# **Git Ignore and .gitignore**

**Git Ignore**

When sharing your code with others, there are often files or parts of your project, you do not want to share.

Examples

log files

temporary files

hidden files

personal files

etc.

Git can specify which files or parts of your project should be ignored by Git using a .gitignore file.

Git will not track files and folders specified in .gitignore. However, the .gitignore file itself IS tracked by Git.

**Create .gitignore**

To create a .gitignore file, go to the root of your local Git, and create it:

|  |
| --- |
| touch .gitignore |

Now open the file using a text editor.

We are just going to add two simple rules:

Ignore any files with the .log extension

Ignore everything in any directory named temp

|  |
| --- |
| # ignore ALL .log files  \*.log  # ignore ALL files in ANY directory named temp  temp/ |

Now all .log files and anything in temp folders will be ignored by Git.

Note: In this case, we use a single .gitignore which applies to the entire repository.

It is also possible to have additional .gitignore files in subdirectories. These only apply to files or folders within that directory.