15-410

“...Goals: Time Travel, Parallel Universes...”

Version Control
Feb. 5, 2020

Dave Eckhardt
Brian Railing
Nathaniel Filardo
Zach Anderson (S '03)
Disclaimer

This lecture will mention one SCMS
  – git

You don't need to use git
  – Not even if “all the TA's do”
Outline

Motivation
Repository vs. Working Directory
Conflicts and Merging
Branching
A Brief Introduction to git
Goals

Working together should be easy

Time travel
- Useful for challenging patents
- Very useful for reverting from a sleepless hack session

Parallel universes
- Experimental universes
- Product-support universes
Goal: Shared Workspace

Reduce development latency via parallelism
- [But: Brooks, *Mythical Man-Month*]

Alice  

Bob  

Charlie  

Devon  

awesome.c
Goal: Time Travel

Retrieving old versions should be easy.

Once Upon A Time…

Alice: What happened to the code? It doesn’t work.

Charlie: Oh, I made some changes. My code is 1337!

Alice: Rawr! I want the code from last Tuesday!
Goal: Parallel Universes

Safe process for implementing new features.

- Develop bell in one universe
- Develop whistle in another
- Don't inflict B's core dumps on W
- Eventually produce bell-and-whistle release
How?

*Keep a global repository for the project.*
Definitions

Version / Revision / Configuration
- Contents of some files at a particular point in time
- aka “Snapshot”

Project
- A “sequence” of versions
  - (not really)

Repository
- Directory where projects are stored
The Repository

Stored in group-accessible location
  – Old way: file system
  – Modern way: “repository server”

Versions in repository visible group-wide
  – Whoever has read access
  – “Commit access” often separate
How?

Keep a global repository for the project.  

*Each user keeps a working directory.*
The Working Directory

Many names ("sandbox")
Where revisions happen
Typically belongs to one user
Versions are checked out to here
New versions are checked in from here
How?

Keep a global repository for the project. Each user keeps a working directory.

*Concepts of checking out, and checking in*
Checking Out. Checking In.

Checking out

- A version is copied from the repository
  • Typically “Check out the latest”
  • Or: “Revision 3.1.4”, “Yesterday noon”

Work

- Edit, add, remove, rename files

Checking in

- Working directory ⇒ repository *atomically*
- Result: new version
Checking Out. Checking In.

Repository

○
○

v0.1
check out

Working Directory

v0.1 copy
Checking Out. Checking In.

Repository

v0.1

Working Directory

v0.1 copy

v0.1++

mutate
Checking Out. Checking In.

Repository

○

○

v0.1

Working Directory

○

○

v0.2

v0.1++

check in
How?

Keep a global repository for the project.
Each user keeps a working directory.
Concepts of checking out, and checking in

Mechanisms for merging
Conflicts and Merging

Two people check out.
  - Both modify foo.c

Each wants to check in a new version.
  - Whose is the *correct* new version?
Conflicts and Merging

Conflict
- Independent changes which “overlap”
- *Textual* overlap detected by revision control
- *Semantic* conflict cannot be

Merge displays conflicting updates per file
Pick which code goes into the new version
- A, B, NOTA

Story now, real-life example later
Alice Begins Work

Alice

v0.2
copy

v0.2
fix b#1

Repository

v0.2

Bob
Bob Arrives, Checks Out

Alice
v0.2 copy

Repository
v0.2

Bob
v0.2 copy

v0.2 fix b#1
Alice Commits, Bob Has Coffee

Alice

v0.2 copy

v0.2 fix b#1

Repository

v0.2

Bob

v0.2 copy

v0.3
Bob Fixes Something Too

- **Alice**
  - v0.2
    - copy
  - v0.2
    - fix b#1

- **Repository**
  - v0.2
  - v0.3

- **Bob**
  - v0.2
    - copy
  - v0.2
    - fix b#7
Wrong Outcome

Alice
- v0.2
  - copy
- v0.2
  - fix b#1

Repository
- v0.2
- v0.3

Bob
- v0.2
  - copy
- v0.2
  - fix b#7
“Arguably Less Wrong”

Alice

v0.2 copy

v0.2 fix b#1

Repository

v0.2

v0.3

Bob

v0.2 copy

v0.2 fix b#7

v0.4
Merge, Bob, Merge!

Diagram:

- Alice
  - v0.2
  - copy
  - v0.2
  - fix b#1

- Repository
  - v0.2
  - v0.3

- Bob
  - v0.2
  - copy
  - v0.2
  - fix b#1
  - fix b#7
  - fix b#1
  - fix b#7
Committing Genuine Progress

Alice
- v0.2
  - copy
  - v0.2
    - fix b#1
  - v0.3
  - v0.4

Repository
- v0.2
  - v0.3
  - v0.4

Bob
- v0.2
  - copy
  - v0.3
  - v0.4
  - fix b#1
  - fix b#7
How?

Keep a global repository for the project.
Each user keeps a working directory.
Concepts of checking out, and checking in
Mechanisms for merging
Mechanisms for branching
Branching

A branch is a sequence of versions
  – (not really...)

Changes on one branch don't affect others

Project may contain many branches

Why branch?
  – Implement a new “major” feature
  – Begin a temporary independent sequence of development
Branching

The actual branching and merging take place in a particular user's working directory, but this is what such a sequence would look like to the repository.
Branch Life Cycle

“The Trunk”
- “Release 1.0”, “Release 2.0”, ...

Release 1.0 maintenance branch
- After 1.0: 1.0.1, 1.0.2, ...
- Bug-fix updates as long as 1.0 has users

Internal development branches
- 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...
- Probably 1.1.1.client, 1.1.1.server
Branch Life Cycle

“Development excursion” branch model

- Create branch to fix bug #99 in v1.1
- One or more people make 7 changes
- Branch “collapses” back to trunk
  - Merge 1.1.bug99.7 against 1.1.12
  - Result: 1.1.13
  - There will be no 1.1.bug99.8
    - In some systems, there can't be
Branch Life Cycle

“Controlled isolation” branch model

- Server people work on 1.3.server
  - Fix server code
  - Run stable client test suite vs. new server
- Client people work on 1.3.client
  - Fix client code
  - Run new client test suite vs. stable server
- Note
  - Branches do *not* collapse after one merge!
Branch Life Cycle

“Controlled isolation” branch model

- Periodic merges - example
  - 1.3.server.45, 1.3.12 \(\Rightarrow\) 1.3.13
  - 1.3.client.112, 1.3.13 \(\Rightarrow\) 1.3.14
  - Each group can keep working while one person “pushes up” a version to the parent
- When should server team “pull down” 1.3.14 changes?
  - 1.3.server.47, 1.3.14 \(\Rightarrow\) 1.3.server.48?
  - 1.3.server.99, 1.3.14 \(\Rightarrow\) 1.3.server.100?
Branch Life Cycle

Successful development branch
- Merged back to parent
- No further versions

Unsuccessful development branch
- Some changes pulled out?
- No further versions

Maintenance branch
- “End of Life”: No further versions
Are Branches *Deleted*?

Consider the repository “data structure”
- Revisions of each file (coded as deltas)
- Revisions of the directory tree

Branch delete
- *Complicated* data structure update
  - [Not a well-tested code path]
- Generally a bad idea
  - History could *always* be useful later...
# Source Control Opinions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Control</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **CVS**        | - still somewhat used  
                 - mature, lots of features  
                 - default behavior often wrong |
| **SubVersion (svn)** | - SVN > CVS (design)  
                          - SVN > CVS (size)  
                          - Doesn't work in AFS  
                          - Yes, it does  
                          - No, it doesn't?  
                          - Google was an SVN champion... less. |
| **Perforce**   | - commercial  
                 - reasonable design  
                 - works well (big server) |
| **BitKeeper**  | - Favored by Linus Torvalds  
                          - “Special” license restrictions |
| **git**        | - Favored by Linus Torvalds |
| **Mercurial (hg)** | - ? |
Source Control Opinions

Mercurial (hg)
- Design is similar to git (mutual feature cloning)
  - More Python, less C, smaller user community
- FWIW, Bitbucket is deprecating hg

Others
- Bazaar ("bzr")
- Monotone
- arch/tla
- darcs ("patch algebra")

Generally
- Promising plans
- Some rough edges
- Many use cases covered
- Ready yet?
Recommendation for 15-410

You can use SVN if you're used to it
  - Or hg

Current TA favorite: git
  - It can do what you need
    • (plus a vast array of things you don't need)
  - It's unlikely to suddenly vanish
  - It's “very likely” (25%?) to be chosen by your next boss
Recommendation for 15-410

You can use SVN if you're used to it
  - Or hg

Current TA favorite: git
  - It can do what you need
    - (plus a vast array of things you don't need)
  - It's unlikely to suddenly vanish
  - It's “very likely” (25%?) to be chosen by your next boss

Be careful about online git/hg providers
  - Your work will probably be public and searchable – see syllabus!
Getting Started

Already installed on Andrew Linux systems!

Or you can install it yourself on your own.
  - (“Some assembly required”)

Git is a “distributed” source-control system
  - ???
Traditional “File System” Model

- Sandbox
- Repository
- SCCS
- CVS
- SVN
“East-Coast / West-Coast” Model

Inter-repository protocol runs “sometimes”. Conflicts are tricky. Perforce does this.
∀ laptop
  Sandbox-repository protocol.
  Also, inter-repository protocol.
  More protocols == more fun?
“Distributed Version Control”

Repository holds current files \textit{and} metadata. Inter-repository protocol is tricky (no “before”). Whose laptop do we release to customers from??

hg, git
darcs
“The Repository”

git: typically “bare”
Creating A New Project

Anywhere, but safest in a blank directory:

$ git init

Creates a “.git” subdirectory

- Contains a hash-tree of all entities ever seen by the version control system.
- Also contains things like config, heads, remotes, and other goodies.
Populating the world

Adding Files

$ git add file1 file2 ...

- To add *every* file in a directory
  $ git add dir/
  - Rarely what you want!!

These are “staged” operations...

- “Add” requires a commit just like “edit” does.
Checking In

**Commit Yourself!**

```bash
$ git commit -a
```

- Fires up your $EDITOR and asks you for commentary.
- Can restrict which files on the command line, or even use `--interactive`.
- Adds a new snapshot to LOCAL repository's history
  - Your partner has *no idea that this has happened.*
Sharing Your Work

How do changes become non-local?

Pull

$ git pull [remote-path/URL]
- Pulls changes from a remote repository.
- Git has a notion of “default remote”

Push

$ git push [remote-path/URL]
- Pushes changes from the local repo into the remote.
Checking Out A Project

Making a new checkout:

$ git clone remote-path/URL [local-name]
- Clones the remote repository
- All set for you to work in.
- The default push/pull target is the remote you copied.

You can use this mechanism to “branch”.
- Git also supports named branches in a repo.
- See “man git-branch” or any of the other docs.
Conflicts and Merging

Suppose this hello.c is in the repository:

```c
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    printf("Hello World!\n");
    return 0;
}
```
Conflicts and Merging

Suppose Alice and Charlie each check out this version, and make changes:

Alice's Version

```c
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#define SUPER 0

int main(void)
{
    /* prints "Hello World"
       to stdout */
    printf("Hello World!\n");
    return SUPER;
}
```

Charlie's Version

```c
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    /* this, like, says hello, and stuff */
    printf("Hello Hercules!\n");
    return 42;
}
```
Conflicts and Merging

Suppose Alice “checks in” first

```
$ git commit -a ⇒ ok
$ git push ⇒ ok
```

Now Charlie...

```
$ git commit -a ⇒ ok, but invisible to Alice
$ git push ⇒ fail!
$ git pull ⇒ Alice's changes “appear”
$ ...edit...
$ git commit -a && git push
```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>

#define SUPER 0

int main(void)
{
    /* this, like, says hello, and stuff */
    printf("Hello Hercules!");
    return 42;

    /* prints "Hello World" to stdout */
    printf("Hello World!");
    return SUPER;

    12341234abcd5656efef787890900123456789ab:hello.c
}
Information

To get a summary of changes:

$ git status

To ask about changes in the past:

$ git log
Suggestions

“Commit early and often”
- So you can locally track history, roll back...

“Push good news”
- Build, test, push to shared space

“Pull often”
- Big merges are painful merges

Develop a convention for commit entries
- Type of revision (bug-fix, commenting, etc.)
- Meaningful, short descriptions
Suggestions

“Backups”
- “push” and “pull” do a lot
- Snapshotting your central repository every now and then may be smart

When to branch?
- Bug fixing?
  - Check out, fix, check in to same branch
- Trying COW fork since regular fork works?
  - Branching probably a good idea.
- For “backed up but not released to partner”
Summary

We can now:
- Create projects
- Check source in/out
- Merge, and
- Branch

See GIT documentation
- 15-410 “git intro” web page – specific help
- Lots of documentation online (many features)
- Search for “git tutorial”
Further Reading

Pro Git
- This is a book-length object by Scott Chacon
- It is available free online (but...)
- It is a good way to actually understand git

“Git for Computer Scientists”
“Git from the Bottom Up”
“Git Magic”
“How to use git to lose data”
- This is a locally-produced heresy