It took me a while to get easy going with Git, even you will agree some of the terms used are strange and weird. But it’s important.

iynyk! some of the best developers I know, they sometime struggle with git. Everyone doesn’t get it easily, it takes time 😌.

What is Git ?

Git is a version control system helps to manage changes to code.

What is Repositories ?

A repository is the entire project with all of the project code changes.

What is a local copy ?

A local copy of the repository means the code changes for your repository and it may be surely different than other developers working independently in their local repository.

What is remote repository ?

A remote repository means the code that is in Git and contains mostly the main/production code.

What is Push ?

To share changes of our code with others, we can do push code to a remote repository.

What is Pull ?

If we want to get the updated code of others, we do pull.

What is pull requests ?

Services like Github, help us review code and manage changes via pull requests.

What is cloning ?

Cloning is the first step towards copying an existing repository to our local system.

What are branches ?

Git allows individuals to have their own copy or multiple copies of the code at the same time, each having stored on a different branch having new features or some changes.

What are commits ?

Commits are the implementation steps i.e. one or more sets of changes in a branch.

What are messages in a commit ?

Not mandataory but a go to rule, each commit has an associated message and ideally this message should describe what are the changes refers to.

What is staging ?

Staging refers to the changes in a commit which we add in the branch.

Choose any or both - Graphical Applications or Terminal Commands ?

There are many inbuilt or external extensions for using git in a application or using few commands in terminal.

Personally, I used combination of both.

How to Install in Terminal?

Mac: brew install git

A Plugin for Graphical Application?

VSCode has already git built in source control panel, my suggested plugin will be GitLens. Checkout GitHub Desktop if you want to and feel comfortable with.

How to check version ?

git --version

How to configure git after installation ?

Not mandatory but good idea to add your username and email because every git commit uses this information.

git config --global user.name “Super Man”

git config --global user.email “superman@earth.com”

For Specific projects remove --global

public projects don’t wanna share your email - setup private email address in GitHub settings - “Keep my email address private”

How to set Credentials ?

For regular changes and commits to repository, you will see prompts for username and password. You can set credentials in git credentials managers and store in local.

git config credential.helper store

NOTE: Be aware of security of the system before storing credentials. Other ways are SSH keys and external credentials manager.

Or store credentials for short time

git config credentials.helper cache

How to set Aliases ?

You will love it, it’s so handy and beautiful technique.

For everyday use, set a bunch of aliases for your commands.

git config --global alias.s status

git config --global alias.co checkout

git config --global alias.br branch

git config --global alias.ci commit