Git Installation for Windows Users – Supplemental Lecture

Welcome! If you're using Windows and you install either Git for Windows or GitHub for Windows, you may have a question about what comes next:

Question: Where the heck is the command prompt to enter Git commands?

This course teaches basic command-line Git usage to push code to GitHub, so that's a pretty important question!

The answer depends on which Git client you installed.

Option 1. Git for Windows

If you installed **Git for Windows**, then it comes with **Git BASH**, which works just like the "bash" shell in Linux or the Terminal app in Mac OS X (which is demonstrated on-screen in the course).

You can access Git BASH and get a command prompt by right-clicking on a folder in Windows Explorer after you install Git for Windows (if you enabled Windows Explorer integration). You also may have a Git BASH icon on your desktop after installing Git for Windows. Lastly, you can click on an option for Git BASH in the Repository menu of Git for Windows, and this action should open a command-prompt console.

Option 2. GitHub for Windows

If you installed **GitHub for Windows**, then it comes with **Git Shell**, which is a Windows PowerShell where you can also execute Git commands.

The main difference from Git BASH (and from the Mac Terminal window shown on-screen in the course) is that for general commands like listing the contents of a directory – not a Git-specific command -- Git BASH uses Linux commands like 'ls' and Git Shell uses Windows commands like 'dir'. The Git-specific commands should remain the same no matter which command-line terminal you're using.

You can access Git Shell and get a command prompt in a couple of ways. You can double-click the Git Shell icon if you have it on your desktop after installing GitHub for Windows. Or, within GitHub for Windows, you can click the settings icon (gear wheel) and then choose 'Open in command prompt'. You can see a screenshot of this here:

https://help.github.com/articles/do-i-need-to-install-anything-extra/

If Needed: Add Git to Your PATH

If you're still having trouble, you may need to add Git to your PATH. Follow the directions at this link in the section "Add Git to PATH" (you don't need to do the other things in that section):

http://learnaholic.me/2012/10/12/make-powershell-and-git-suck-less-on-windows/

Clearing Up Some Git/GitHub Naming Confusion

One quick note about GitHub for Windows: It's confusingly named. Since it's a local program that you install, it's actually a Git client. It also integrates with your GitHub account, so it gives you access to all of your online GitHub repositories – but that doesn't mean it *is* GitHub. Instead, it's more of a portal to access GitHub. GitHub itself is still the online site where you actually store your repositories. Yes, it's confusing, but I hope this helps clear it up!

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to me on the course discussion forums or via private message on Udemy. I'll be happy to help you out. You also can email me directly at stephanie@shortandsweetcourses.com

Many thanks, and happy programming!

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