How to ignore all hidden directories/files recursively in a git repository?

Asked 8 years ago   Active 1 month ago   Viewed 81k times

122

22

I'd like to have Git ignore all hidden files and directories. i.e.

- `.aptitude`

- `.ssh/`

- `.bash_rc`

- `config/.hidden`

Is there a simple rule to cover this without specifically adding each entry?

git   gitignore

edited Oct 13 at 11:19

Chris Stryczynski
10.7k   8   55   117

asked Nov 5 '11 at 16:16

Poe
2,503   4   24   37

3 Answers

159

Just add a pattern to `.gitignore`

```
.*
!/.gitignore
```

Edit: Added the `.gitignore` file itself (matters if it is not yet commited).

edited Jul 25 '13 at 23:37

answered Nov 5 '11 at 16:18

Daniel Böhmer

2   You might want to force-add some files that are necessary after this. eg. the .htaccess file. Based on your requirements of course. – dakdad Nov 5 '11 at 16:20

2   @dakdad: Thanks for the suggestion. Improved the answer. If Poe has some special files like `.htaccess` already checked in they keep being followed. `gitignore` is only important for new files. – Daniel Böhmer Nov 5 '11 at 16:35

In `.git/info/exclude` , add this line:

20

    `.*`

This will make ignoring all hidden/dot files recursively the default for every repository on the machine. A separate `.gitignore` file for every repo is not needed this way.

edited Jul 25 '18 at 17:52   answered Mar 11 '14 at 7:18

dessert   slayedbylucifer
157   1   11   **19k**   14   78   108

.gitignore will only effect files that haven't been 'added' already.

58

To make new .gitignore entries affect all files

    1. Make changes to .gitignore

    2. `git commit -a -m "Pre .gitignore changes"`

    3. `git rm -r --cached .`

    4. `git add .`

    5. `git commit -a -m "Post .gitignore changes"`

    6. `git status` should output "nothing to commit (working directory clean)" `

answered Dec 24 '14 at 0:05

Nat Darke
671   6   3