**Version Control Guidelines**

Version control is how developers keep track of changes in their code, work together, and avoid losing progress. Good version control makes coding easier and teamwork smoother. The rules I chose are simple but effective and work for any team or project. This paper looks at guidelines from three sources, compares them, checks if any are outdated, and suggests the most important ones.

**Source 1: Atlassian**

* Commit your work often to avoid conflicts.
* Write clear messages explaining what you changed.
* Use branches for new features or bug fixes.
* Have someone review your code before adding it to the main project.

**Source 2: GitLab**

* Keep one main place for the code to avoid confusion.
* Use version numbers for big releases.
* Use merge requests so teammates can review your work.
* Clean up old branches that aren’t used anymore.

**Source 3: GitHub**

* Make commits that show clear, complete changes.
* Add helpful files like README to explain your project.
* Use automated tests to make sure changes don’t break anything.
* Solve conflicts quickly so they don’t slow down the team.

**What’s Still Relevant Today**

Most of these ideas still work well, like committing often, writing good commit messages, and doing code reviews. Some older practices, like super-detailed branching structures, might not matter as much in simpler workflows.

**My Version Control Rules**

Here’s what I think are the most important:

1. Commit Often with Good Messages
   * It keeps everyone on the same page and avoids big mistakes.
2. Use Branches for Changes
   * It keeps your work separate until it’s ready to be added.
3. Review Each Other’s Work
   * It catches mistakes and makes the code better.
4. Test Automatically
   * Automated tests save time and catch bugs before they become big problems.
5. Keep Things Clean
   * Delete old branches to keep the project organized.

Sources:

Kim, G., Humble, J., Debois, P., Willis, J., & Allspaw, J. (2016). *The DevOps Handbook: How to Create World-Class Agility, Reliability, & Security in Technology Organizations* (2nd ed.). IT Revolution Press.

Atlassian. (n.d.). What is version control?. [What is version control | Atlassian Git Tutorial](https://www.atlassian.com/git/tutorials/what-is-version-control)

GeeksforGeeks. (2024, July 23). Difference between GitLab and GitHub. [Difference Between GitLab and GitHub - GeeksforGeeks](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/difference-between-gitlab-and-github/)