TECH · VERSION CONTROL AGES 13–18

Git Commands Cheat Sheet

The everyday commands for saving, branching and sharing code, checked against the official Git documentation.

Start a project

`git init`	**Create a repository** Turns the current folder into a new, empty Git repository.
`git clone <url>`	**Copy a repository** Downloads a repository and its full history into a new folder.
`git config --global user.name "Your Name"`	**Set your name** Records who made each commit. Set user.email the same way.

Save your changes

`git status`	**Check status** Shows your branch and which files are changed, staged or untracked.
`git add <file>`	**Stage a file** Adds the file's current content to the next commit.
`git commit -m "Message"`	**Commit** Saves everything staged as a snapshot with a short message.
`git diff`	**See unstaged edits** Shows changes you have made but not yet staged.

Work on branches

`git branch`	**List branches** Lists local branches and marks the current one with *.
`git switch -c <branch>`	**Create and switch** Makes a new branch and moves onto it in one step.
`git switch <branch>`	**Switch branch** Moves you onto an existing branch.
`git merge <branch>`	**Merge a branch** Brings another branch's changes into your current branch.

Share with a remote

`git fetch`	**Fetch** Downloads new commits from the remote without changing your files.
`git pull`	**Pull** Fetches, then updates your current branch with the remote's changes.
`git push -u origin main`	**Push** Uploads your main branch to origin and links the two, so later a plain git push works.

Look back and undo

`git log --oneline`	**Short history** Lists commits one per line with a short ID and message.
`git restore -S <file>`	**Unstage a file** Takes the file out of the next commit. Your edits stay in the file.
`git restore <file>`	**Discard edits** Resets a file to its last staged or committed state. This cannot be undone.

Make git status a habit

Run git status before you add, commit or switch branches. It tells you exactly what Git is about to do, and often suggests the next command.

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