Using git for assessments

ian.mcloughlin@gmit.ie

These are the instructions for completing the assessments for this module using git [3].

Why we are using git?

- It is the industry standard for tracking the development of code, text, and software.

- It enables students to demonstrate consistency in their work.

- It provides evidence that a student's work is their own.

How do I submit my assessments?

- Each assessment should be in a single git repository and regularly synced with a hosting platform like GitHub [1].

- The URL for the online repository should be submitted using the form on the Moodle page.

- The URL must be accessible by the lecturer. If it is not publicly available, the lecturer must be added as a collaborator.

- Your last commit synced to the online hosting platform before the assessment deadline will form your submission.

- Once you are given an assessment, you should immediately create the repository and submit its URL. There is no benefit in delaying.

Can you give me a quick overview?

- Imagine I give you a PDF describing the requirements of a project to be completed within the next six weeks.

- You should go to GitHub, create a new repository for the project with a descriptive name under your own account. When you create the repository, copy its URL from the location bar of your web browser.

- Go to the Moodle page and click the link for the project submission form. Paste your URL into the form and click Submit.

- Clone the repository to your computer and think about a realistic plan to break your project into reasonable commits, maybe three or four each week.

What is a reasonable commit?

- There is no perfect commit, but there are plenty of bad ones. It helps to imagine you are working on the repository as part of a team.

- A good commit does not change many different files. This could cause conflicts for you and other team members working on the same files.

- Likewise, making lot of small commits in quick succession will annoy your teammates. For instance, you should bunch README typo fixes into one commit.

- A reasonable commit might be a well-commented function to calculate the factorial of a number or an important bug fix like changing an erroneous "=" to "==".

Any advice from past submissions?

- Go easy on yourself but do the work.

- Everyone is susceptible to procrastination and disorganisation. You are expected to be aware of this and take reasonable measures to avoid them.

- Using work from outside sources is acceptable so long as you clearly reference the source and the overall submission is substantially your own work.

- You must be able to explain your project during and after its completion. Our academic policies relating to plagiarism and conduct are available on the website [2].

- Unpreventable problems sometimes arise. It really helps if you can demonstrate that, up until that point, you had completed a proportionate amount of work.

References

[1] Inc. GitHub. GitHub.
https://github.com/.

[2] GMIT. Quality Assurance Framework.
https://www.gmit.ie/general/quality-assurance-framework.

[3] Software Freedom Conservancy. Git.
https://git-scm.com/.