

# A Real 'git bisect' Session

Learn about git bisect by implementing an example.

We'll cover the following



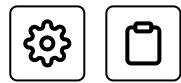
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Now that you understand a bisect session, you're going to embed this idea by running through an actual `git bisect` session. If the previous lesson felt a bit abstract, then this might help make the lesson more vivid.

## Requirements #

What you're going to do is create a Git repository with one file (`projectfile`). In this file, you are going to add a line for each commit. The first line will be `1`, the second `2`, and so on until the hundredth commit, which adds the line `100`.

In this scenario, the “bug” is the line `63`, but you don't know that yet. All you know is that you can tell if the bug is in the code with this shell command:



```
if grep -w 63 projectfile
> then
>   echo BAD
> else
>   echo GOOD
```

It outputs `BAD` if the “bug” is found and `GOOD` if it is absent. Obviously, this is an arbitrary example. Your reproduction code for a bug in a real situation might be far more complicated and/or time-consuming.

## Implementation #

Type this in:

```
1  mkdir -p lgthw_bisect
2  cd lgthw_bisect
3  git init
4  touch projectfile
5  git add projectfile
6  cat > test.sh << END
7  > if grep 63 projectfile
8  > then
9  >   echo BAD
10 > else
11 >   echo GOOD
12 > fi
13 > END
14 chmod +x test.sh
15 git add test.sh
```

Terminal 1

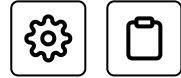


Terminal



So far everything is normal. You’ve created and added a file to a new Git repository and added a test script to determine if the bug is present.

# Adding 100 commits #



The next bit of code creates 100 lines with an incrementing number in each line, each line committed in turn:

```
16 for ((i=1;i<=100;i++))  
17 > do  
18 > echo $i >> projectfile  
19 > git commit -am "A$i"  
20 > done
```

Terminal 1



Terminal



Now, check if the history of the repository is as you expect:

```
21 git log
```

# Finding the bug #

You're going to start your bisect session to find the bug. Follow the output carefully:

```
22 git bisect start  
23 ./test.sh  
24 git bisect bad  
25 git status
```

Terminal 1



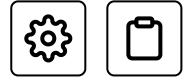
Terminal



By marking the bisect session as bad you have told it where to end its search for the bug. Can you see where it tells you that in the `git status` output?

Now type this in and try and figure out what's going on while you do so.

You will want to throw in some `git status` and `git log` commands as you go through to orient yourself:



```
26 git checkout HEAD~99
27 git status
28 ./test.sh
29 git bisect good
30 git log
```

Terminal 1



Terminal

^

The first thing to point out is the checkout command. You should know what `HEAD` is by now. Can you figure out what the `~99` does?

That's right! It refers to the 99 commits previous to this one. You will return to this later.

Where are you now in the history?

```
31 git status
32 ./test.sh
33 git bisect good
34 git log
35 ./test.sh
36 git bisect bad
```

Terminal 1



Terminal

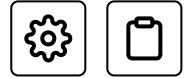
^

At this point, you should be getting the idea.

## Continue bisecting commits #

I'm going to tell you now to keep going: mark commits as good or bad until you get to something that looks like this (Can you spot the difference before you continue?):

## Input #



```
37 git bisect bad
```

## Sample output #

```
37cf7e407bb20392f067f07899c1c0bf8b94560 is the first bad commit  
commit 37cf7e407bb20392f067f07899c1c0bf8b94560  
Author: Educative Learner <learner@educative.io>  
Date: Thu Jan 21 08:17:37 2021 +0000
```

```
A51
```

```
:100644 100644 96cc558853a03c5d901661af837fce7a81f58f6 1c5a36f5d2e2f5  
293d62440acef04fbbd683e447 Mprojectfile
```

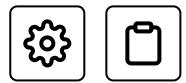
If all was as expected, then the bisect is complete and has reported that `37cf7e407bb20392f067f07899c1c0bf8b94560` was the first bad commit (the commit identifier may differ for you).

## Difference between reported commit and its parent #

You can get the diff between this reported commit ID and its parent by using the `^` operator with `diff`:

```
37 git diff 37cf7e407bb20392f067f07899c1c0bf8b94560^ \37cf7e407bb20  
392f067f07899c1c0bf8b94560
```

```
diff --git a/projectfile b/projectfile  
index dc当地9..86c8a76 100644  
--- a/projectfile  
+++ b/projectfile  
@@ -63,3 +63,4 @@  
 63  
 64  
 65  
+66
```



The `^` operator is a handy shortcut that allows you to quickly refer to a commit's parent.

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Bisecting: The Session at a High Level

The Difference Between `~` and `^`

Mark as Completed

Report an Issue

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([https://discuss.educative.io/tag/a-real-git-bisect-session\\_\\_git-bisect\\_\\_learn-git-the-hard-way](https://discuss.educative.io/tag/a-real-git-bisect-session__git-bisect__learn-git-the-hard-way))