Git: A Researcher's Guide to Collaboration and Version Control Tools

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A few words about me



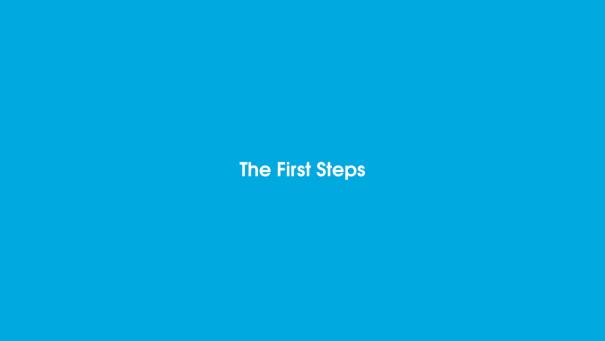
- 🚺 I am a Ph.D. student and researcher at FIT BUT
- Researcher for Gen Digital (formerly Avast)
- My research: Application of formal models in security
- Areas of interest:
 - Formal models and languages in security
 - Pattern matching
 - Improvement of tools for malware analysts





All materials can be found at https://github.com/regeciovad/git2025

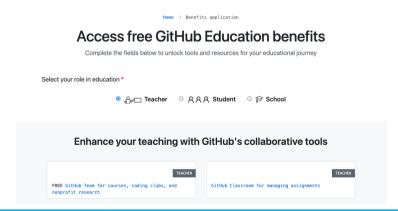




GitHub Education



- Create a free account
- Teachers and students have additional free features
- Connecting the account with the university is an easy process



Installing Git



Windows installation



\$ brew install git

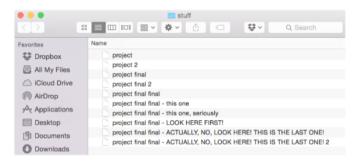


```
$ apt-get install git
# or
$ dnf install git
```



Motivation





Motivation

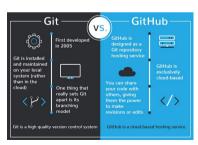


- Why use Git?
 - Version history what changes were made and by who
 - OCollaboration many people can work on one project at once
 - Parallel development multiple versions of files accessible at once
 - Repository smart folder for your projects
 - Additional tools for testing, issues tracking, and much more

Story of the Git



- Git is a distributed version control system (a tool, local repository)
- Git was created by Linus Torvalds in 2005 as an open-source project
- Goal: managing big projects, storing the history of changes, and allowing collaboration between many users
- Git repository services (cloud service/website):
 - GitHub
 - SourceForge
 - Bitbucket

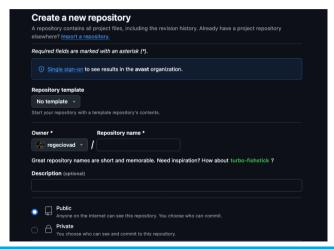


Basic Concepts in Git

Repositories



- The repository is a digital folder for your projects
- The easiest way to create a project is from the GitHub page



Repositories



- Public repository
 - Visible to the public (link, search, etc.)
 - Everything is visible (files, history, etc.)
 - Changes can be limited (more on that later)
- Private repository
 - Only allowed accounts can see the repository
 - The data is protected and not publicly available
 - You can manage who has access to the files



Add this file to the home directory (C:\Users\John, /Users/John, etc.)

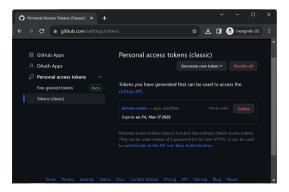
.gitconfig

```
[user]
       name = Dominika Regéciová
        email = regeciovad@gmail.com
[color]
       ni = trne
[advice]
        ; Make git a little less verbose.
       pushNonFastForward = false
        statusHints = false
       commitBeforeMerge = false
        resolveConflict = false
       detachedHead = false
[fetch]
        ; Automatically prune during 'git fetch'.
       prune = true
[rebase]
        ; Automatically stash before a rebase and unstash afterwards.
        autoStash = true
```

Git Access Token



- https://github.com/settings/tokens
- Create a new token for general use
- Save the token it is your new password for commands

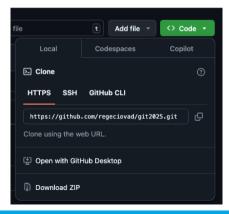


Clone Repository



git clone

\$ git clone https://github.com/regeciovad/git2025.git



| Git Status



- Your repository is in the new folder
- The repository should be up to date

git status

```
$ cd git2025
$ git status
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.
nothing to commit, working tree clean
```

Adding New File



- When adding a new file, is it untracked first
- We need to add it for tracking

git add

```
$ git status
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.
Untracked files:
        example.ison
nothing added to commit but untracked files present
$ git add example.json
$ git status
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.
Changes to be committed:
       new file: example.json
```

Changing The File



- When changing the existing file, it becomes modified
- We can see changes with git diff
- We also need to add it to the tracking

git diff

```
Changes not staged for commit:
    modified: README.md

$ git diff
diff --git a/README.md b/README.md
--- a/README.md
+++ b/README.md
@@ -1 +1,2 @@
-# git2025
+# git2025
+my big change
```

Creating Commits



- Commits grouped changes with message, date, and author
- When committing, untracked files are ignored

git commit

```
$ git status
Changes to be committed:
    modified: README.md
    new file: example.json
$ git diff --staged

$ git commit -m 'Description of the change'
[main alc8cee] Description of the change
2 files changed, 99 insertions(+), 1 deletion(-)
    create mode 100644 example.json

$ git status
Your branch is ahead of 'origin/main' by 1 commit.
```

History Of Commits



- C Each commit has a hash as an ID
- In commits, we are storing just the changes

git log

```
$ git log
commit alc8cee2f0e8f14b3fac77571004a7b632bea12b (HEAD -> main)
Author: Dominika Regéciová <iregeciova@fit.vutbr.cz>
Date: Mon Jan 13 21:09:55 2025 +0100

Description of the change

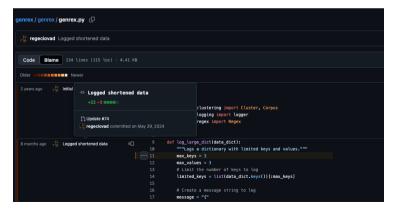
commit fe5f6e36a5464e9aab4b06abeba5f8193e475a43 (origin/main, origin/HEAD)
Author: Dominika Regéciová <regeciovad@gmail.com>
Date: Fri Jan 10 14:37:43 2025 +0100

Initial commit
```

Git Blame



- Each line and each change are logged
- With git blame, you can find who made the change
- Use website GUI for better visualization



Undoing Things



- 🕠 In most cases, you can just make new changes and commit them
- In some cases, you can use special commands

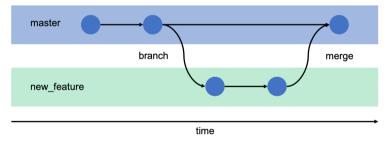
git undo

```
$ git reset --soft HEAD~1 # undo the last commit
$ git reset README.md # undo add
$ git checkout README.md # undo changes
$ git restore --staged example.json # undo adding new files
```

Branches



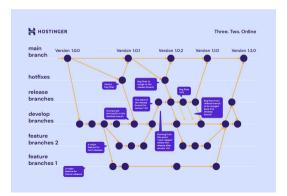
- One repository can have many versions branches
- The main version of your repository is in a branch *origin/main* or *origin/master* (older name)
- The branches in theory:



Branches



- One repository can have many versions branches
- The main version of your repository is in a branch *origin/main* or *origin/master* (older name)
- The branches in reality:



Use branches



- In most cases, you want to use branches
- When publishing, you need your username and TOKEN

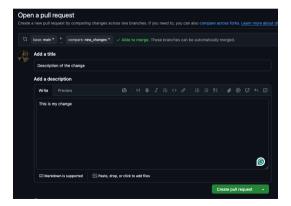
git push

```
$ git checkout -b new_changes # create and switch to new branch
$ git checkout main # switch back
$ git push origin HEAD:new_changes # publish your changes
```

Merge (Pull) Request



- On the website, the changes are automatically detected
- You can see every change you made
- You can add a message with more details



Getting The Changes



You want to keep your local repository up-to-date

git pull

```
$ git pull origin main
From https://github.com/regeciovad/git2025
 * branch
         main -> FETCH HEAD
   fe5f6e3..0e3b31a main -> origin/main
Updating 3f3bdfe..0e3b31a
Fast-forward
$ git log
commit 0e3b31a7b694926768d11ac2d9a0fa1974831e3c (HEAD -> main, origin/main,

→ origin/HEAD)

Merge: fe5f6e3 3f3bdfe
Author: Dominika Regéciová < regeciovad@gmail.com>
Date: Mon Jan 13 22:17:39 2025 +0100
   Merge pull request #1 from regeciovad/new changes
   Description of the change
```

Getting The Changes



1 If you have local changes, commit them and then use the **rebase** command

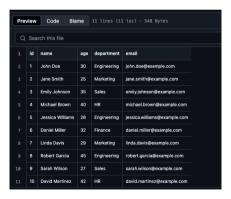
git rebase

```
S git rebase origin/main
Successfully rebased and updated refs/heads/bla.
$ git log
commit bbbc585972c6affd04b9c871e4f113dfcf3d1081 (HEAD -> bla)
Author: Dominika Regéciová <iregeciova@fit.vutbr.cz>
Date: Mon Jan 13 22:33:06 2025 +0100
    touched
commit 0e3b31a7b694926768d11ac2d9a0fa1974831e3c (origin/main, origin/HEAD, main)
Merge: fe5f6e3 3f3bdfe
Author: Dominika Regéciová <regeciovad@gmail.com>
Date: Mon Jan 13 22:17:39 2025 +0100
   Merge pull request #1 from regeciovad/new changes
    Description of the change
```

Supported Formats



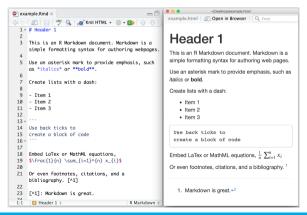
- Text files like .txt, .tex, .html, .py, etc.
- PDF, CSV files are rendered on the website
- You can upload any format, but the tracking will not work properly



Additional Tools and Tips



- HTML-like language for your README files, comments, etc.
- Markdown is like writing in plain text but is rendered richly
- Basic syntax and examples



Gitignore File



- O Not every file should be added to the repository:
 - Too large files, temporary, binary files
 - Files containing private information, like passwords!
 - Gitignore file patterns for paths that should be ignored
 - A collection of helpful examples

.gitignore file for Python

```
# Byte-compiled / optimized / DLL files
pycache__/
*.py[cod]
**py.class

**py.class

# Distribution / packaging
dist/
downloads/
...
```

GitHub website



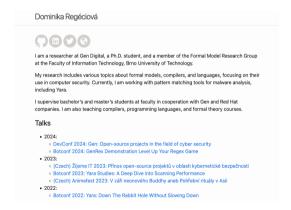
- Issues tracking tasks
- Wiki documentation in Markdown
- Insights statistics about the repository
- Search Free resource of code and information



I Website



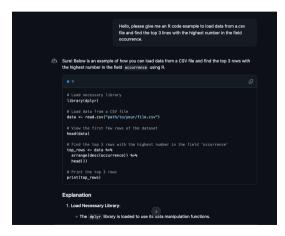
- You can build a website with GitHub
- For setup, you can follow this simple tutorial



Copilot



- GitHub Al assistant
- Web interface, or as an extension in Visual Studio Code





Conclusion



- Git is a fantastic tool that can make your life a lot easier
- My recommendations:
 - Use GitHub Education license for free features like Copilot
 - o Get familiar with basic commands, and try to use them on a simple project
 - Try to set up a repository for your students
 - Pro Git book