**Git** ([/ɡɪt/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English))[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Git#cite_note-:0-9) is a [distributed version control](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distributed_version_control) system that tracks changes in any set of [computer files](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_file), usually used for coordinating work among [programmers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Programmer) collaboratively developing [source code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Source_code) during [software development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_development). Its goals include speed, [data integrity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_integrity), and support for distributed, non-linear workflows (thousands of parallel branches running on different systems).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Git#cite_note-kernel_SCM_saga-10)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Git#cite_note-integrity_goals-11)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Git#cite_note-linusGoogleTalk-12)

Git was originally authored by [Linus Torvalds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linus_Torvalds" \o "Linus Torvalds) in 2005 for development of the [Linux kernel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux_kernel), with other kernel developers contributing to its initial development.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Git#cite_note-pro-git-1.2-13) Since 2005, Junio Hamano has been the core maintainer. As with most other [distributed version control](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distributed_version_control) systems, and unlike most [client–server](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Client%E2%80%93server) systems, every Git [directory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directory_(computing)) on every [computer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Node_(networking)) is a full-fledged [repository](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Repository_(version_control)) with complete history and full version-tracking abilities, independent of network access or a central server.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Git#cite_note-14) Git is [free and open-source software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_and_open-source_software) distributed under the [GPL-2.0-only](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) license.