

What is git?
Git is a distributed version control system used to track changes in source code and collaborate with multiple developers efficiently.

What is version control?

Version control is a system that records changes to files over time, allowing you to:

- Revert to previous versions.
- Track who made changes.
- Work safely in team.

Difference between Git and GitHub?

Git

Tool/software

Runs locally

Tracks code changes

Github

Cloud platform

Runs online

Stores & shares git repositories

What is a Repository?

A repository (repo) is a project folder managed by Git, containing source code and Git history.

Basic Git commands:

git init

Meaning: Start Git in a folder

Use: Creates a new Git repository.

Command: git init

git clone

Meaning: Copy a project from the internet

Use: Downloads an existing repository.

Command: git clone <repo-url>

git status

Meaning: Check project status

Use: Shows changed, staged and untracked files

Command: git status

git add:

Meaning: Tells Git which files to save.

Use: Moves file to the staging area.

Command:

git add file.txt

git add .

git commit

Meaning: Save changes permanently

Use: Creates a snapshot with a message.

Command: git commit -m "message"

git log

Meaning: View past commits

Use: Shows commit history.

Command:

git log

git log --oneline

git diff

Meaning: See what was changed.

Use: Shows differences in files

Command:

git diff

git diff --staged

Branch Commands (working on versions):

git branch

Meaning: Work on different versions

Use: Create or view branches

Command:

git branch

git branch new-branch

git checkout

Meaning: Move to another branch

Use: Switch branches

Command:

git checkout branch-name

git merge

Meaning: Combine branches

Use: Merge one branch into another
Command: git merge branch-name

Remote Repository commands:

git remote

Meaning: Connect project to GitHub
Use: View or add remote repositories.

Command:

git remote -v

git remote add origin <url>

git push

Meaning: Upload work to GitHub
Use: Send commits to remote repository.

Command: git push origin main

git pull

Meaning: Download updates from GitHub

Use: Fetch + merge changes.

Command: git pull origin main

git fetch

Meaning: Check updates without merging

Use: Downloads changes only

Command: git fetch

Undo commands:

git reset

Meaning: Remove changes before commit

Use: Unstage files

Command: git reset file.txt

git revert

Meaning: Undo a commit safely

Use: Create a new commit that reverses changes

Command: git revert commit-id.

git stash

Meaning: Hide changes temporarily

Use: Save work without committing

Command:

git stash

git stash pop

Other important terms:

.gitignore

Meaning: Files Git should NOT track

Examples:

.node-modules/

.passwords

.temp files

git help

Meaning: Get help for any command

Command:

git help

git help commit

What is origin in Git?

origin is the default name of the remote repository (usually on GitHub) that your local Git project is connected to.

Why is origin used?

To shorten remote URLs

To easily push or pull code.

To identify where the code should be sent or fetched from.

What is Merge Conflicts?

A merge conflict occurs when Git cannot automatically merge changes because the same part of the file was edited differently in two branches.

When do merge conflicts occur?

Some line modified in two branches.

- One branch deleted a file, another modifies it.
- Changes overlap in the same file.

How to resolve a merge conflict?

Steps:

1. Open the conflicted file.
2. Decide which changes to keep.
3. Remove conflict markers.
4. Save the file.
5. Add a commit.

How to avoid merge conflicts?

- Pull latest code before starting work.
- Work on small commits.
- Communication with team.
- Use feature branches.

Something more on Git:

git rebase

Rebase moves your commits on top of another branch, creating a clean, linear history.

Command:

git rebase main

Use case: Used to update a feature branch with the latest main branch changes.

Merge vs Rebase

Merge

Create a merge commit

History is branched

Safe for shared branches

Rebase

No merge commit

History is linear

Not safe on shared branches

git cherry-pick
cherry-pick applies a specific commit from one branch to another
command: git cherry-pick commit-id
use case: Apply a bug fix without merging the entire branch.

Head
Head is a pointer that represents the current branch or commit you are working on.

Detached Head
Detached HEAD occurs when you checkout a commit instead of a branch.
command: git checkout commit-id

Risk: changes may be lost if not saved to a branch.
Fix: git checkout -b new-branch

git rm
Removes a file and records the deletion in Git
Command: git rm file.txt

Difference:
- git rm → deletes + stages
- manual delete → needs git add

git mv
Moves or renames a file and tracks it in Git
Command: git mv old.txt new.txt

git tag
Tags mark important points like releases or versions
Command: git tag v1.0

Fork vs Clone
Fork
Creates repo copy on GitHub
Used in open source
Independent repository
Creates local copy
Used in development
Linked to original

When to use fork?

- Contributing to open-source projects
- No direct write access.

More on Branches:

Delete a local branch

Deletes a branch from your local repository

Safe delete:

git branch -d branch-name

- Deletes the branch only if it is already merged.
- Prevents accidental data loss.

Force delete:

git branch -D branch-name

- Deletes branch even if not merged.

Delete a remote branch

Deletes a branch from the remote repository (GitHub)

List Branches

List local branches

git branch

List remote branches

git branch -r

List all branches

git branch -a

Rename a branch

Rename current branch

git branch -m new-name

Rename another branch

git branch -m old-name new-name

Switch branch

git switch branch-name

Create and switch

git switch -c new-branch

* Modern alternative to git checkout.

Some more commands:

git log --oneline

Shows the commit history in a short, single-line format.

git diff -staged

Shows changes that are staged (added using git add) but not yet committed.

git remote -v

Shows remote repository names and their URLs.

To verify where code is being pushed/pulled from.

git remote add origin <repo-url>

Connects your local repository to a remote repository.

It is used after git init (when repo was not cloned)

git remote set-url origin <new-url>

Changes the existing remote repository URL.

It is used when:

• Repo URL changed

• Switching GitHub accounts.

• Changing HTTP ↔ SSH.

git remote remove origin

Removes the connection to the remote repository.

Does not delete the GitHub repo, only removes local link.