

Git is the open source distributed version control system that facilitates GitHub activities on your laptop or desktop. This cheat sheet summarizes commonly used Git command line instructions for quick reference.

INSTALL GIT

GitHub provides desktop clients that include a graphical user interface for the most common repository actions and an automatically updating command line edition of Git for advanced scenarios.

GitHub for Windows

<https://windows.github.com>

GitHub for Mac

<https://mac.github.com>

Git distributions for Linux and POSIX systems are available on the official Git SCM web site.

Git for All Platforms

<http://git-scm.com>

CONFIGURE TOOLING

Configure user information for all local repositories

```
$ git config --global user.name "[name]"
```

Sets the name you want attached to your commit transactions

```
$ git config --global user.email "[email address]"
```

Sets the email you want attached to your commit transactions

```
$ git config --global color.ui auto
```

Enables helpful colorization of command line output

CREATE REPOSITORIES

Start a new repository or obtain one from an existing URL

```
$ git init [project-name]
```

Creates a new local repository with the specified name

```
$ git clone [url]
```

Downloads a project and its entire version history

MAKE CHANGES

Review edits and craft a commit transaction

```
$ git status
```

Lists all new or modified files to be committed

```
$ git diff
```

Shows file differences not yet staged

```
$ git add [file]
```

Snapshots the file in preparation for versioning

```
$ git diff --staged
```

Shows file differences between staging and the last file version

```
$ git reset [file]
```

Unstages the file, but preserve its contents

```
$ git commit -m "[descriptive message]"
```

Records file snapshots permanently in version history

GROUP CHANGES

Name a series of commits and combine completed efforts

```
$ git branch
```

Lists all local branches in the current repository

```
$ git branch [branch-name]
```

Creates a new branch

```
$ git checkout [branch-name]
```

Switches to the specified branch and updates the working directory

```
$ git merge [branch]
```

Combines the specified branch's history into the current branch

```
$ git branch -d [branch-name]
```

Deletes the specified branch