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**Version Control Guidelines**

Developers can monitor changes made to files, particularly source code, with the aid of version control. It allows multiple people to work on the same project without losing work or creating confusion. I researched version control guidelines using three sources: *Atlassian Git Tutorials*, *GitHub Docs*, and *GeeksforGeeks*.

A few key points are shared by all three sources. First, they all agree that meaningful and unambiguous commit signals are essential. Everyone can better grasp what was altered and why thanks to this. Second, they advise avoiding big commitments in favor of smaller ones. It is simpler to manage and debug smaller commits. Third, a popular and practical technique is to employ branches for bug fixes or new functionality. It maintains the main code branch stable and clean.

They also recommend pulling changes from the remote repository before pushing your own changes. This helps avoid conflicts when working in a team. Another good practice they mention is reviewing code before merging it into the main branch. This helps catch errors and keeps the project organized.

One older guideline that may not be very useful today is making manual backups before committing changes. Now, version control systems like GitHub and GitLab automatically track all changes and allow you to go back to previous versions easily.

Based on my research, here is my list of the most important version control guidelines:

1. **Write clear commit messages** – Helps team members understand changes.
2. **Commit often** – Makes it easier to find and fix bugs.
3. **Use branches for new features** – Keeps the main code clean.
4. **Pull before pushing** – Reduces the risk of conflicts.
5. **Review code before merging** – Maintains code quality.

I chose these guidelines because they make working in teams smoother and help prevent mistakes. Following good version control practices leads to better collaboration and cleaner code.

**Sources:**

Atlassian Git Tutorials: https://www.atlassian.com/git/tutorials

GitHub Docs: <https://docs.github.com>

GeeksforGeeks: https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/version-control-system-vcs/