GIT: A BRIEF PRIMER

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May 10, 2024





Outline

What is Git?

Git'ting Git

Git'ting Started

Git'ting Going

Git'ting More Advanced

Next Steps

Outline

What is Git?

Git'ting Git

Git'ting Started

Git'ting Going

Git'ting More Advanced

Next Steps

- A Revision Control System (RCS) is any system that allows you to manage versions of electronic files in a way that permits the resolution of conflicting/complementary changes when more than one contributor is active.
- There are many older systems than Git. I grew up on CVS (Concurrent Versions System) and then (*«SHUDDER»*) Subversion. Git is my favourite.
- It was developed in 2005 when Linus Torvalds, the creator and lead maintainer of the LINUX operating system kernel, needed to replace the *Bitkeeper* RCS, which had revoked its free license. Linus turned over management of Git to Junio Hamano before its formal version 1.0 release. Like LINUX, Git is an open-source project.
- The documentation for Git claims Linus named it after himself (just like LINUX), using the British slang word for an unpleasant person. On its best day, documentation suggests Git stands for "Global Information Tracker".
- Git's strength is the ability to work locally on an entire copy of a project, asynchronously with many other people, and still resolve conflict.



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- Let's consider a simple example: co-authoring a scientific or technical paper.
- Let's say you have three collaborators Amit,
 Blaise, and <u>Chris</u> working together to write up scientific results.
- The work begins with Amit creating a file to hold the paper and adding a first paragraph of text to the paper. Let's call this *revision 1* of the document.
- Blaise and <u>Chris</u> then begin separately working on revision 1 of the document to add their own content.

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All three now wish to bring their contributions together into a single version of the document (*revision 4*). How can they manage this without a bunch of copy-and-paste in a fourth copy of the document? This is the situation where Git excels.

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How Do I Get Git? (Windows)



Git for Windows focuses on offering a lightweight, hathe set of tools that bring the full feature set of the GLSCA to Windows while providing appropriate user interfaces for experienced Git users and notices allo.

Git BASH

Bit for Windows provides a BASH emulation used to run Git from the command line. *NIX users should feel right at home, as the BASH emulation behaves just like the "git" command in LINUX and UNIX environmers.

Git GUI

Is: Windows users commonly expect graphical user interfaces, Git for Windows also provides the Git GUL a powerful alternative to Git BASH, offering a graphical version of just about every Git command line function, as well as comprehensive visual diff tools.

Shell Integration Simply right-click on a folder in Windows Explorer to access the BASH or GUI.

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Download from gitforwindows.org

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How Do I Get Git? (Mac)

Xcode

Xcode 15 SwiftLE SwiftData Resources



Xodo 15 enables you to develop, test, and distribute apps for all Apple platforms. Code and design you apposed faster with rehnanced code completion, interactive previews, and live animations. Use Cit staging to carit your rest commit without leaving your code. Explore and diagnose your test results with releasing dest reports with video recording. And start deploying seamlessity to TestFlight and the App Store from Xode Cloud. Creating amazing app has never been eaier.



Download for macOS

There are several options for installing Git on macOS. Note that any non-source distributions are provided by third parties, and may not be up to date with the latest source release.

Choose one of the following options for installing Git on macOS:

Homebrew Install homebrew if you don't already have it, then: [8 brew install git]

MacPorts Install MacPorts if you don't already have it, then: \$ sudo port install git

Xcode Apple ships a binary package of Git with Xcode.

Binary installer Tim Harper provides an installer for Git. The latest version is 2.33.0, which was released over 2 versa san 0, on 2021-08-30.

Building from Source If you prefer to build from source, you can find tarballs on kernel org. The latest version is 2,450.

Installing git-gui If you would like to install git-gui and gitk, git's commit GUI and interactive history browser, you can do so using homebrew 6 brew install git-gui

Install Mac's Xcode package from the App Store

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How Do I Get Git? (Linux)

Download for Linux and Unix

It is easiest to install Git on Linux using the preferred package manager of your Linux distribution. If you prefer to build from source, you can find tarballs on kernel org. The latest version is 2.45.0.

Debian/Ilbuntu For the latest stable version for your release of Debian/IDemity For Ilbuntu this PPA provides the latest stable unstream Git version Fedora # yum install git (up to Fedora 21) + dof install git (Fedora 22 and later) Centoo Arch Linux openSUSE Mageia Niv/NivOS FreeBSD Solaris 9/10/11 (OnenCSW) Solaris 11 Express OpenBSD Alpine Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Oracle Linux, CentOS, Scientific Linux, et al. BHEL and derivatives typically ship older versions of git. You can download a tarball and build from source, or use a 3rd-party repository such as the IUS Community Project to obtain a more

Slitaz

8 taxpkg get-install git

(base) sisekula@papa://home/sisekula/Documents/slides-trove\$ git status On branch master Your branch is up to date with 'origin/master'. Changes not staged for commit (use "git add <file>..." to undate what will be committed) (use "git restore <file>..." to discard changes in working directory) (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed) no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a") (base) sisekula@papa:/home/sisekula/Documents/slides-trove\$ ls 20190515-smu atlas weekly/ 20190515-smu at las weekly tex 20190515-smu at las weekly tex~ bib Images src • (base) sjsekula@papa:/home/sjsekula/Documents/slides-trove\$ git add 20190515-smu_atlas_weekly (base) sisekula@papa://home/sisekula/Documents/slides_trove\$ git status On branch master Your branch is up to date with 'origin/master'. Changes to be committed (use "git restore --staged <file>..." to unstage)

Install using your Linux distribution's package manager

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VSCode: Universal Open-Source Code Development Platform



Download and install from https://code.visualstudio.com/

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Finding Help on the Command Line

The git command can be followed by a second command to execute a task. This includes asking for help: git help. For example,

```
> git help
```

```
usage: git [--version] [--help] [-C <path>] [-c <name>=<value>]
    [--exec-path[=<path>]] [--html-path] [--man-path] [--info-path]
    [-p | --paginate | -P | --no-pager] [--no-replace-objects] [--bare]
    [--git-dir=<path>] [--work-tree=<path>] [--namespace=<name>]
    [--super-prefix=<path>] [--config-env=<name>=<envvar>]
    <command> [<args]</pre>
```

These are common Git commands used in various situations:

```
work on the current change (see also: git help everyday)
   add Add file contents to the index
   mv Move or rename a file, a directory, or a symlink
   restore Restore working tree files
   rm Remove files from the working tree and from the index
```

Getting a Repository for Practice

We want to begin by getting an existing project and *cloning* it our own computer. Let's exercise getting help on commands:

```
> git help clone
```

NAME

```
git-clone - Clone a repository into a new directory
```

SYNOPSIS

```
git clone [--template=<template_directory>]
    [-1] [-5] [--no-hardlinks] [-q] [-n] [--bare] [--mirror]
    [-o <name>] [-b <name>] [-u <upload-pack>] [--reference <repository>]
    [--dissociate] [--separate-git-dir <git dir>]
    [--depth <depth>] [--[no-]single-branch] [--no-tags]
    [--recurse-submodules] [--jobs <n>] [--sparse] [--[no-]reject-shallow]
    [--filter=<filter>] [--] <repository>
    [<directory>]
```

DESCRIPTION

Clones a repository into a newly created directory, creates remote-tracking branches for each branch in the cloned repository (visible using git branch --remotes), and creates and checks out an initial branch that is forked from the cloned repositorys currently active branch.

That's a lot of information. Let's boil it down to the bare minimum:

git clone <<PROJECT URL>>

Cloning a Specific Repository

git clone https://github.com/stephensekula/Git-Tutorial-EIEI00.git

Repository Structure: What Am I Looking At Here?

```
> cd Git-Tutorial-EIEIOO/
> ls -l
total 8
-rw-r--r-- 1 ssekula ssekula 1071 May 7 12:10 LICENSE
-rw-r--r-- 1 ssekula ssekula 95 May 7 12:10 README.md
```

When you checkout a project, by default you see (and are working on) what is known as *the main branch* of the project. In the main branch, we see two files: a LICENSE file and a README.md file. The latter is meant to serve as the "user instructions" for any project and is written in a simple text-based formatting language called *Markdown* (md), which web browsers can interpret and format as nice documents.

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Change A File

Let's begin by changing one of the files.

Open the README.md file in an editor (e.g. VSCode, TextEdit (Mac), Notepad (Windows), Emacs (**NIX), VI (**NIX), gedit (GNOME Desktop on Linux), etc.).

Add some text to the bottom of the file, e.g.

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Ubuntu > home	> ssekula > Documents > Git-Tutorial-EIEIOO > ① README.md > 🖭 # Git-Tutorial-EIEIOO
1 # Git-	Tutorial-EIEI00
2 A play	ground for participants in EIEIOO and other workshop environments.
3	
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Ubuntu > home > ssekula > Documents > Git-Tutorial-EIEIOO > (i) README.md > (iii) # Git-Tutorial-EIEIOO 1 # Git-Tutorial-EIEIOO 2 A playground for participants in EIEIOO and other workshop environments. 3 4 WOW! Look at this AMAZING text I added. I am such a wordsmith. 5

Cool. Cool. Cool. What does this have to do with Git?

Check the Project Status

Git is already tracking changes to files known to the project (e.g., LICENSE and README.md) the moment you save your changes to the file. You can see that Git is aware of changes using the git status command:

```
> git status
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.
Changes not staged for commit:
  (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
  (use "git restore <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)
      modified: README.md
```

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

Add A File

Our recent file editing has resulted in changes that Git recognizes. However, those changes are not automatically stored. We have to tell Git to *add files that have been changed* and then to *commit those changes to the project* so we can manage them (e.g., back them out if we don't like them).

To do this we use

git add <<FILENAME>>

For example,

git add README.md

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For example,

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BONUS: Run git status. What is different now that you have run git add?

Commit A Change

Even though you have added the changed files, the changes themselves are not recorded in the repository. To do this, you need to *commit your changes*. It is this step that forever emblazons what you did in the history of the project ... at least, *in your local copy of the project*.

Committing comes with two minimal actions: executing commit and recording a log file message explaining what you did. I like to do this in one line:

> git commit -m "I added to the README.md file explaining my excellent prose."
[main de69555] I added to the README.md file explaining my excellent prose.
1 file changed, 2 insertions(+)

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If you use the one-line approach, *try to keep your message to 50 characters or less*. If you need more space, run git commit without the -m option and use the editor window that opens to write (a) a short one-line (50 character) title and below that (b) a list of your changes.

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Each commit is assigned a unique identifier (e.g., *de695553ab207d2d644464e1cbe202d70c7d5a07* (long form) or *de69555* (short form)). This is how you can select which commits (from someone else) you want to apply to your copy of the project. (reflect on the Amit, Blaise, and Chris problem)

See Your Change

You can check the log associated with the project to see that your change has been recorded.

> git log commit de695553ab207d2d644464e1cbe202d70c7d5a07 (HEAD -> main) Author: Stephen Jacob Sekula <stephen.sekula@snolab.ca> Date: Thu May 9 14:04:11 2024 -0400

I added to the README.md file explaining my excellent prose.

commit 2790b4f75893c248862b52f6f2508baded11eeea (origin/main, origin/HEAD)
Author: Stephen Sekula <stephensekula@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Wed May 1 14:39:01 2024 -0400

Initial commit

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commit de695553ab207d2d644464e1cbe202d70c7d5a07 (HEAD -> main)
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```

Initial commit

What is the HEAD? This refers to the current branch's latest commit. We are in the main branch, and this commit represents its HEAD.

Push Your Change

But wait! It's true that your *local clone of this project knows about the new change*, but what about all your non-local (remote) collaborators? How do they pick up this change? You have to *push your commits to the original project*. In this case, my project was stored on the site Github, so we need to push this back there. This is known as pushing changes to the remote repository (the "remote"):

> git push Enumerating objects: 5, done. Counting objects: 100% (5/5), done. Delta compression using up to 8 threads Compressing objects: 100% (3/3), done. Writing objects: 100% (3/3), 454 bytes | 454.00 KiB/s, done. Total 3 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0 To github.com:stephensekula/Git-Tutorial-EIEIOO.git 2790b4f..de69555 main -> main

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Nota bene: unless you (a) have an account on the remote system and (b) are recognized as a developer with permission to push changes, you cannot push to a remote. Pulling is generally freely available (anyone can take); pushing is limited to the development team (few can give).

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By default, git push assumes you want to push changes to the remote listed at the top of the information provided by git remote -v. Try it and see what you learn.

Pull Others Changes

Let's say I go ahead and edit the READMD.md file one more time:

Git-Tutorial-EIEIOO
A playground for participants in EIEIOO and other workshop environments.
WOW! Look at this AMAZING text I added. I am such a wordsmith.

This third line is clearly superior. All other third lines are a lie.

I then add, commit, and push my changes. If someone else has pushed *their changes* in the meantime, this happens:

```
> git add README.md
> git commit -m "A clearly best third line ever in a README.md file!"
[main 2373be4] A clearly best third line ever in a README.md file!
    1 file changed, 2 insertions(+)
> git push
To github.com:stephensekula/Git-Tutorial-EIEIOO.git
    ! [rejected] main -> main (fetch first)
error: failed to push some refs to 'github.com:stephensekula/Git-Tutorial-EIEIOO.git'
hint: Updates were rejected because the remote contains work that you do
hint: not have locally. This is usually caused by another repository pushing
hint: to the same ref. You may want to first integrate the remote changes
hint: (e.g., 'git pull ...') before pushing again.
hint: See the 'Note about fast-forwards' in 'git push --help' for details.
```

Best practice: before you try to push your changes, pull from the remote repository (early and often when working on any branch) to keep up with changes. Then push your changes. This often avoids conflict.

S. Sekula (SNOLAB and Queen's University)

EIEIOO 2024 — GIT TUTORIAL

The Git Four-Step

The habit you want to build as you develop a project is to execute periodically the "Git Four-Step":

- ▶ git pull
- ▶ git add «FILES»
- ▶ git commit «MESSAGE»
- ▶ git push

Resolve Conflicts I

In the previous example, we will encounter our first conflict in the development team. Two of us have added a third line to the README.md file. If I run a pull command:

> git pull Auto-merging README.md CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in README.md Automatic merge failed; fix conflicts and then commit the result.

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CONFLICT! What has happened as a result of being in this state?

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CONFLICT! What has happened as a result of being in this state?

The file with the conflict (README.md) has been modified to contain all the options. You now have to edit the file and resolve those conflicts, either manually (deleting some things, keeping others) or using a tool built into your editor (VSCode provides this ability through plugins).

Resolve Conflicts II



I use VSCode's interface as an example. We see highlighted above (left) the two conflicting line choices. VSCode allows you to choose your change (current change), the original one from the remote version of the main branch (incoming change), or to accept both. I accepted both, and the resulting file is shown right. Now you can git add, git commit, and then git push.

Outline

What is Git?

Git'ting Git

Git'ting Started

Git'ting Going

Git'ting More Advanced

Next Steps

Visualizing a Project with Branches

What is a *branch*? It's just a term for how the project contents can be developed in multiple, parallel (and sometimes divergent) ways. There are tools to visualize a project and all of its branches, like *Git Graph* for VSCode:

Graph	Description	Date	Author	Commit
የ	• 🈰 main origin 😢 origin/HEAD OK. This one is jus	9 May 2024 19:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	2652a97c
•	Add some space and a weird request	9 May 2024 19:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	f1b13c22
•	This is a great sentence to have in the README	9 May 2024 19:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	fb25e227
•	😢 origin/develop/better-readme Add another random se	9 May 2024 19:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	0a00a85d
و	Add a random sentence to the file	9 May 2024 19:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	f5857587
	Merging two great third lines into one file	9 May 2024 18:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	c98e1354
	A clearly best third line ever in a README.md file!	9 May 2024 14:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	2373be4c
و	Added best third line ever!	9 May 2024 14:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	c4d0b622
f	I added to the README.md file explaining my excellent pr	9 May 2024 14:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	de695553
•	Initial commit	1 May 2024 14:	Stephen Sekula	2790b4f7

Creating A Branch

You can list branches in a project:

```
> git branch -l
* main
```

This is boring! Let's create a second branch beside the main one to keep developing our awesome README.md file:

> git checkout -b develop/better-readme Switched to a new branch 'develop/better-readme'

Normally, the checkout command is how you select other branches to work on. Executed this way, the command (a) creates the branch with your chosen name and (b) then checks it out for you to develop. You are now developing on this branch, and any changes you make here do not affect the main branch.

Merging Changes Into Your Branch

While you are working on your great branch, somebody else might be making changes to the main branch. In many cases, you may wish to pull those changes into your branch. You can *merge* in these changes as follows:

> git checkout main > git pull > git checkout develop/betterreadme > git merge main

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>	git	checko	out	main
>	git	pull		
>	git	checko	out	develop/better
	r	eadme		
>	git	merge	mai	.n

We see the graph change from what it was before, as the development branch (blue) now contains the separate changes made to the main branch (pink) and the two come back together again, even though they remain independent paths in the project. They are "harmonized".

Graph	Description	Date	Author	Commit
	• P develop/better-readme origin Merged in the ma	10 May 2024 08	Stephen Jacob Sekula	ccd50d03
	Merge branch 'main' into develop/better-readme	10 May 2024 08	Stephen Jacob Sekula	7afd8470
	🦻 main origin 🦻 origin/HEAD OK. This one is just str	9 May 2024 19:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	2652a97c
	Add some space and a weird request	9 May 2024 19:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	f1b13c22
	This is a great sentence to have in the README	9 May 2024 19:	Stephen Jacob Sekula	fb25e227
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Cherry-Picking Merges Into Your Branch

You may not want to merge in every commit in the main branch. If you just want one of them, you can *cherry pick* that specific commit. You need only know the long or short code for that commit.

> git cherry-pick 3c5b250 Auto-merging README.md [develop/better-readme 1f42be3] How can space have a colour? Date: Fri May 10 08:22:08 2024 -0400 1 file changed, 1 insertion(+), 2 deletions(-)

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Auto-merging README.md
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In the example at the right, I cherry-picked one of three commits from the main branch and brought it into the development branch:

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V develop/better-readme How can space have a c 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 114 V main This sentence is like a fever dreamt 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 625 How can space have a colour? 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 625 Added a col wierd sentence 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 865 origin/develop/better-readme Merged in the main br 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 865 origin/develop/better-readme Merged in the main br 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 865 origin/develop/better-readme Merged in the main br 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 865 origin/develop/better-readme Nerged in the main br 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 865 def some some and a weith of main 0 K. This one is just str 9 May 2024 19 Stephen Jacob Sekula 746 Add some some and a weith remuit 9 May 2024 19 Stephen Jacob Sekula 114	ommit
Imain This sentence is like a fever dream! 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 629 How can space have a colour? 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 325 Added ar acoo weird sentence 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 325 Merge branch 'main' into develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 7af origin/develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 325 Added ar acoo Sekula 325 develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 325 develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 325 develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 325 develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 325 develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 325	2be3b
How can space have a colour? 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 3c5 Added a cool verid sentence 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 3c5 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 2c6 Merge branch 'main' into develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 2c6 digitary di origin/HEAD 10' origin/main OK. This one is just str. 9 May 2024 19 Stephen Jacob Sekula 265 Add some sonce and a weird required memory 9 May 2024 19 Stephen Jacob Sekula 265	52a42
Added a cool weird sentence 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 899 dig origin/develop/better-readme Merged in the main br 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula cod Merge branch 'main' into develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 7af origin/HEAD, IV origin/main OK. This one is just str 9 May 2024 19 Stephen Jacob Sekula 7af distance sonce and a weird request 9 May 2024 19 Stephen Jacob Sekula 11	b250e
origin/develop/better-readme Merged in the main br 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula ccd Merge branch 'main' into develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 'Zaf origin/HEAD	164f4
Merge branch 'main' into develop/better-readme 10 May 2024 08 Stephen Jacob Sekula 7afi origin/HEAD [2] origin/HEAD [3] origin/main) OK. This one is just str	50d03
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I added to the README.md file explaining my excellent p 9 May 2024 14: Stephen Jacob Sekula dee	95553
Initial commit 1 May 2024 14: Stephen Sekula 279	0b4f7

Merging Your Branch Into the Main Branch

This is basically the same as merging changes from main into your development branch ... just in reverse!

- > git checkout main
- > git merge develop/better-readme

Tagging An Important Milestone

A *tag* is a string or number associated with a snapshot of the code at a particular state. It could be associated with a moment in time along the development of a branch,

You can tag your branch (or main) at a given state by executing

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For example

git tag v0.0.1

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- We have seen ways to get Git installed on your system.
- We have learned about some of the basic commands (clone, add, commit, pull, push, status) that are routinely used together to manage changes to a project.
- ▶ We have seen some steps toward advanced usage (branch, merge, cherry-pick).
- Your homework: the best learning occurs when you have a goal and a purpose for a tool. How would you use Git to manage a project or process that is important to you?

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References

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