



Introduction to Git and Version Control

2020-11-19

Introduction to Git and Version Control
Lecture 1: Git ready!

Christopher Buckley

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology

November 19, 2020

Slides by James Schloss, 2016

Overview



1 Why Git?

2 What is Git

3 Terminal Talk

4 Git basics

- Local code
- Nonlocal repos / github

5 Working alone

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└ Overview

- Why Git? I'll tell you what my motivations are, but what are your motivations for being here?

1 Why Git?
2 What is Git
3 Terminal Talk
4 Git basics
• Local code
• Nonlocal repos / github
5 Working alone

- Version control
- Easily compare and merge changes between any version
- Organize your work items



Why Git?

- Version control
- Easily compare and merge changes between any version
- Organize your work items



Before

After

Introduction to Git and Version Control

└ Why Git?

└ Why Git?

Imagine I asked you to remove the red sharpie marker from the left hand side?

- Difficulty finding it
- Could dive right in, but might get poked by lot of sharp things on the way in
- Or you could dump everything out and start all over

Why Git?



A photograph showing a massive, sprawling pile of discarded wooden chairs stacked between two buildings. A small figure of a person stands at the bottom left, highlighting the enormous scale of the waste.



REVIEW

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└ Why Git?

└ Why Git?

Imagine I asked you to remove this chair. What difficulties would you face?

- How to access it safely
- Can't remove it without fearing everything will fall

Why Git?



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Traditional vs. Git Versioning

- What changed when
- Not limited to file name length to inform user of changes

```
christopher@christopher-ThinkPad-W541:~/git/mythesis$ ls -gtr
total 4
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 51 Nov 17 18:22 thesis
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_v1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_v2
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_v3
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_v4
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_final
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_final1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_final2
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_final3
-rw-rw-r-- 1 christopher 0 Nov 18 12:07 thesis_finalfinal
christopher@christopher-ThinkPad-W541:~/git/mythesis$
```

```
christopher@christopher-ThinkPad-W541:~/git/mythesis$ git log --reverse
commit 839a476257310df071ac8290cdefc04a60b86944 (master)
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:14:52 2020 +0900

    Added empty thesis template

commit e017bf79743fa7724d4c35f430e1e78064823e1a
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:19:14 2020 +0900

    Added initial title

commit 750455880517cbdd5db25054e0e9815ed67da185
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:20:38 2020 +0900

    Added initial summary section

commit a83135a00c134372a7973a879e2431008b5a466
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:21:09 2020 +0900

    Added initial bulk of main body section

commit 98c17b7472ef14bd75804d4ddb990de92f211ba
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:21:31 2020 +0900

    Added initial conclusions

commit aa3034ff24084d3f95e37ae222f265da07d3590
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:22:03 2020 +0900

    Changed conclusions to reflect new findings on Mars

commit d918fbfe43cf474a34c6cd86ccf845f63e9cb4 (HEAD -> new_versioning)
Author: Christopher Buckley <15166572+topherbuckley@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Nov 17 18:22:31 2020 +0900

    Changed title after finding typo in teh the word
```

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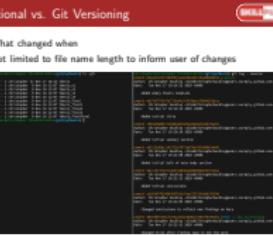
└ What is Git

└ Traditional vs. Git Versioning

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Traditional vs. Git Versioning

- What changed when
- Not limited to file name length to inform user of changes



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- There are multiple GUIs available for Git, such as one from GitHub called the **GitHub Desktop**. We will not be using this for religious perfectly scientific reasons.
- These reasons primarily revolve around flexibility and improved understanding of the Git tools.
- Everything we do will be usable on Deigo.
- The **Pro Git** book is available online at git-scm.com/book
- There is a cheatsheet for Git available here: <https://www.git-tower.com/learn/cheatsheets/git>



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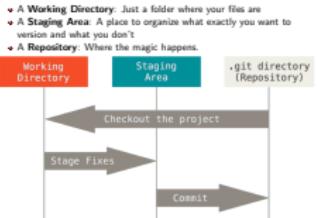
└ Terminal Talk

└ Terminal Talk

- I personally struggled with the terminal interface at first because most of the man pages use so much vocab I don't know to explain terms I don't know. Hopefully by the end of this mini-course you'll have the basic vocab down so you can help yourselves more efficiently going forward.

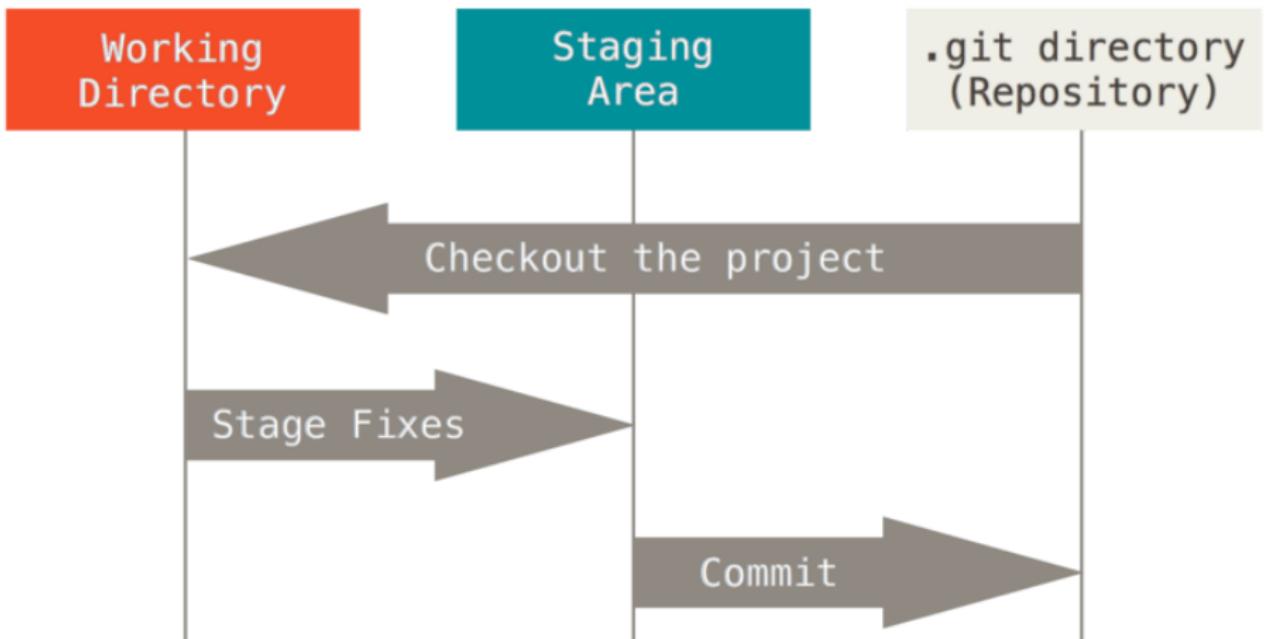
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What is git?

- A **Working Directory**: Just a folder where your files are
- A **Staging Area**: A place to organize what exactly you want to version and what you don't
- A **Repository**: Where the magic happens.



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└ Terminal Talk

└ What is git?

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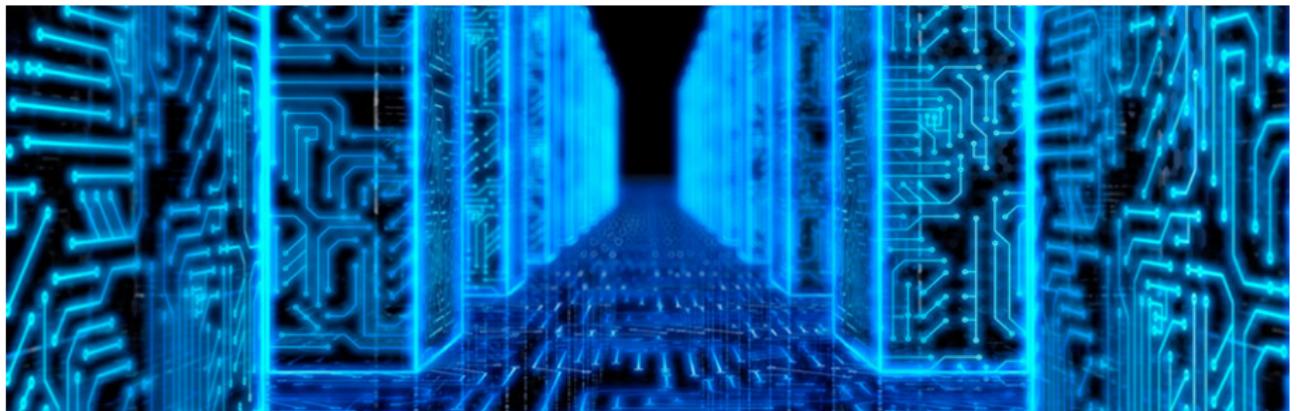
This chart might not make much sense now, but I hope it will before the end of these slides

Whether you realize it or not, you are already familiar with the "Working Directory". I'll save the staging area for a bit later, but first lets talk about what a repo is.

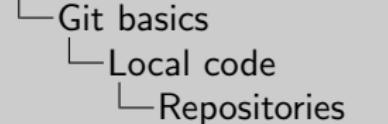
Repositories



- A **repository** is a container for both your project data and all the items that allow interactions with git commands.
 - There are many sites to host your repository on (github, bitbucket), including your own local machine.
 - All of the essential parts of your repository can be found in the `.git` directory
 - GitHub (a website hosting Git repositories) \neq Git (a set of tools for creating and managing those repositories).



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Create a Repo(sitory)



Let's **git** started.

- To initialize a git repository, simply type **git init** in a directory (preferably empty for now)
- This creates a folder **.git/**, where all your repository information is held.



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└ Git basics
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 └ Create a Repo(sitory)

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Let's **git** started:

- To initialize a git repository, simply type **git init** in a directory (preferably empty for now)
- This creates a folder **.git/**, where all your repository information is held.



Quick Exercise



EXERCISE

- ① Open a terminal
- ② Create a new directory called **myFirstRepo** and enter it.
- ③ This is your Working Directory. Thats it!
- ④ Run **git init** in your Working Directory.
- ⑤ Take a peak in the newly created .git directory but don't touch anything quite yet.

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EXERCISE

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Commits

- Conceptually similar to "versions"
- The more effort you put into crafting these using the **staging area** the more helpful they are in the future.

COMMENT	DATE
CREATED MAIN LOOP & TIMING CONTROL	14 HOURS AGO
ENABLED CONFIG FILE PARSING	9 HOURS AGO
MISC BUGFIxes	5 HOURS AGO
CODE ADDITIONS/EDITS	4 HOURS AGO
MORE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
HERE HAVE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
AAAAAAA	3 HOURS AGO
ADKFJSLKDFJSOKLFJ	3 HOURS AGO
MY HANDS ARE TYPING WORDS	2 HOURS AGO
HAAAAAAAAANDS	2 HOURS AGO

AS A PROJECT DRAGS ON, MY GIT COMMIT MESSAGES GET LESS AND LESS INFORMATIVE.



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- Git basics
 - Local code
 - Commits

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Commits

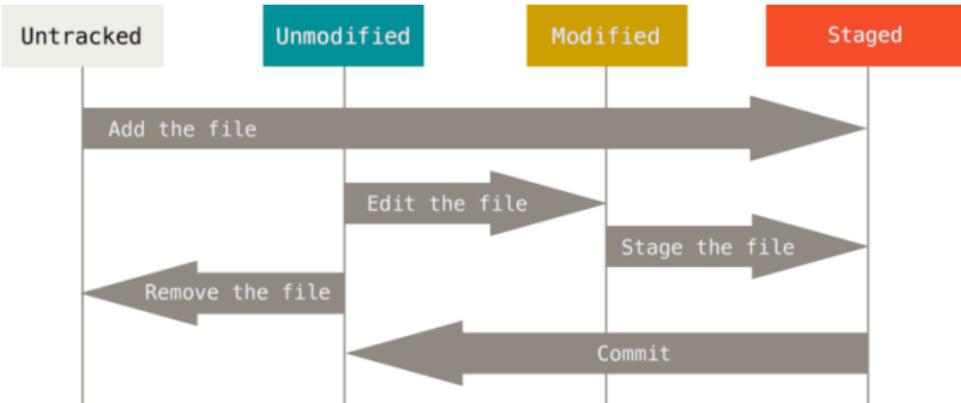
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HERE HAVE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
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ADKFJSLKDFJSOKLFJ	3 HOURS AGO
MY HANDS ARE TYPING WORDS	2 HOURS AGO
HAAAAAAAAANDS	2 HOURS AGO

AS A PROJECT DRAGS ON, MY GIT COMMIT MESSAGES GET LESS AND LESS INFORMATIVE.

Before we talk about the Stage we need to understand what commits are.
Show logo photos now

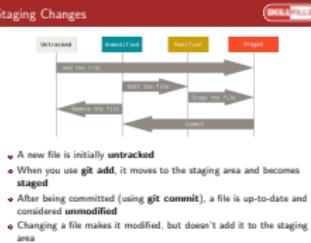
Staging Changes



- A new file is initially **untracked**
- When you use **git add**, it moves to the staging area and becomes **staged**
- After being committed (using **git commit**), a file is up-to-date and considered **unmodified**
- Changing a file makes it modified, but doesn't add it to the staging area

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└ Git basics
 └ Local code
 └ Staging Changes

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Go through car repo example, e.g. adding wheels and doors, but committing only one or the other.

Currrating the Stage before Committing



- Check what is on the stage with **git status**. Anything in **green** is staged.
- If you wish to unstage all changes, simply type **git reset**. This will remove everything from the stage, but keep your working directory untouched.
- **git reset** will work for individual files as well

```
git reset <file>
```



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- └ Git basics
 - └ Local code
 - └ Currrating the Stage before Committing

- Check what is on the stage with **git status**. Anything in **green** is staged.
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As you saw a few slides ago. Adding messy or unnecessary commits doesn't help anyone. Lets discuss how to make meaningful helpful commits using the stage. There are various ways to fix bad commits, but it takes a whole lot less work to do it right the first time.

Try out the Stage



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- └ Git basics
- └ Local code
- └ Try out the Stage

Try out the Stage

EXERCISE

- ① Create a new empty file **myfile.txt**
- ② Check the status of everything with **git status**
- ③ Add **myfile.txt** to the stage via **git add myfile.txt**
- ④ Check the status of everything again with **git status**. What changed?
- ⑤ Unstage the changes with **git reset myfile.txt**
- ⑥ Check the status of everything again with **git status**. What changed?

EXERCISE

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- Git keeps track of **commits**. Check these commits with **git log**.
There's plenty of options to show only what you want or everything under the sun.
- **git status** checks any changes since the last commit.
- **git commit** commits everything in the *staging area* - git status shows these files in **green** by default.

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- └ Git basics
 - └ Local code
 - └ Committing from the Stage

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- Git keeps track of **commits**. Check these commits with **git log**. There's plenty of options to show only what you want or everything under the sun.
- **git status** checks any changes since the last commit.
- **git commit** commits everything in the *staging area* - git status shows these files in **green** by default.



EXERCISE

- ① Reopen your **myFirstRepo** from before
- ② Add the **myFile.txt** back to the stage with **git add myFile.txt**
- ③ Check the status of the stage with **git status**
- ④ Once satisfied with what is in the stage and you're ready to commit, go ahead and do so with **git commit** to add your new file to the git repository. Be sure to add a meaningful commit message!
- ⑤ Check the **git log**.
- ⑥ Check the **git status**
- ⑦ Add a line of text to **myFile.txt** and save it.
- ⑧ Check the status of the stage with **git status**
- ⑨ Check the differences in the file with **git diff**
- ⑩ Once satisfied with your changes, add it back to the stage and commit.

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EXERCISE

- ➊ Reopen your **myFirstRepo** from before
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Checking out your past commits

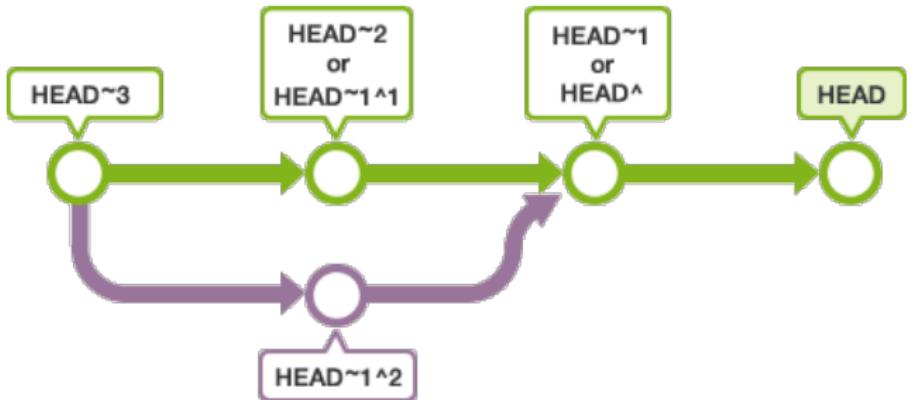


- **git checkout** allows you to view the repository at any commit (found with **git log**).

- You may also checkout specific files like so:

```
git checkout a1e8fb5 hello.py
```

- Note that the most recent commit is **HEAD** and the one just before that is **HEAD~1**



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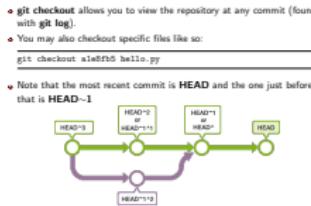
Git basics

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Checking out your past commits

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Checking out your past commits



Checkout Your History



EXERCISE

- ① Add a second line of text to **myFile.txt** and save it.
- ② Add these changes to the stage with **git add myFile.txt** and check the status with **git status**
- ③ Once satisfied with what is in the stage and you're ready to commit, use **git commit** to add your new file to the git repository.
- ④ Check the **git log**. You should have three commits by now.
- ⑤ Go checkout each of the commits with **git checkout <HASH>**, **git checkout HEAD~1**, or **git checkout HEAD~2**
- ⑥ See whats different with **ls -al** or **git status** or just open **myfile.txt** in your favorite text editor
- ⑦ When you are satisfied that your commit history is as expected you can return to the most recent commit with **git checkout master** (Note this could be **git checkout main** depending on your version of git.)

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 - └ Local code
 - └ Checkout Your History

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Checkout Your History

EXERCISE

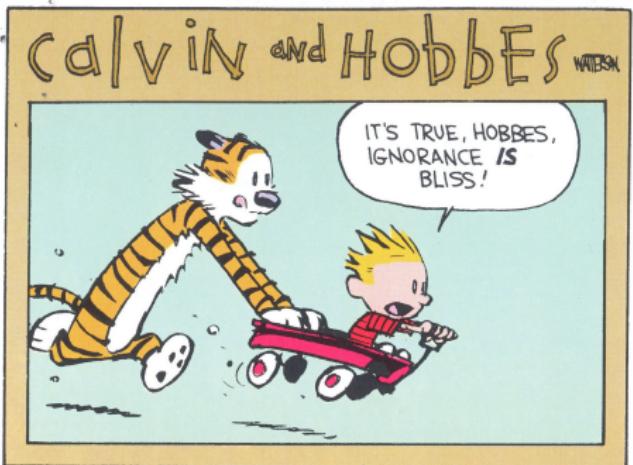
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- Keep your repository clean! Do your best to commit as few images and data files as possible!
- You can do this by ignoring certain file extensions in a **.gitignore** file.
- Great templates for projects of many types found at
<https://github.com/github/gitignore>

Example gitignore configuration

```
*.log  
*.tar  
*.gz  
*.exe  
.dat  
.lvp
```



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 - └ Ignorance is bliss

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Ignorance is bliss

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A small version of the Calvin and Hobbes comic strip from the previous slide, showing Hobbes leaning over Calvin's toy car with the text "IT'S TRUE, HOBBIEST, IGNORANCE IS BLISS!"

Quick Exercise



EXERCISE

- ① Touch multiple files with various extensions, one of which should be **.dat**.
- ② Ignore the **.dat** file, but commit all the others.
- ③ Be sure to write a clear message describing what you did.
- ④ Check the **git log**

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EXERCISE

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git with it!

Now we move to the fun* stuff: working with **online repositories**.

- For this, we will be using **github**.
- We'll begin by creating a GitHub repository using the website.
 - If we're working on a project that's already hosted on a remote Git server, we can skip this step.
- Next, we use **git clone** to download a copy.
- From here, you can do the following:
 - **git push** to push any changes you may have to the online repository.
 - **git pull** to take any changes from the repository.

*Here, the word *fun* is subject to interpretation.



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└ git with it!

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EXERCISE

- ① Create a new GitHub repository using a browser.
- ② Clone the new repository* to our local disk:

```
git clone git@github.com:oist/skillpill-git.git
```

or

```
git clone https://github.com/oist/skillpill-git.git
```

- ③ Make some simple commits and test the process of **pushing** and (with the help of a partner) **pulling** stuff from that repo.

*The examples here show cloning the SkillPill Git repository - replace the links as appropriate!

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Quick Exercise

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What it will feel like...

- git is not intuitive to start with, but it's a powerful tool for storing and restoring history, and working collaboratively with other people.
- The more you use it, the more you will like it. Think Stockholm syndrome.
- Operations that you use frequently will become easy.
- Operations you use infrequently, you can Google!

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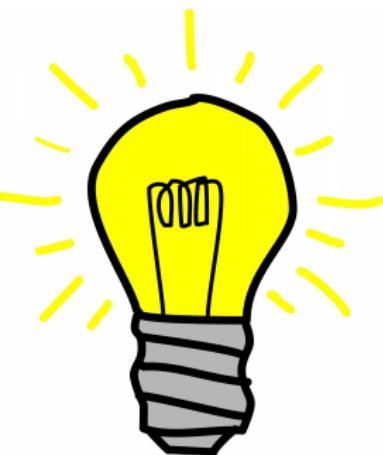
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- git is weird. It's not intuitive, but it's the best way to collaborate with people on open projects.
- It's also great even if you don't collaborate!
- Whenever you are using git, think about other people and how they will perceive your comments. **Would you be able to understand your own cryptic commit messages?**
- You will make mistakes. Don't worry about it. Your entire history is backed up already. Learn from your mistakes and don't make them again!
- Read error messages carefully - they can be useful/informative/instructive.



└ Working alone

└ Final Comments

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