

Version Control with Git

Xiaobin Chen

Tübingen University

November 3, 2016

What is version control?

- Keep track of the creative output: code, design, writings, etc.
- What is changed
- Who makes the changes
- Why changes were made

Version control the 'old way':

project, project1, project_backup, project_backup20160513,
project_backup20160615, project_final, project_final_final...

What version control software has to offer?

For individual developers:

- automatic backups
- history: change-by-change log of your work
- reverts: undoing work
- experimentation: “sandbox” to try new things

For teams:

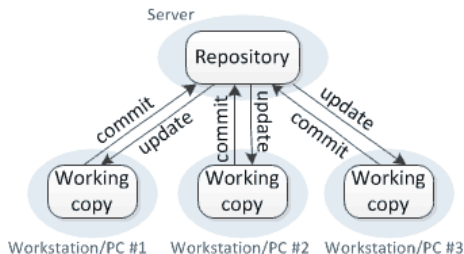
- synchronization
- accountability: who, when, for what reason changes were made
- collaborative development
- conflict detection

Essential version control concepts

- repository (database): where your files and their history are stored
- working set: the current state of your project files
- add: add new files from working set to repository
- check-in/commit: copy changes from working set to repository
- check-out/update: copy changes from repository to working set
- tag/label: mark the current state of the repository for future checkout
- revert/rollback: overwrite your working set with specific version
- branch/fork: make a clone of a repository
- merge: integrate your branch (clone) back into the original repository

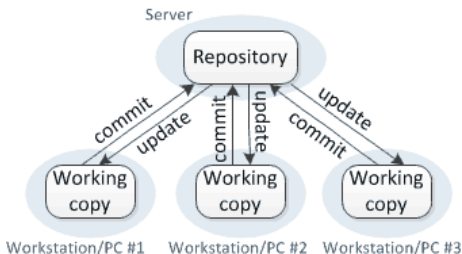
Centralized version control

Centralized version control



Centralized version control

Centralized version control

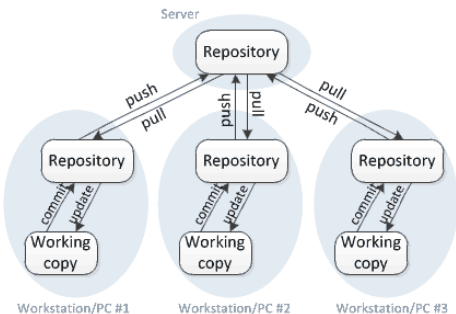


Pros and cons

- System management easier: updates, backups, system rollback for all developers
- Fragile: server-down, no-access to server, code conflicts

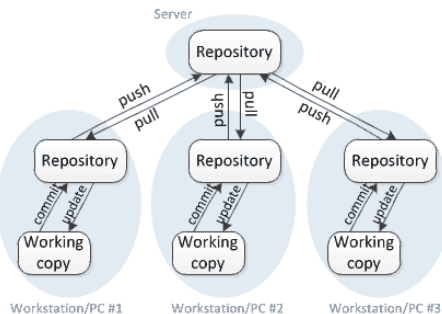
Distributed version control

Distributed version control



Distributed version control

Distributed version control



Pros and cons

- Free commits, more flexible workflow, full history locally
- Who has the latest/authoritative version?

Getting Git to work

Installing Git

<https://git-scm.com/downloads>

Learning resources

- `man git`
- `man gittutorial`
- `man gitcore-tutorial`
- `git help [git command]`
- Official git manuals *Everyday Git* and *Git User Manual*
- Book *Pro Git* from <https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2>

Configuring Git

- System level
 - `$ git config --system`
 - Unix: `/etc/gitconfig`
 - Win: `Program Files\git\etc \gitconfig`
- User level
 - `$ git config --global`
 - Unix and Win: `$HOME\.gitconfig`
- Project level
 - `$ git config`
 - Unix and Win: `my_project/.git/config`

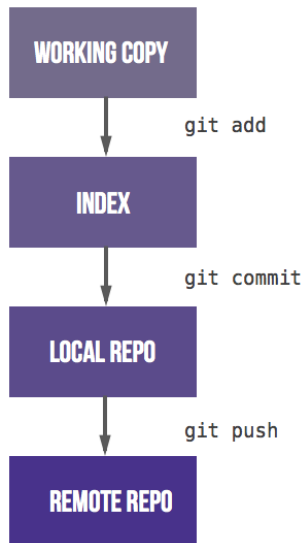
Identifying yourself

```
$ git config --global user.name "Your Name"
$ git config --global user.email you@example.com
$ git config --list
```

Git repository

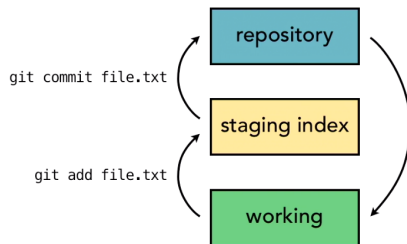
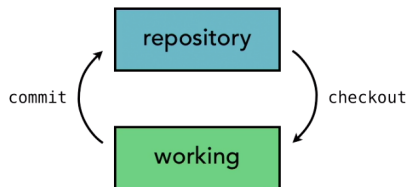
- checking if Git is tracking a project
`$ git status`
- initiating a repository
`$ git init`
- exploring files git created
`$ cd .git`
- removing Git version control for project
`$ rm -rf .git`

Adding new files to repository



- staging files
 - \$ `git add [filename]`
 - \$ `git add .`
 - \$ `git add --all`
- why staging?
- unstaging files
 - \$ `git reset HEAD [file_name]`
- committing changes
 - \$ `git commit -m 'message'`
 - \$ `git commit`
- the commit message: single line message with optionally a longer description

Two- vs. three-tree architecture



Viewing the commit log

In the shell

- `$ git log`
- `$ git log -n 2`
- `$ git log --pretty=oneline`
- `$ git log --oneline`
- `$ git log --until=2016-09-30`
- `$ git log --author="author_name"`
- `$ git help log`

With tools

- `gitg`
- `gitk`

Viewing changes with diff

- comparing the working set with the staged index:
`$ git diff`
- viewing changes to specific files:
`$ git diff [changed_file]`
- comparing the staged files with the last commit:
`$ git diff --staged`
- comparing files in the working set with a certain revision:
`$ git diff <revision> -- [changed_file]`

Deleting files

From working set

- deleting files in working set

```
$ rm fileToDelete.txt
$ git rm fileToDelete.txt
$ git commit -m 'removes file'
```

From the repository

- deleting files with git

```
$ git rm fileToDelete.txt
$ git commit -m 'removes file'
```


Renaming files

From working set

- renaming file from working set

```
$ mv oldFile newFile
$ git add newFile
$ git rm oldFile
$ git commit -m 'renames file'
```

From repository

- removing file with git

```
$ git mv oldFile newFile
$ git commit -m 'renames file'
```

Undoing working directory changes

- checkout an earlier version

```
$ git checkout -- fileName
```

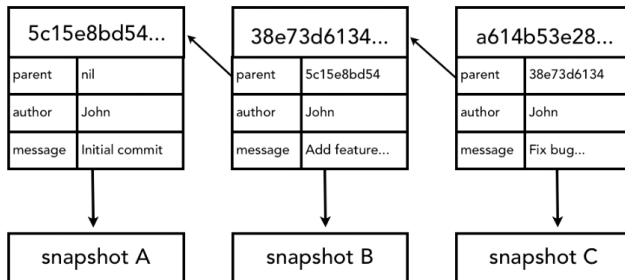
```
$ git checkout <commit> -- fileName
```

The second command would be ambiguous without the “--”. Git may think you would like to checkout a branch.

- checking out a whole snapshot

To be discussed in “branch” section.

Amending commits



- changing the last commit message:

```
$ git commit --amend -m 'new message'
```

```
$ git commit --amend --reset-author
```
- replacing the last commit with a new one:

```
$ git add changed_file
```

```
$ git commit --amend -m 'new message'
```

Undoing repository changes

The `reset` command is used to move the current HEAD to specific stat. Be careful! You may lose the repository history.

- three type of reset:
 - `--soft`: does not change staging index or working directory.
 - `--mixed` (default): changes staging index to match repository, but does not change working directory.
 - `--hard`: changes staging index and working directory to match repository.
- `$ git help reset` for more details
- e.g.
`$ git reset --soft da3866`

Removing untracked files

The `clean` command is used to remove untracked files. Tracked (staged files or files already in repository) would not be removed.

- does nothing

```
$ git clean
```

- test run

```
$ git clean -n
```

- force clean

```
$ git clean -f
```

Ignoring files

- what to ignore?
`https://github.com/github/gitignore`
- ignoring project files
 - `project/.gitignore`
 - basic regular expressions:
 `* ? [aeiou] [1-9]`
 - negate expressions
 `*.php`
 `!index.php`
 - use `'#'` for comments
- globally ignoring files:
`$ git config --global core.excludesfile`
`~/.gitignore_global`

Ignore exercises

Ignoring files that are already tracked

- remove the files from repository
- commit changes
- list these files in `.gitignore`
- recreate these files
- run `$ git status` to see how Git treats them

Let git track an empty directory

- create an empty folder
- create an empty file `.gitkeep` or `.gitignore`
- add the folder to index and commit

Next session...

Branching

Remotes

Collaborative workflow

GUI and git hosting