Introduction to version control with Git

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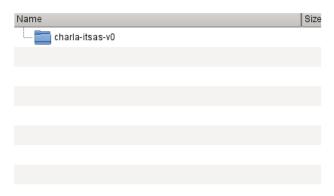
CFM Software Carpentry Tracks

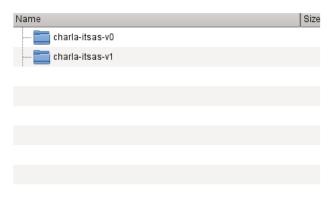
San Sebastián, 3rd October 2017















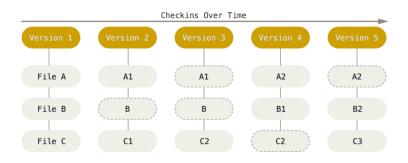




Version Control System

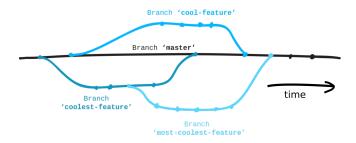
Version control is a system for recording and managing changes made to files and folders.

Features (I)



- All changes are kept.
- You can go "back in time" to any point in a file history.
- You can inspect the differences between any two versions of the files.
- You can track the file/project evolution (what, who, when)

Features (II)

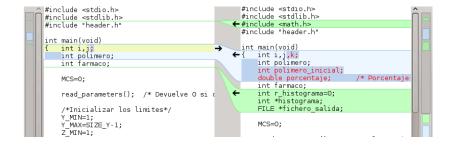


You can have different "branches" of a project.

This allows for things as:

- Easily try out new ideas.
- Create branches for developing specific features.
- Have "release", "development", etc. branches.

```
Corrected *.o dependences on header.h
                                                              Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-04-01 11:00:51
Corrected header.h with externs. No warnings.
                                                              Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-04-01 10:35:28
Refactoring & type casting to avoid warnings.
                                                              Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-04-01 01:48:07
Refactored globals to G ... and more.
                                                              Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-03-31 22:59:24
Merge branch 'input datafile'
                                                              Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-03-11 00:02:29
input datafile remotes/origin/input datafile
                                                Updated from Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-03-10 23:40:40
input.dat initial version.
                                                              Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-03-10 23:35:47
Added make cleanall v .gitignore file.
                                                              Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-02-26 13:24:28
2 weeks changes from CEIT.
                                                              Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-03-10 23:50:16
Added .aitianore
                                                              Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-02-26 13:11:57
Initial commit
                                                              Inigo Aldazabal <inigo aldazat: 2012-02-26 00:00:11
```



Use cases

Who can benefit? Anyone using (mainly) plain text files:

- Researchers: papers, PhD. thesis, notes (LATEX)
- SysAdmins: configuration files (eg. /etc)
- Developers: source code, web pages
- Writers: novels, essays
- ...

It works also with binary files as paper figures, but with limitations: eg. you can not "diff" two figures.

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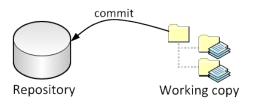
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Not useful for binary files as Microsoft Office, LibreOffice and similar documents.

Key concepts



Repository

A repository is a database of all the edits to, and/or historical versions (snapshots) of, your project.

Working copy

Your working copy is your personal copy of all the files in the project.

Commit

Once you have finished making changes to your working copy, you *commit* them to the repository.



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Git is easy to learn and has a tiny footprint with lightning fast performance."

Git website



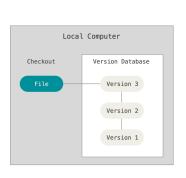
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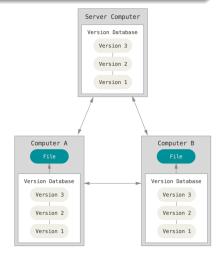
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Distributed Version Control System

- Everybody a has a local copy of the full repository!
- Any local copy can be synchronized with any other: none is privileged a priori.
- It allows for different workflows.







Let's git init!

The Story

Wolfman and Dracula have been hired by Universal Missions (a space services spinoff from Euphoric State University) to investigate if it is possible to send their next planetary lander to Mars.

They want to be able to work on the plans at the same time, but they have run into problems doing this in the past. If they take turns, each one will spend a lot of time waiting for the other to finish, but if they work on their own copies and email changes back and forth things will be lost, overwritten, or duplicated.

A colleague suggests using version control to manage their work.

Setting up Git

```
git config --global user.name "User Name"
git config --global user.email "user@mail.com"
git config --global color.ui "auto"
git config --global core.editor "nano -w"

# check!
git config --list
```

Creating a Repository

git init

```
$ mkdir my_repo
$ cd my_repo
$ git init
```

Places to create Git repositories

```
cd
              # return to home directory
mkdir planets
              # make a new directory planets
cd planets
              # go into planets
git init
              # make the planets directory a Git
              # repository
mkdir moons
              # make a sub-directory planets/moons
cd moons
              # go into planets/moons
git init
              # make the moons sub-directory a Git
              # repository
```

- Why is a bad idea to do this?
- How can we "undo" the last git init?

Tracking Changes

```
nano <file>
git status
git diff
git add <file>
git commit -m <message>
git log
```

Choosing a commit message

We added to the mars.txt file the line "But the Mummy will appreciate the lack of humidity"

Which of the following commit messages would be most appropriate for the last commit made to "mars.txt"?

- 1.- "Changes"
- 2.- "Added line 'But the Mummy will appreciate the lack of humidity' to mars.txt"
- 3.- "Discuss effects of Mars' climate on the Mummy"

Commiting changes to Git

Which command(s) below would save the changes of myfile.txt to my local Git repository?

```
(1) $ git commit -m "my recent changes"
```

```
(2) $ git init myfile.txt
$ git commit -m "my recent changes"
```

```
(3) $ git add myfile.txt
$ git commit -m "my recent changes"
```

```
(4) $ git commit -m myfile.txt "my
recent changes"
```

bio Repository

Create a new Git repository on your computer called bio.

Write a three-line biography for yourself in a file called me.txt, commit your changes, then modify one line, add a fourth line, and display the differences between its updated state and its original state.

Exploring History

```
git diff
git checkout
```

Recovering Older Versions of a File

Jennifer has made changes to the Python script that she has been working on for weeks, and the modifications she made this morning "broke" the script and it no longer runs. She has spent $\sim\!\!$ 1hr trying to fix it, with no luck...

Luckily, she has been keeping track of her project's versions using Git! Which commands below will let her recover the last committed version of the Python script called data_cruncher.py?

```
(1) $ git checkout HEAD
```

```
(2) $ git checkout HEAD data_cruncher.py
```

```
(3) $ git checkout HEAD~1 data_cruncher.py
```

```
(4) $ git checkout <unique ID of last commit>
   data_cruncher.py
```

```
(5) Both 2 & 4
```

Understanding Workflow and History

What is the output of cat venus.txt at the end of this set of commands?

```
$ cd planets
$ nano venus.txt #input the following text: Venus is beautiful and
    full of love
$ git add venus.txt
$ nano venus.txt #add the following text: Venus is too hot to be
        suitable as a base
$ git commit -m "comments on Venus as an unsuitable base"
$ git checkout HEAD venus.txt
$ cat venus.txt #this will print the contents of venus.txt to the
        screen
```

- (1) Venus is too hot to be suitable as a base
- (2) Venus is beautiful and full of love
- (3) Venus is beautiful and full of love
 Venus is too hot to be suitable as a base
- (4) Error because you have changed venus.txt without committing the changes

Checking Understanding of git diff

Consider this command: git diff HEAD 3 mars.txt. What do you predict this command will do if you execute it? What happens when you do execute it? Why?

Try another command, git diff [ID] mars.txt, where [ID] is replaced with the unique identifier for your most recent commit. What do you think will happen, and what does happen?

Ignoring Things

To ignore eg. .o, .pdf, .aux, etc. files (or folders), add the corresponding patterns to the .gitignore file.

```
$ cat .gitignore
*.o
*.pdf
*.aux
results/
```

Including specific files

How would you ignore all .data files in your root directory except for final.data?

Hint: Find out what "!" (the exclamation point operator) does.

Log-files

You wrote a script that creates many intermediate log-files of the form log_01, log_02, log_03, etc. You want to keep them but you do not want to track them through git.

- (1) Write **one** .gitignore entry that excludes files of the form log_01, log_02, etc.
- (2) Test your "ignore pattern" by creating some dummy files of the form log_01, etc.
- (3) You find that the file log_01 is very important after all, add it to the tracked files without changing the .gitignore again.
- (4) Discuss with your neighbor what other types of files could reside in your directory that you do not want to track and thus would exclude via .gitignore.

Remotes in GitHub

```
$ cd my_repo

$ git remote add origin http://github.
    com/user/repo.github

$ git push origin master
$ pit pull origin master
```

GitHub GUI

Browse to your planets repository on GitHub.

Under the Code tab, find and click on the text that says "XX commits" (where "XX" is some number). Hover over, and click on, the three buttons to the right of each commit. What information can you gather/explore from these buttons? How would you get that same information in the shell?

push vs. commit

In this lesson, we introduced the "git push" command. How is "git push" different from "git commit"?

Fixing up remote settings

It happens quite often in practice that you made a typo in the remote URL. This exercise is about how to fix this kind of issues. First start by adding a remote with an invalid URL:

```
git remote add broken https://github.com
   /this/url/is/invalid
```

Do you get an error when adding the remote? Can you think of a command that would make it obvious that your remote URL was not valid? Can you figure out how to fix the URL (tip: use "git remote -h")? Don't forget to clean up and remove this remote once you are done with this exercise.

Collaborating

```
$ git clone http://github.com/user/repo.
   github
```

Review changes

The Owner push commits to the repository without giving any information to the Collaborator. How can the Collaborator find out what has changed with command line? And on GitHub?

Solving Conflicts

```
$ git push origin master
...
! [rejected]
$ git pull origin master
...
CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in
...
```

Solving conflicts

Clone instructor's repository

```
$ git clone https://github.com/iamc/
planets.git
```

Add a new file to it, and modify mars.txt file (add a line)

Wait...

When asked by your instructor, pull his changes from the repository to create a conflict, then resolve it.