Software Engineering at MPRI - Tutorial on the version control system git, and its extensions

Amélie Ledein
ledein@lsv.fr

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Introduction

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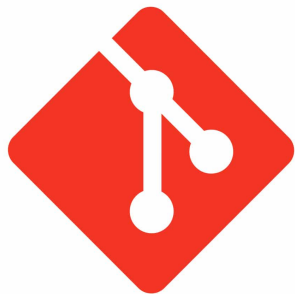
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The answer is ...

or any version control systems (VCS).
(*systèmes de gestion de version*, in French)

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What is a version control system?

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  - Facilitate the detection and correction of errors.
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- An example:

$\rightarrow$ A free and open source distributed version control system (DVCS)
$\rightarrow$ Designed to handle everything from small to very large projects with speed and efficiency

Git in detail

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On your computer

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- **Local repository** (**dépôt local**): A subdirectory named `.git` that contains all of your necessary repository files - a Git repository skeleton.
- **Remote/upstream repository** (**dépôt distant**): Versions of your project that are hosted on the Internet or network, ensuring all your changes are available for other developers.
  The default name is `origin`.

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Synchronization with the remote repository

`$ git clone <url>`
Retrieve an entire repository from hosted location via URL.

`$ git fetch <alias>`
Fetch down all the branches from that Git remote.

`$ git merge <alias/<branch>`
Merge a remote branch into your current branch to bring it up to date.

`$ git pull`
Fetch and merge any commits from the tracking remote branch.

Commit

Make modifications

`$ git add <file(s)>`
Add a file (or several) as it looks now to your next commit (stage).

`$ git rm <file(s)>`
Delete the file (or several) from the project and stage the removal for commit.

`$ git mv <old-name-file> <new-name-file>`
Rename the file and stage the renaming.

`$ git mv <existing-path> <new-path>`
Change an existing file path and stage the move.

`$ git reset <file(s)>`
Unstage a file (or several) while retaining the changes in working directory.

`$ git commit [-m "<descriptive message>]"`
Commit your staged content as a new commit snapshot.

`$ git push <alias> <branch>`
Transmit local branch commits to the remote repository branch.

Exercise 1

1. Clone the repository from
   `https://github.com/amelieled/SE_GIT_MPRI.git`
2. Add at least 5 new items in the grocery list.
3. Fix the 5 errors.
4. Add a new section.

Informative commands

- Setup:
  Configuring user information used across all local repositories.
  - `$ git config --global user.name "[firstname lastname]"`
    Set a name that is identifiable for credit when review version history.
  - `$ git config --global user.email "[valid-email]"`
    Set a email address that will be associated with each history marker.

  Note : `export EDITOR=emacs` (or `vim`, etc.)
    To configure correctly your editor with Git.
- To collect information:
  - `$ git status`
    Show modified files in working directory, staged for your next commit.
  - `$ git diff`
    Diff of what is changed but not staged.
  - `$ git diff --staged`
    Diff of what is staged but not yet committed.

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Branch

`$ git branch`
List your branches.
A star (*) will appear next to the currently active branch.

`$ git branch <branch-name>`
Create a new branch at the current commit.

`$ git branch -d <branch-name>`
Delete the specified branch.

`$ git checkout <branch-name>`
Switch to another branch and check it out into your working directory.

`$ git merge <branch-name>`
Merge the specified branch's history into the current one.

`$ git log`
Show all commits in the current branch's history.

Gitk - Graphical interface

Or if you prefer: `git log --graph`.

Examining logs, diffs and object information

`$ git log branchB..branchA`
Show the commits on branchA that are not on branchB.

`$ git log --follow <file>`
Show the commits that changed file, even across renames.

`$ git diff branchB...branchA`
Show the diff of what is in branchA that is not in branchB.

`$ git log --stat -M`
Show all commit logs with indication of any paths that moved.

`$ git show <SHA>`
Show any object in Git in human-readable format.

$\rightarrow$ Easier on Github (See later)

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SHA1 is a hashing algorithm taking an input up to 2^{64} bits, and returns a unique sequence of 40 hexadecimal characters.

By hashing the contents of a file, Git obtains a series of unique digits symbolizing the file. Then, Git backs up only the files which are different hash (Git does not care about the names of the files, it only considers the content.).

Git objects

There are four Git objects:

- The **Blob** (*Binary Large Object*): It more commonly represents a **file**.
- The **Tree**: It more commonly represents a **directory** or **folder** of your application.
  Its content is the list of SHA1s of Blobs or other Trees that it can contain. What gives a tree structure of files.
- The **Commit**: This is the complete state of your project at a given moment, i.e. a **snapshot**.
  Its content is the SHA1 of the source Tree, and various information such as the name of the commit, the name of the author, the date, etc.
- The **Tag**: This is an object used to qualify a **particular commit** by giving it a comment.

An example

Each element has a unique SHA1.

How Git stores its information?

Only thanks to the directory `.git` at the root of your project.

- **config**: file relating to the configuration of the Git environment, such as information about the developer (name, email, etc.);
- **description**: contains information about your project;
- **objects/**: it is in this directory that all Git objects are stored (commits, tags, trees, blobs);
- **refs/***: contains information on local branches of the repository;
- **logs/***: contains log messages;
- **index**: file containing information about the status of the next commit.
- **HEAD**: pointer to current branch;
- **hooks/**: folder containing "hooks" or "triggers", i.e. actions/scripts that can be executed in pre or post condition.

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  Demonstration:
  $ sudo apt install qpdf
  $ zlib-flate -uncompress < FILE

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Graphical interface

- See current code
- See each commit
- See each issue
- Do integration continuous
- etc.

Gitter

References

- Interactive tutorial:
    - `learngitbranching.js.org`
- Cheat sheet:
    - `https://education.github.com/git-cheat-sheet-education.pdf` (English version)
    - `https://training.github.com/downloads/fr/github-git-cheat-sheet.pdf` (French version)
    - `https://ndpsoftware.com/git-cheatsheet.html` (Interactive one - English, French, Chinese, Spanish, German, Korean)
- Reference book : `http://git-scm.com/book` (`https://git-scm.com/book/fr/v2/` in French)