Introduction to GIT Version Control

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Outline

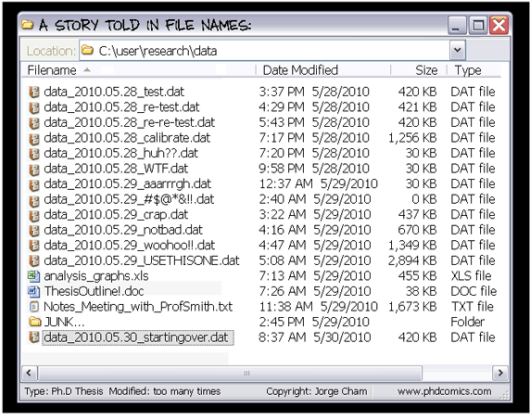
- Why use version control?
- About GIT version control
- GIT commands
  - Hands-on
- Web-based GIT Repos
- GitHub
  - Hands-on

Section 1

Version Control

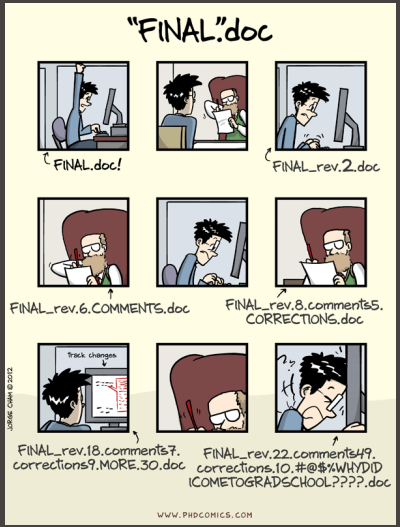
What is version control?

- Version control is a tool (i.e. a program) for managing changes in a set of files
- It allows you to keep a history of file versions and make them easy to track
- Essentially it takes a "snapshot" of the files in a given moment in time
- Can you think of any examples where you may have used/experience something similar. . . ?



Why use version control?

- Makes collaboration easier
- Helps you stay organised
- Allows you to keep track of changes without keeping duplicated copies of the same file
- Allows reproducibility
- When something goes wrong, you can back up to the last "working" copy
- It can be used for writing code, writing papers, it is especially powerful for text-based documents
- It is considered a **must** in professional software development

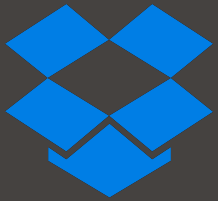


Examples

You may be familiar with the main features of Version Control already:

- Google Docs/Sheets/Slides
- Overleaf
- Dropbox
- Microsoft Word

These are **not** really Version Control though!



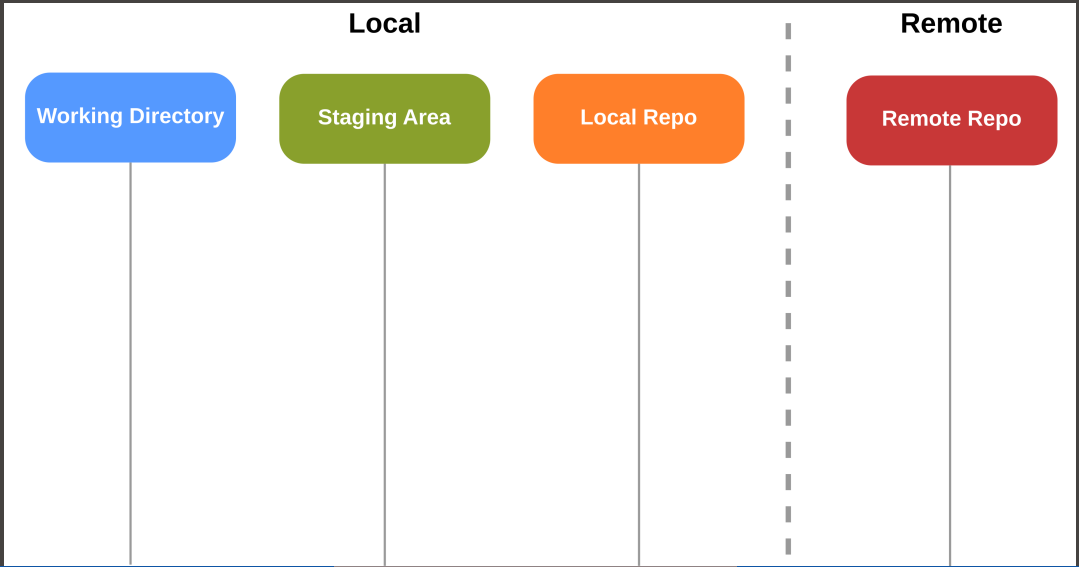
Section 2

GIT

GIT

- Created by *Linus Towalds* in 2005
- What does **GIT** stand for? (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Git#naming)
- There are many types and approaches to version control
- GIT is just one implementation, but it has taken over as the most popular and is used all over the world
- Other implementations include: CVS, SVN, Mercurial, etc...
- Some IDEs incorporate VC systems in their GUIs (e.g. Rstudio, Visual Studio, etc...)
- And of course, as we will discuss later, there are web-based repositories that allow you to use VC/GIT from within a browser

How does GIT work?



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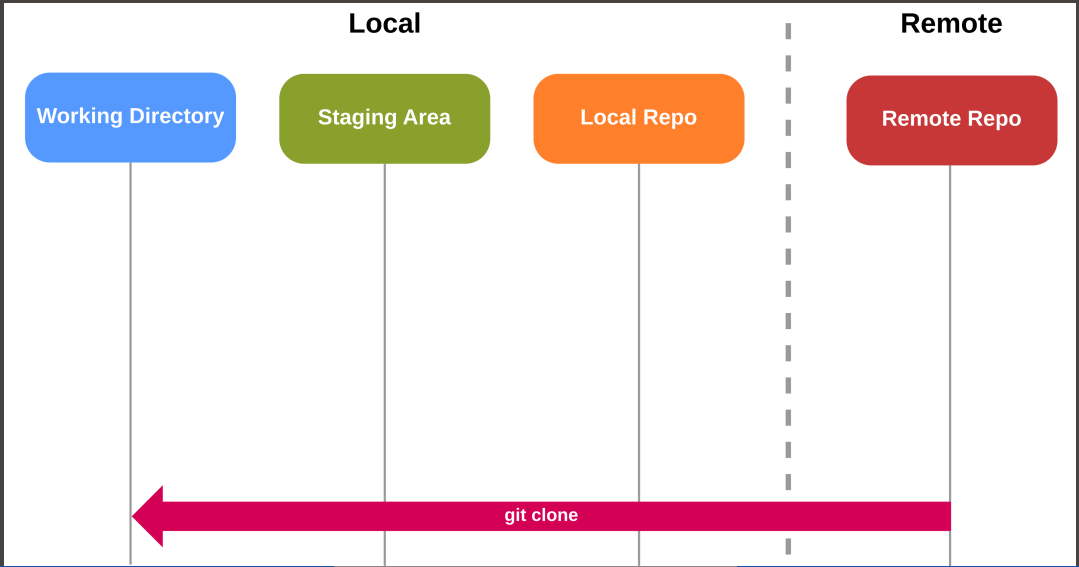

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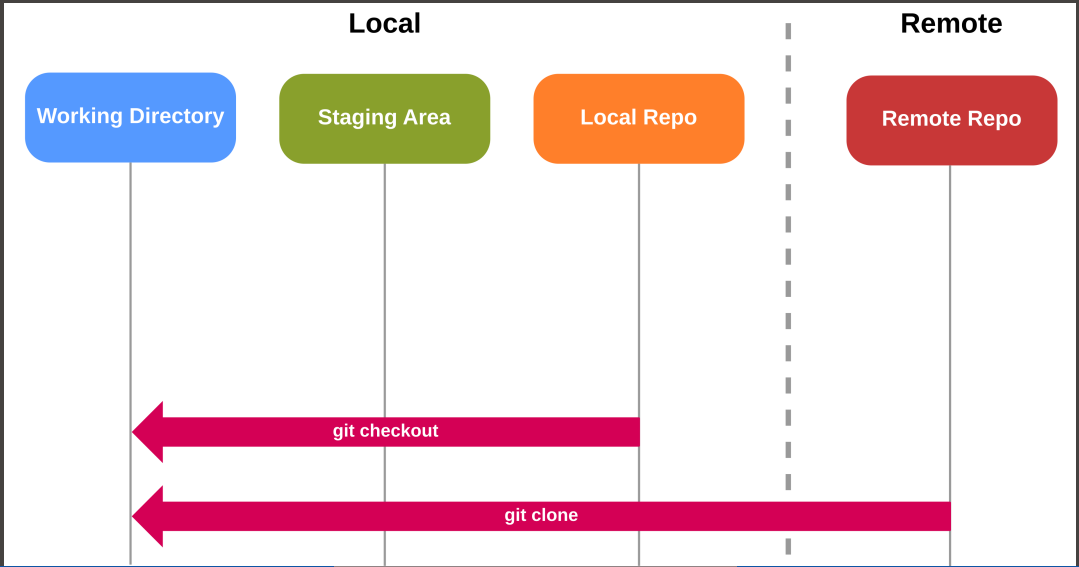

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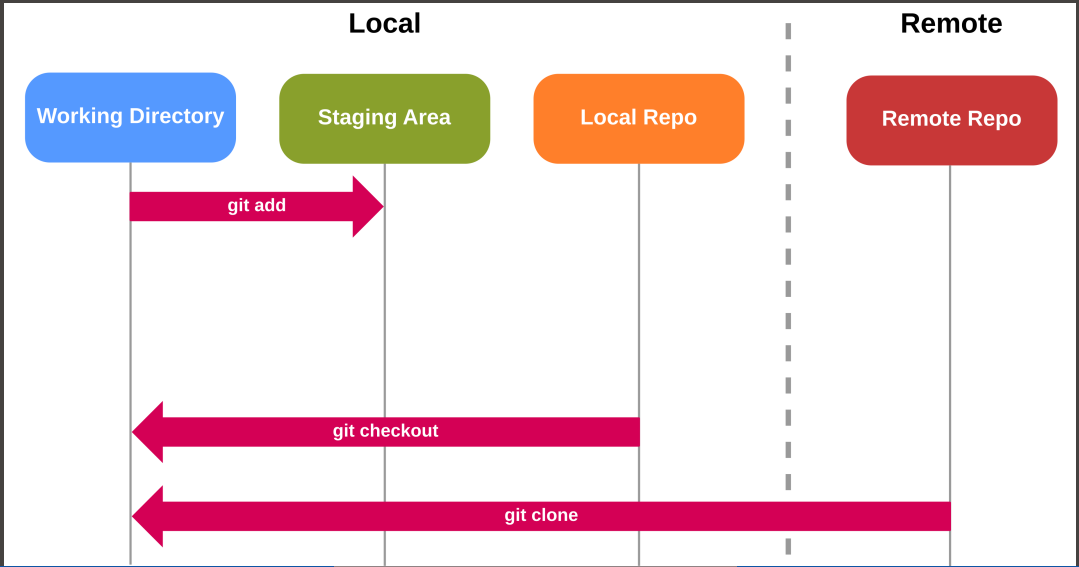

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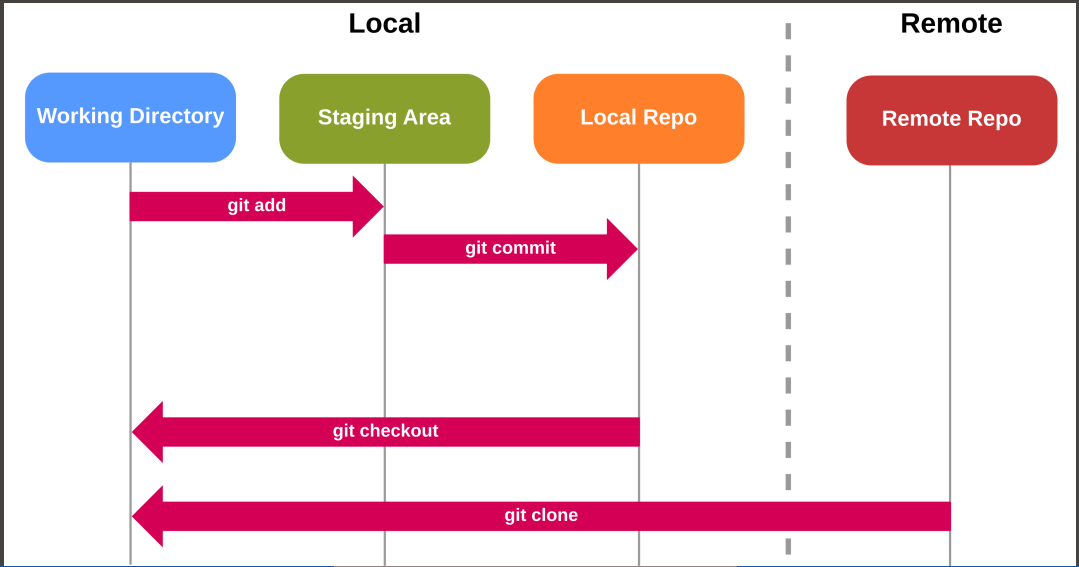

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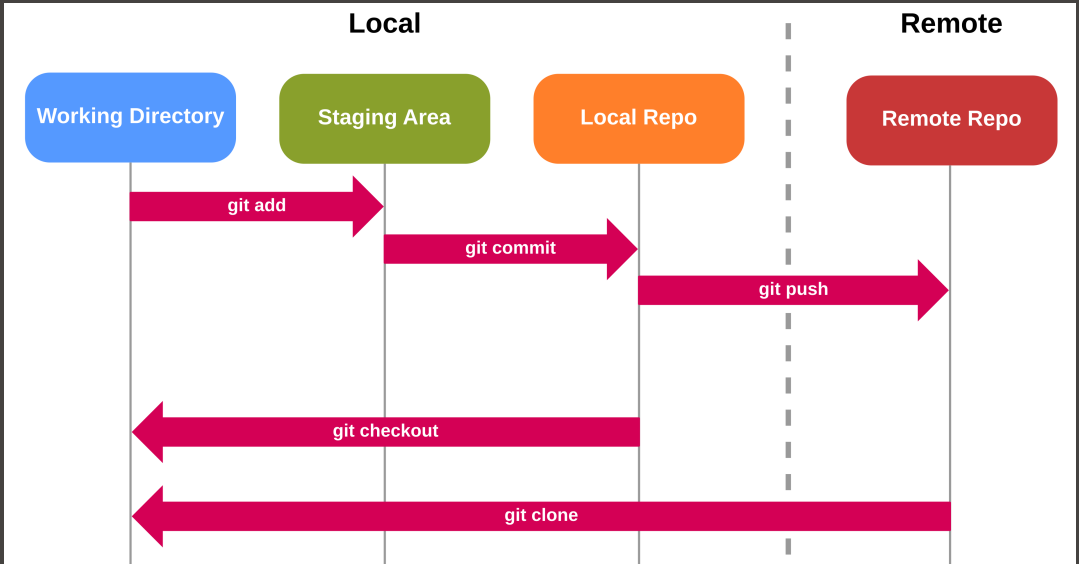

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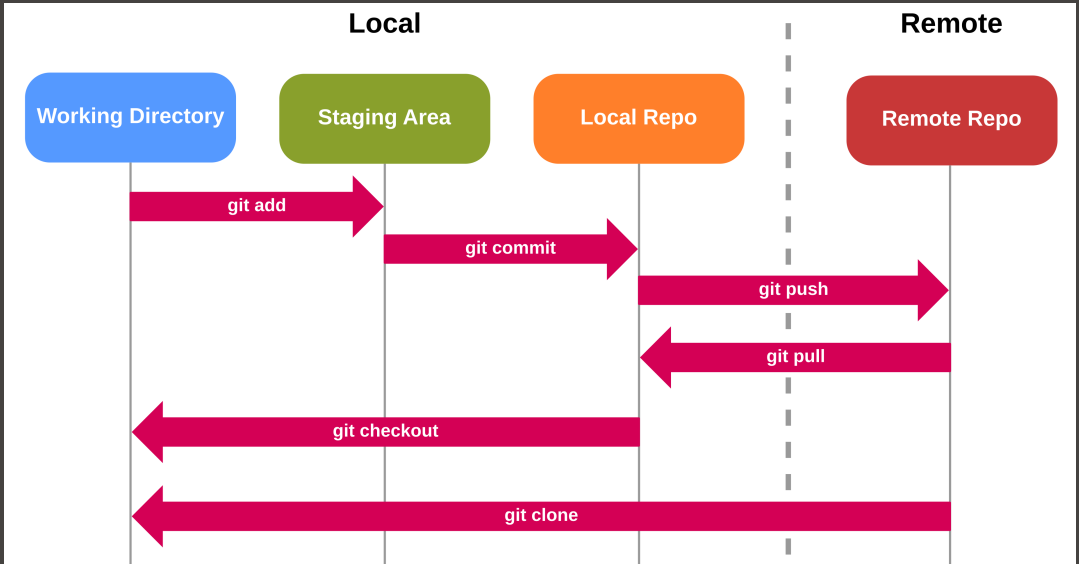

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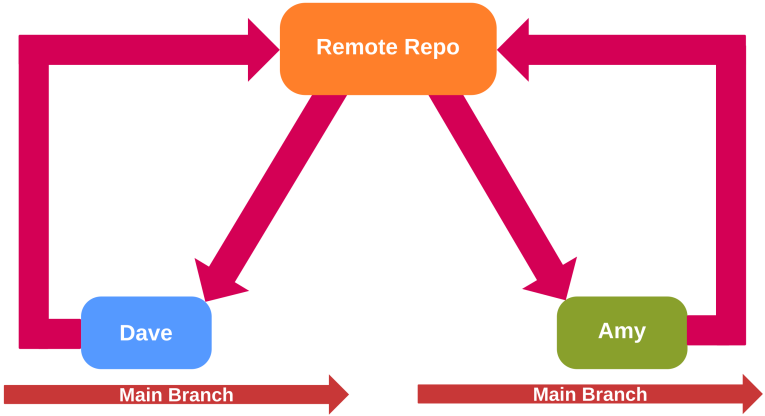

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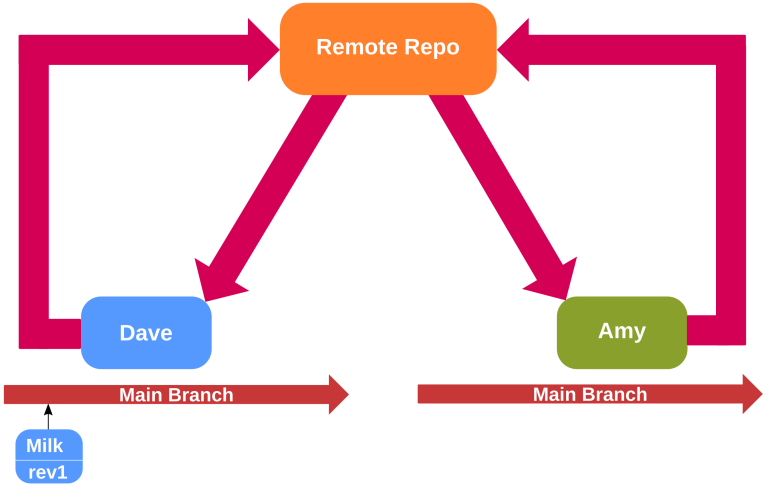

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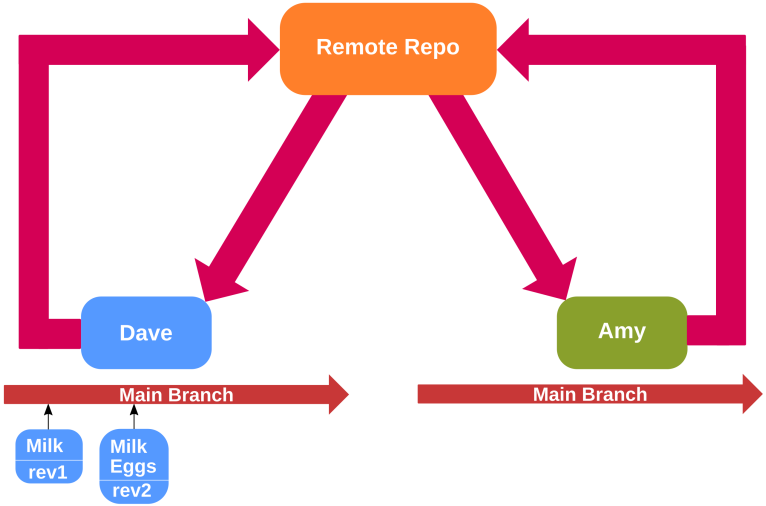
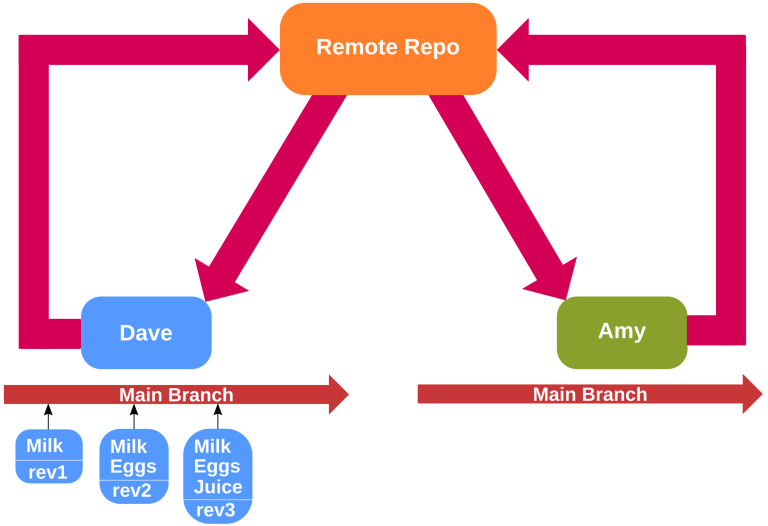

Remote Repo
Dave
Amy
Main Branch
Main Branch
Milk
rev1
Milk
Eggs
rev2

Example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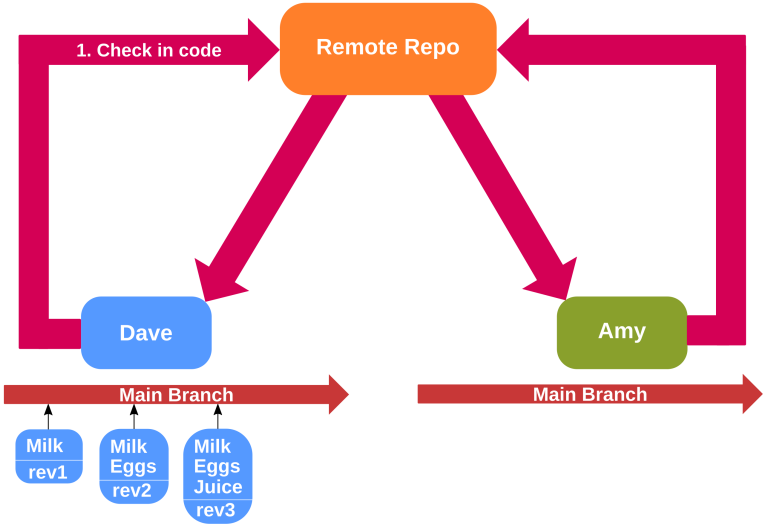
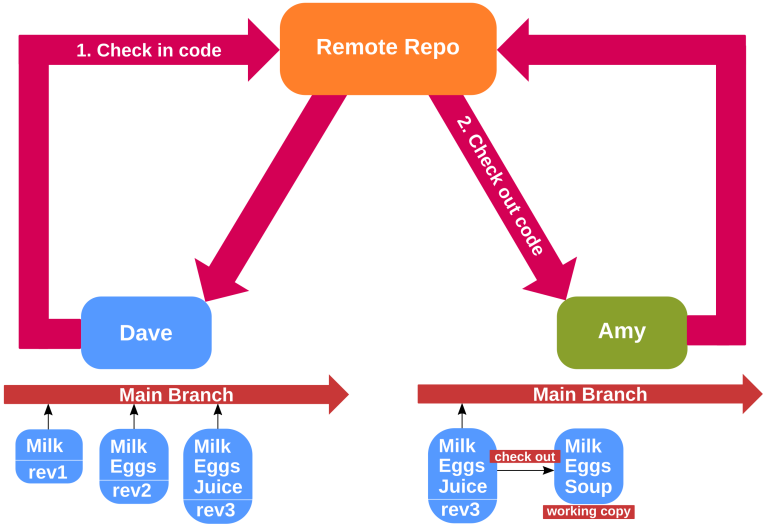
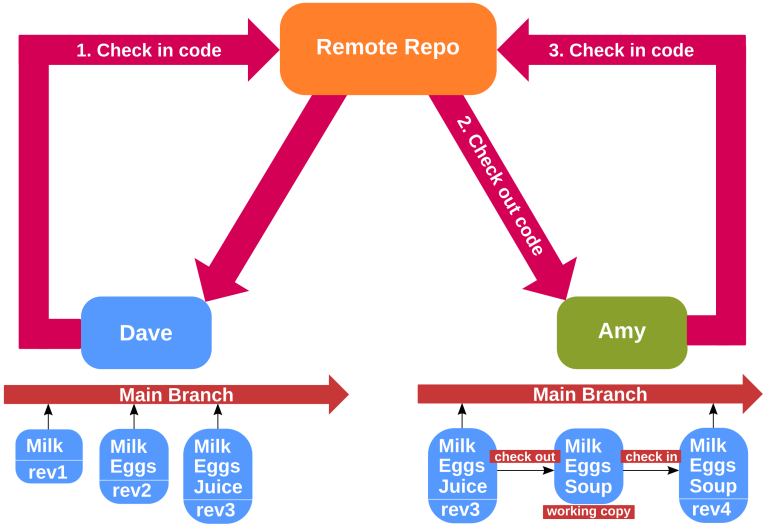

1. Check in code
Remote Repo
Dave
Amy
Main Branch
Main Branch
Milk
rev1
Milk
Eggs
rev2
Milk
Eggs
Juice
rev3

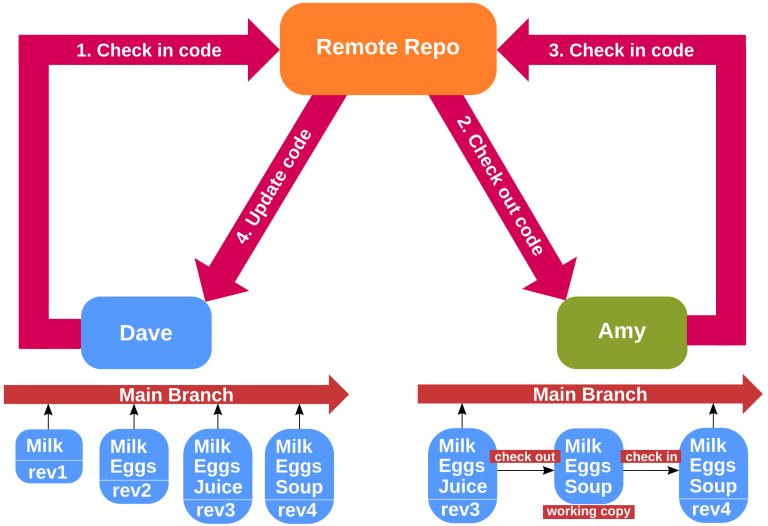
Example


1. Check in code
Remote Repo
2. Check out code
Dave
Amy
Main Branch
Main Branch
Milk
rev1
Milk
Eggs
rev2
Milk
Eggs
Juice
rev3
Milk
Eggs
Juice
rev3
check out
Milk
Eggs
Soup
working copy

Example


1. Check in code
Remote Repo
3. Check in code
2. Check out code
Dave
Amy
Main Branch
Main Branch
Milk
rev1
Milk
Eggs
rev2
Milk
Eggs
Juice
rev3
Milk
Eggs
Juice
rev3
check out
Milk
Eggs
Soup
working copy
check in
Milk
Eggs
Soup
rev4

Example


1. Check in code
Remote Repo
3. Check in code
4. Update code
2. Check out code
Dave
Amy
Main Branch
Milk
rev1
Milk
Eggs
rev2
Milk
Eggs
Juice
rev3
Milk
Eggs
Soup
rev4
Main Branch
Milk
Eggs
Juice
rev3
check out
Milk
Eggs
Soup
working copy
check in
Milk
Eggs
Soup
rev4

GIT: Terminology

- *Repository*: "A collection of refs together with an object database containing all objects which are reachable from the refs."
- *Commit*: "A single point in the Git history."
- *Checkout*: "The action of updating all or part of the working tree with a tree object or blob from the object database."
- *Branch*: "A branch is used to develop a feature that is merged into the *master* branch upon completion."
- *Conflict*: "When two branches are merged and one branch overwrites changes from the other. All *conflicts* need to be resolved before completing the merge".

GIT: Using a repository

- Step 0: Setup GIT on your computer
- Step 1: Initialise a GIT repo
- Step 2: Commit files to the repo
- Step 3: Edit/Modify/Add new or existing files
- Step 4: Commit changes
- Step 5: Push changes to remote repo
- Step 6: Repeat from Step 2

GIT: Installation

- Install GIT on Linux:

```
sudo apt install git-all
```

- Install GIT on MacOS:

```
git --version
```

(It should prompt you to install if it doesn't already exist)

- Install GIT on Windows by downloading packages from here: https://git-scm.com/download/win
- More information can be found here: https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Getting-Started-Installing-Git

Section 3

GIT commands

GIT: Creating a repository

- Find a location for your repo and initialise it:

```
laptop:~$ mkdir my-repo
laptop:~$ cd my-repo
laptop:~/my-repo$ git init
Initialized empty Git repository in /home/willis/my-repo/.git/
```

- This creates a `.git` repo in the `my-repo` directory, which contains the repo information:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ ls -a
.  ..  .git
```

Note: The `-a` option for `ls` shows **all** files, which includes *hidden* files that start with `.`

GIT: Setting your ID

- The first time you try to use `git` to `commit` something, it might complain that cannot identify you:

```
*** Please tell me who you are.
Run
git config --global user.email "youremail@example.com"
git config --global user.name "FirstName LastName"
To set your account's default identity.
Omit --global to set the identity only in this repository.
fatal: empty indent name (for <(null)>) not allowed
```

- You can also check in advance using:

```
laptop:~$ git config user.name
laptop:~$ git config user.email
```

GIT: Adding files to the repo

Adding files to a repository, requires two steps:

- Step 1: Add files to the *staging* area:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ echo "some data" > datafile.dat
laptop:~/my-repo$ cp datafile.dat replicated_data.dat
laptop:~/my-repo$ ls
datafile.dat  replicated_data.dat
laptop:~/my-repo$ git add datafile.dat replicated_data.dat
```

- Step 2: Commit files to the repo:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git commit datafile.dat replicated_data.dat -m "Adding data from
experiment X."
[master (root-commit) d67dfb5] Adding data from experiment X.
2 files changed, 2 insertions(+)
create mode 100644 datafile.dat
create mode 100644 replicated_data.dat
```

GIT: Comparing file versions

- Suppose we have to update some data and we would like to compare it with the files already in the repo:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ echo "updated data" >> datafile.dat
laptop:~/my-repo$ git diff datafile.dat
diff --git a/datafile.dat b/datafile.dat
index 4268632..db1d6b5 100644
--- a/datafile.dat
+++ b/datafile.dat
@@ -1 +1,2 @@
 some data
+updated data
laptop:~/my-repo$ git commit datafile.dat -m "Updating data from new experiments."
```

GIT: Logs & recovering file versions

- Look at the history of the repo:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git log
commit 5afbe1a660ba831026542e2df9474213eb42237f (HEAD -> master)
Author: willis <james.willis@scinet.utoronto.ca>
Date:   Wed Mar 2 14:22:09 2022 -0500

    Updating data from new experiments.

commit d67dfb567d6d9d92a3a4e0aac1924ab10dda3a61
Author: willis <james.willis@scinet.utoronto.ca>
Date:   Wed Mar 2 12:56:50 2022 -0500

    Adding data from experiment X.
```

- Recover a specific version:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git checkout d67dfb56
```

GIT: Removing files from repo

- Delete file:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git rm replicated_data.dat
laptop:~/my-repo$ git commit -m "Removed replicated data."
[master 8ee5a01] Removed replicated data.
1 file changed, 1 deletion(-)
delete mode 100644 replicated_data.dat
```

- Note: when you delete a file from the repo like this, it is also deleted from your computer. To remove it from the repo only use the `--cached` option:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git rm --cached replicated_data.dat
```

GIT: Reverting changes: `reset`, `checkout` & `revert`

Command	Scope	Common use cases
`git reset`	Commit-level	Discard commits in a private branch or uncommited changes
`git reset`	File-level	Unstage a file
`git checkout`	Commit-level	Switch between branches or inspect old snapshots
`git checkout`	File-level	Discard changes in the working directory
`git revert`	Commit-level	Undo commits in a public branch
`git revert`	File-level	N/A

GIT: Check status of files

- Check the status of files in the local repo:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git status
On branch master
Changes to be committed:
  (use "git restore --staged <file>..." to unstage)
  new file:   new_file.txt

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:   replicated_data.dat

Untracked files:
  (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
  output.log
```

GIT: Full list of commands

- Get a comprehensive list of `git` commands with `git --help`:

```
These are common Git commands used in various situations:
start a working area (see also: git help tutorial)
   clone             Clone a repository into a new directory
   init              Create an empty Git repository or reinitialize an existing one
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
   sparse-checkout   Initialize and modify the sparse-checkout
examine the history and state (see also: git help revisions)
   bisect            Use binary search to find the commit that introduced a bug
   diff              Show changes between commits, commit and working tree, etc
   grep              Print lines matching a pattern
   log               Show commit logs
   ...
```

GIT: Aliases

- `git` commands can be quite long to type repeatedly. They can be shortened with aliases
- For example, to shorten `git checkout` to `git co` run:

```
laptop:~$ git config --global alias.co checkout
```

- Useful aliases:

```
laptop:~$ git config --global alias.br branch
laptop:~$ git config --global alias.ci commit
laptop:~$ git config --global alias.st status
laptop:~$ git config --global alias.d difftool
```

Note: all `git` configuration options can be found in your HOME directory in `~/.gitconfig`

Final comments

- It may feel like more work in the short term, but USE IT! It will save you from future headaches
- Commit often!
- Include sensible commit messages
- Do not commit derivative files e.g. log files, executables, compiled modules
- It is useful for different kinds of projects: code development, collaborations, papers etc.
- There are different version control systems: GIT, HG, SVN, CVS

Hands-on

- Install GIT on your local machine
  - `sudo apt install git-all` (Linux)
  - `git --version` (MacOS - It should prompt you to install if it doesn't already exist)
- If that fails, GIT is also installed on Niagara
- Create a local repository
- Add some files
- Experiment with different GIT commands (`git --help` for full list)

Section 4

Web-based GIT Repos

Web-based GIT implementations

- GitHub: https://github.com
- BitBucket: https://bitbucket.org
- GitLab: https://gitlab.com

Section 5

GitHub

Overview

- What is GitHub and why use it?
- Integrating a local repository with GitHub

Activities

- Create a repository in GitHub
- *Push* a repository from your computer to GitHub
- *Pull* a repository from GitHub to your computer
- Create and accept a *pull request*

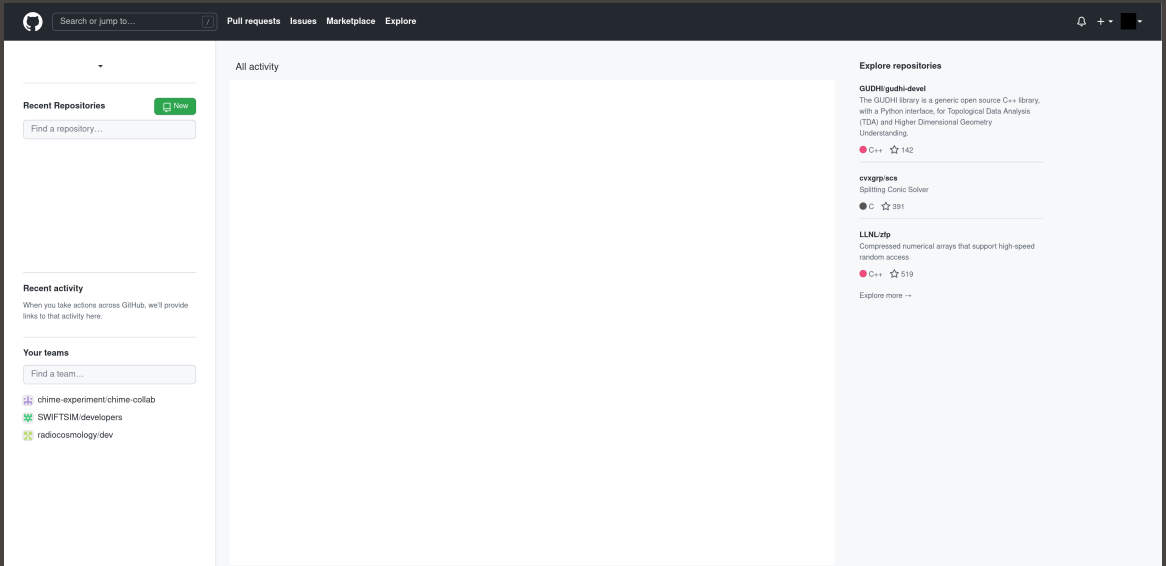
GitHub: Open collaboration

- Git and GitHub *are not the same thing*
- Hosted at github.com
  - Accounts are free
  - Ability to create private repositories
- Heavily used
- Collaborate
- Find code to adapt for you own projects
- Contribute to other code bases

Terminology

- You have a **local** repository on your computer
- GitHub hosts **remote** repositories
- You can **push** from your local repository to a remote repository
- You can **pull** from a remote repository to a local repository
- You can make a **pull request**, in which you ask someone to **pull** your repository into theirs

GitHub: How to create a repo



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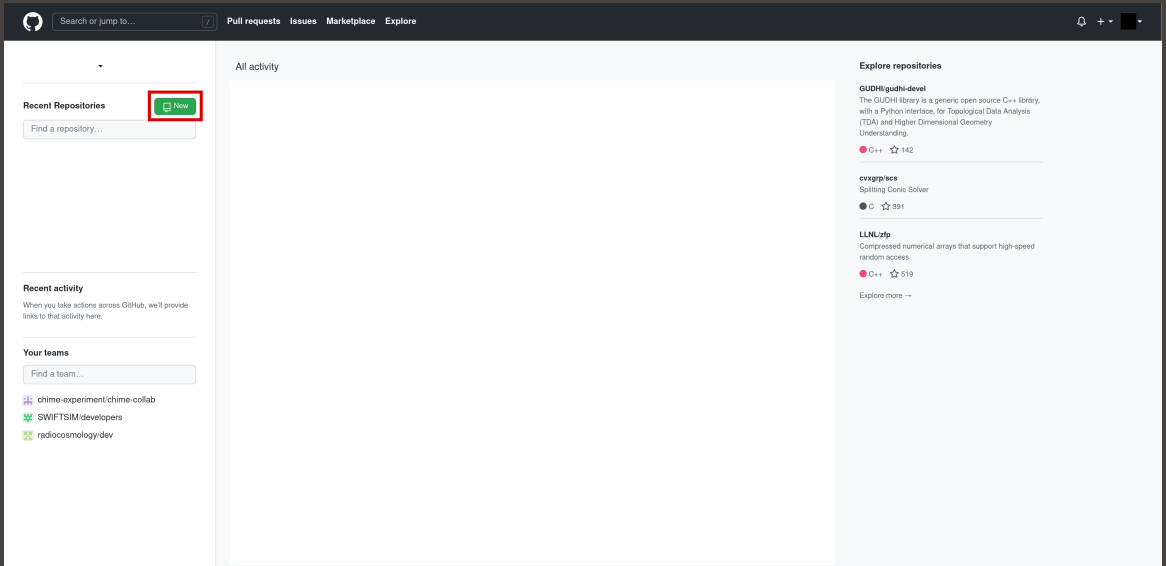

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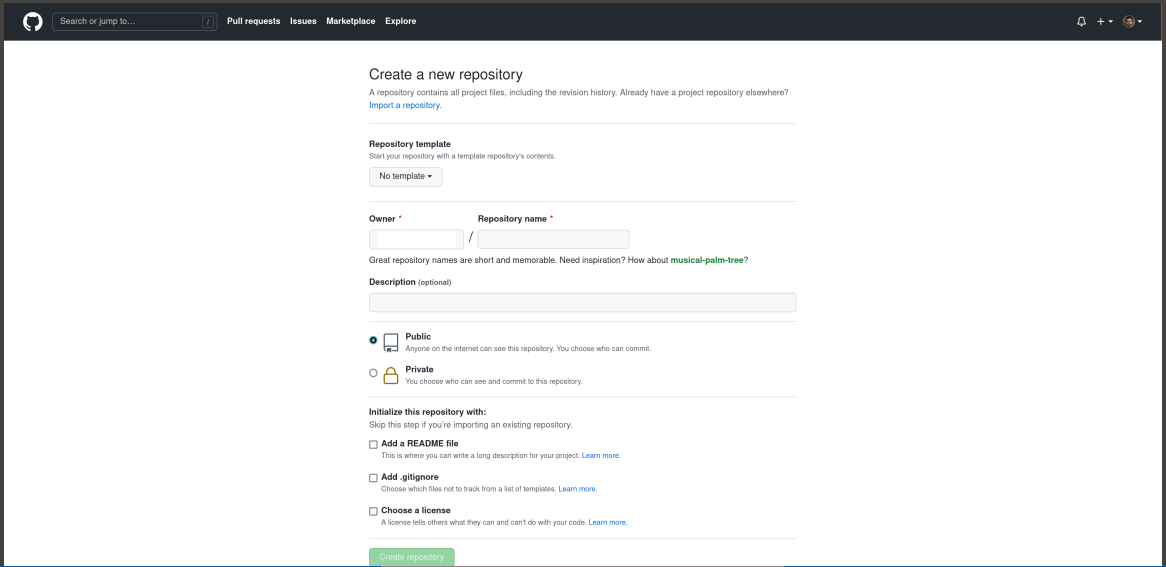

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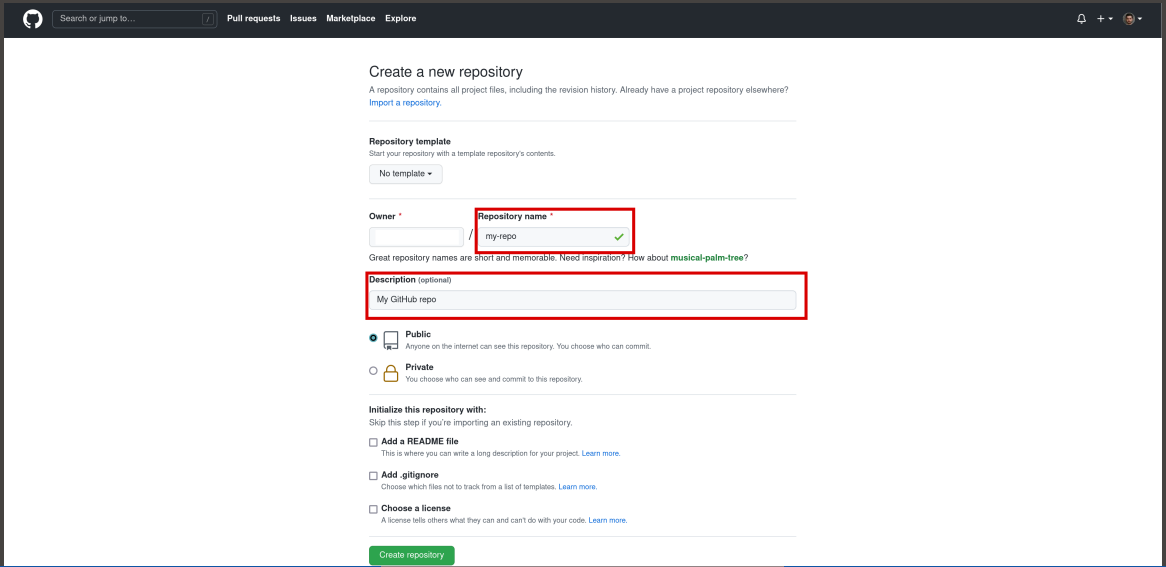

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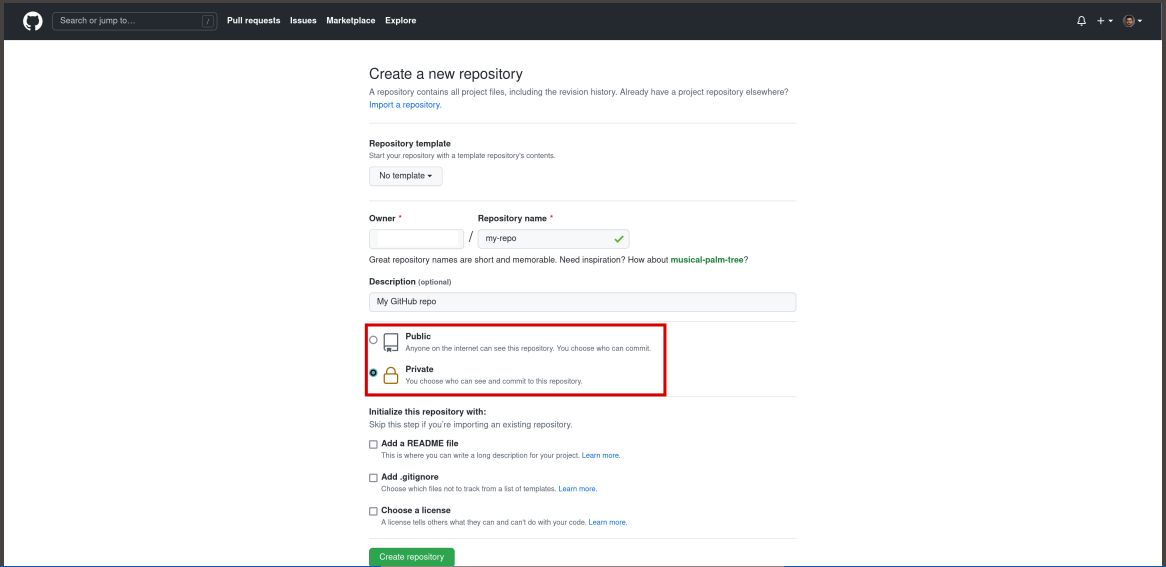

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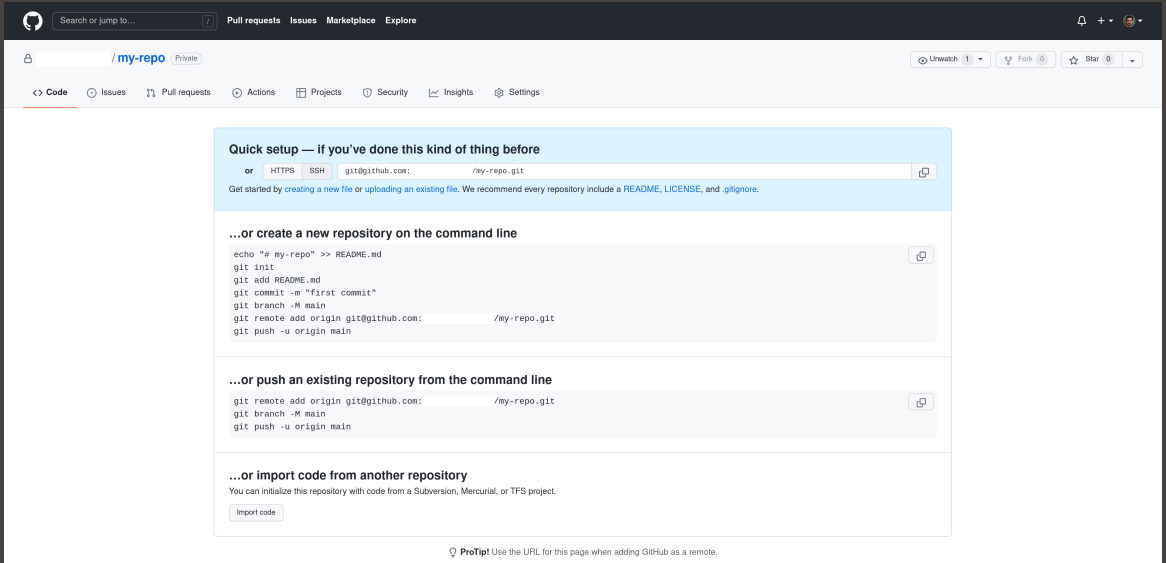


Push a local repo to GitHub

- Let the local repo know where to find the remote GitHub repo:

```
laptop:~$ cd my-repo/
laptop:~/my-repo$ git remote add origin git@github.com:username/my-repo.git
```

Push a local repo to GitHub

- Let the local repo know where to find the remote GitHub repo:

```
laptop:~$ cd my-repo/
laptop:~/my-repo$ git remote add origin git@github.com:username/my-repo.git
```

- Create the main branch and call it `main`:

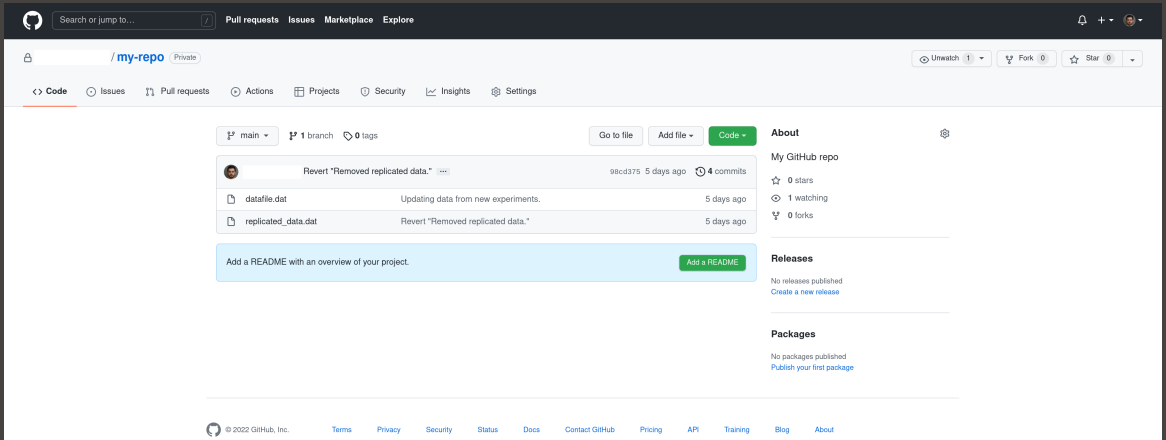
```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git branch -M main
```

Push a local repo to GitHub

- Push your local branch to the remote (`origin`) GitHub repo:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git push -u origin main
Enumerating objects: 9, done.
Counting objects: 100% (9/9), done.
Delta compression using up to 16 threads
Compressing objects: 100% (6/6), done.
Writing objects: 100% (9/9), 903 bytes | 903.00 KiB/s, done.
Total 9 (delta 1), reused 0 (delta 0)
remote: Resolving deltas: 100% (1/1), done.
To github.com:username/my-repo.git
 * [new branch]      main -> main
Branch 'main' set up to track remote branch 'main' from 'origin'.
```

View repo on GitHub



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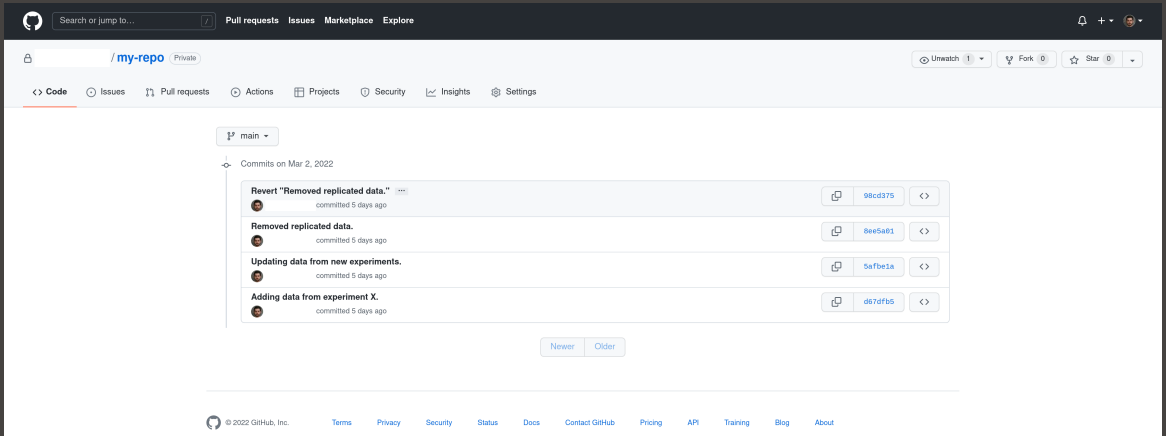

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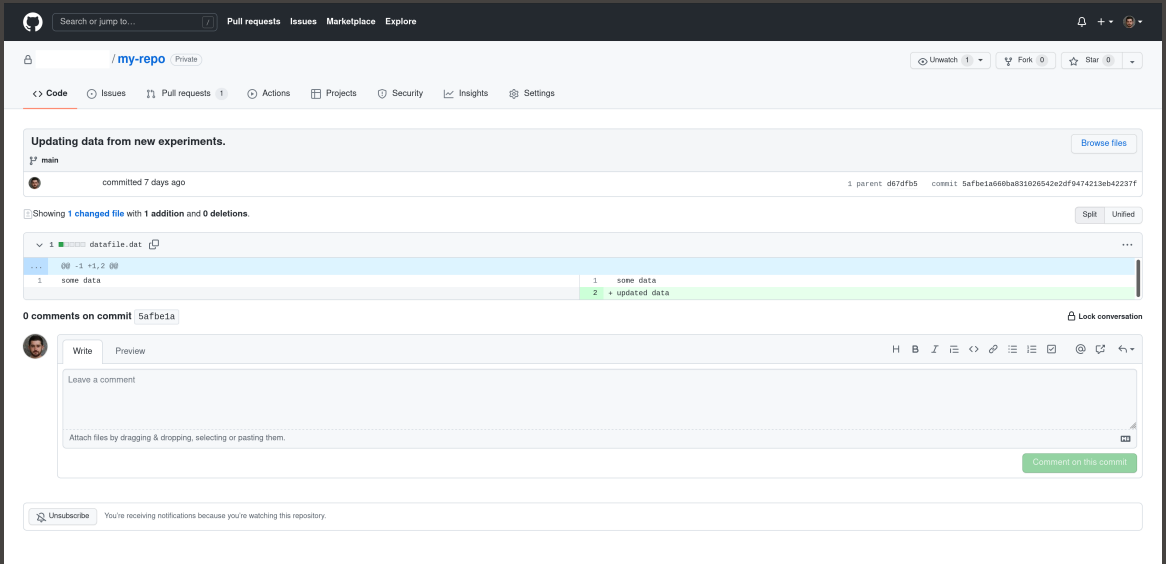
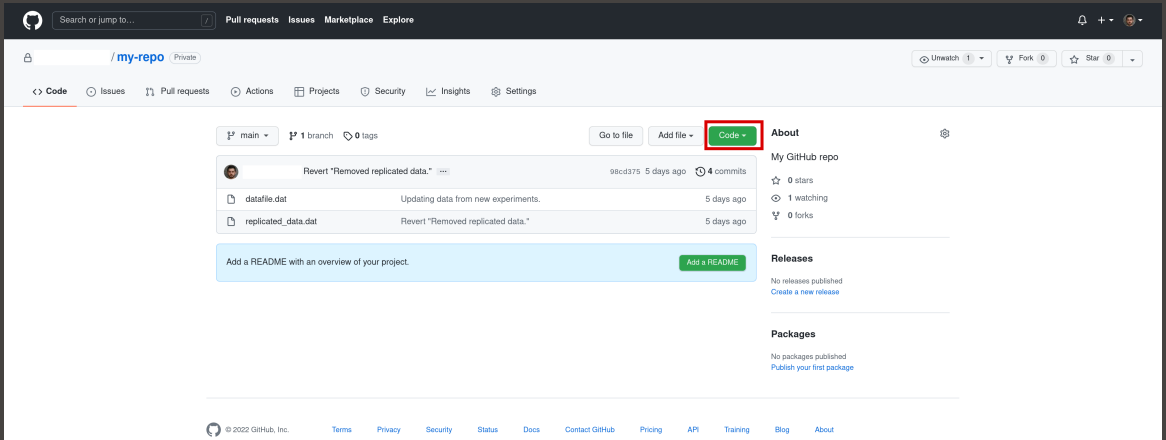


Pull repo from GitHub



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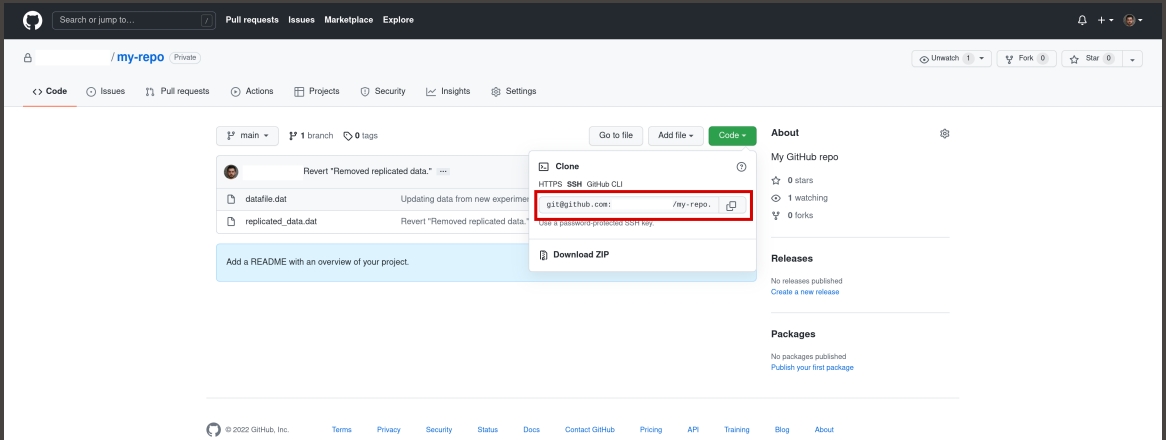


Pull repo from GitHub

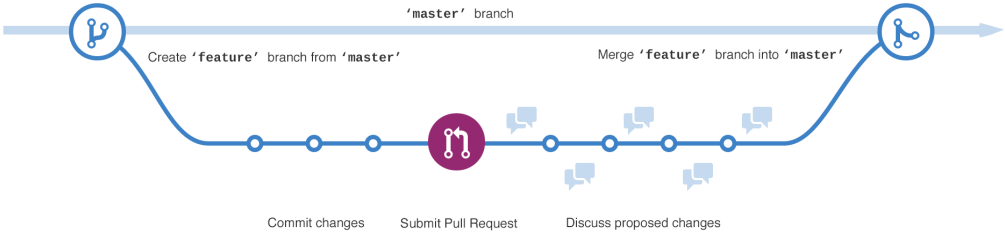
- Pull `my-repo` from GitHub onto *Niagara*:

```
laptop:~$ ssh niagara
user@nia-login02:~$ git clone git@github.com:username/my-repo.git
Cloning into 'my-repo'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 9, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (9/9), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (5/5), done.
remote: Total 9 (delta 1), reused 9 (delta 1), pack-reused 0
Receiving objects: 100% (9/9), done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (1/1), done.
```

GitHub: Pull requests

- Pull requests are a way to *merge* changes from a new branch into the main branch
- They allow teams to review and either accept or reject new changes
- Powerful tool to help prevent new changes from breaking old code
- Can also run regression tests in GitHub CI (Continuous Integration)
- More info on GitHub CI here:
  https://docs.github.com/en/actions/automating-builds-and-tests/about-continuous-integration

GitHub: Pull requests



Source: https://uoft-oss.github.io/git-workflow/

GitHub: Create a pull request

- Create a new branch and add some changes locally:

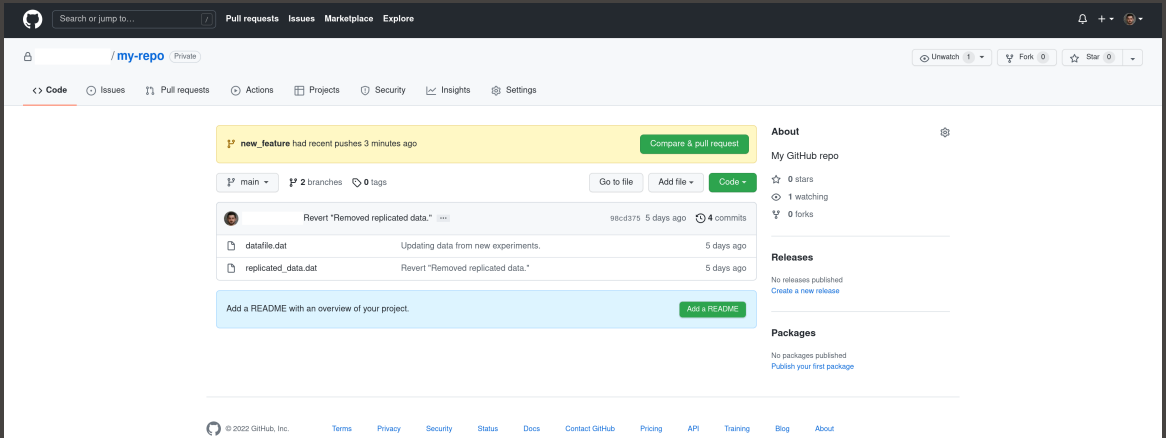
```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git checkout -b new_feature
Switched to a new branch 'new_feature'
laptop:~/my-repo$ git add hello.c
laptop:~/my-repo$ git commit hello.c -m "Hello world program."
[new_feature f3a4091] Hello world program.
1 file changed, 7 insertions(+)
create mode 100644 hello.c
laptop:~/my-repo$ git commit datafile.dat -m "Fixed error."
[new_feature f2b6fe3] Fixed error.
1 file changed, 2 insertions(+), 1 deletion(-)
```

GitHub: Create a pull request

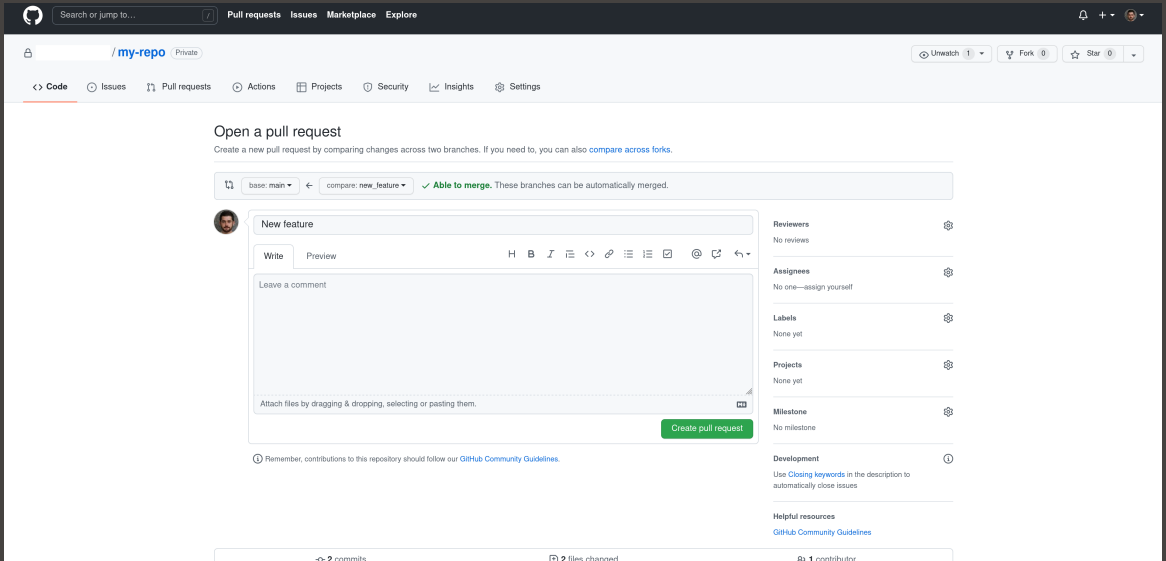
- Push new branch to GitHub:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git push
Enumerating objects: 8, done.
Counting objects: 100% (8/8), done.
Delta compression using up to 16 threads
Compressing objects: 100% (5/5), done.
Writing objects: 100% (6/6), 703 bytes | 703.00 KiB/s, done.
Total 6 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0)
remote:
remote: Create a pull request for 'new_feature' on GitHub by visiting:
remote:      https://github.com/username/my-repo/pull/new/new_feature
remote:
To github.com:username/my-repo.git
 * [new branch]      new_feature -> new_feature
```

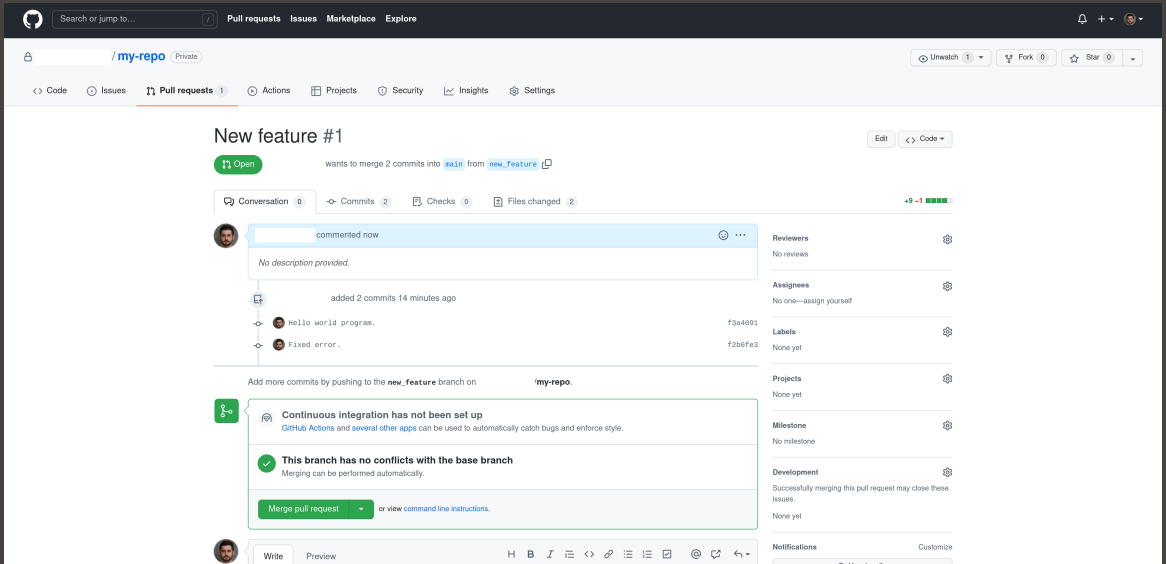
GitHub: Create a pull request



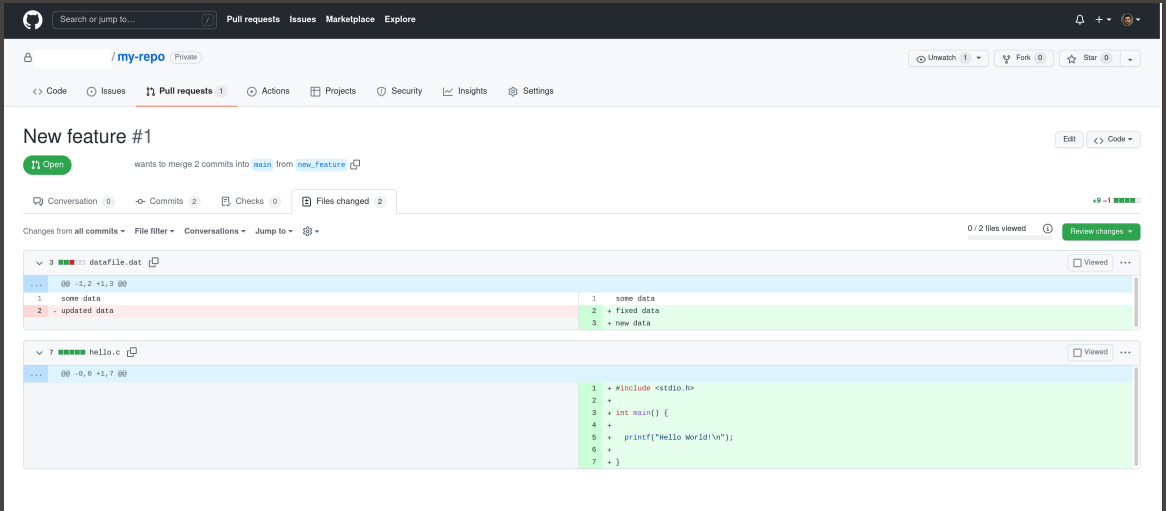
GitHub: Create a pull request



GitHub: Create a pull request



GitHub: Create a pull request



Hands-on

- Create an account on GitHub
- Create a repository on GitHub
- *Push* a repository from your computer to GitHub:

```
laptop:~/my-repo$ git remote add origin git@github.com:username/my-repo.git
laptop:~/my-repo$ git branch -M main
laptop:~/my-repo$ git push -u origin main
```

- *Pull* your repository from GitHub to your computer:

```
laptop:~$ git clone git@github.com:username/my-repo.git
```

- Create and accept a *pull request*

Further information

Support

Questions? Need help?

Don't be afraid to contact us! We are here to help.

- Email to **support@scinet.utoronto.ca** or to **niagara@computecanada.ca**
- Contact me directly at: **james.willis@scinet.utoronto.ca**.