**Terminology**

**Version Control System / Source Code Manager**

A **version control system** (abbreviated as **VCS**) is a tool that manages different versions of source code. A **source code manager** (abbreviated as **SCM**) is another name for a version control system.

Git is an SCM (and therefore a VCS!).

**Commit**

Git thinks of its data like a set of snapshots of a mini filesystem. Every time you **commit** (save the state of your project in Git), it basically takes a picture of what all your files look like at that moment and stores a reference to that snapshot.

**Repository / repo**

A **repository** is a directory which contains your project work, as well as a few files (hidden by default on Mac OS X) which are used to communicate with Git. Repositories can exist either locally on your computer or as a remote copy on another computer. A repository is made up of commits.

**Working Directory**

The **Working Directory** is the files that you see in your computer's file system. When you open your project files up on a code editor, you're working with files in the Working Directory.

This is in contrast to the files that have been saved (in commits!) in the repository.

When working with Git, the Working Directory is also different from the command line's concept of the *current working directory* which is the directory that your shell is "looking at" right now.

**Checkout**

A **checkout** is when content in the repository has been copied to the Working Directory.

**Staging Area / Staging Index / Index**

A file in the Git directory that stores information about what will go into your next commit. You can think of the **staging area** as a prep table where Git will take the next commit. Files on the Staging Index are poised to be added to the repository.

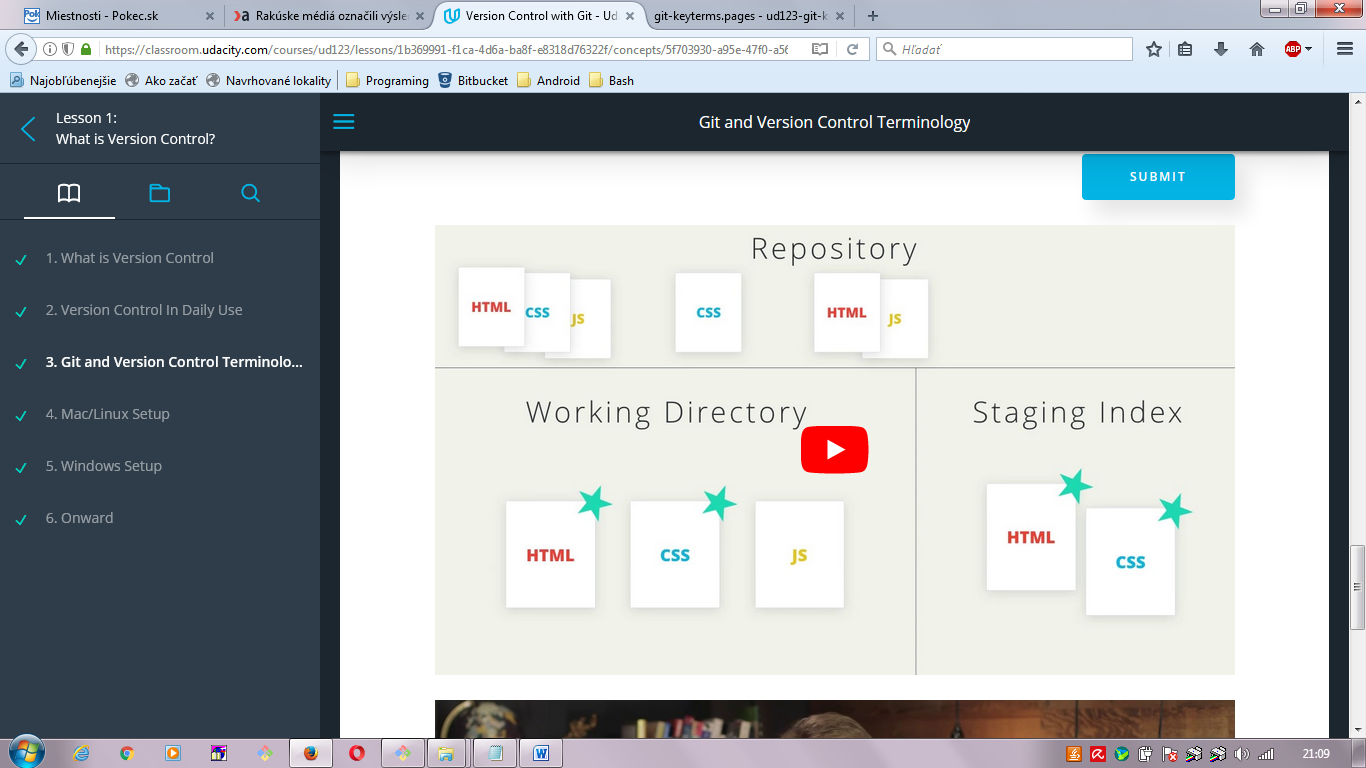
**SHA**

A **SHA** is basically an ID number for each commit. It is a 40-character string composed of characters (0–9 and a–f) and calculated based on the contents of a file or directory structure in Git. "SHA" is shorthand for "Secure Hash Algorithm".

## Branch

A **branch** is when a new line of development is created that diverges from the main line of development. This alternative line of development can continue without altering the main line.

Going back to the example of save point in a game, you can think of a branch as where you make a save point in your game and then decide to try out a risky move in the game. If the risky move doesn't pan out, then you can just go back to the save point. The key thing that makes branches incredibly powerful is that you can make save points on one branch, and then switch to a different branch and make save points there, too.



## First Time Git Configuration

Before you can start using Git, you need to configure it. Run each of the following lines on the command line to make sure everything is set up.

# sets up Git with your name

git config --global user.name "<Your-Full-Name>"

# sets up Git with your email

git config --global user.email "<your-email-address>"

# makes sure that Git output is colored

git config --global color.ui auto

# displays the original state in a conflict

git config --global merge.conflictstyle diff3

git config --list

**Git & Code Editor**

The last step of configuration is to get Git working with your code editor.

git config --global core.editor "'C:/Program Files/Sublime Text 2/sublime\_text.exe' -n -w"

## git init

command to create a new, empty repository in the current directory.

Running this command creates a hidden .git directory. This .git directory is the brain/storage center for the repository. It holds all of the configuration files and directories and is where all of the commits are stored.

**git clone**

command is used to create an identical copy of an existing repository.

$ git clone <path-to-repository-to-clone> <new name>

This command:

* takes the path to an existing repository
* by default will create a directory with the same name as the repository that's being cloned
* can be given a second argument that will be used as the name of the directory
* will create the new repository inside of the current working directory

**git status**

command will display the current status of the repository.

This command will:

* tell us about new files that have been created in the Working Directory that Git hasn't started tracking, yet
* files that Git *is* tracking that have been modified
* a whole bunch of other things that we'll be learning about throughout the rest of the course ;-)

**git log**

command is used to display all of the commits of a repository.

By *default*, this command displays:

* the SHA
* the author
* the date
* and the message

...of every commit in the repository. The important keys for Less are:

* to scroll down by a line, use j or ↓
* to scroll up by a line, use k or ↑
* to scroll down by a page, use the spacebar or the Page Down button
* to scroll up by a page, use b or the Page Up button
* to quit, use q

**git log --oneline**

displays information:

* lists one commit per line
* shows the first 7 characters of the commit's SHA
* shows the commit's message

**git log --stat**

displays information:

* displays the file(s) that have been modified
* displays the number of lines that have been added/removed
* displays a summary line with the total number of modified files and lines that have been added/removed

**git log –p**

displays information this command adds the following to the default output:

* displays the files that have been modified
* displays the location of the lines that have been added/removed
* displays the actual changes that have been made

**NOTE:**

You already know how to "log" information with:

* git log
* git log --oneline
* git log --stat
* git log -p

But did you know, you can supply the SHA of a commit as the final argument for all of these commands? For example:

**$ git log -p fdf5493**

**git show**

displays only the most recent commit. Typically, a SHA is provided as a final argument:

$ git show fdf5493

The git show command will show only one commit. The output of the git show command is exactly the same as the git log -p command.

However, git show can be combined with most of the other flags we've looked at:

* --stat - to show the how many files were changed and the number of lines that were added/removed
* -p or --patch - this the default, but if --stat is used, the patch won't display, so pass -p to add it again
* -w - to ignore changes to whitespace

**git add**

is used to move files from the Working Directory to the Staging Index.

$ git add <file1> <file2> … <fileN>

This command:

* takes a space-separated list of file names
* alternatively, the period . can be used in place of a list of files to tell Git to add the current directory (and all nested files)

**git commit**

takes files from the Staging Index and saves them in the repository.

This command:

* will open the code editor that is specified in your configuration

git config --global core.editor <your-editor's-config-went-here>

Inside the code editor:

* a commit message must be supplied
* lines that start with a # are comments and will not be recorded
* save the file after adding a commit message
* close the editor to make the commit

## Bypass The Editor With The -m Flag

$ git commit -m "Initial commit"

In the example above, the text "Initial commit" is used as the commit message. Be aware that you can't provide a description for the commit, only the message part.

## Good Commit Messages

**Do**

* do keep the message short (less than 60-ish characters)
* do explain what the commit does (not how or why!)

**Do not**

* do not explain why the changes are made (more on this below)
* do not explain how the changes are made (that's what git log -p is for!)
* do not use the word "and"
  + if you have to use "and", your commit message is probably doing too many changes - break the changes into separate commits
  + e.g. "make the background color pink and increase the size of the sidebar"

**git diff**

is used to see changes that have been made but haven't been committed, yet. This command displays:

* the files that have been modified
* the location of the lines that have been added/removed
* the actual changes that have been made

## Git Ignore

To recap, the .gitignore file –list of files is used to tell Git about the files that Git should not track. This file should be placed in the same directory that the .git directory is in.