Using Git and GitHub

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Objectives

- I. Understand the need of version control
- 2. Implement software development workflows with Git and Github

Bibliography

1. GitHub Guides. (Link)

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Version control systems

Version control systems (VCS) keep track of changes to source code. Allows multiple people to edit a project in a predictable manner.

Main open source VCS

- 1982 RCS
- 1990 CVS
- 2000 Subversion
- 2005 Git/Mercurial

There are many proprietary ones but Git is now the most popular one by far. All software should be under a version control system, if not, it ain't software!



What is Git?



Git is an open source distributed version control system, created by Linus Torvald.

https://git-scm.com/

(Interactive tutorial)





Git sites

It is easier to start with free hosting sites instead of maintaining your own server.

- GitHub: public repositories (as many as you want), but private ones are not free (except for academia). It is now part of Microsoft
- Bitbucket: allow us to keep private repositories limiting the number of collaborators.
- GitLab: both public and private without limitations. It is becoming more popular.
- Others ...

It is typically used as central repository:

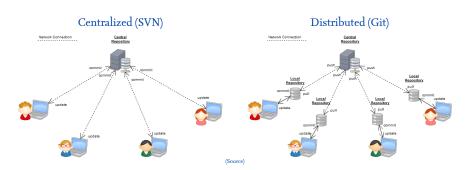
• from which everyone pulls other people's changes

Git

• to which everyone pushes changes they have made



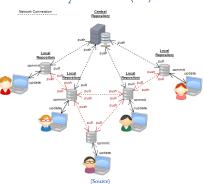
Git vs. SVN (I)



Disclaimer: Do not pay attention to the labels of these diagrams

Git vs. SVN (II)

Fully distributed (Git)



Key Git concepts to know

- repository (local or not)
- clone
- commit, push
- pull, fetch
- remote, origin
- merge



If two people both modify the same file, the first to push wins. The second person will have to pull and merge before pushing.

- Changes in different parts of a file are automatically merged
- Changes in the same part of a file cause conflicts
 - Select either your changes or remote, or a mix of the two



Commits

• Every commit has an ID (its hash)



Branches



Branches are used extensively (e.g. some like feature branches).

- A repository (local and remote) can have explicit branches
- The default branch is called master
- A merge is a fusion between two branches

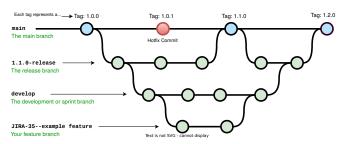
Do no use branches in the project!



Tags

Example diagram for a GIT workflow:

See: https://nvie.com/posts/a-successful-git-branching-model/



A tag is a pointer to a specific point in the repository history

- Tags usually have names (e.g. "vɪ.ɪ")
- Widely used to keep and publish software releases



Good practices

Learn on the job: the best way to learn it is by using it.

Best practices

- Regularly push and pull (at least daily, in general)
- ⇒ Test before pushing! ←
- Don't push half-baked changes
- Don't pull if you're in the middle of a task
- Never commit temporal/intermediate files
- The master must be a clean and functional version of the project

Remember: Git never overwrites local changes without an explicit order

• .. even with a git pull



GitHub

Features

Free Git hosting provider

• Free public repositories

User interface to Git

Repository browser

Added value Git operations

- Social network
- Collaborative tools
- Pull requests
- Issue tracking
- Web hosting
- Markdown integration
- Organizations





GitHub ○●○○○

GitHub

Key concepts

Key GitHub concepts to know

- Pull request
- Fork



GitHub README

Special file: README.md

- Contains information about the project
- Automatically visualized
- md means Markdown





Markdown: Trivial markup

- Simple
- Very simple
- Extremely simple
- Did I say it's simple?

VERY powerful

- Several outputs
- Professional quality
- ... and simple!



GitHub

Markdown (II)

```
#Iama header
## I am a subheader
Regular, *italic* and **bold**
 List item T
- List item 2
[I am a link](http://foo.com)
![I am a pic](markdown.png)
~~~ C
printf("Hello, world");
```

I am a header

Lam a subheader

Regular, italic and bold

- List item 1
- List item 2

I am a link

I am a pic

printf("Hello, world");

