As with many great things in life, Git began with a bit of creative destruction

and fiery controversy.

The Linux kernel is an open source software project of fairly large scope. For

most of the lifetime of the Linux kernel maintenance (1991–2002), changes to

the software was passed around as patches and archived files. In 2002, the Linux

kernel project began using a proprietary DVCS called Bit Keeper.

In 2005, the relationship between the community that developed the Linux

kernel and the commercial company that developed Bit Keeper broke down,

and the tool’s free-of-charge status was revoked. This prompted the Linux development

community (and in particular Linus Torvalds, the creator of Linux) to

develop their own tool based on some of the lessons they learned while using

bit Keeper.

Some of the goals of the new system were as follows:

• Speed

• Simple design

• Strong support for non-linear development (thousands of parallel

branches)

• Fully distributed

• Able to handle large projects like the Linux kernel efficiently (speed and

data size)

Since its birth in 2005, Git has evolved and matured to be easy to use and yet

retain these initial qualities. It’s incredibly fast, it’s very efficient with large

projects, and it has an incredible branching system for non-linear development