GIT/GITHUB - PART 2

# Chapter 1: Git Workflow Enhancements & `HEAD` Concept

## 1. Basic Git Workflow Reminder:

• Standard process: Make changes → Stage them → Commit them

• Purpose of staging: Allows combining multiple changes into a single commit.

## 2. Skipping the Staging Step:

Use: git commit -a -m "message"  
• -a flag:  
 • Automatically stages all tracked and modified files.  
 • Skips git add for already tracked files.  
 • Does not work on new (untracked) files – must run git add first.

## 3. Use Cases for `git commit -a`

• Best for small, quick changes where staging isn’t needed.  
• Not ideal for:  
 • New files (since they’re untracked).  
 • Complex changes requiring detailed commit messages.

## 4. Limitations of `-m` Flag

• -m flag is used to add a commit message inline.  
• Not suitable for:  
 • Long or complex commit descriptions.  
 • Messages that require following best practices (e.g., multiline messages).

## 5. Caution with `-a` Shortcut

• You skip the staging area, so:  
 • You can’t selectively include files.  
 • All modified, tracked files are committed at once.  
 • Be sure you’ve finalized everything you want in the commit.

## 6. Checking the Commit

• Use git log to confirm:  
 • The latest commit appears at the top.  
 • The HEAD now points to this new commit.

## 7. Understanding `HEAD`

• HEAD = pointer to the currently checked-out snapshot.  
• Tracks where you are in the Git history.  
• Usually points to the latest commit in the current branch.

HEAD Behaviors:  
• Used in commands like git diff, git branch, git status.  
• Can move to older commits (e.g., during rollbacks or reverts).  
• Think of it as a bookmark in your project timeline.

## 8. HEAD & Branches

• In branch workflows, HEAD points to a commit on a specific branch.  
• Acts as a reference point for most Git operations.  
• You’ll encounter HEAD often when working with:  
 • Undoing changes  
 • Rolling back commits  
 • Merging branches

# Chapter 2: Advanced Git Usage: Viewing and Managing Changes

## 1. Viewing Commit History with More Detail

🔹 git log  
• Shows the commit message, author, and date.  
• Useful for basic tracking of changes.

🔹 git log -p  
• The -p flag stands for patch.  
• Displays the exact lines changed in each commit.  
 o Plusses (+) indicate added lines.  
 o Dashes (-) indicate removed lines.  
• Format matches diff -u output.  
• Automatically uses a pager to help navigate large output (Page Up, Page Down, arrow keys).  
• Helpful for tracking down bugs or outages by examining line-level changes.

## 2. Using git show for Specific Commit Details

• Syntax: git show <commit\_id>  
• Displays:  
 o The commit metadata.  
 o The changes (patch) associated with that commit.  
• Commit ID can be found using git log.

## 3. Using git log --stat

• Shows statistics per commit:  
 o Files changed.  
 o Lines added and removed.  
• Gives a summarized view of the impact of each commit.

## 4. Git Diff for Uncommitted Changes

🔹 git diff  
• Shows differences between:  
 o Working directory and staging area.  
• Useful before committing when changes have accumulated.  
• Supports narrowing down to specific files:  
 git diff <filename>

## 5. Interactive Staging with git add -p

• The -p (patch) flag with git add lets you:  
 o Review each change before staging it.  
 o Choose what to stage (great for partial commits).

## 6. Checking Staged vs. Unstaged Changes

🔹 git diff --staged  
• Shows the difference between:  
 o Staging area and the last commit.  
• Useful for final verification before committing.

## 7. Best Practices & Workflow Tips

• Git gives full visibility into what was changed and when.  
• Tools like:  
 o git diff  
 o git log -p  
 o git show  
 o git add -p  
Help ensure accurate and thoughtful commits.  
• Don’t worry about memorizing everything immediately—practice and repetition will build familiarity.  
• Git stores all historical information in the repository—you can always refer back.

## ✅ Summary of Commands

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Command | Purpose |
| git log | Show commit history |
| git log -p | Show commit history with line-level changes |
| git log --stat | Show summary of changes in each commit |
| git show <commit> | Display details of a specific commit |
| git diff | Show unstaged changes |
| git add -p | Interactively stage specific changes |
| git diff --staged | Show staged but uncommitted changes |