

Revision Control Systems Git (revision control) +3

What is git and why should I use it?

[Write Answer](#)[Re-Ask](#)

Follow 108 Comment Share

10 Answers

**Marcus Geduld**, 30 years of coding.50.2k Views • Upvoted by Carlos Matias La Borde, [Coder for most of my life](#)
Marcus has 7 endorsements in Computer Programming.

Originally Answered: What is Git used for? What does it do exactly?

Git allows a team of people to work together, all using the same files. And it helps the team cope with the confusion that tends to happen when multiple people are editing the same files.

There are many ways it can be set up and configured, but at my job, here's how we use it: when a new employee starts, he downloads all the files from Github, which is an online server we're all connected to.

So he has *his* local version of the files, I have *my* local version, our boss has *his* local version, etc.

When I make a change to some files, I go through the following process in the Terminal. (There are GUI clients for Git, but I prefer working on the command line.)

```
> git pull
```

That pulls the latest changes down from github. If there are conflicts between those and my local ones, it tells me what they are, file-by-file, line-by-line, and I now have a chance to reconcile those differences.

After editing the files or creating new ones, I run this command:

```
> git add .
```

Which adds all of my local changes to git, so that git knows about them. The dot after add specifically means to add *all* the changes I've made, e.g. new files I've added to my local folder or changes I've made to existing files. If I want, I can add only specific files, e.g.

```
> git add myNewFile.js
```

I now write a comment about the adds I just made.

```
> git commit -m "Fixed a major bug which stopped reports from printing."
```

Finally, I upload my changes to the server.

```
> git push
```

Now, when my colleagues do a ...

```
> git pull
```

... they will get my changes, and they will be notified if any of them conflict with their local versions.

There's more on Quora...

Pick new people and topics to follow and see the best answers on Quora.

[Update Your Interests](#)

QUESTION OVERVIEW



108 Followers

60,811 Views

[View More](#)

RELATED QUESTIONS

[Should I use git for multimedia projects?](#)[Why doesn't Apache use Git yet?](#)[Should I use Dropbox instead of Git for 2 coders?](#)[Which open source project is a good example of how to use git well?](#)[What are examples of useful Git hooks?](#)[Git \(revision control\): My main project repo contains a folder with many image files that are regularly updated. Is this a good use case for submo...](#)[Why is Git called Git?](#)[What are some negatives to using git?](#)[Git \(revision control\): Do large organizations use rebasing instead of merging?](#)[Git \(revision control\): What are methods that you can use for having test content on pages in a repository for a web application?](#)[More Related Questions](#)

There are all kinds of cool, useful commands for rolling back changes to a particular time or state. But probably the most useful thing about Git is branching. Let's say my team is working on code for an Asteroids game, and I get the idea for making spinning asteroids. This will involve making some major changes to the existing asteroids code, and I'm a little scared to do that. No worries, I can just make a branch.

First of all, I'll check which branches exist:

```
1 > git branch
2 master*
```

So there's currently only one branch on my local machine, called master. The star by it means that's the branch I'm currently working in. I'll go ahead and create a new one:

```
> git branch spinningAsteroids
```

That creates a copy of all the files in master. I'll now move into that branch.

```
1 > git checkout spinningAsteroids
2 > git branch
3 master
```

Ask Question

I now spend a couple of hours not worrying about support call. They've found a critical bug and I need to fix it asap. No worries...

Home
Write
Notifications ⁶

Trying to regain internet connection...
Hi... his messa...

Vatsal

```
> git checkout master
```

... fix bug ...

```
1 > git pull
2 > git add .
3 > git commit -m "Fixed critical bug with high scores."
4 > git push
```

Now I can resume my work with spinningAsteroids.

```
1 > git checkout spinningAsteroids
2 > git branch
3 master
4 spinningAsteroids*
```

... work, work, work ...

Okay, I'm now happy with my spinning asteroids, and I want to merge that new code into the main code base, so...

```
1 > git checkout master
2 > git branch
3 master*
4 spinningAsteroids
```

```
> git merge spinningAsteroids
```

Now the code from my branch is merged into the main code-base. I can now upload it.

```
1 > git pull
2 > git add .
```

```
3 > git commit -m "added new cool feature! Spinning asteroids!!!"
4 > git push
```

There are many ways to use Git. This is just one of them.

Updated 11 Aug • View Upvotes



Eran Kampf, Internet Entrepreneur, Big Data geek

3.3k Views

Git a distributed source control system.

Why you should use it? because its simpler, faster, and easier to use than traditional "centralized" source control systems.

This site pretty much sums things up:

<http://whygitisbetterthanx.com/>

Written 20 Dec 2011 • View Upvotes

Upvote 6 Downvote Comment Share



Sutiam Lee, I love github

7.7k Views

Originally Answered: What is Git used for? What does it do exactly?

Simply put, git is a source code management system. Marcus has given a very nice high-level overview to help you get start using Git. But if you are seriously about learning how to use Git effectively, definitely go check out this free online book <http://progit.org/book/> "Pro Git" is the absolute best git book out there, it'll teach you git form inside out.

Written 20 Oct 2011 • View Upvotes

Upvote 13 Downvote Comment 1 Share



Gokul Nath Sridhar, Average programmer, Linux fanboy!

9.5k Views • Upvoted by Sella Rafaeli, [Software Engineer, CS BSc from Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#)

Originally Answered: What is Git used for? What does it do exactly?

Jane is at city X and her mom is at city Y.

Jane's mom wants to cook a dish and wants Jane's help in it. They want to collaborate with each other in cooking this dish (building a software).

There are three utensils in this story -- one master pan, where the actual food is being prepared, two 'dev' pans; one for Jane and another for her mom, for them to experiment. They add stuff, balance ingredients, etc. in the 'dev' pan. In git terms, these are **branches** within a repository.

Once they find a mix that tastes good in the 'dev' pan, they **merge** it with the 'master' pan. And that's how they **commit** each of their contributions towards the dish.

Written 28 Jun 2013 • View Upvotes

Upvote 61 Downvote Comment Share 1



Nick Bell, Reading the whole internet slowly, one day at a time

2.2k Views • Nick is a Most Viewed Writer in Revision Control Systems.

Git is a source code management (SCM) system. There are many different source code management systems out there and Git fall into the category of a distributed version control system (DVCS). It takes a "peer-to-peer" approach to version control as opposed to a "Client-Server" approach like version control systems like Subversion (SVN).

Want to decide what system is going to be best for you and your development?

Jack Repenning wrote a great Blog Article on Git or Subversion:
<http://blog.collab.net/cloudforg...>

In Summary:

- *If you plan to maintain parallel, largely shared but permanently somewhat different lines of the same product, use Git.*
- *If you have compelling requirements for a single, certain, master copy of your work, use Subversion.*

Written 17 Oct 2012 • View Upvotes

Upvote 2 Downvote Comment Share



Shailesh Kumar • Request Bio

2.8k Views

Originally Answered: What is Git? What does it do? Why should I use it?

[What is Git in layman's terms?](#)

[What is git and why should I use it?](#)

[I am new to programming, what is the best way to learn how to use Git and eventually start a project on GitHub?](#)

[What is Git used for? What does it do exactly?](#)

Before posting any such question which has been asked numerous times before, perform a search on quora or google. Plz don't make quora another '**Yahoo Answers**'.

Written 18 Sep 2014 • View Upvotes

Upvote 10 Downvote Comment Share



Harsh Jha, Blog at <http://harshtechtalk.com>

5.9k Views

Originally Answered: What is Git used for? What does it do exactly?

GIT is a version controlled system which you can use to maintain code for your project. It helps you to save your project at different versions, so that you can retrieve a previous version of your project without any problem. Source codes(or files) are saved in repositories. You check out the files from a version, make some changes, save it and commit changes to create a newer version of your project.

Written 19 Oct 2011 • View Upvotes

Upvote 2 Downvote Comments 1+ Share



Dhruv Pathak • Request Bio

4.9k Views

Originally Answered: What is Git used for? What does it do exactly?

A picture is worth a thousand words,

A great demo is worth hours of explanation.

Spend your 15 minutes here, this is one of the best git introduction interactive tutorials.

[Try Git](#)

Written 28 Jun 2013 • View Upvotes

Upvote 18 Downvote Comment Share



Brian Cooksey • Request Bio

3.1k Views

Originally Answered: What is Git used for? What does it do exactly?

I did a non-technical writeup about version control (including Git): [Don't Let Tech Lingo Hold You Back: 7 Common Developer Terms Explained](#)

Written 28 Aug 2014 • View Upvotes

[Upvote](#) 2 [Downvote](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)



Maulik Parekh • Request Bio

3.5k Views

Originally Answered: What is Git used for? What does it do exactly?

its like central repository where you can put your all codes and all are working on it and if new worker will come it will update the latest copy from central repository means git (Its same as SVN , a central repository) and now work on it and after finishing his work , he will update in repository.

Written 19 Oct 2013 • View Upvotes

[Upvote](#) 1 [Downvote](#) [Comments](#) 1+ [Share](#)

ANSWERS THAT NEED IMPROVEMENT

WHY?

Jacob Babu

Originally Answered: What is Git used for? What does it do exactly?

hello everyone ...m new to android..hoping for ur help and support

Written 24 May 2013

This answer doesn't answer the question. [View Details](#)

[Upvote](#) [Downvote](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Curious about **Revision Control Systems**?

[Ask a Question](#)

Top Stories from Your Feed



Harsh Shah upvoted this • 2 Nov

What are some of the best advertisements?



Aishwarya Nair, Some Ads are work of pure genius !

190k Views • Upvoted by Garion Hall, Practical online marketing experience si...



[Read In Feed](#)



Yagna Oza and Sarthak Shah upvoted this • 28 Oct

What do women love most about men?



Sharmila Ashraf, Auditor by profession Traveler by passion
227.4k Views • Sharmila is a Most Viewed Writer in Dating and Relationships.

Dad: "Have it, I am done." Saves the last mango of the season for me, even though he craves for it Brother: "You will never listen to me" Rushes with the helmet when I am about to leave on my bike. ...

[Read In Feed](#)



Rajsi Rana upvoted this • Wed

What can I learn right now in one minute that will be useful for the rest of my life?



Vikas Gupta, Software Developer/ Banker/ Entrepreneur knows about Movies & Series, Cricket...
140.5k Views

Do you ever watch a movie/TV series with subtitles and get irritated when it's not synced? If you're watching it in VLC player, then you can use "G" to shift subtitles behind and use "H" to shift f...

[Read In Feed](#)