installing git

> **Warning**
>
> The images/instructions below are for git version 2.30.1. There may be some small differences between the steps between that version, and the version that you download.

> **Note**
>
> If you are working in MacOS, **git** is most likely already installed on your system. To check, open a **Terminal** window and enter the following command:
>
> ```
> git
> ```
>
> If you see a usage message, you do not need to install **git** separately, and can move to the next step.

To install **git** (if you do not already have it installed, of course), first head to https://git-scm.com/downloads. Choose the version for your operating system, and download the installer.

The next instructions and images are for the Windows operating system; I am happy to provide additional instructions for other operating systems, if needed.

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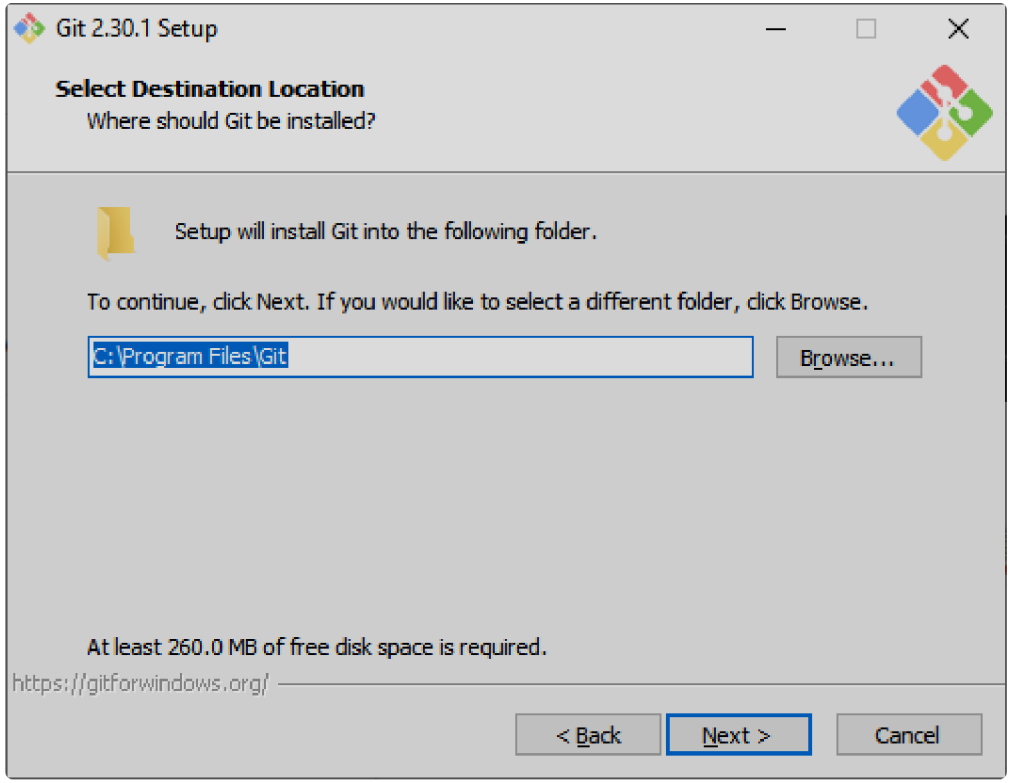

Next, leave the selected components as-is:

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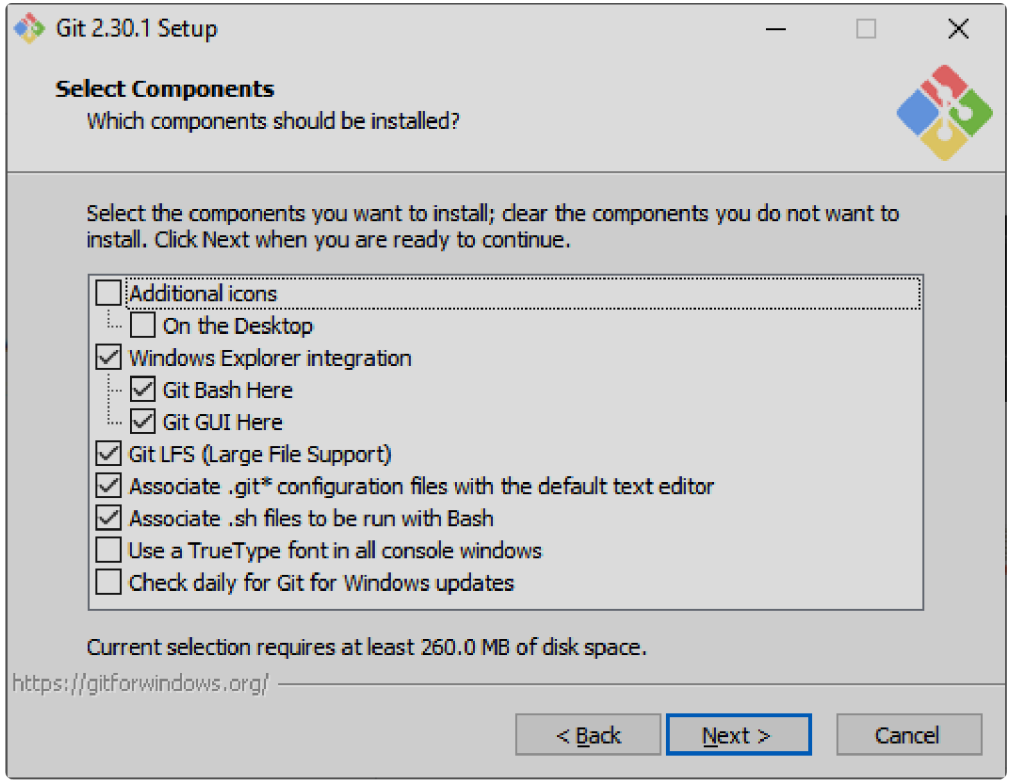

Be sure to change the default editor from **vim** to something else (**vim** is somewhat notoriously confusing to use if you are not familiar with it). On Windows, I like Notepad++ but you may not already have this installed; in that case, change this to **Notepad**.

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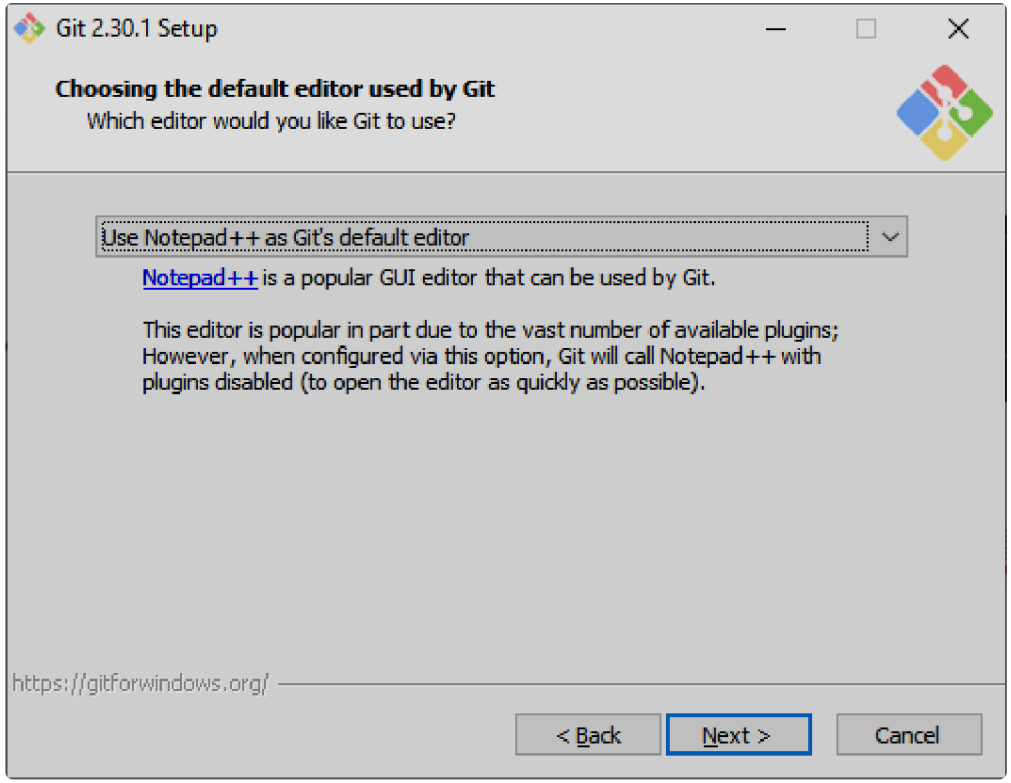

This step is optional, but as a result of recent discussions around the use of language, the default starting branch name for **git** will be changing from **master** to **main** in the near future, and **git** now gives you the option of choosing a different name in the meantime:

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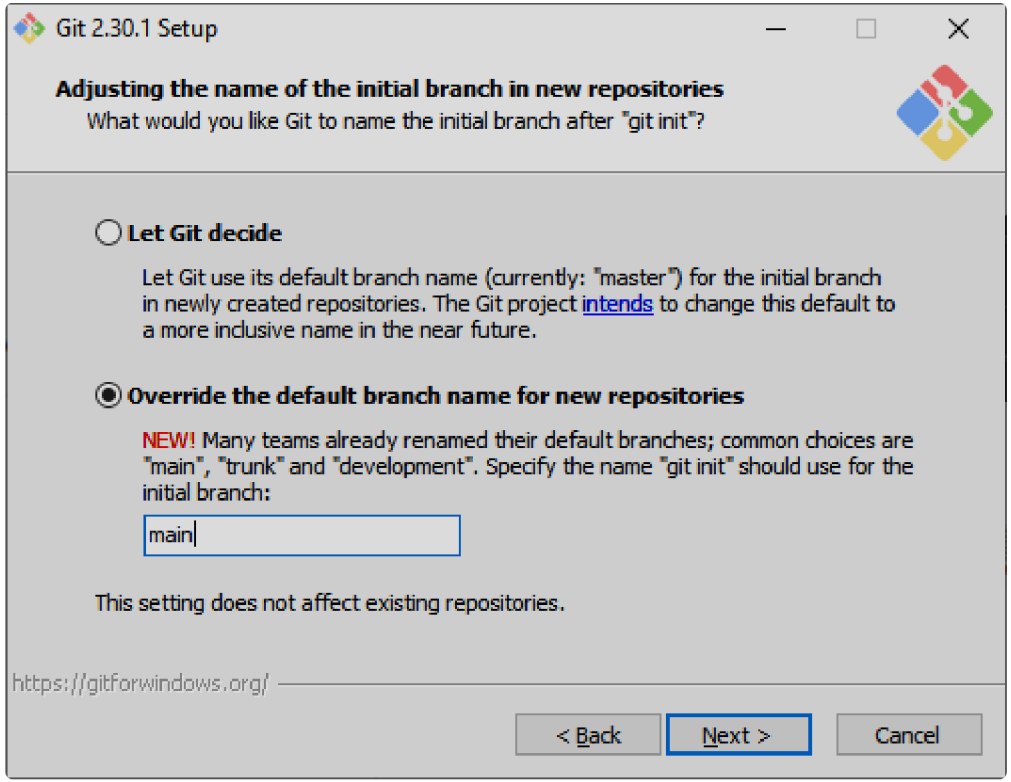

In addition to the graphical user interface (GUI) that we will install next, **git** can also be used as a command line tool. **git** will install its own terminal (command line) emulator, but we can also configure it to work from the Windows command prompt, and with third-party software such as an integrated development environment (IDE).

Many IDEs (such as PyCharm or Microsoft Visual Studio) come with built-in support for **git**, which can be extremely useful when programming. To enable this, make sure to select the middle (**Recommended**) option below:

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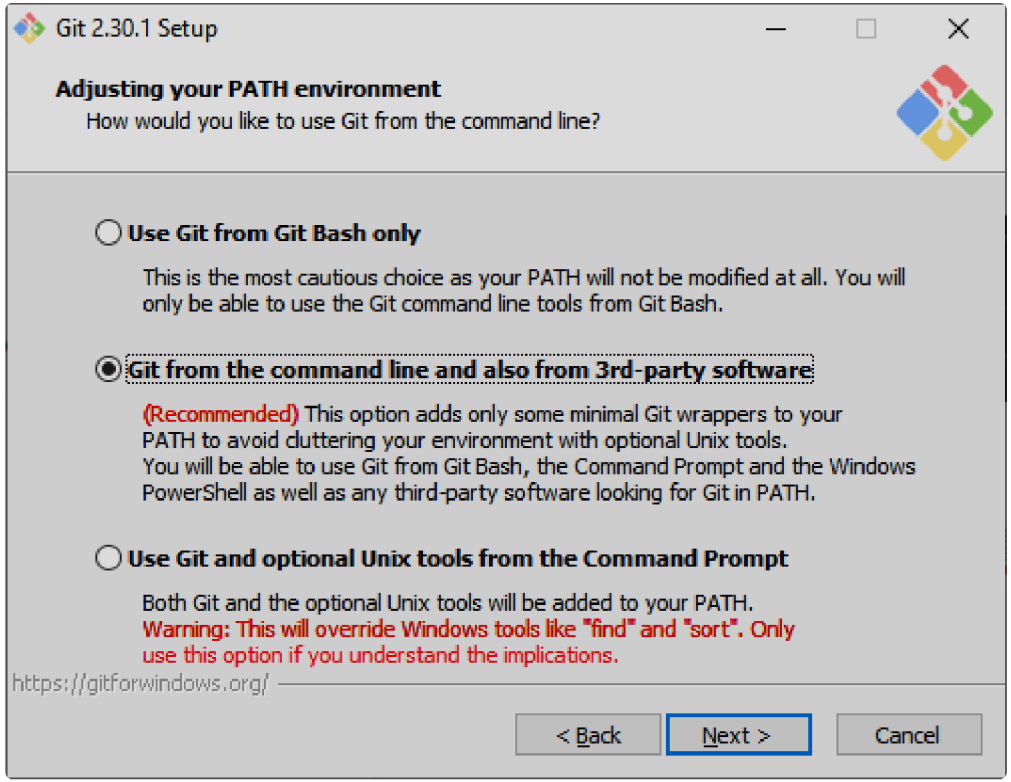

Keep the HTTPS transport backend using OpenSSL library, then click **Next**. Windows uses a different character encoding to represent a newline in text files compared to Unix-style systems (e.g., Unix, Linux, macOS), which can cause problems when switching between them. To help smooth things a bit, **git** provides the option to convert newline characters when checking out and committing files. I recommend leaving this setting as is:

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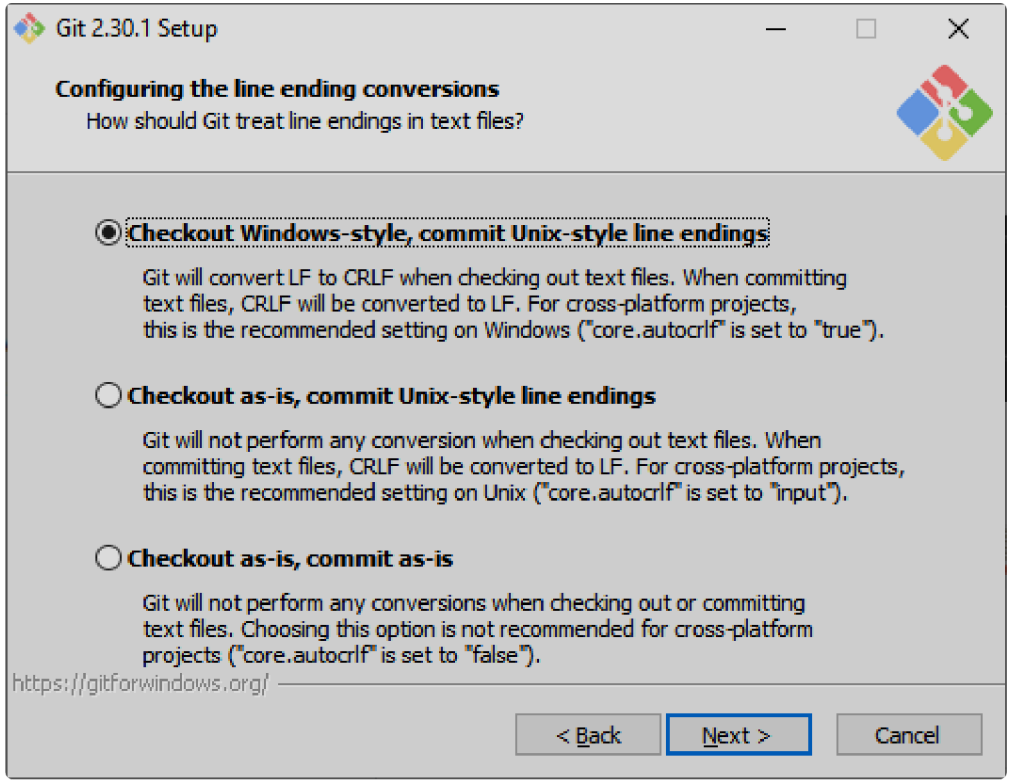

Git will also install a terminal (command line) emulator called **git** Bash, which enables you to use some command-line tools that Windows does not include by default. Make sure the first option (**Use MinTTY**) is selected, then click **Next**:

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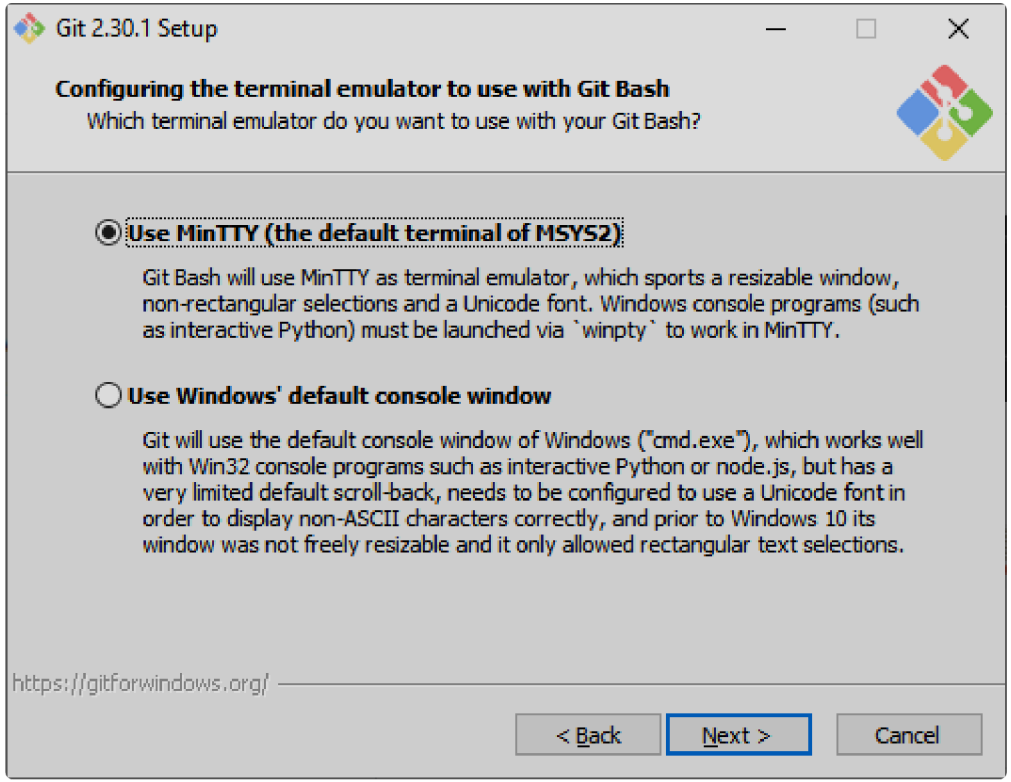

Git will also ask how you want **git pull** to behave – I recommend keeping the default setting here as well:

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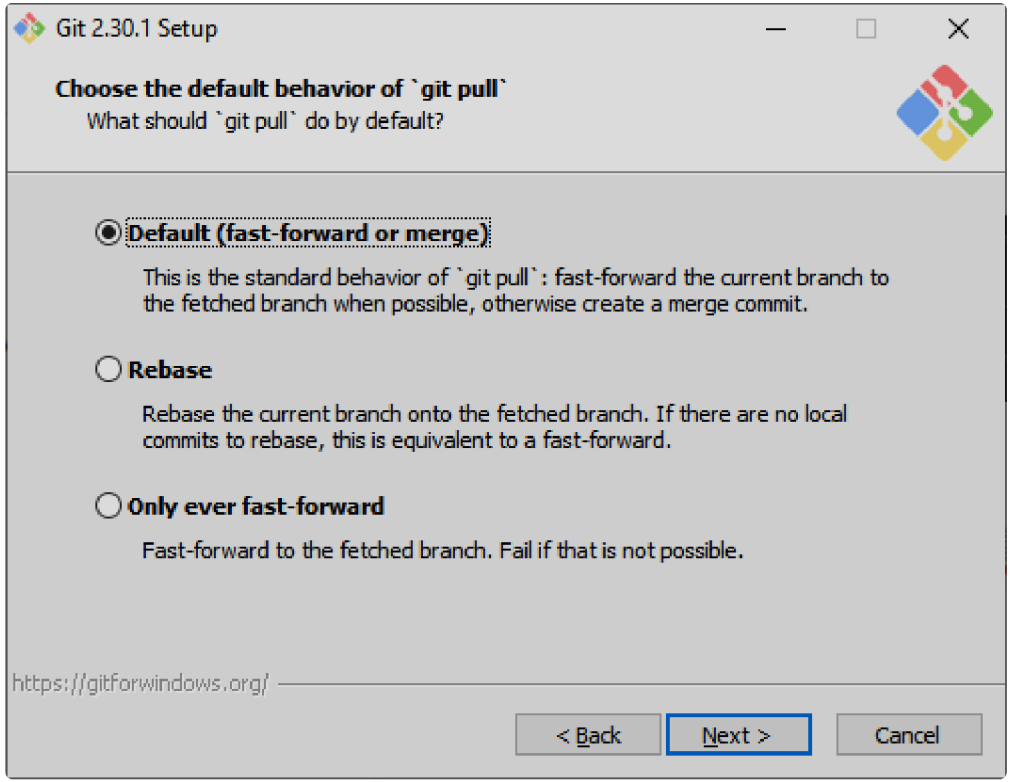

Finally, you can leave the remaining options (choosing a credential helper, configuring extra options) as-is, clicking **Next** each time. When you come to the final window, you should see an **Install** button:

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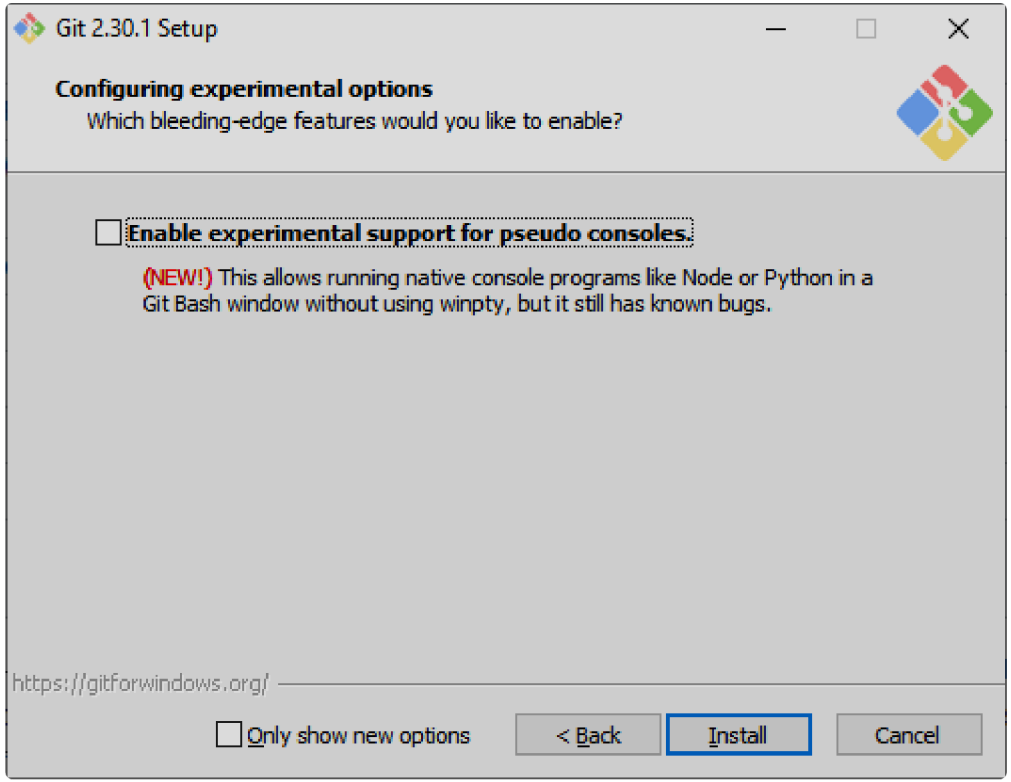
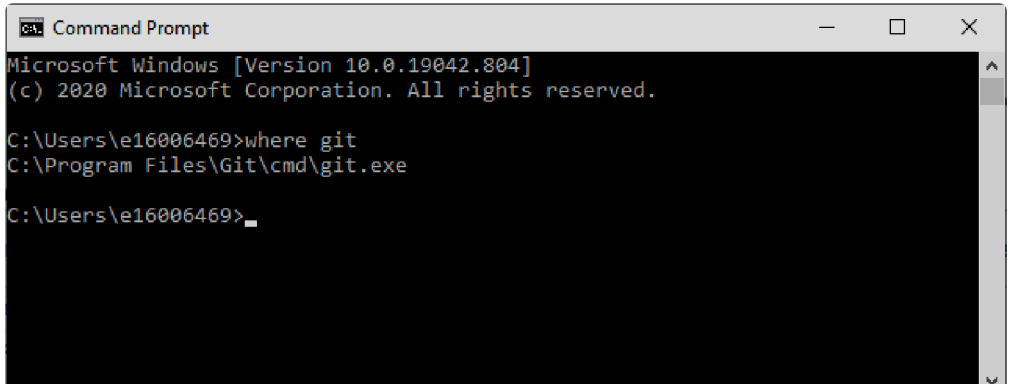


Once **git** is installed, open a command prompt window. Type `where git` at the command prompt and press **Enter**. You should see the following output:



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If you see an error message, post in the Discussion Forum and ask for help. If there are no errors, you can move on to the next step.

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