

# Viewing the Commit History

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 [coursera.org/learn/git-distributed-development/supplement/5feAU/viewing-the-commit-history](https://coursera.org/learn/git-distributed-development/supplement/5feAU/viewing-the-commit-history)

It is easy to display the history of commits with git using the command **git log**. For example, consider the following script which sets up a repository and then adds some files, modifies them and introduces four commits along the way:

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
rm -rf git-test
```

```
mkdir git-test
```

```
cd git-test
```

```
git init
```

```
git config user.name "A Smart Guy"
```

```
git config user.email "asmartguy@linux.com"
```

```
echo file1 > file1
```

```
git add file1
```

```
git commit file1 -m "This is the first commit"
```

```
echo file2 > file2
```

```
git add file2
```

```
git commit . -m "This is the second commit"
```

```
echo file3 > file3
```

```
echo another line for file3 >> file3
```

```
git add .
```

```
git commit . -m "This is the third commit"
```

```
echo another line for file2 >> file2
```

```
git add .
```

```
git commit -a -m "This is the fourth commit"
```

If we then ask to see the log, we see:

```
$ git log
```

```
commit 4b4bf2c5aa95b6746f56f9dfce0e4ec6bddad407
```

```
Author: A Smart Guy <asmartguy@linux.com>
```

```
Date: Thu Dec 31 13:50:15 2009 -0600
```

This is the fourth commit

```
commit 55eceacc9ab2b4fc1c806b26e79eca4429d8b52a
```

```
Author: A Smart Guy <asmartguy@linux.com>
```

```
Date: Thu Dec 31 13:50:15 2009 -0600
```

This is the third commit

```
commit f60c0c21764676beca75b7edc2f5f5e51b5dd404
```

```
Author: A Smart Guy <asmartguy@linux.com>
```

```
Date: Thu Dec 31 13:50:15 2009 -0600
```

This is the second commit

```
commit 712cbafa7ee0aaef03861b049ddc7865220b4e2c
```

```
Author: A Smart Guy <asmartguy@linux.com>
```

```
Date: Thu Dec 31 13:50:15 2009 -0600
```

This is the first commit

The commits are shown in reverse order of introduction. Even shorter, you can do:

```
$ git log --pretty=oneline
```

```
4b4bf2c5aa95b6746f56f9dfce0e4ec6bddad407 This is the fourth commit
```

```
55eceacc9ab2b4fc1c806b26e79eca4429d8b52a This is the third commit
```

```
f60c0c21764676beca75b7edc2f5f5e51b5dd404 This is the second commit
```

```
712cbafa7ee0aaef03861b049ddc7865220b4e2c This is the first commit
```

You can also see the actual patches made with the **-p** option and can view only part of the history by specifying a particular commit, as in:

```
$ git log -p f60c  
  
commit f60c0c21764676beca75b7edc2f5f5e51b5dd404  
  
Author: A Smart Guy <asmartguy@linux.com>  
  
Date: Thu Dec 31 13:50:15 2009 -0600
```

This is the second commit

```
diff --git a/file2 b/file2  
  
new file mode 100644  
  
index 0000000..6c493ff  
  
--- /dev/null  
  
+++ b/file2  
  
@@ -0,0 +1 @@  
  
+file2  
  
commit 712cbafa7ee0aaef03861b049ddc7865220b4e2c
```

```
Author: A Smart Guy <asmartguy@linux.com>  
  
Date: Thu Dec 31 13:50:15 2009 -0600
```

This is the first commit

```
diff --git a/file1 b/file1  
  
new file mode 100644  
  
index 0000000..e212970  
  
--- /dev/null  
  
+++ b/file1  
  
@@ -0,0 +1 @@  
  
+file1
```

There are a lot of other options to **git log** which you can view by doing either **git help log** or **man git log**.