Version control with Git, Github and Gitlab



Team project workshop

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Presentation available from:

https://github.com/pvty/presentation/

Git - https://git-scm.com/

- Version control system
- Started by Linux Torvalds for version control of the Linux kernel
- Distributed no need for a central repository (peer-to-peer)
- Fast, efficient
- Command line tool + many GUIs
 - git <subcommand> ...



Git use cases

- Source code version management
- Documentation (e.g. Markdown)
- Wiki
- Website
- Configuration management
- File comparison (advanced diff)
 - observing changes in program output
 - ...
- Storage of virtual machine images...
 - extensions like *git lfs* and *git annex*

Basics commands (local repo)

- Basic commands
 - git init create an empty repository
 - git add add files to index (staging area)
 - git add -p
 - git commit
 - git log
 - git diff
 - git diff –color-words
 - git help, git <command> --help
 - git stash
- "Built-in" GUI
 - git gui for creating commits
 - gitk history viewer

- Branches, tags
 - Branch = "pointer" to a commit
 - typically the last commit in development history
 - creating a commit updates the pointer
 - Tag = "fixed pointer" to a commit
 - versions, releases
 - Merging, rebasing see later
 - git branch
 - git checkout/switch
- HEAD points to the currently active commit
 - usually same as current branch
 - can be detached from a branch (risky)

Working with remote repositories

- git clone create a local copy of a remote repo
- git fetch download updates from remote repo, but don't modify any local files, commits etc.
- git push push local changes to the remote repo
 - diverging branches
 - force pushing (--force, --force-with-lease)
- git pull pull remote changes to the local repo
 - fetch + merge
- git remote working with multiple remote repos
 - upstream (typically read-only)
 - personal fork (read-write)
 - local CI server
 - multiple personal computers

- Remote branches
 - Each remote has its own branch namespace
 - Easy to compare state of repositories
 - local branch can be set up to track a remote branch
 - git push/pull works automatically
 - visible in git branch -vv

Investigating git history

- git log ≅ gitk show history, accepts similar arguments
- Specifying revisions and ranges:
 - <commit> = hash, branch, tag, ...
 - git rev-parse –help
- Revisions:
 - gitk = gitk HEAD
 - gitk HEAD^, gitk HEAD^^ parent commits
 - gitk mybranch~5 five commits back from mybranch
 - gitk main mybranch show two branches

Ranges

- gitk HEAD~5..HEAD = HEAD~5.. five last commits
- gitk main..myfeature = gitk myfeature ^main
 Commits in myfeature but not in main.
- Symetrical difference:gitk main...myfeature
- Filter by file, directory
 - gitk ... [--] subdirectory
 - Follow file renames:gitk --follow dir/file

Git internals

- Very efficient storage of history:
 - Unpacked Linux 5.16 sources:
 - du -sh --exclude=.git: **1.2 GiB**
 - 17 years of Linux development history = 1.06 million commits = 170 commits every day (in average)
 - du -sh .git: **2.6 GiB**

Git internals – components

Object Database

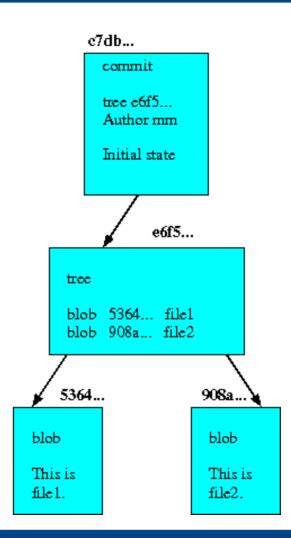
- collects objects of four types:
 - blob,
 - tree,
 - commit,
 - tag
- objects are addressed by SHA1 hash of their content
- individual objects can shown by git cat-file -p <hash-or-similar>

Index (staging area)

- current tree cache
- stores the next revision to be committed

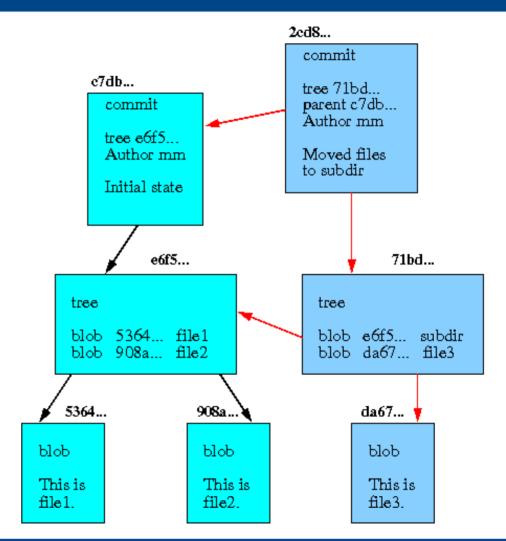
Example: Object Database I.

- 1. Start with a new repository
- 2. Create file1 with the content: "This is file1."
- 3. Create file2 with the content: "This is file2."
- 4. Update the index
- 5. Make an initial commit



Example: Object Database II.

- 1. Move file1 and file2 into subdirectory
- 2. At top level, create file3 with the content: "This is file3."
- 3. Update the index
- 4. Make a commit



Object Database I.

blob object

- represents contents = one version of a file
- if two files in a directory tree (or in multiple different versions of the repository) have the same contents, they will share the same blob object

tree object

- represents one directory
- contains sorted list of text lines with the following information: *mode,object type, SHA1, path name*
- information about blobs and tree objects lying in the directory
- several tree objects forms hierarchical directory structure

Object Database II.

commit object

- contains by the reference to related tree object, the parent commits, commentary
- sequence of commit objects provides the history
- commit objects tie the directory structures together into a acyclic graph (DAG)

tag object

- assigns symbolic name to particular object reference e.g. commit object associated with a named release
- contains SHA1, object type, symbolic name of referenced object and optionally a signature

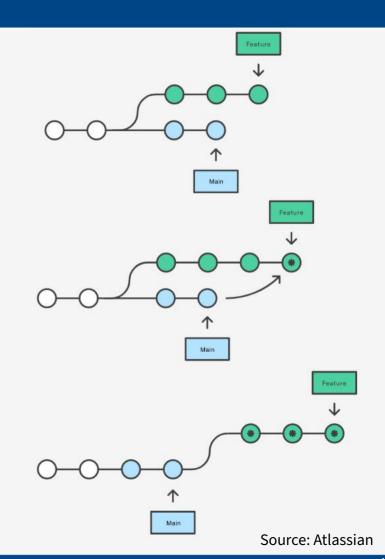
Objects are not compressed individually, but together – multiple (similar) versions of the same blob are compressed together ⇒ efficient.

Index

- simple binary file, which contains an efficient representation of a virtual directory content
- it is implemented by a simple array that associates a set of names, dates, permissions and content (blob) objects together
- serves as staging area to prepare commits
- helps with merge conflict resolution
- improves performance (speed of operations)

Merging, rebasing, conflicts

- git checkout feature
- git merge main
 - Creates a commit with two parents and merged content
- git rebase main
 - Moves all commits from feature on top of main
 - Don't use on public branches!!!
- git rebase -i
 - interactive rebase = editing history(commits, commit messages, ...)



Handling of merge/rebase conflicts

- Why conflicts emerge? Two people edit the same piece of code.
- Must be resolved manually
- Tools can help (e.g. gitk –merge, git mergetool)
- git merge branch Auto-merging src/boardproxy.cpp CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in src/boardproxy.cpp Recorded preimage for 'src/boardproxy.cpp' Automatic merge failed; fix conflicts and then commit the result.

- After merge conflict:
 - git merge --abort
 - Fix conflict and then:
 git merge -continue
- After rebase conflict:
 - git rebase --abort
 - git rebase --skip
 - Fix conflict and then:
 git rebase --continue

Git forges

- Github.com
 - proprietary (Microsoft)
- GitHub

- most popular
- single point of failure for open source movement
- Used mostly in the following slides
- Gitea
 - open source (https://gitea.io/)
 - very good for self-hosting (easy to install)
 - codeberg.org



Gitlab





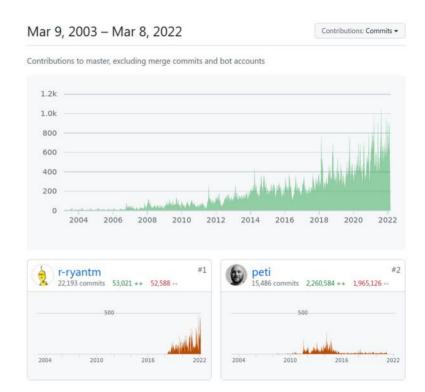
- gitlab.com, gitlab.fel.cvut.cz
- feature-wise comparable to github

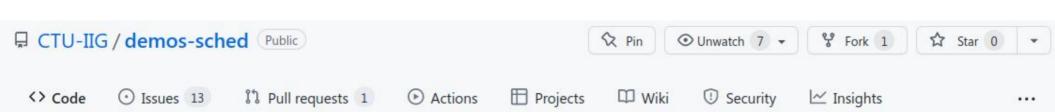
- sourcehut
 - open source
 - hacker friendly
 - http://sr.ht

Typical forge features

- Organizations/Teams/Repos
- Issues/Tickets
- Pull requests (Merge requests)
- Continuous integration (CI/CD)
- Integration with 3rd party tools (webhooks, ...)
- Websites (pages), Wiki
- Release management
- Project management
- Development statistics







Repositories

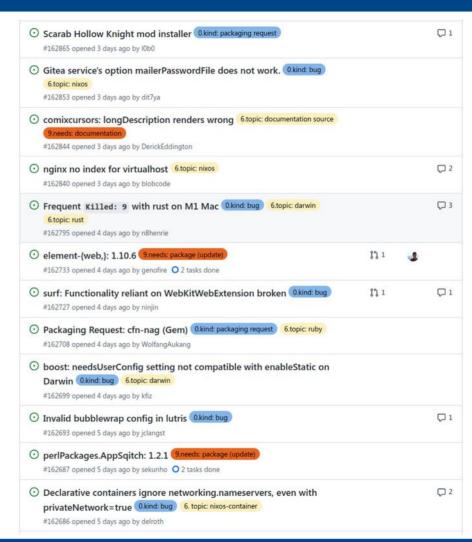
- Creating a new repository (few clicks)
 - Specify the license for public repos (otherwise, nobody can use your project legally)
- Forking existing repositories
 - Mostly for proposing changes to the original (upstream) repo

Types of repositories on Github

- Personal repos: username/reponame
 - simple permission management (write or nothing)
- Organizations: orgname/reponame
 - Team member management
 - Role management
 (admin, maintain, write, triage, read)

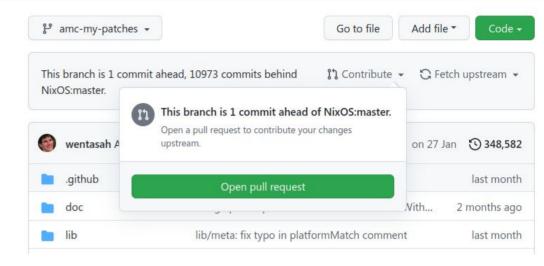
Issues

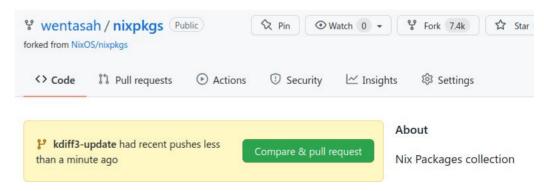
- Communication between users
- Templates (documentation).github/ISSUE_TEMPLATES/...
- Labels (bug, question, ...)
- References (documentation)
 - to other issues: #NN
 - to issues in other projects: owner/repo#NN
- Automatic closing of issues with keywords in commits/PRs (documentation):
 Closes #13, Fixes #34, ...



Pull requests (PR, Github), Merge requests (MR, Gitlab)

- For proposing changes and discussing about them
- Opened via "contribute" link or offered after push:
- source branch, destination branch
 - same repo
 - from fork to upstream repo
- Protected branches
 - restriction of direct pushes to the branch
 - configurable rules:
 - Require PR before merging
 - Required number of approvals
 - Cl status





Continuous integration/deployment

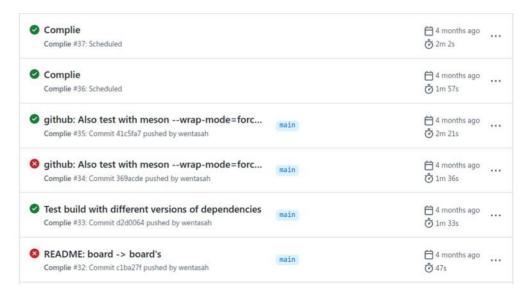
- Run test suite, checks, ... on every push, PR, time, ...
- Github Actions (quickstart docs)
 - Configured with a YAML file (doc) in
 .github/workflows directory in the repo.
 - When to run, what to run
 - Test matrix (test your code with multiple versions of a dependency)
 - Github Actions run in the cloud (2 CPUs, 7 GB
 RAM) or on self-hosted runners (doc)
 - You can execute plain (Linux) commands (run keyword) or whole actions (uses keyword)
- Secret management
- problem-matchers

• Example with a simple (1D) matrix and 3rd-party actions:

https://github.com/wentasah/meson-mode/blob/master/.github/workflows/run-tests.yml

 Example with combination of 3rd-party actions and "run" commands:

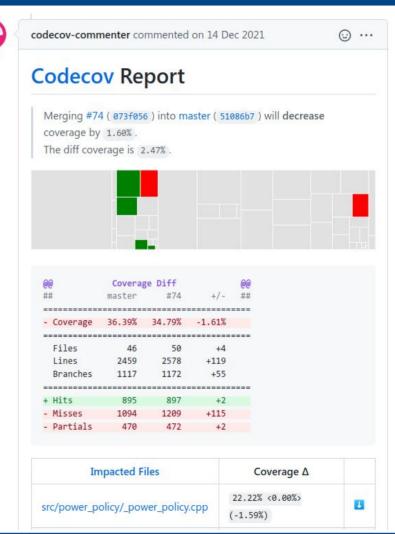
https://github.com/wentasah/boardproxy/blob/main/.github/workflows/test.yml



Integration of 3rd-party services

- Example: https://codecov.io
- Generate test coverage report as a part of your CI
- Upload the report to codecov.io:
- Example workflow

```
steps:
    - ...
    - name: Generate coverage report
    run: ninja -C build coverage-xml
    - name: Upload coverage to Codecov
    uses: codecov/codecov-action@v2
    with:
        directory: ./build/meson-logs
        fail_ci_if_error: true
        verbose: true
```



Gitlab webhook examples

r.py

Run a script on every push:
 https://gitlab.fel.cvut.cz/sojkam1/brute-ae-sync/-/blob/master/gitlab-webhook-receive

 Manage issues for osy.pages.fel.cvut.cz (uses Gitlab HTTP API):

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
import gitlab
cviceni = { ... }
teachers = { .... }
def application(env, start_response):
    def handle_event(env, event):
        if \
           not "HTTP_X_GITLAB_TOKEN" in env \
           or env['HTTP_X_GITLAB_TOKEN'] != \
              HTTP_X_GITLAB_TOKEN:
            return False
        if event['object_kind'] == 'issue' and \
           event['object_attributes']['action'] == 'open':
            return handle_open_issue(env, event)
        return True
```

```
def handle_open_issue(env, event):
    gl = gitlab.Gitlab('https://gitlab.fel.cvut.cz', env['GITLAB_API_TOK
    p = gl.projects.get(event['project']['id'])
    student = event['user']['username']
    teacher = teachers[cviceni[student]]
    users = p.users.list(search=teacher)
    for u in users: # Find exact username
       if u.username == teacher:
            user = u
    issue = p.issues.get(event['object attributes']['iid'])
    if re.search('přednáška.*slide', event['object_attributes']['title']
                 re.IGNORECASE) is not None:
       # Přednáška
       issue.labels.append('Přednášky')
    else:
       # Cvičení - přiřaď cvičícího
       if not event['object_attributes']['assignee_ids']:
            issue.assignee_ids = [user.id]
    issue.save()
    if event['object_attributes']['confidential']:
       issue.notes.create({'body': textwrap.dedent("""
       Je opravdu nutné utajovat toto issue? Sdělujete nám
        zde svá hesla, čísla platebních karet apod.? Pokud ne,
        změňte prosím toto issue na veřejné, aby odpovědi
       učitelů byly dostupné i ostatním.
       """)})
    return True
```

Github/Gitlab pages

- Maintain a website in a git repo
 - Documentation to a project
 - Plain web sites, ...
- Content in Markdown (or similar) formats
- Every push triggeres CI/CD and updates the web site
- Github Jekyll static site generator
- Other SSG: Hugo
- Gitlab example: http://osy.pages.fel.cvut.cz/
 - CI config with Hugo

