

OH SHIT, GIT!

RECIPES FOR GETTING OUT OF A GIT MESS



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♥ oh shit! mistakes & how to fix them ♥

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~/Google Drive/Technology/Notes/wizardzines/
Oh shit, git!/6_git branch.jpg

@ohshitgit

A SHA always refers to the same code

Let's start with some fundamentals! If you understand the basics about how git works, it's WAY easier to fix mistakes.

The most important thing to understand about git is what a commit is! Every git commit has an id like 3f29abcd233fa, also called a "SHA". A SHA refers to both:



the changes that were made in that commit

'git show 3f29ab
will show you the
diff!



a snapshot of the code after that commit was made

No matter how many weird things you do with git, checking out a SHA will always give you the exact same code that was in the repository when that commit was made.

You can check out a commit like this:

```
git checkout 3f29abcd233fa
```

This makes it way easier to recover from mistakes!

10 am



ok, let's commit,
that's a2992b

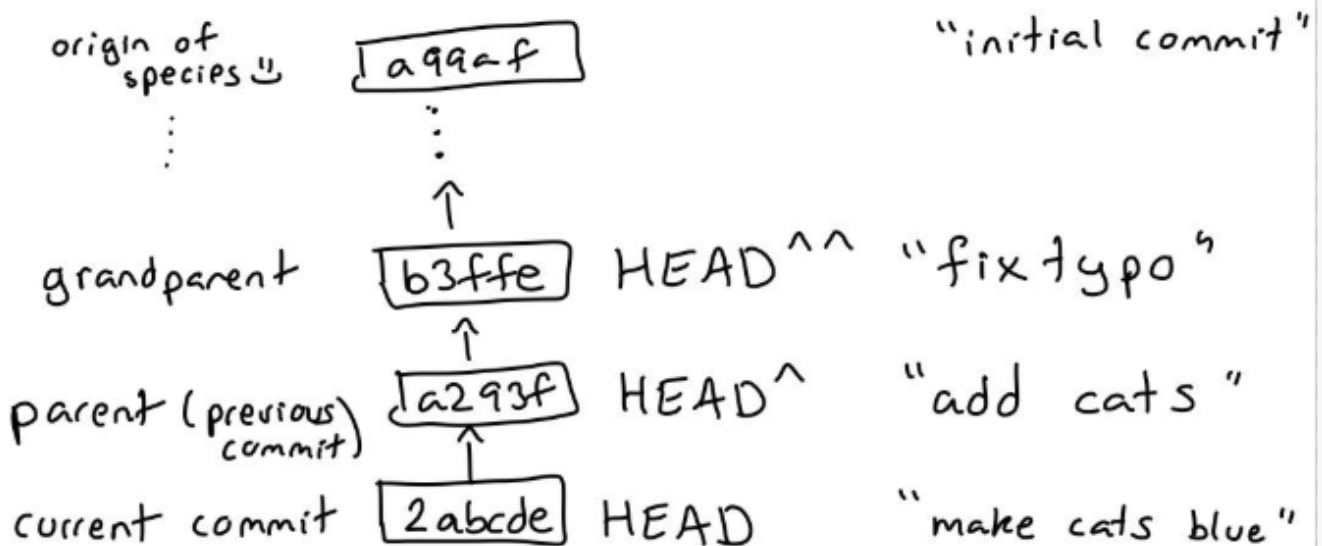
11 am



I really screwed
up this file, let's
go back to the
version from
a2992b

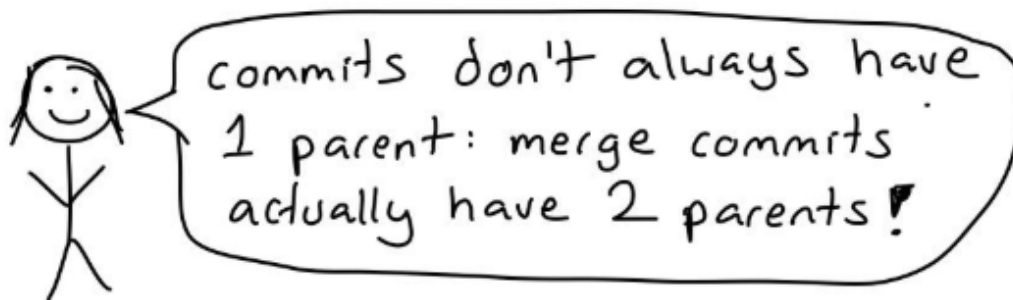
every commit @ohshitgit has a parent

Every commit (except the first one!) has a parent commit!
You can think of your git history as looking like this:



HEAD always refers to the current commit you have checked out, and HEAD^ is its parent. So if you want to go look at the code from the previous commit, you can run

`git checkout HEAD^`



`git log` shows you all the ancestors of the current commit, all the way back to the initial commit

A branch is a pointer to a commit @ohshitgit

A branch in git is a pointer to a commit SHA

master \longrightarrow 2e9fab

awesome-feature \longrightarrow 3bafea

fix-typo \longrightarrow 9a9a9a

Here's some proof! In your favourite git repo, run this command:

```
$ cat .git/refs/heads/master
```

\uparrow this is just a text file with the commit SHA master points at in it!

Understanding what a branch is will make it WAY EASIER to fix your branches when they're broken: you just need to figure out how to get your branch to point at the right commit again!

3 main ways to change the commit a branch points to:

- ★ `git commit` will point the branch at the new commit
- ★ `git pull` will point the branch at the same commit as the remote branch
- ★ `git reset COMMIT_SHA` will point the branch at COMMIT_SHA

@ohshitgit

HEAD is the commit you have checked out

In git you always have some commit checked out. You can refer to that commit with HEAD, and you'll see HEAD used a lot in that zines. Here are a couple of examples of how to use HEAD:

show the diff for the current commit:

```
git show HEAD
```

UNDO UNDO UNDO UNDO: reset branch to 16 commits ago ☹️

```
git reset --hard HEAD~16
```

show what's changed since 6 commits ago:

```
git diff HEAD~6
```

squash a bunch of commits together

```
git rebase -i HEAD~8
```



I committed but I need to make
one small change!

① Make your changes

- ① make your change
- ② Add your files with 'git add'
- ③ Run:

```
git commit --amend
```



this usually happens to me when I forget to run tests/ linters before committing!

You can also add a new commit and run and use 'git rebase' to squash them but this is about a million times faster.



I accidentally committed to the wrong branch!

① Check out the correct branch

```
git checkout correct-branch
```

② Add the commit you wanted

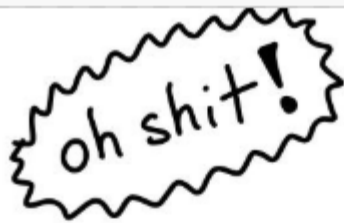
```
git cherry-pick wrong-branch
```

③ Delete the commit from the wrong branch

```
git checkout wrong-branch  
git status  
! git reset --hard HEAD~
```



be careful when running 'git reset --hard'!
I always run 'git status' first to
make sure there aren't
unstaged changes



I tried to run a diff
but nothing happened?



did you know there are
3 ways to diff?!

Suppose you've edited 2 files:

```
$ git status
```

On branch master

Changes to be committed:

modified: staged.txt

Changes not staged for commit:

modified: unstaged.txt

staged changes
(added with
'git add')

unstaged
changes

Here are the 3 ways git can show you a diff for
these changes:

- `git diff`: unstaged changes
- `git diff --staged`: staged changes
- `git diff HEAD`: staged+unstaged changes

A couple more diff tricks:

- `git diff --stat` gives you a summary of
which files were changed & number of
added/deleted lines
- `git diff --check` checks for merge
conflict markers & whitespace errors

~/Google Drive/Technology/Notes/wizardzines/
Oh shit, git!/19_git rebase.jpg

oh shit!

committed something to master that should have been on a brand new branch!

① Create the new branch

```
git branch my-new-branch
```

② Delete the unwanted commit from master

be careful!!

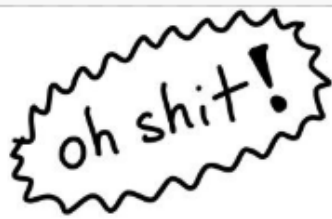
```
git status  
git reset --hard HEAD~
```

③ Check out the new branch!

```
git checkout my-new-branch
```



'git branch' and 'git checkout -b' both create a new branch. The difference is 'git checkout -b' also checks out the branch



I did something terribly wrong,
does git have a magic
time machine?

Yes! It's called 'git reflog' and it logs every single
thing you do with git so you can always go back.

Suppose you ran these git commands:

```
git checkout my-cool-branch
git commit -am "add cool feature"
git rebase -i master
```

Here's what git reflog's output would look like. It
shows the most recent actions first:

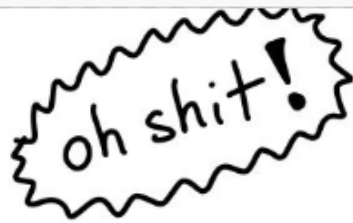
:

```
245fc8d HEAD@{2} rebase -i (start): checkout master
b623930 HEAD@{3} commit: add cool feature
01d7933 HEAD@{4} checkout: moving from master
                    to my-cool-branch
```

If you really regret that rebase and want to
go back, here's how:

```
git reset --hard b623930
      or
git reset --hard HEAD@{3}
```

2 ways to refer
to that commit
before the
rebase



I tried to run a diff
but nothing happened?

```
git diff --staged
```

Git won't do a diff of files that have been
'add'-ed to your staging area without this flag.
'git diff HEAD' will work too.



this can be baffling the first
time it happens to you!

a couple more diff tricks:

- 'git diff --stat' gives you a
summary of which files were changed &
number of added/deleted lines
- 'git diff --check' checks for merge
conflict markers & whitespace errors