

Learning Goals

In this (and next) lecture, we will see:

- How to safely store your files (code or text)
- How to collaborate on files with others over the internet
- **How to avoid losing your data!**

File Versions

- Many of the files you work with will be text:
 - Source Code
 - Documentation
 - Markup Files
- As you change these files over time, you'll eventually want some way to keep track of different “versions” of the file.
- What we need is a “version control system”.

Outline

1. Review

2. Version Control

2.1 Version Control Systems

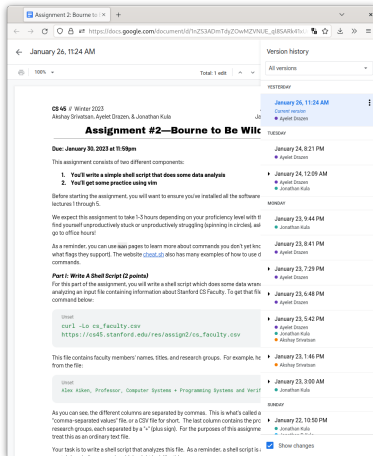
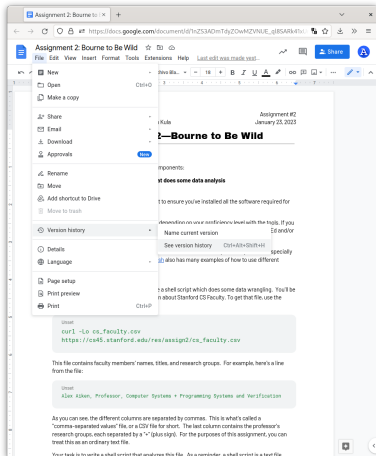
2.2 Comparison of VCSs

3. Git

Version Control Systems

- A VERSION CONTROL SYSTEM (VCS) is a piece of software which manages different versions of your files and folders for you.
- A good VCS will let you look at old versions of files and restore files (or information) which you might have accidentally deleted.
- You've seen these before!

Version Control Systems



Version Control Systems

A good version control system:

- Will store many versions of your files
- Will let you “revert” a file (or a part of a file) to an older version
- Will track the order of different versions
- Will ensure each “version” is neither too big nor too small

A great version control system:

- Will let you collaborate on files with other people
- Will help you combine “branched” versions of the files produced by different people working independently

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- We can ask Git to keep track of who's working on what, so multiple people can work on different things without conflicting.
- If we want to combine multiple people's work, we can ask Git to automatically merge them together. If it can't for some reason, it'll ask us to manually merge them.

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3.1 Linear History

3.2 Branching Workflow

3.3 Combining Branches

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6. Repeat from 3

You can use `git log` to see your commit history, and use `git status` to see the current state of staged/unstaged/untracked changes.

Basic Workflow

Demo

Let's practice how to:

- Create a new Git repository
- Commit a new file
- Commit changes to files
- Revert commits
- Look at an old version of a file
- Compare two versions of files
- See your commit history

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1. Make sure your repository is “clean” (i.e., you have no uncommitted changes).
2. `git checkout -b <branch>` to create a new branch and move to it; at this point, the new branch will be identical to the old one.
3. Make changes, `git add`, `git commit` as usual
4. `git checkout` to switch between branches

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Branching Workflow

Combining Branches

Now that we have multiple branches, we probably want to join them back together at some point.

There are several ways to do this:

- `git merge` two branches into one
- `git merge --fast-forward` a long branch onto a shorter version of itself
- `git rebase` one branch onto another branch
- `git cherry-pick` a specific commit from one branch to another

Branching Workflow

Fast Forwarding

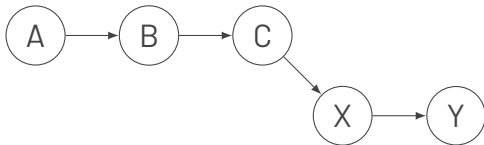
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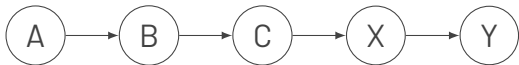
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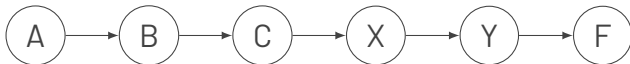
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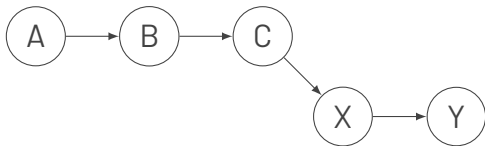
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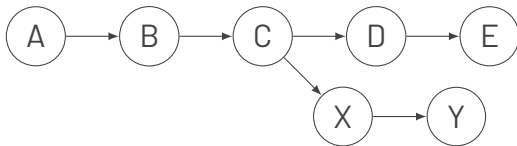
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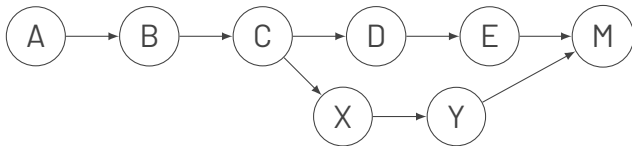
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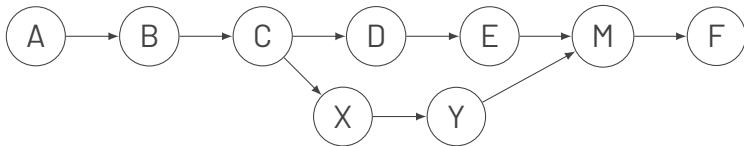
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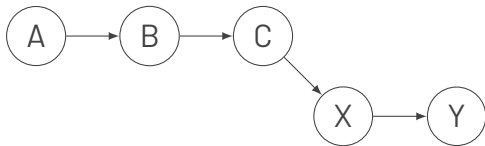
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Branching Workflow

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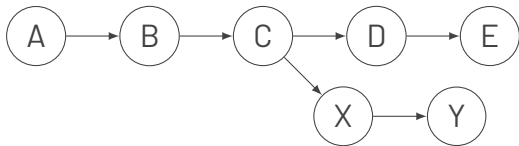
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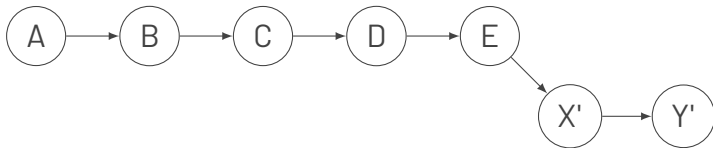
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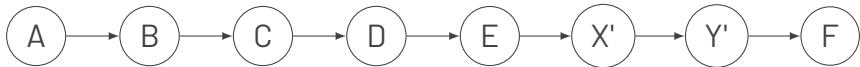
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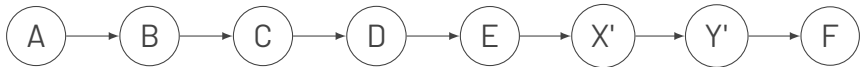
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Rebasing

REBASING moves the "base" of a branch to be a different commit. **REBASING** edits Git's history to make **FAST-FORWARDING** possible.



Branching Workflow

Cherry-Picking

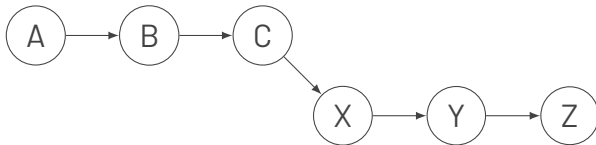
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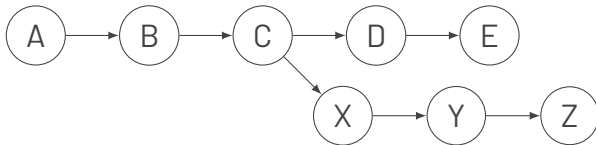
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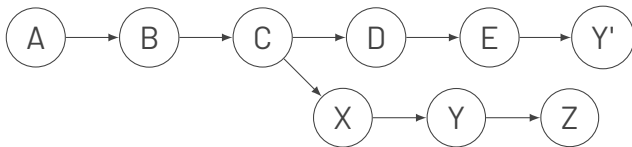
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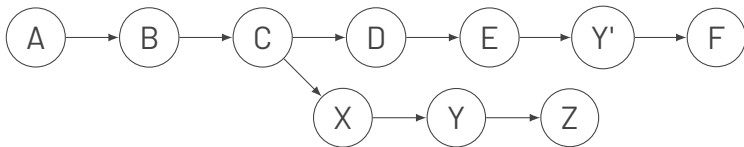
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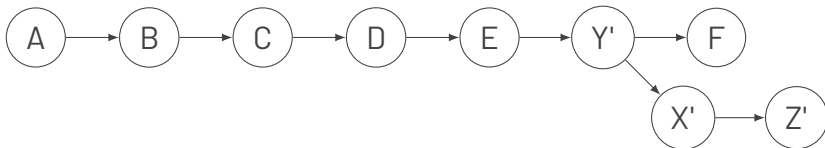
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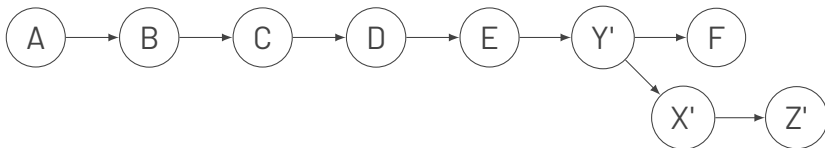


Branching Workflow

Cherry-Picking

CHERRY-PICKING copies a *single commit* from one branch to another branch.

CHERRY-PICKING and rebasing is a good way to move a single commit from one branch to another.



Branching Workflow

When to merge/rebase/cherry-pick?

- **fast-forward** when possible (`git merge --ff-only`).
- **rebase and then fast-forward** if possible, i.e., if you're the only one working on the branch; **never** rebase a branch other people are using (`git rebase` and `git merge --ff-only`).
- **merge** if neither of the above are possible (`git merge`).
- **cherry-pick** if you want to copy a specific commit to another branch (`git cherry-pick`)¹.

¹This is pretty rare, I've only used it a handful of times.

Branching Workflow

Branching Demo

Let's practice how to:

- Split our repository into two branches
- Switch between branches
- Make commits on either branch
- Merge two branches together

To Be Continued...

We'll pick back up with merge conflict resolution and collaboration in Lecture 10.

Some commands which (probably) came up during class:

`git checkout`: essentially means "move to a different commit"; doesn't change your git history

`git reset`: "resets" the entire repository to the way it was in an old commit (and changes git history to match)

`git revert`: "undoes" a specific old commit by creating a new commit that does the opposite

Note that, even though Git commits are technically versions, Git's commands often operate on the *changes* between versions.