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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