Introduction to Version Control using Git



What is Version Control?

- Version Control A system for managing changes made to documents and other computer files
- What kinds of files can we use it with?
 - Computer Source code
 - Documentation
 - Short stories
 - Binary files (music and pictures)
- What should we use it for?
 - Text files
 - Projects that have lots of revisions (changes)
 - Computer Source code

Many of us have our own version control systems:

Resume_8292014_22.docx

MyMemoirs_RainbowEditV3_112.doc

Program_v1

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Resume_8292014_22.docx

MyMemoirs_RainbowEditV3_112.doc

Program_v1

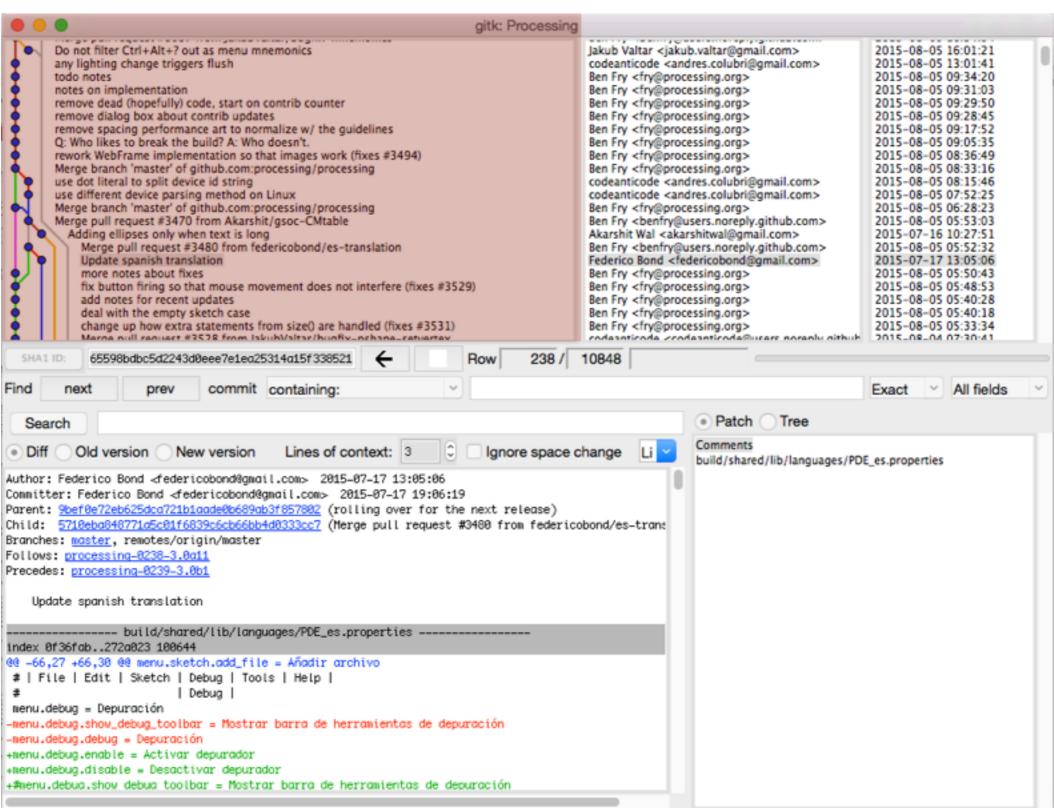
When we're trying to do this with many files it becomes difficult to manage and error prone.

Software developers realized this and created version control systems for computer source code.

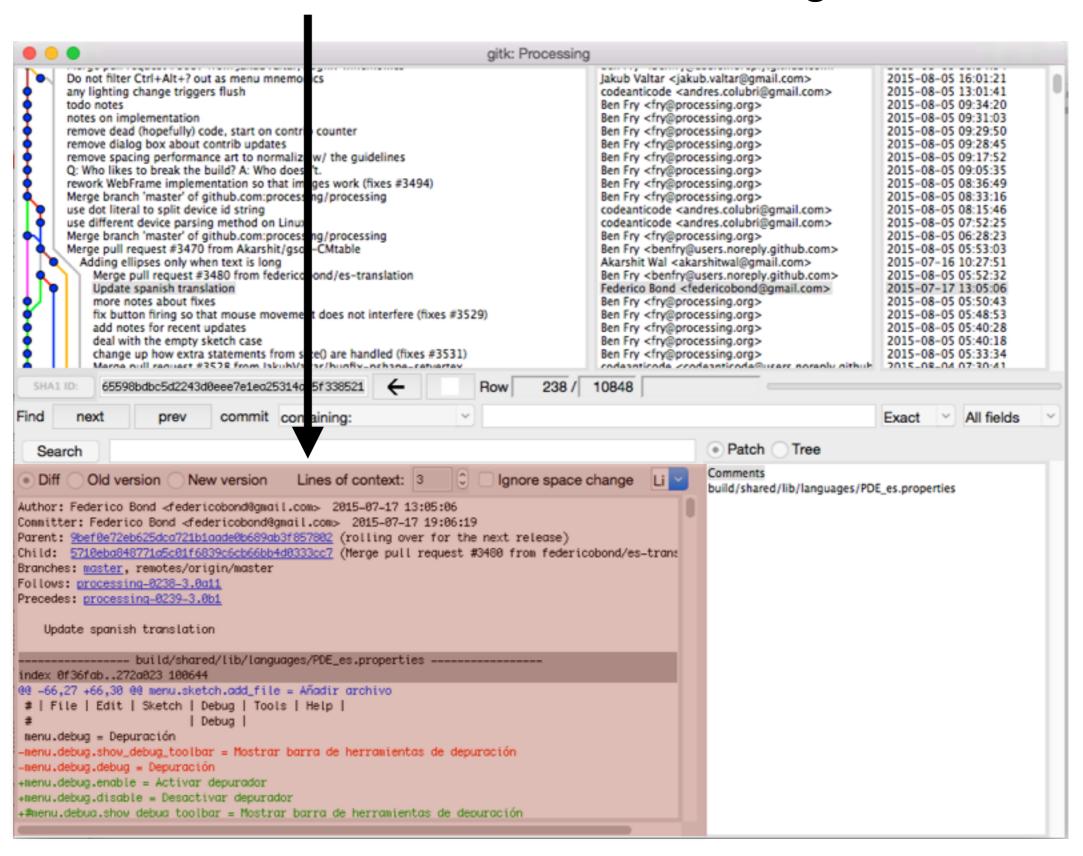
What does it look like?

List of changes

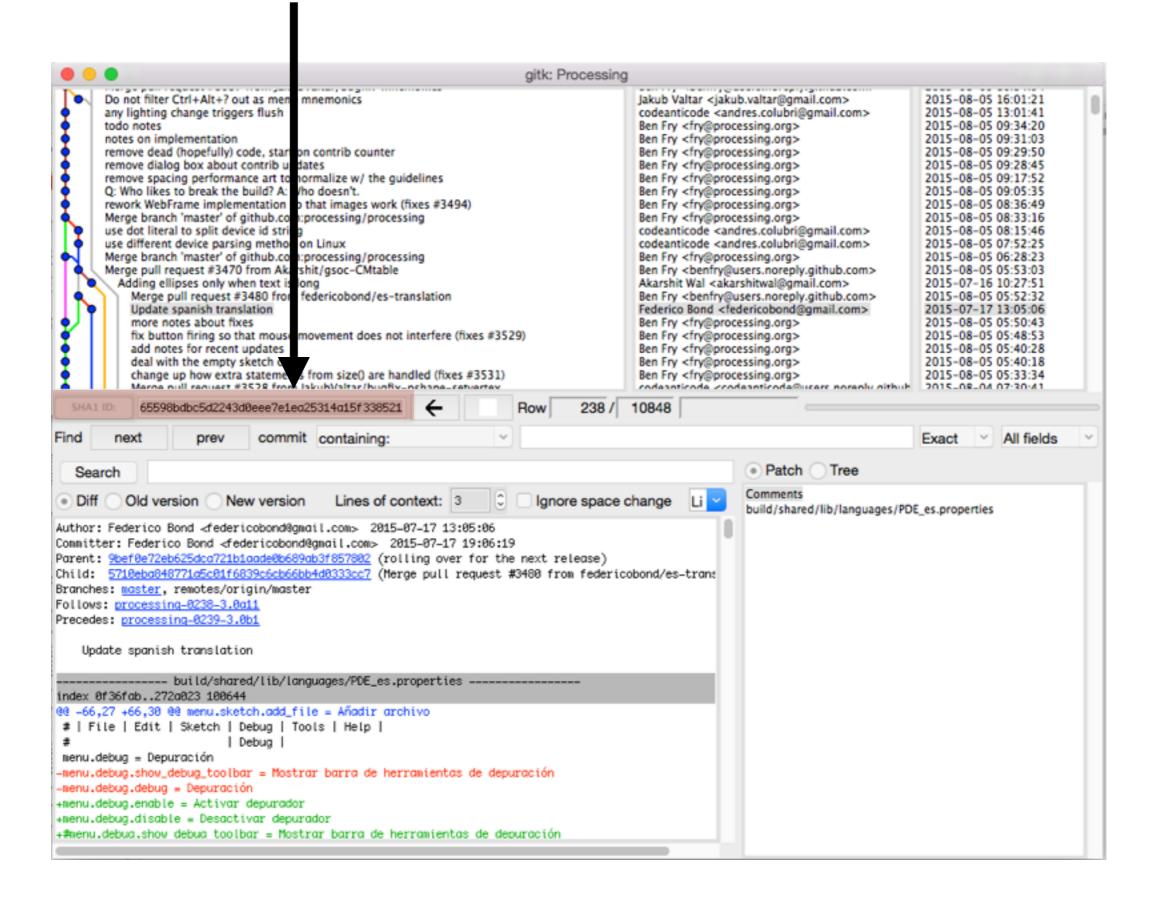




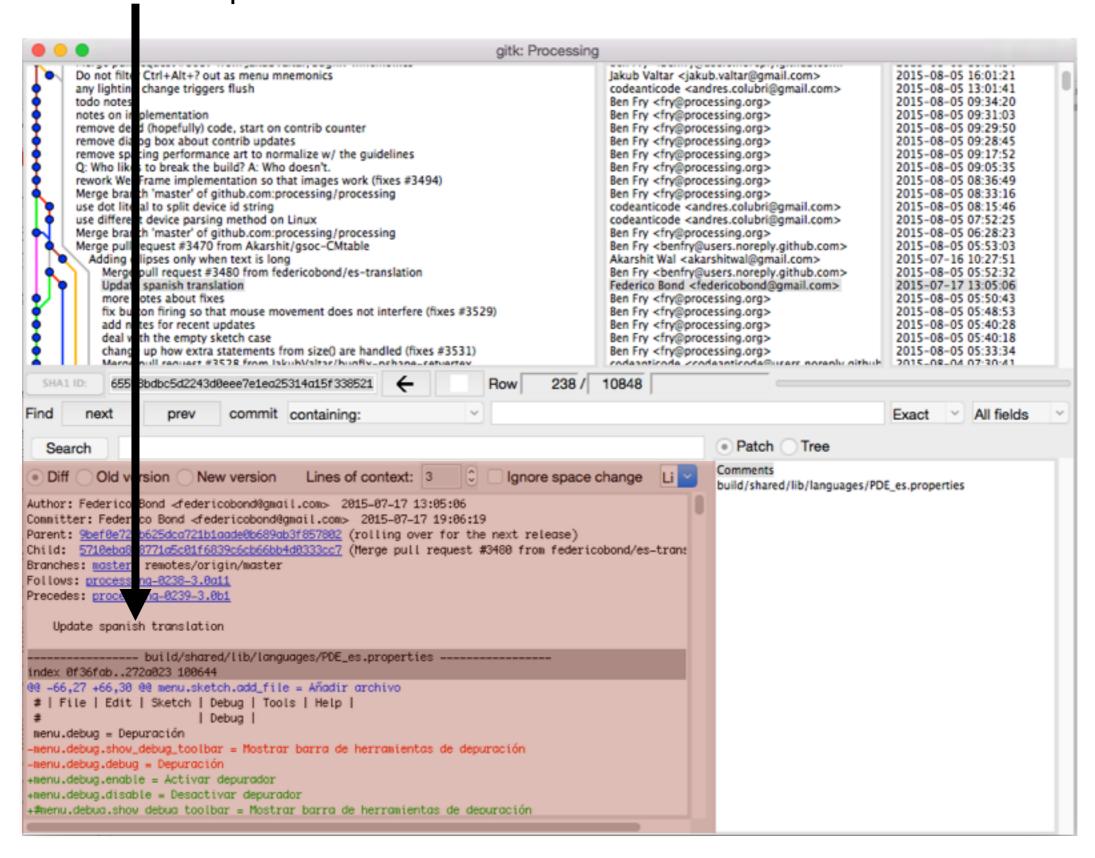
Details for each change including who made it, when it was made and what the changes were.



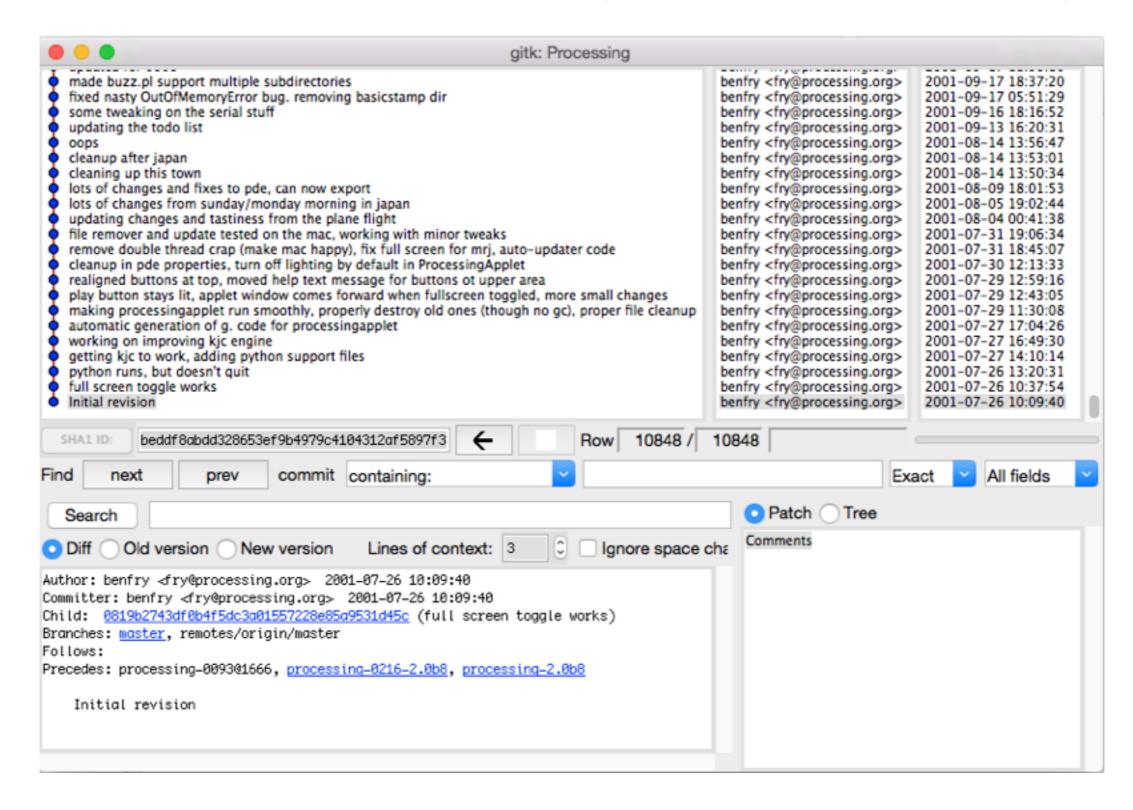
SHA-1 Checksum for each change



Each change is also marked with a descriptive comment



The Processing project has tracked 10848 changes (additions, deletions, modifications) to it's source code since it's inception (2001), for example.



Why would use version control for software based art?

- Languages change, source code needs to be updated to run on current machines and operating systems.
- Maybe we want to comment the source code and and track the progress of that documentation.
- Perhaps the artist used version control, the history would give us insight into the creation of the work.

For example..

What is Git

- An open source Version Control System(VCS) designed for speed and efficiency
- Better than competing tools
- Created by Linus Torvalds in 2005 (for source code for the Linux operating system)
- Your best insurance policy against:
 - Accidental mistakes like deleting work
 - Remembering what was changed, when, why and by whom
 - Your hard drive blowing up, *if you sync with a external server

Where do you get it:

https://git-scm.com/

(The official site)

-Has installers for OSX, Windows and Linux

-It's free and open source

-Awesome free book online for going further. https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2

The Command Line

There are a lot of different ways to use Git.

There are the original command line tools and there are many graphical user interfaces(GUI).

For this workshop, we will be using Git on the command line.

The command line is the only place you can run all Git commands – most of the GUIs only implement some subset of Git functionality for simplicity.

Teaching Style

I'm going to walk through 2-3 slides of commands that we will type.

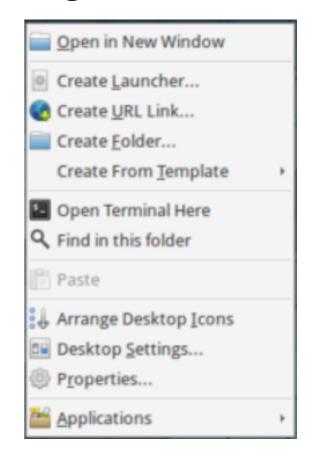
Then I will switch to the computer so that we can type them in together.

I encourage you to keep this PDF open on your own computer as a reference (it's on the thumb drive)

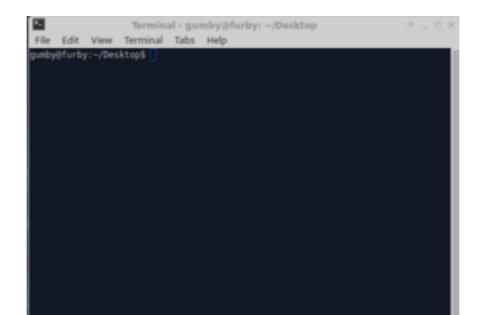
If you need assistance, raise your hand and one of the excellent TA's will come to help you.

Let's open the terminal now to get started:

- 1. On the desktop right click, or for Mac users CTRL+Click
 - 2. Click on the option 'Open Terminal Here'



You should now have a black terminal window.



Setting Up Git

First-Time Git Setup

Before we start using Git to track out source code we need to do a little set up. Here we will tell git about ourself, so it knows who is making the changes

first lets type:

git config --global user.name "Your Name"

```
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help

gumby@furby:~/Desktop$ git config --global user.name "Mark Hellar"

gumby@furby:~/Desktop$

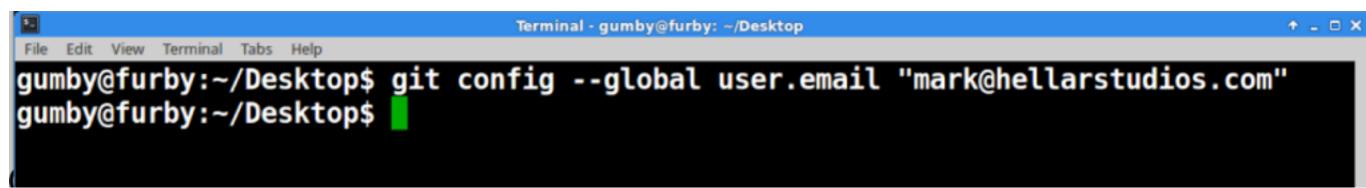
gumby@furby:~/Desktop$
```

You wont get any feedback, but we will check the setting in just a bit.

First-Time Git Setup

Now enter your email by typing:

git config --global user.email johndoe@example.com



First-Time Git Setup

We can check our settings by typing:

git config --list

```
Terminal-gumby@furby: ~/Desktop

gumby@furby: ~/Desktop$ git config --list
user.name=Mark Hellar
user.email=mark@hellarstudios.com
gumby@furby: ~/Desktop$

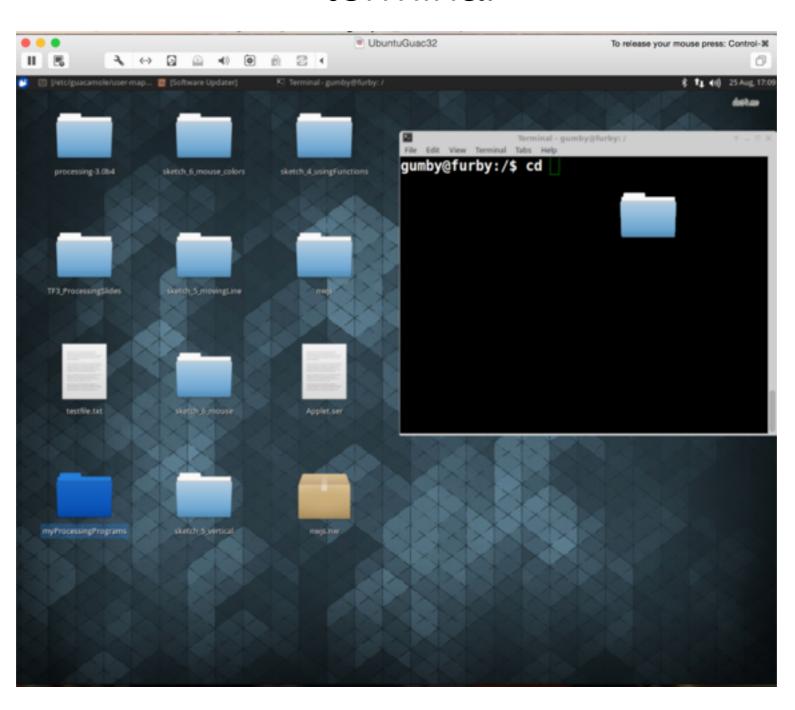
user.email=mark@hellarstudios.com
```

If you see a mistake, you can correct it by re-entering any of the commands from the last 2 slides.

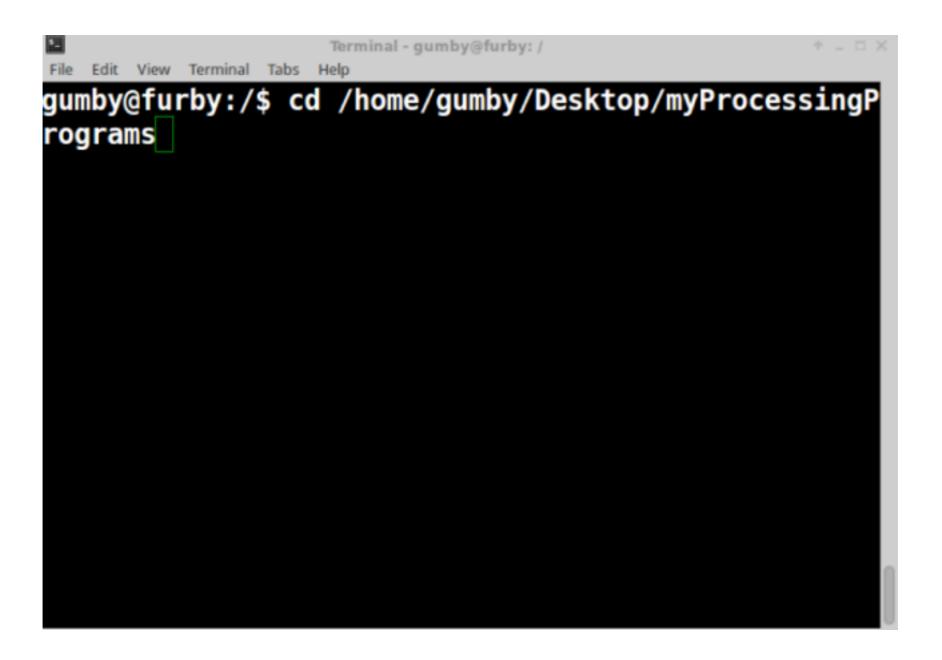
Creating our first repository

Type: **cd**

Hit space and drag **myProcessingPrograms** on the terminal



Your terminal should now look like this: Hit Return



cd means Change Directory since we dragged our processing directory onto it we have moved into that directory

Creating an initial source code repository:

to do this type: **git init**and hit return

I get some feedback telling me that a empty repository has been created.

Creating an initial source code repository:

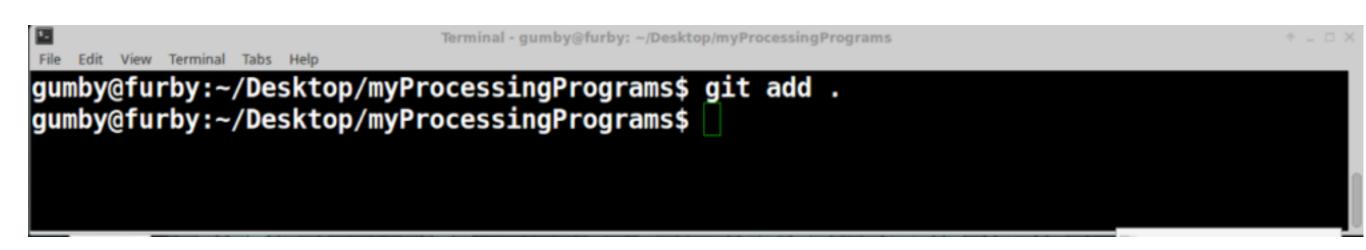
When we ran 'git init' in the last step, the Git program created a special folder called .git

This folder is called a repository, it is where Git will store a copy of the source code and all cumulative changes.

The new repository is currently empty so now we have to add some files to it.

I can add all the files in the directory by typing **git add**.

and return



The 'git add' command places files in a staging area that we will be commit to the repository

The period in this statement is shorthand for all files and directories

Now if I type:

git status

Git tells me that a number of files are ready to be committed

```
Terminal - gumby@furby: ~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms
                                                                        + - - X
gumby@furby:~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms$ git status
On branch master
Initial commit
Changes to be committed:
  (use "git rm --cached <file>..." to unstage)
        new file:
                     sketch 1 line/sketch 1 line.pde
                     sketch 2 line/sketch 2 line.pde
        new file:
                     sketch 3 circle/sketch 3 circle.pde
        new file:
        new file:
                     sketch 4 repetition/sketch 4 repetition.pde
gumby@furby:~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms$
```

I will explain Staging Vs. Committing in depth in just a bit

type:

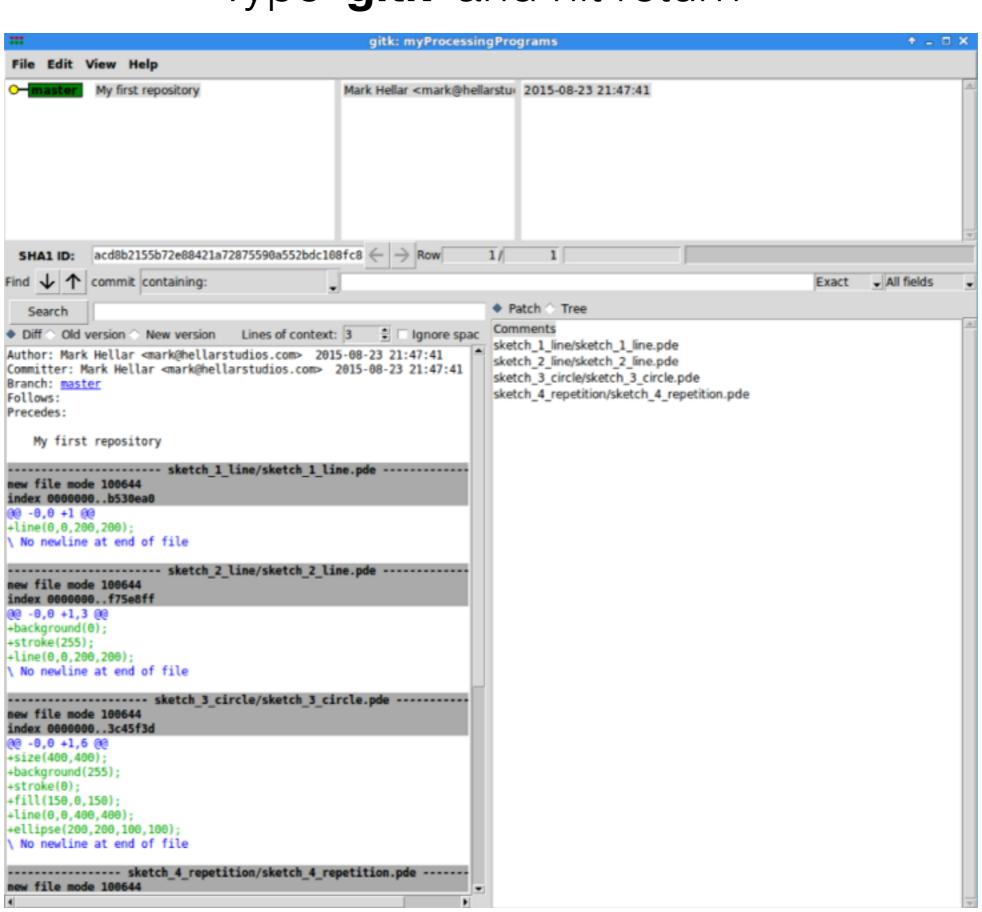
git commit -m "My First Repository" and hit return

```
gumby@furby:~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms$ git commit -m "My first repository"
[master (root-commit) acd8b21] My first repository
4 files changed, 29 insertions(+)
create mode 100644 sketch_1_line/sketch_1_line.pde
create mode 100644 sketch_2_line/sketch_2_line.pde
create mode 100644 sketch_3_circle/sketch_3_circle.pde
create mode 100644 sketch_4_repetition/sketch_4_repetition.pde
gumby@furby:~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms$
```

We got a lot of feedback here, this is Git telling us that the files have been added to our repository.

-m is an option or flag that means message, the text in quotes is the commit message

So what does the repository look like? Type 'gitk' and hit return



I know there were a few steps here.

But, once the initial repository is created and the files have been added it becomes very easy to track your changes

I'm going to hand you back to Deena now so that you can write some more code.

After that we'll commit your new code into the repository

Leave the terminal window open, we'll come back to it later

Tracking Changes

Git workflow

Ok so now we have a repository let's define a workflow to track changes:

- 1. Edit, add or delete files
 - 2. Stage the changes
- 3. Review your changes
- 4. Commit the changes

Edit, add or delete files

at the terminal Type:

git status

```
Terminal - gumby@furby: -/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms git status

Qumby@furby: -/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms git status

On branch master

Changes not staged for commit:

(use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
(use "git checkout -- <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)

modified: sketch_4_repetition/sketch_4_repetition.pde

no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")

gumby@furby: -/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms $
```

Git lets you know that there have been changes to your program

Git knows that a file has changed, now we need stage it

Stage the changes at the terminal Type: git add. hit return git status hit return

```
Terminal - gumby@furby: ~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms git add .

gumby@furby: ~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms git status

On branch master

Changes to be committed:

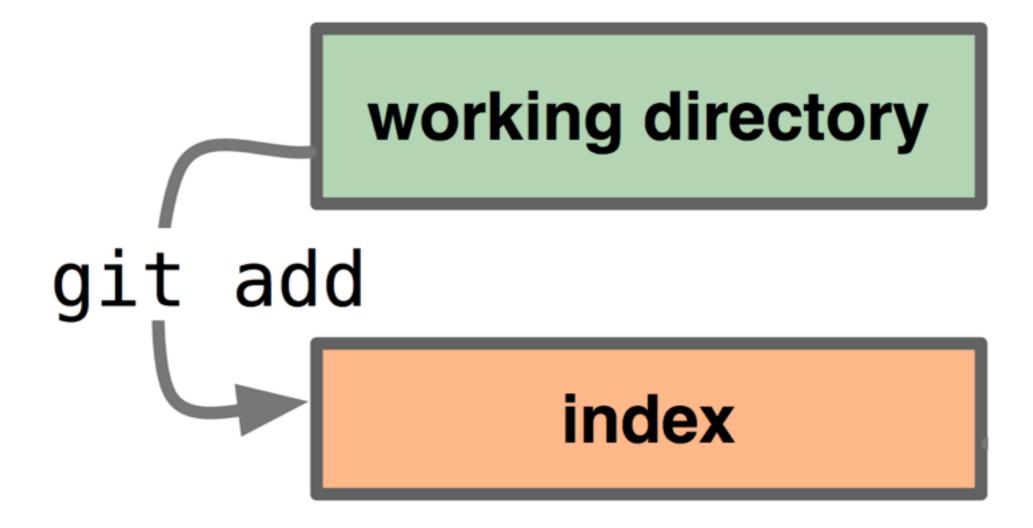
(use "git reset HEAD <file>..." to unstage)

modified: sketch_4_repetition/sketch_4_repetition.pde

gumby@furby: ~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms $
```

git add. sends all files to the staging area git status confirms that

Stage the changes



repository

Review your changes

With our files in the staging area, we can compare differences with files in the repository before we commit them:

git diff —staged

```
+ _ - ×
                             Terminal - gumby@furby: ~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms
gumby@furby:~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms$ git diff --staged
diff --git a/sketch_4_repetition/sketch_4_repetition.pde b/sketch_4_repetition/sketch_4
index ebf1143..0f746b4 100644
--- a/sketch_4_repetition/sketch_4_repetition.pde
+++ b/sketch_4_repetition/sketch_4_repetition.pde
@@ -2,8 +2,9 @@ size(400,400);
 background(255);
 stroke(0);
 line(0,0,400,400);
fill(150,255,150);
 ellipse(200,200,100,100);
 /* setting up the ellipse parameters as integer variables: */
 int x = 200;
 int y = 200;
```

(hit q to quit)

Commit the changes

If we are happy with our changes we can now commit them into the repository:

git commit -m "changed fill color"

```
Terminal - gumby@furby: ~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms

file Edit View Terminal Tabs Help

gumby@furby:~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms$ git commit -m "Changed fill color"

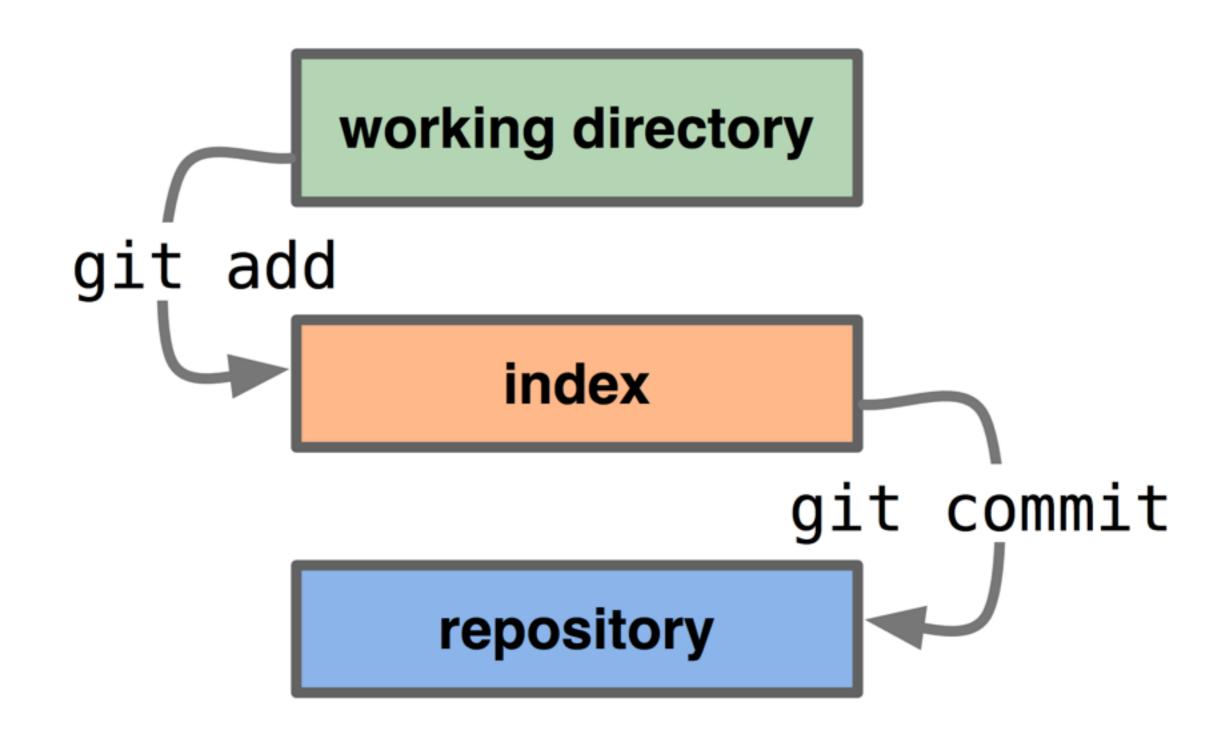
[master lea6ed7] Changed fill color

1 file changed, 2 insertions(+), 1 deletion(-)

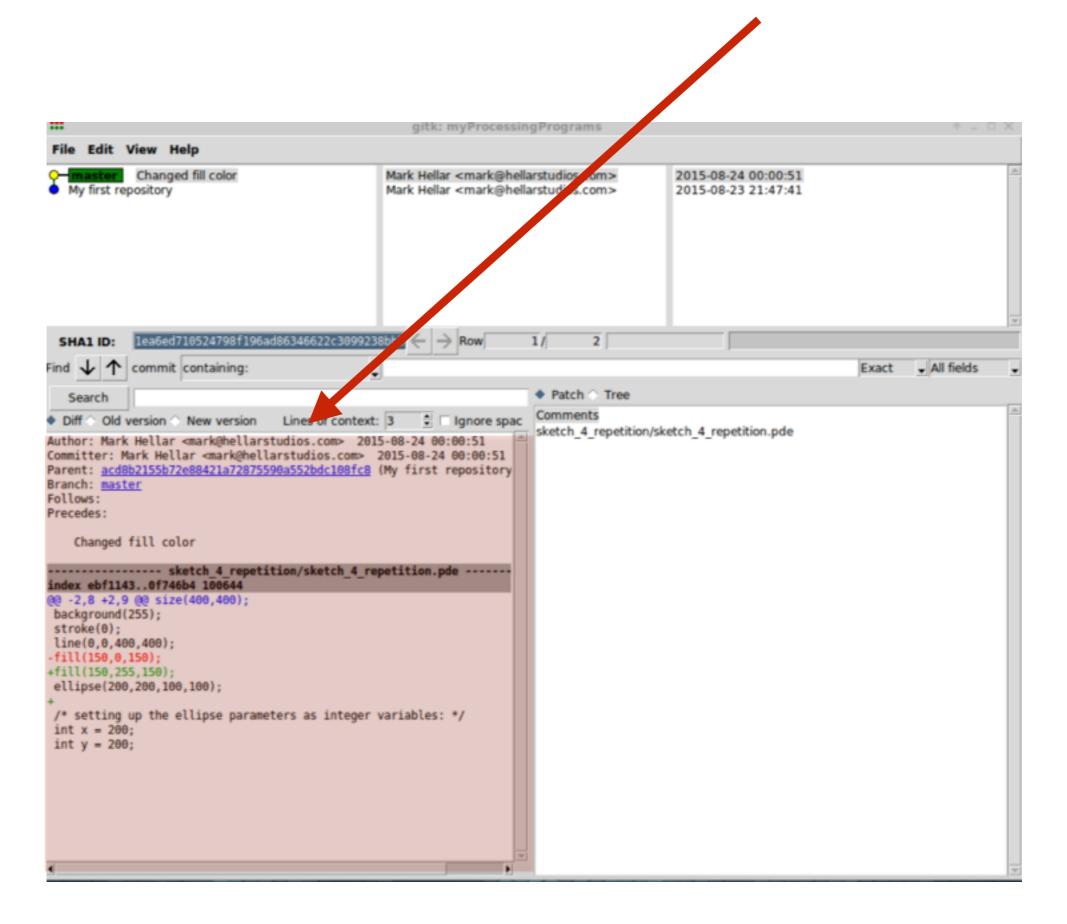
gumby@furby:~/Desktop/myProcessingPrograms$
```

The **-m** option is for message it allows us to provide a commit message in quotes describing changes

Commit the changes



If I run gitk i can see my change



Git workflow

Edit, add or delete files

Stage the changes

Review your changes

Commit the changes

Modify your files

git add

git status

git commit

Easier Git workflow

Edit, add or delete files

Commit and add the changes (with one command)

Modify your files

git commit - a

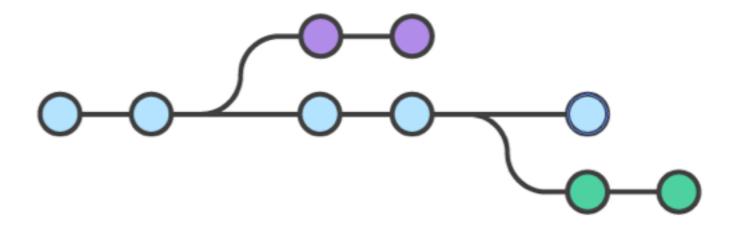
Branching

Right now our repository is storing everything in a master 'branch'. Branching allows you to make a derivative of that branch and work on it independently.

Some possible reasons to create a **branch**:

- -You want to make a research copy
- -An artist is going to make updates and you want to keep a copy of the original code.
- -The language the code was written in is no longer supported and you want to attempt a migration

Branching



git branch

dranch>

Git branch creates a new <branch>

git checkout **
branch>**

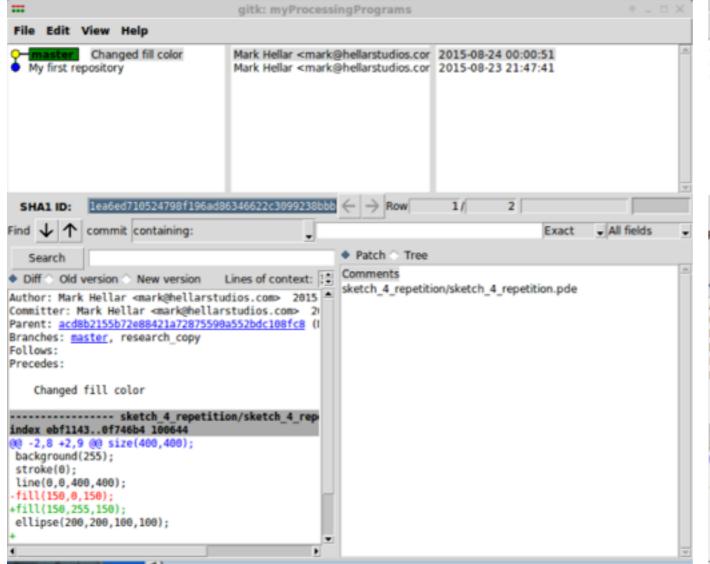
Git checkout switches the working folder to a new

a new

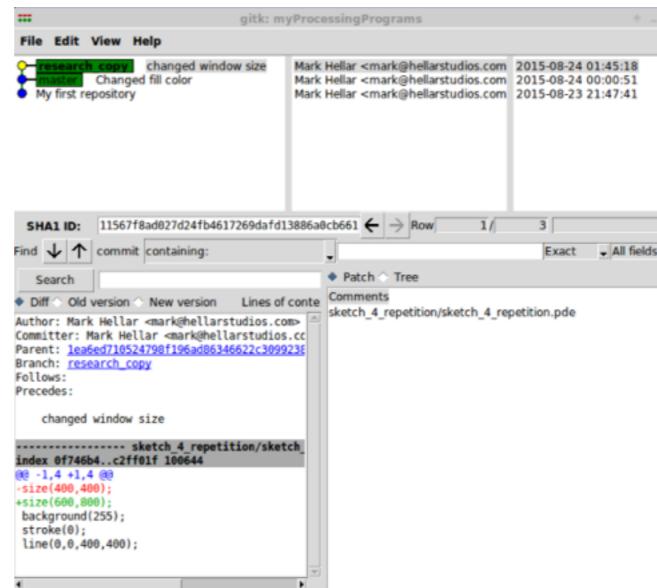
branch>

Branching

git checkout master



git checkout research_copy



Today we covered:

-Creating a repository

-Workflow for tracking changes

-Introduction to branching

There's more to Git, but these cover the common operations

Git and GitHub

Git is a version control system; think of it as a series of snapshots (commits) of your code. You see a path of these snapshots, in which order they where created. You can make branches to experiment and come back to snapshots you took.

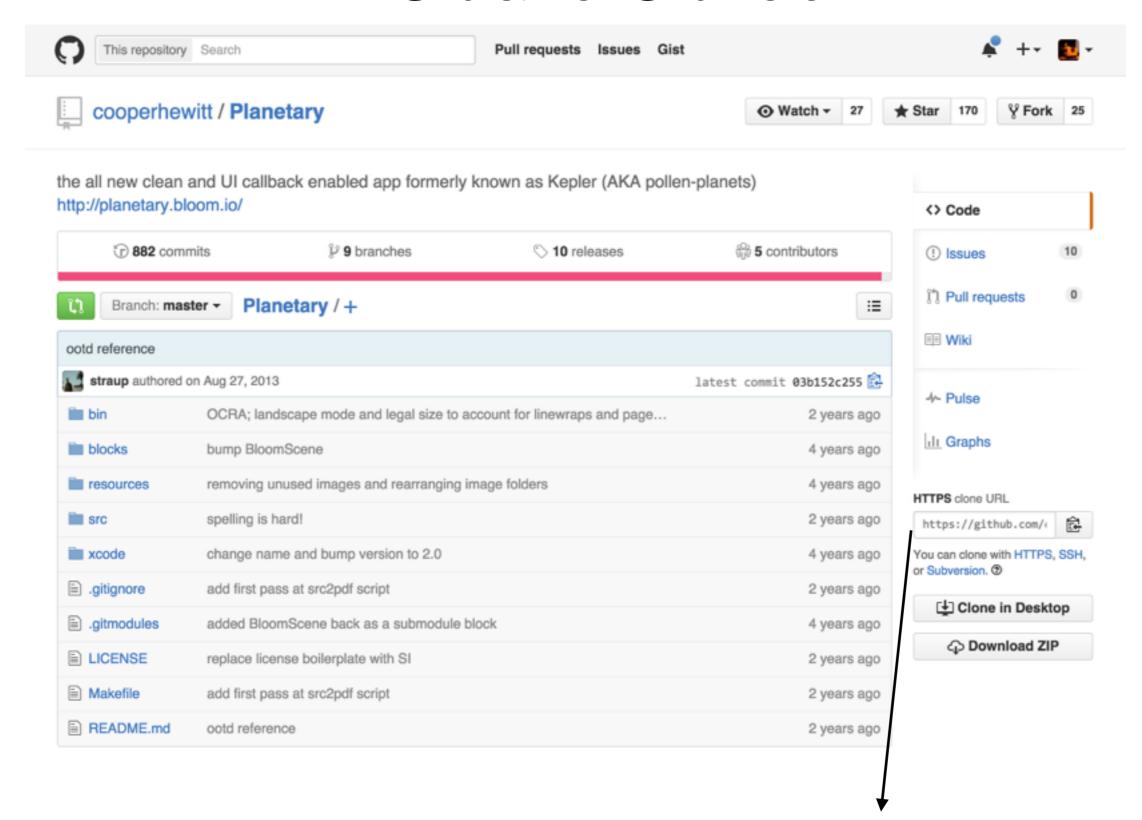
GitHub, is a web-page on which you can publish your Git repositories and collaborate with other people.

https://help.github.com/articles/set-up-git/

Git and GitHub



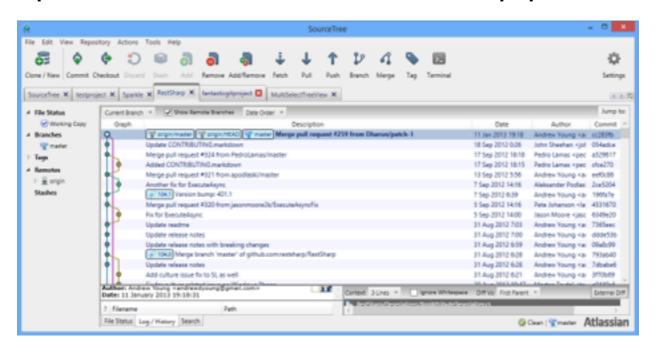
Git and GitHub



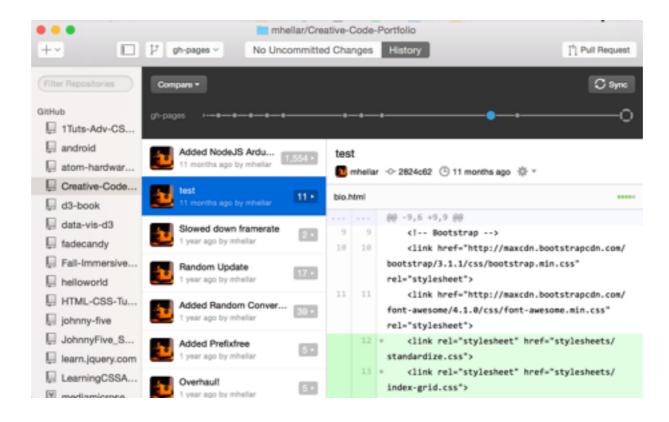
git clone https://github.com/cooperhewitt/Planetary.git

GUI Versions!

https://www.sourcetreeapp.com/



https://desktop.github.com/



Git Book https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2 (copy is on the thumb drive)

Getting Started https://git-scm.com/doc

Online Tutorial https://try.github.io/levels/1/challenges/1

Thank You!

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