

9. Different levels of Git configuration

9.1. Git configuration levels

The `git config` command allows you to configure your Git settings. These settings can be system wide, user or repository specific.

A more specific setting overwrites values in the previous level, i.e., a setting the repository overrides the user setting and a user setting overrides a system wide setting.

9.2. Git system-wide configuration

You can provide a system wide configuration for your Git settings. A system wide configuration is not very common, most settings are user specific or repository specific as described in the next chapters.

On a Unix based system Git uses the `/etc/gitconfig` file for this system-wide configuration. To set this up, ensure you have sufficient rights, i.e. root rights, in your OS and use the `--system` option for the `git config` command.

9.3. Git user configuration

Git allows you to store user settings in the `.gitconfig` file located in the user home directory. This is also called the *global* Git configuration.

For example Git stores the committer and author of a change in each commit. This and additional information can be stored in the Git user settings.

In each Git repository you can also configure the settings for this repository. User configuration is done if you include the `--global` option in the `git config` command.

9.4. Repository specific configuration

You can also store repository specific settings in the `.git/config` file of a repository. Use the `-local` or use no flag at all. If neither the `--system` not the `--global` parameter is used, the setting is specific for the current Git repository.