PATH "[SOME_PATH]"
```

This [SOME_PATH] tag is replaced in the build process but when I'm coding I have to change it so the actual path in my machine.

So each time I commit I need to backup some lines, revert them, commit and then restore the backup, and this is kinda annoying.

Is there some way to tell TortoiseSVN to "ignore" some changes in, say, Lines X,Y and Z?

svn

tortoisesvn

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asked Nov 24, 2008 at 13:30



Fabio Gomes

5,992 ● 12 ● 62 ● 79

8 Answers

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The top voted answer is out-of-date.

76

From the tortoiseSVN website:

http://tortoisesvn.net/docs/nightly/TortoiseSVN_en/tsvn-dug-commit.html



Commit only parts of files

Sometimes you want to only commit parts of the changes you made to a file. Such a situation usually happens when you're working on something but then an urgent fix needs to be committed, and that fix happens to be in the same file you're working on.

right click on the file and use Context Menu → Restore after commit. This will create a copy of the file as it is. Then you can edit the file, e.g. in TortoiseMerge and undo all the changes you don't want to commit. After saving those changes you can commit the file.

After the commit is done, the copy of the file is restored automatically, and you have the file with all your modifications that were not committed back.

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answered Jan 15, 2014 at 23:18

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Greylander

1,816 ● 3 ● 21 ● 22

7 TortoiseSVN makes this way too complicated. The information is there, so it would only be an under-the-hood operation to perform a "line-wise" commit or shelve. Or is there a reason? – [Martin Hoza](#) Jan 11, 2016 at 9:24

6 Context Menu → Restore after commit is not there in my TortoiseSVN. – [user1451111](#) Feb 4, 2016 at 16:49

5 @user1451111 You have to right-click the file from within the "Commit" window. You should see it in that context menu. – [jewbix.cube](#) Mar 23, 2016 at 21:57

Unfortunately TortoiseMerge no longer seems useful for the purpose of cherry-picking lines. For some reason while it shows the changes, there are no longer options for undoing individual ones (and yes I did "Enable Edits" in the ribbon). – [Ben Voigt](#) Oct 26, 2020 at 17:47



No. Subversion works at the file level.

12

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answered Nov 24, 2008 at 13:32

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Corey Trager

23.1k ● 20 ● 87 ● 121





That was what I was afraid of :(– [Fabio Gomes](#) Nov 24, 2008 at 13:32

13 This answer is not correct anymore. See the [answer](#) from @Greylander. – [Otiel](#) Apr 21, 2015 at 14:29



No.

7



The best way to do that is to check in some file like "build_paths.h.default", then on each build platform, copy it to build_paths.h, modify it to suit, then tell SVN to IGNORE build_paths.h. And finally #include "buuild_paths.h" within your program.



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answered Nov 24, 2008 at 13:33

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[Will Hartung](#)

118k ● 20 ● 133 ● 207



In general yes! Functionality has been added in the latest version of torroise svn (1.8) See [release notes](#)

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Unfortunately it's a manual process that may well not be so suited to your specific use case - more useful for "I'm in the middle of a new feature and have noticed a bug and want to commit just the bug fix" situation.



For your situation I use a template file which is used in the build process to create the actual file used (this file is

only created from the template file, nothing else is present). I have the tempalte file in svn but the acutal file ignored. THis means I only need to build once after a new checkout and then my working copy is OK - but the values for the tags are not committed. If I need to add new tags I do so in the tempalte file and rebuild my working copy.

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answered Jun 27, 2013 at 13:02

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Adam

6,733 ● 4 ● 44 ● 69

1 @alroc: There's no issue with replying to 5 year old things (and it just so happens that now, when I was searching for such a feature and found this question, another 5 years have passed since this answer and your comment were written :)). After all, Q&As on the Stack Exchange network are there to last and help future visitors. – [O. R. Mapper](#) Jan 23, 2018 at 7:03 

1 "more useful for "I'm in the middle of a new feature and have noticed a bug and want to commit just the bug fix" situation" - and even (or especially?) for that situation, I often wish SVN could just let me select a couple of lines and ignore the rest of the file rather than having me temporarily edit out all the changes I do not want to commit. – [O. R. Mapper](#) Jan 25, 2018 at 12:58



Short version: NO. Subversion is an all-or-nothing system (as are all source control systems I know of)

4

Longer version: No, however if you use something like NANT to do you build, you could use xmlpoke or similar



to rewrite parts of the file on build. Works for us :) We rewrite about 6 web.config files and various other app configuration files on build (well, on building a deployment package)....



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answered Nov 24, 2008 at 13:33

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Nic Wise

8,119 ● 2 ● 32 ● 30

"... as are all source control systems I know of." Introducing... git! It's older than the iPhone, and happens to be the world's most popular VCS (for good reason). It will change your life.
– [Sensei James](#) Oct 3, 2019 at 23:02



4



The solution to your problem is not to get subversion to do this for you, but to configure your application so that environment specific details (Such as the [SOME_PATH] value) are stored 'externally' to the code that is checked in.



Whether you do this via a separate file that is marked to be ignored by SVN, or whether you store this information in an environment variable, depends on your development language/OS and a few other factors.

Whichever solution you use, it may be wise to arrange some kind of default, to allow for the case where no value is specified.

It may also be worth considering whether the details should be applied at build time or run time - if you can

arrange the latter, it makes deployment of new versions of the application much easier.

A typical example is found in web applications, where a database connection is required, but the actual database instance to be used is different between development and production environments. In such cases, the database configuration is defined on the web server (Not in the application, which simply asks the web server for a database connection with a given name) with development and production servers having different configurations. It is then possible to deploy the **same** web application to both servers and have each app instance access the appropriate database.

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edited Dec 19, 2008 at 16:33

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answered Dec 3, 2008 at 8:19



belugabob

4,360 ● 24 ● 22



2



You could also define :

- a pre-commit hook which will take care of the rollback for you,
- and a post-commit hook to restore your file.



Ouch... actually this is not a good idea, according to the [SVN Manual](#).



- All triggers are executed on the server side (not the client side, as it is the case for ClearCase)
- Subversion keeps client-side caches of certain bits of repository data, and if you change a commit transaction in this way, those caches become undetectably stale. This inconsistency can lead to surprising and unexpected behavior. Instead of modifying the transaction, you should simply validate the transaction in the pre-commit hook and reject the commit if it does not meet the desired requirements

A [possible way](#) would be to modify your file in a post-commit script, and then commit that file as an independent change, before restoring it in another post-commit script...

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edited May 23, 2014 at 9:03

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VonC

TortoiseSVN has client side hooks. But those hooks are not supported by other clients (like the commandline client).

– [Bert Huijben](#) Nov 24, 2008 at 21:38



What you are looking for is a feature of various distributed version-control systems such as [darcs](#).

0

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edited Nov 22, 2013 at 15:04



Drew Gaynor

8,472 ● 5 ● 41 ● 53

answered Nov 24, 2008 at 13:57



yfeldblum

65.4k ● 12 ● 131 ● 169
