

Instructions for Developers: Using VS Code's UI for Git

This guide shows you how to perform common Git operations using VS Code's visual interface, alongside the corresponding terminal commands.

1. Clone the repository

- **VS Code:**
 - Open VS Code.
 - Click on the "Source Control" tab in the Activity Bar (the icon with three circles and lines).
 - Click the "Clone Repository" button.
 - Enter the repository URL and choose a local directory.
 - Click "Clone".
- **Terminal:**

```
git clone <repository_url>
```

2. Create a New Branch

- **VS Code:**
 - Click on the branch name in the status bar (bottom left corner).
 - Type the name of your new branch (e.g., feature/new-feature).
 - Press Enter or click "Create new branch".
- **Terminal:**

```
git checkout -b feature/new-feature
```

3. Make Changes and Commit

- **VS Code:**
 - Make your code changes in the editor.
 - The Source Control tab will show your modified files.
 - Stage the changes by clicking the "+" icon next to each file or by clicking the "+" icon at the top of the Source Control tab to stage all changes.
 - Enter a commit message in the message box.
 - Click the checkmark icon to commit your changes.
- **Terminal:**

```
git add .  
git commit -m "Your commit message"
```

4. Update your Branch from Main

- **VS Code:**
 - Click on the branch name in the status bar (bottom left corner).
 - Select origin/main from the list. VS Code will automatically fetch and merge the changes.
 - If there are conflicts, VS Code will open the merge editor to resolve them.
- **Terminal:**

```
git fetch origin main  
git merge origin/main
```

5. Push your Branch

- **VS Code:**
 - Click the ellipsis icon (...) at the top of the Source Control tab.
 - Select "Push" (or use the sync icon in the status bar).

- **Terminal:**
`git push origin feature/new-feature`

6. Starting a New Feature

1. Switch to the main branch:

- **VS Code:** Click on the branch name in the status bar and select main.
- **Terminal:**
`git checkout main`

2. Update your local main branch:

- **VS Code:** Click the ellipsis icon (...) in the Source Control tab and select "Pull".
- **Terminal:**
`git pull origin main`

3. Create a new branch for your new feature:

- Repeat from step 2.

Key Takeaways

- VS Code provides a user-friendly interface for common Git operations.
- Use the Source Control tab to view changes, stage files, commit, and push.
- The status bar shows your current branch and allows you to switch branches.
- VS Code's merge editor helps you resolve conflicts visually.