

What is your biggest struggle right now with building software?

# mokacoding

*unit and acceptance testing, automation, productivity*

Archive Tags About Subscribe 

---

## Symbolic links in Git

Tue Sep 12 2017 -Espresso -Git

**Note:** *all this has been tried and tested on macOS only, but it should work seamlessly on Linux as well.*

Symbolic links are a great way to simplify mundane tasks such as having the same configuration file in different folders.

If you are not familiar with symbolic links, symlinks for short, I recommend reading the manpage for the `ln` command, or [this post](#).

Git can track symlinks as well as any other text files. After all, as the documentation says, a symbolic link is nothing but a file with special mode containing the path to the referenced file. Knowing how to handle links is the OS job.

There is an important caveat when creating symlinks that are meant to be tracked under Git. **The reference path of the source file should be relative to the repository**, not absolute to the machine.

```
# Not good for Git repositories
ln -s /Users/gio/repo/foo.md ./bar/foo.md

# Good for Git repositories
cd ./bar && ln -s ../foo.md foo.md
```

The reason for this is that given that a symlink contains the path to the referenced file, if the path is relative to a specific machine the link won't work on others. If it's relative to the repository itself on the other hand, the OS will always be able to find the source.

Have a look at [this example repo](#) to play around with these ideas.

*Leave the codebase better than you found it.*

---

[<< 4 books to kick start 2018](#)

[Quick beforeSuite and afterSuite  
behaviour >>](#)

---

### **Want more of these posts?**

*Subscribe to receive new posts in your inbox.*

**Sign me up**

## ALSO ON MOKACODING

### Setting Up Firebase Without Using ...

4 years ago • 22 comments

A guide on how to configure your Xcode project to use Google Firebase without ...

### Implicitly vs Force Unwrapping Swift ...

4 years ago • 11 comments

A look at what implicitly unwrapping and force unwrap a Swift Optional ...

### Swift Either enum

5 years ago • 5 comments

This post introduces the Either type and shows a practical application of it ...

### How to be drastically

2 years ago •

Using the te seem slow because ev

4 Comments   mokacoding    Disqus' Privacy Policy

 1 Login ▾

 Recommend    Tweet    Share

Sort by Best ▾



Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS 

Name



**Basheer al momani** • 10 months ago • edited

you saved my life thanks a looooooot  
worked on Linux

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Gio** Mod ➔ Basheer al momani • 10 months ago

I'm glad to hear that **@Basheer al momani** 😊

## mokacoding

Hi I'm **Gio** I write here semi-regularly on software testing and TDD, productivity, and iOS development.

**Get in touch** if you're interested in working together.

 **@mokagio**

 **mokagio**