**Introduction to Git and GitHub**

Git is a distributed version-control system for tracking changes in source code during software development. It is designed for coordinating work among programmers, but it can be used to track changes in any set of files. Its goals include speed, data integrity, and support for distributed, non-linear workflows.

Git was created by Linus Torvalds in 2005 for development of the Linux kernel, with other kernel developers contributing to its initial development. Its current maintainer since 2005 is Junio Hamano.

As with most other distributed version-control systems, and unlike most client–server systems, every Git directory on every computer is a full-fledged repository with complete history and full version-tracking abilities, independent of network access or a central server.

Git is free and open-source software distributed under the terms of the GNU General Public License version.

* 1. **Git History**

Git development began in April 2005, after many developers of the Linux kernel gave up access to BitKeeper, a proprietary source-control management (SCM) system that they had formerly used to maintain the project. The copyright holder of BitKeeper, Larry McVoy, had withdrawn free use of the product after claiming that Andrew Tridgell had reverse-engineered the BitKeeper protocols. (The same incident would also spur the creation of another version-control system, Mercurial.)

Linus Torvalds wanted a distributed system that he could use like BitKeeper, but none of the available free systems met his needs. Torvalds cited an example of a source-control management system needing 30 seconds to apply a patch and update all associated metadata, and noted that this would not scale to the needs of Linux kernel development, where synchronizing with fellow maintainers could require 250 such actions at once. For his design criteria, he specified that patching should take no more than three seconds, and added three more points:

* Take Concurrent Versions System (CVS) as an example of what not to do; if in doubt, make the exact opposite decision.
* Support a distributed, BitKeeper-like workflow.
* Include very strong safeguards against corruption, either accidental or malicious.

These criteria eliminated every then-extant version-control system, so immediately after the 2.6.12-rc2 Linux kernel development release, Torvalds set out to write his own.

The development of Git began on 3 April 2005. Torvalds announced the project on 6 April; it became self-hosting as of 7 April. The first merge of multiple branches took place on 18 April. Torvalds achieved his performance goals; on 29 April, the nascent Git was benchmarked recording patches to the Linux kernel tree at the rate of 6.7 patches per second. On 16 June Git managed the kernel 2.6.12 release

Torvalds turned over maintenance on 26 July 2005 to Junio Hamano, a major contributor to the project. Hamano was responsible for the 1.0 release on 21 December 2005 and remains the project's maintainer.

**1.2 Releases**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Original release date** | **Latest (patch) version** | **Release date (of patch)** |
| 0.99 | 2005-07-11 | 0.99.9n | 2005-12-15 |
| 1.0 | 2005-12-21 | 1.0.13 | 2006-01-27 |
| 1.1 | 2006-01-08 | 1.1.6 | 2006-01-30 |
| 1.2 | 2006-02-12 | 1.2.6 | 2006-04-08 |
| 1.3 | 2006-04-18 | 1.3.3 | 2006-05-16 |
| 1.4 | 2006-06-10 | 1.4.4.5 | 2008-07-16 |
| 1.5 | 2007-02-14 | 1.5.6.6 | 2008-12-17 |
| 1.6 | 2008-08-17 | 1.6.6.3 | 2010-12-15 |
| 1.7 | 2010-02-13 | 1.7.12.4 | 2012-10-17 |
| 1.8 | 2012-10-21 | 1.8.5.6 | 2014-12-17 |
| 1.9 | 2014-02-14 | 1.9.5 | 2014-12-17 |
| 2.0 | 2014-05-28 | 2.0.5 | 2014-12-17 |
| 2.1 | 2014-08-16 | 2.1.4 | 2014-12-17 |
| 2.2 | 2014-11-26 | 2.2.3 | 2015-09-04 |
| 2.3 | 2015-02-05 | 2.3.10 | 2015-09-29 |
| 2.4 | 2015-04-30 | 2.4.12 | 2017-05-05 |
| 2.5 | 2015-07-27 | 2.5.6 | 2017-05-05 |
| 2.6 | 2015-09-28 | 2.6.7 | 2017-05-05 |
| 2.7 | 2015-10-04 | 2.7.6 | 2017-07-30 |
| 2.8 | 2016-03-28 | 2.8.6 | 2017-07-30 |
| 2.9 | 2016-06-13 | 2.9.5 | 2017-07-30 |
| 2.10 | 2016-09-02 | 2.10.5 | 2017-09-22 |
| 2.11 | 2016-11-29 | 2.11.4 | 2017-09-22 |
| 2.12 | 2017-02-24 | 2.12.5 | 2017-09-22 |
| 2.13 | 2017-05-10 | 2.13.7 | 2018-05-22 |
| 2.14 | 2017-08-04 | 2.14.5 | 2018-09-27 |
| 2.15 | 2017-10-30 | 2.15.3 | 2018-09-27 |
| 2.16 | 2018-01-17 | 2.16.5 | 2018-09-27 |
| 2.17 | 2018-04-02 | 2.17.2 | 2018-09-27 |
| 2.18 | 2018-06-21 | 2.18.1 | 2018-09-27 |
| 2.19 | 2018-09-10 | 2.19.2 | 2018-11-21 |
| 2.20 | 2018-12-09 | 2.20.1 | 2018-12-15 |
| **2.21** | 2019-02-24 | 2.21.0 | 2019-02-24 |

* 1. **What is version control?**

Version control systems are software that help you track changes you make in your code over time. As you edit to your code, you tell the version control system to take a snapshot of your files. The version control system saves that snapshot permanently so you can recall it later if you need it.

Without version control, you’re tempted to keep multiple copies of code on your computer. This is dangerous-it’s easy to change or delete a file in the wrong copy of code, potentially losing work. Version control systems solve this problem by managing all versions of your code but presenting you with a single version at a time.

* 1. **What is Distributed Version Control System?**

In software development, distributed version control (also known as distributed revision control) is a form of version control where the complete codebase - including its full history - is mirrored on every developer's computer. This allows branching and merging to be managed automatically, increases speeds of most operations (except for pushing and pulling), improves the ability to work offline, and does not rely on a single location for backups.

In 2010, software development author Joel Spolsky, described DVCS as "possibly the biggest advance in software development technology in the past ten years.