





An Introduction to HPC and Scientific Computing

Lecture four: Using repositories and good coding practices.

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Overview

In this lecture we will learn about:

- The elements of good practice in writing code
- Some of the tools that will help us write good code
- The very basics of Revision Control



What Do We Want Out of Good Software

- Portable
 - Works everywhere, for an appropriate value of everywhere
- Maintainable
 - Easy to work with
 - Easy to fix
 - Ideally extensible as well
- Reliable
 - Does the job as expected
 - Few bugs
- Efficient
 - Fast enough note the word enough!
- Usable
 - People can use it to get their work done



Portability

- Standards are one of the main ways to help ensure your code will work in as many places as possible
- C standards:
 - C89
 - -C99
 - -C2011
- The compiler is a great tool to help you with standards compliance
 - Note by default few compilers are standard compliant
 - They have non-portable extensions
- In fact the compiler is a very useful tool in general through programming, learn to use it!



Using the Compiler

- If it generates a warning fix it
- Use flags on the compiler to generate warning about any dodgy code!

```
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) ~]$ cat warnings.c
int main( void ){
 int a = 3;
 int b;
 printf( "a=%d b=%d\n", a, b );
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ gcc non stand.c
non stand.c: In function 'main':
non_stand.c:6:3: warning: incompatible implicit declaration of built-in function 'printf' [enabled by default]
  printf( "a=%d b=%d\n", a, b );
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ gcc -std=c99 -Wall -Wextra -pedantic non stand.c
non stand.c: In function 'main':
non stand.c:6:3: warning: implicit declaration of function 'printf' [-Wimplicit-function-declaration]
  printf( "a=%d b=%d\n", a, b );
non stand.c:6:3: warning: incompatible implicit declaration of built-in function 'printf' [enabled by default]
non_stand.c:6:9: warning: 'b' is used uninitialized in this function [-Wuninitialized]
  printf( "a=%d b=%d\n", a, b );
[oerc0085@loginll(arcus-b) ~]$
```



Maintainable

- You WILL want to modify your code
- You WON'T remember what it did 6 months after you wrote it
- However if you put a bit of effort in when you first write it you can save a lot of effort when you come back to it



Think before you start!

- Before you write anything think about how you will structure your program
 - What functions will you need
 - What inputs does it require
 - What outputs does it provide
 - What data structures will you require
- Especially for larger projects a bit of careful thought at the beginning can save a lot of thought in the end



Comments And Self Documenting Code

- Comments should be useful
 - Good comment:

```
// Update the charge density
```

- Bad comment

```
i++; // Increment i
```

- Code should as far as is possible be self-documenting
 - Use meaningful variable and function names
 - Call variables by what they are, not how they are to be used
 - Use white space to break the code into logical blocks

```
float calc_circle_area( const float r ) {
    /* This function calculates
        the area of a circle of radius r */

    float area;
    const float pi = 3.1415927;

    area = pi * r * r;

    return area;
}
```



Indent your Code

- Indentation helps you identify where control structures (for,if etc.) start and end
- It also help you identify which curly brace corresponds to which control structure
- Your Editor should help you do this
- And don't use tabs to do it!

```
for( i=0; i<10; i++ ) {
   for( j=0; j<10; j++ ) {
      a[ i ][ j ] = i + j;
   }
   b[ i ] = a[ i ][ 0 ]
}</pre>
```





Have A (Basic) Naming Convention

- Use similar names throughout for your code for variables and functions that do similar things
 - You probably don't realise it, but you already will have assumed that i and j are int's, and are going to be variables to loop over arrays
 - Another one is that variables starting with an n refer to the number of something
 - Also commonly used is variables with *is* in the name refer to binary decisions

```
for( i=0; i<10; i++ ) {
    for( j=0; j<10; j++ ) {
        a[ i ][ j ] = i + j;
    }
    b[ i ] = a[ i ][ 0 ]
}
is_zero = c == 0;</pre>
```



Be Consistent in your Code

- There is no one true way to ident code
- There is no one true variable naming convention
- It is much more important for a given project to pick a reasonable one and then BE CONSISTENT
 - One code I work with calls all temporary variables after characters from Lord of the Rings
 - I'm not saying it's best practice to call all your variables bilbo and frodo
 - All I am saying is it is fine as long as you are consistent in doing this!





KISS - Keep it Simple, Stupid

A real line submitted to Stackoverflow

```
sfs = (n*vs)**2/1.49**2*((20+2*ys)/20/ys)**(4/3) \\ v(j,i+1) = 4.905*(sqrt(sqrt(ys)*s0**2*dt**2-2*sqrt(ys)*s0*dt*(sfs*dt-0.1019368*(vs-3.13209195*sqrt(ys)))) \\ +sfs**2*sqrt(ys)*dt**2-0.2038736*sfs*(vs-3.132092*sqrt(ys))*sqrt(ys)*dt+0.0065092*(q((i+1)*dt)+1.596377* \\ (vs**2-6.2641839*vs*sqrt(ys)+9.81*ys)*sqrt(ys)))+ys^{(1/4)}*(s0*dt-sfs*dt+0.101937*(vs-3.132092*sqrt(ys)))) \\ /ys**(1/4)
```



KISS and Functions

- Break large blocks of code into multiple float calc_circle_area(const float r) { functions
- Ideally each function should be no more than "1 page long"
 - As you can see it all in one go
- Use a consistent naming convention for functions
 - A common one is "verb-noun"
 - E.g. Calculate Potential Energy

```
/* This function calculates
   the area of a circle of radius r */
float area;
const float pi = 3.1415927;
area = pi * r * r;
return area;
```





Wherever Possible Keep Functions Pure

 A Pure function is one whose result depends purely on the values of the parameters supplied to it

```
float calc_circle_area( const float r ) {
    /* This function calculates
        the area of a circle of radius r */
    float area;
    const float pi = 3.1415927;

    area = pi * r * r;

    return area;
}
```



Impure Functions Are Difficult to Debug; Avoid Global Variables

- Imagine the function to the right is causing problems
- You would have to work out the value of magic, and it is a global variable it could be set anywhere in the code
- The related lesson here is avoid global variables
 - If you you do use global variables
 - Keep them to a minimum
 - Best keep them constant,
 e.g. pi is fine as a global
 - At worst set once in a well defined place and never again modified, only read

```
float calc_something( float s ) {
   float result;
   if( magic == 0 ) {
      result = 3;
   }
   else {
      result = another_function();
   }
   return result;
}
```





Pure Functions are Easy To Develop and test

- A function that is pure is easy to test
 - Simply write a main program that calls it with an appropriate set of parameters
- This makes it easy to develop
 - Make all your functions pure, write a testing program, test it to hell and back, move to developing the next function
- Such an approach is called unit testing
 - Unit testing frameworks exist to help with this

```
float calc_circle_area( const float r ) {
    /* This function calculates
        the area of a circle of radius r */
    float area;
    const float pi = 3.1415927;
    area = pi * r * r;
    return area;
}
```





A Good way to Learn Maintainability

- Look at open source codes and see what works!
 - Example in the practical



Reliability

- Cutting down on the number of bugs you learn by experience
- But we have seen some techniques so far
 - Use the compiler to check your code as thoroughly as possible
 - Keep your functions pure and simple so they can be thoroughly tested before incorporation into the larger project
 - Also check the return values of functions to check that actually worked
 - E.g. fopen
 - E.g. malloc
- However there are other tools you can use to help you with bugs
 - The compiler
 - Debuggers



Run Time Checks with the Compiler

 If you have access to a recent version of the Intel Compiler (2017 or later)

```
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ module purge
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ module load intel-compilers/2017
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ cat bounds.c
#include <stdio.h>
void zero array( int [], int );
int main( void ) {
  int a[ 10 ];
  int i;
  zero_array( a, 10 );
 printf( "%d\n", a[ 9 ] );
void zero_array( int a[], int n ) {
  int i;
  for(i = 0; i \le n; i ++) {
   a[i] = 0;
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ icc bounds.c
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ ./a.out
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ icc -check-pointers=rw bounds.c
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ ./a.out
CHKP: Bounds check error ptr=0x7fff64f869a8 sz=4 lb=0x7fff64f86980 ub=0x7fff64f869a7 loc=0x400c83
Traceback:
    at address 0x400c83 in function main
    in file unknown line 0
    at address 0x3d9e2led5d in function __libc_start_main
    in file unknown line 0
   at address 0x400b59 in function _start
    in file unknown line 0
CHKP Total number of bounds violations: 1
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$
```



More Useful Run Time Checks

- So we got the compiler to tell us there is a problem
- Good but with a bit more work we can do better!
- We can get it to tell us exactly where the problem is
- Getting array and pointer indexing wrong is an incredibly common error, I strongly suggest you use it whenever developing code
 - Civilised languages have had this feature for decades ...
- Also note here I am using icc, earlier I used gcc
 - When developing use many compilers, they have different diagnostic capabilities

```
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ cat bounds.c
#include <stdio.h>
void zero array( int [], int );
int main( void ) {
 int a[ 10 ];
 int i;
 zero_array( a, 10 );
 printf( "%d\n", a[ 9 ] );
oid zero array( int a[], int n ) {
 int i;
 for(i = 0; i \le n; i ++) {
   a[i] = 0;
oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ icc -debug -check-pointers=rw bounds.c
oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$ ./a.out
HKP: Bounds check error ptr=0x7fffdf244668 sz=4 lb=0x7fffdf244640 ub=0x7fffdf244667 loc=0x400939
Traceback:
   at address 0x400939 in function zero array
   in file /panfs/pan01/vol007/home/oerc-rse/oerc0085/bounds.c line 21
   at address 0x400804 in function main
   in file /panfs/pan01/vol007/home/oerc-rse/oerc0085/bounds.c line 10
   at address 0x3d9e2led5d in function libc start main
   in file unknown line 0
   at address 0x4006e9 in function start
   in file unknown line 0
HKP Total number of bounds violations: 1
oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) ~]$
```





More Complex Bugs

- For more complex bugs you can use a debugger
 - E.g. gdb
- Not sufficient time to cover here but should be aware of them
- · Can use them for many things, including
 - Work out while a program has crashed
 - While running pause the program at a specified point
 - While running enquire the value of variables
 - While running modify the value of variables
 - Run the program a single line at a time (step through the code)
 - Pause the program if a given variable is modified
 - Do all the above run time checks dependent on a condition
 - And many more



Efficiency

- We don't really have time to address efficiency here
- But note I said "fast enough"
 - If over night is good enough 4 hours or 8 hours makes no difference
 - But the weather forecast has to be there by tomorrow!
- You can use a profiler to look at efficiency problems
 - gprof is a simple free one, and you will look at nvvp in the CUDA exercises
- But remember if you get the wrong answer it doesn't matter how fast it runs
 - Get it right and then, and only then, get it fast
 - Correctness trumps efficiency every time, too many people forget this

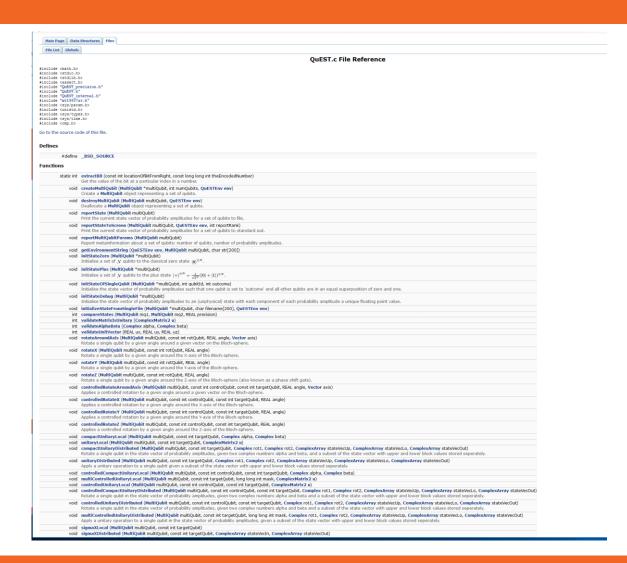


Usability

- If your program doesn't solve the problem it is supposed to solve it's not much use
- Similarly if it does but you can't work out to use it, again it is not much use!
- Some thought should go into how a human interacts with a program
 - Inputs and how outputs will be handled
 - Small projects files are enough, but for many programs at some point a GUI becomes desirable
- Larger projects, certainly ones with more than one person involved, should be documented
- Again there are tools to help
 - E.g. see Doxygen



Doxygen







A Summary of Development Tools

- Editors e.g. emacs, nano
 - Useful for consistent code layout, and can help find some bugs via e.g. syntax highlighting
- Compilers e.g. gcc, icc
 - Standard conformance, bug detection at both compile and run time
- Unit testing frameworks, many free ones for C e.g. Check
 - Check correctness during development cycle
- Debuggers e.g. gdb, idb, Totalview, ddt
 - Find bugs either post mortem or at run time
- Profilers e.g. gprof, Scalasca, Paraver
 - Diagnose efficiency issues
- Documentation e.g. Doxygen
 - Automatically generate documentation from the comments in your code

What Else?

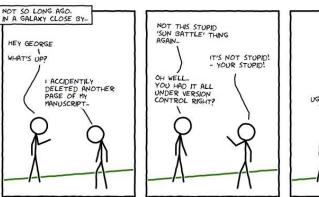
- IDE's (integrated development environments) bring a lot of these together e.g. Eclipse
 - But less popular in the Linux world than Windows philosophical reasons I suspect
- Revision Control Systems we'll have a quick look at this
 - a.k.a. Version Control
- Continuous Integration (CI) a quick word once we have done Revision Control

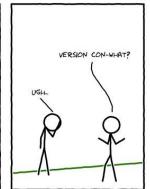




Revision Control Systems (1)

- Imagine you are working on a piece of software
- It's working and then you make some changes
- It's now not working
 - E.g. you are doing this after the pub.
 Number one tip: software development and beer don't mix!
- Wouldn't it be nice if you could go back to the version that worked and start again?
 - Ideally tomorrow morning
- Revision control systems allow you to do this by keeping a complete history of all versions of the software project





Basic Checkins



https://betterexplained.com/articles/a-visual-guide-to-version-control/





Revision Control Systems (2)

- Imagine the project has got so complex that it is not just you working on it
- It would be nice to have a tool that kept track of the most up to date version which is the union of all the teams changes
 - You don't want to be emailing versions of files around people will lose track and everybody will end up with a subtly different version of the code
- It would also be nice to have a tool that helps you merge the various changes together
 - And identify where the work of one member of the team conflicts with the work of another
- Revision control systems help you do that





Revision Control systems (3)

- You now want to release the software to the public
- How are people to get the code from you
- If somebody reports a bug how are you to know what version of the code it relates to?
- Revision control can help with this as well!
 - Release tags



Revision Control Systems (4)

- What if somebody in the project wants to do something very experimental
- Or there are multiple developments which need to go on, and the best way to work would be to each development to be worked upon as independently as possible from any other one
- Or you want to be able to merge bug fixes into a given release, but have a separate version of the code which is being developed for the next release?
- Revision control systems can help with this!
 - Branches



Revision Control Systems

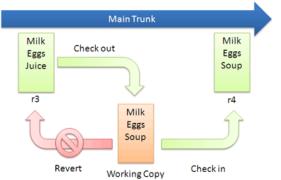
The basic idea

- The current version and history of the project is held in a repository
- When you want to work on the code you check out a copy of the code
- You do your work on the working copy
- Once you are happy with your work you check it back into the repository

Basic Checkins



Checkout and Edit



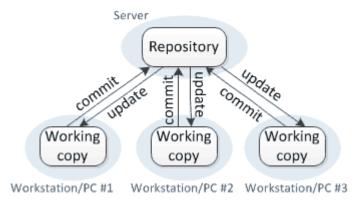




Centralised Revision Control Systems

- Note the repository could be accessible by just you, or members of a team
- The simplest model is a centralised version control system

Centralized version control



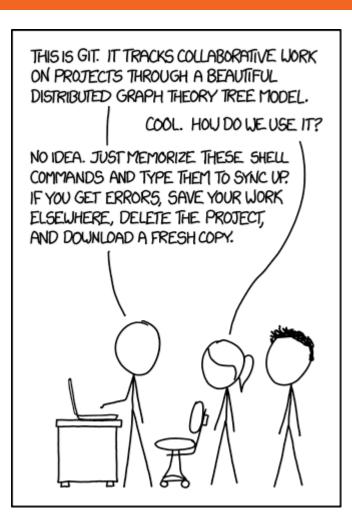
https://blog.inf.ed.ac.uk/sapm/2014/02/14/if-you-are-not-using-aversion-control-system-start-doing-it-now/





Git

- Many Revision Control systems
 - Mercurial, subversion …
 - I think I have used 7 different ones over the years
 - Admittedly all more or less the same for the level of use needed here
- Git is probably the most commonly used nowadays
 - Even if myself I'm not that fond of it …



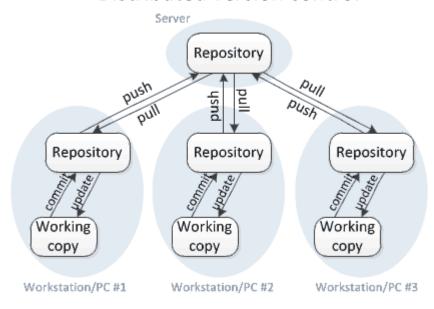




Git Model

- Git has a slightly more complicated model
 - It is a distributed revision control system
- Definite advantage in having own local repository to work with, and then a shared external repository
- One of the reasons git is popular is there are many places to store the shared repository, e.g. github, which also makes it easy to distribute code
 - See the practical

Distributed version control







Git – a few basic commands

- git init initialise a local repository
- git add add a file to the staging area
- git commit –
 check all changes
 held in the staging
 area into the
 repository
- git status –
 what is the current status of the directory, staging area and repository?

```
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git init
Initialized empty Git repository in /panfs/pan01/vol007/home/oerc-rse/oerc0085/git eg/.git/
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ git config --global user.name "Ian.Bush"
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git config --global user.email Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk
oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git eg]$ git status
 On branch master
 Initial commit
nothing to commit (create/copy files and use "git add" to track)
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git eg]$ touch milk
oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ git status
 On branch master
 Initial commit
 Untracked files:
   (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
nothing added to commit but untracked files present (use "git add" to track)
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git add milk
oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ git status
 On branch master
 Initial commit
 Changes to be committed:
   (use "git rm --cached <file>..." to unstage)
       new file: milk
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git commit -m "Added milk to shopping list"
[master (root-commit) 408bc7c] Added milk to shopping list
0 files changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
create mode 100644 milk
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git status
 On branch master
nothing to commit (working directory clean)
Author: Ian.Bush <Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk>
Date: Thu May 17 09:23:45 2018 +0100
   Added milk to shopping list
oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$
```



- git ls-files list the files in my repository
- git log history of repository, or a given file

```
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ touch juice
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git add juice
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ touch soup
oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git add soup
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ git status
 On branch master
 Changes to be committed:
   (use "git reset HEAD <file>..." to unstage)
       new file: juice
       new file: soup
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git commit -m "I need soup and juice as well"
[master 8a076b3] I need soup and juice as well
0 files changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
create mode 100644 juice
create mode 100644 soup
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git eg]$ git status
# On branch master
nothing to commit (working directory clean)
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ git log
commit 8a076b3f5d36f1d2b0fe6517d54ca426a6e755ed
Author: Ian.Bush <Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk>
Date: Thu May 17 09:50:30 2018 +0100
   I need soup and juice as well
commit 57291921a4b3dbf3a7906e875a94f9f80e980bb3
Author: Ian.Bush <Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk>
Date: Thu May 17 09:49:44 2018 +0100
   I need eggs for lunch
commit 0b22bbe22af1b53d4c6f1f456a6b22dac692e204
Author: Ian.Bush <Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk>
Date: Thu May 17 09:49:44 2018 +0100
   Added milk to shopping list
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git eg]$ git ls-files
eggs
juice
milk
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]s git log milk
commit 0b22bbe22af1b53d4c6f1f456a6b22dac692e204
Author: Ian.Bush <Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk>
Date: Thu May 17 09:49:44 2018 +0100
   Added milk to shopping list
 oerc0085@loginll(arcus-b) git eg]$
```





Updated files:

```
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ cat > milk
Semi-skimed
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git status
# On branch master
# Changed but not updated:
    (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
   (use "git checkout -- <file>... " to discard changes in working directory)
        modified:
                   milk
no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git add milk
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git commit -m "The milk should be semi-skimmed"
[master e40e909] The milk should be semi-skimmed
1 files changed, 1 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git log milk
commit e40e9099805527a377989063ad5cdffe5146fb5a
Author: Ian.Bush <Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk>
       Thu May 17 11:20:41 2018 +0100
Date:
   The milk should be semi-skimmed
commit 0b22bbe22af1b53d4c6f1f456a6b22dac692e204
Author: Ian.Bush <Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk>
Date: Thu May 17 09:49:44 2018 +0100
   Added milk to shopping list
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$
```



Whoops!

• If you realise you have made a mistake — git checkout

```
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ cat > soup
Carrot and Coriander
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ cat soup
Carrot and Coriander
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git status
# On branch master
# Changed but not updated:
# (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
# (use "git checkout -- <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)
#
# modified: soup
#
no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git checkout -- soup
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ cat soup
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$
```



Whoops And I've Added It!

• To remove it from the staging area git reset HEAD

```
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ cat > soup
Carrot and Coriander
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ git status
# On branch master
# Changed but not updated:
   (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
   (use "git checkout -- <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)
        modified:
                    soup
no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git add soup
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ git status
# On branch master
# Changes to be committed:
   (use "git reset HEAD <file>..." to unstage)
        modified: soup
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git reset HEAD soup
Unstaged changes after reset:
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git eg]$ git status
# On branch master
# Changed but not updated:
   (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
    (use "git checkout -- <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)
        modified: soup
no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git checkout -- soup
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ git status
# On branch master
nothing to commit (working directory clean)
```





Whoops and I've Comitted It!

 git checkout can also be used to get back old versions

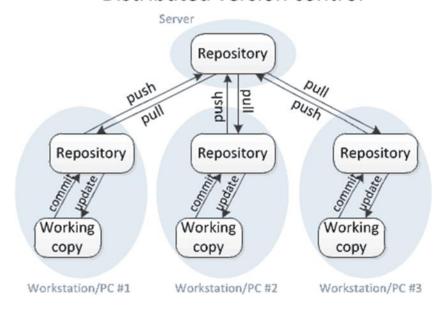
```
[oerc0085@loginll(arcus-b) git eg]$ cat > soup
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git add soup
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git commit soup -m "It's chicken soup for lunch"
[master 2502b07] It's chicken soup for lunch
1 files changed, 1 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ cat > soup
 Carrot and Coriander
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ cat > soup
Carrot and Coriander
[oerc0085@loginl1(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git add soup
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ git commit soup -m "No, it's carrot and coriander" [master 2db7b5f] No, it's carrot and coriander
1 files changed, 1 insertions(+), 1 deletions(-)
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ git log soup
commit 2db7b5fbbdd06aefb82469b13836bfda4dleabf3
Author: Ian.Bush <Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk>
Date: Thu May 17 11:39:13 2018 +0100
     No, it's carrot and coriander
commit 2502b07b6f9177244e650cedb39493f2a5708faf
Author: Ian.Bush <Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk>
Date: Thu May 17 11:37:58 2018 +0100
     It's chicken soup for lunch
commit 8a076b3f5d36f1d2b0fe6517d54ca426a6e755ed
Author: Ian.Bush <Ian.Bush@oerc.ox.ac.uk>
Date: Thu May 17 09:50:30 2018 +0100
    I need soup and juice as well
 [oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ cat soup
 Carrot and Coriander
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git checkout 2502b07b6f9177244e650cedb39493f2a5708faf soup
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git eg]$ cat soup
Chicken
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git status
# On branch master
# Changes to be committed:
     (use "git reset HEAD <file>..." to unstage)
          modified: soup
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git add soup
[oerc0085@login11(arcus-b) git_eg]$ git commit -m "Chnaged my ind again, back to chicken"
[master c65f895] Chnaged my ind again, back to chicken
1 files changed, 1 insertions(+), 1 deletions(-)
```



Remote repository

- We've looked at add, commit and checkout to deal with the local repository
 - Where you store your changes
- In git there is also the global repository
 - Where the team as a whole stores their changes
- push, pull and clone are used to access those
 - Will look at briefly during the practicals

Distributed version control







Continuous Integration (CI) tools

- How do we make sure the code in the repository is reliable (and maybe efficient)?
- Continuous integration tools automate testing of the software by, at regular intervals, checking out the current version of the repository, running tests as specified by the development team, and reporting and problems encountered
- It's possible to run these tests on different platforms to check portatbility
- It's possible to include efficiency tests in the suite
- Serious software projects really should use this!
 - Jenkins is probably the most widely used CI tool





A Final Word About your Software: Stick A Licence On it!

- If you are going to give out your software to somebody else I strongly recommend you put a licence on it to protect yourself and make sure you get recognition
- What is allowed may depend on departmental policy check!
- Common simple, open source ones:
 - BSD https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BSD_licenses
 - MIT https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIT_License





What have we learnt?

We have learnt about

- The very basics of writing good quality code
- The names, and in some cases basic use, of some of the tools that software developers use
- A bit about revision control
- The existence of software licences



Further reading

You only learn this stuff by doing it! But some suggestions:

- ARC and Archer provide a number of courses, some of which cover some of the material covered here
- Consider attending one of the Software Carpentry courses
 - https://software-carpentry.org/
 - https://www.software.ac.uk/software-carpentry
- A few introductions to revision control and git:
 - https://blog.inf.ed.ac.uk/sapm/2014/02/14/if-you-are-not-using-aversion-control-system-start-doing-it-now/
 - https://betterexplained.com/articles/a-visual-guide-to-version-control/
 - https://try.github.io/levels/1/challenges/1 we'll look at this in the practicals
 - https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2 an on line book on git
 - http://www-cs-students.stanford.edu/%7Eblynn/gitmagic/ another book on git



In the next lecture...

We shall look further into C!

