

# The Basics of Git

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# Who am I?

Craig Reeder

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**I love tooling**

I *really* love tooling

**Git is one of my  
favorite tools**

# What is Git?

Distributed Version Control Software

# History

Created by Linus Torvalds in 2005

*(To manage Linux source code)*

# Quick Note: GitHub

GitHub is just a hosted platform for Git repositories



Git is to GitHub as Burgers are to BurgerKing

What does git *do*?

**Tracks changes**

**Keeps history**

# Enables collaboration

Everyone has a full copy

**Why use git?**

# Ever done this?

```
project/  
  config-4.3.20  
  config-1.5.21  
  config-7.8.21  
  config-live
```

**Never do that again!**

# Git has history

*All changes (since the beginning of time)*

**Easily reversible**

# Who broke it?

```
$ git log
```

```
Author: Travis Langhals <tlanghals@example.com>
```

```
Date:   Fri Sep 3 12:13:57 2021 -0400
```

```
Remove the Fizz from the Buzz, it's not needed
```

*(spoiler alert: it was needed)*

**Great! How do I use it?**

# Creating a new repository

```
$ git init
```

# Time to make some changes



# Staging Changes

To save your changes, you need to tell git you want to include them

# Stage your changes

```
$ git add foo.html bar.js
```

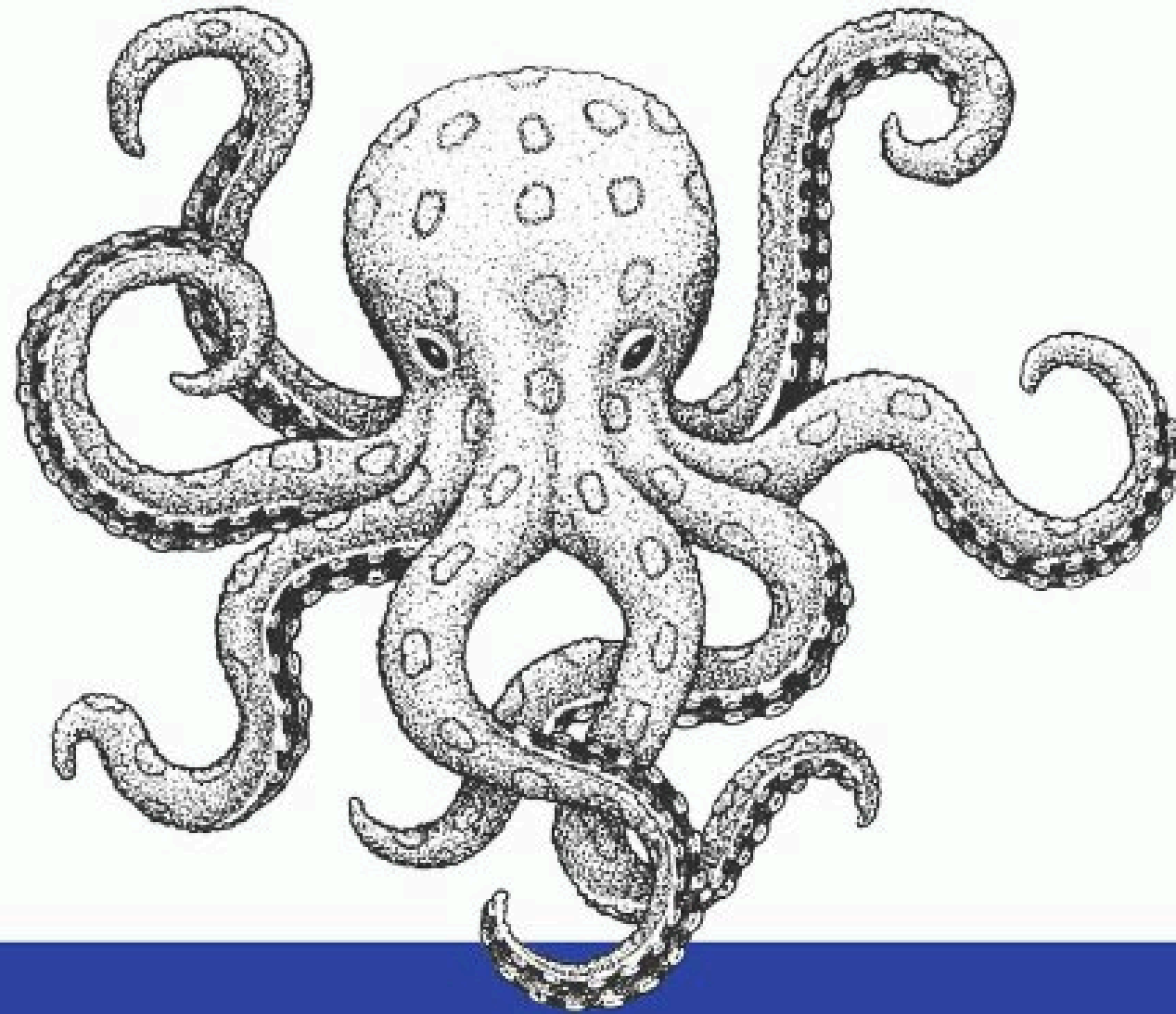
# Commit your changes

```
$ git commit
```

This will prompt you in an editor for a message.

*(It is possible to change which editor it uses.)*

*Just memorize these fourteen contextually dependant instructions*



# Exiting Vim

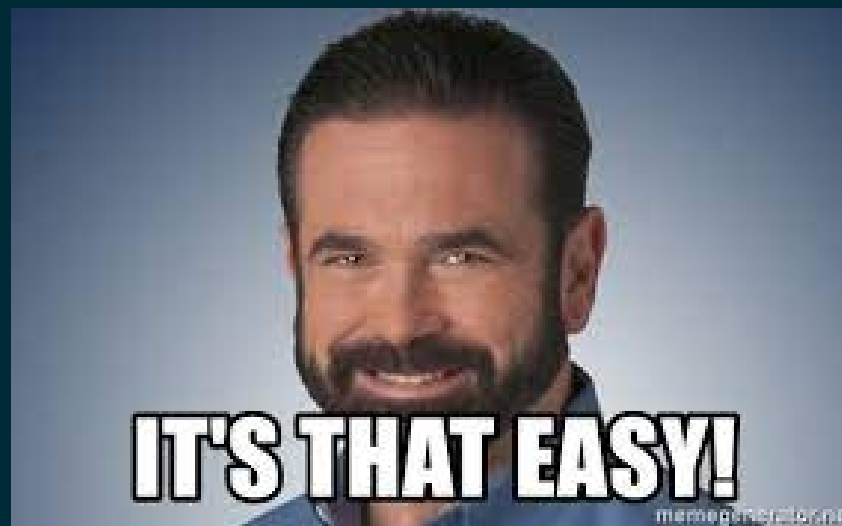
*Eventually*

ORLY?

*@ThePracticalDev*

**Don't have  
commitment issues**

# Commit early and often



**It's not that easy! I got  
lost!**

# Check status

```
$ git status
```

# Status Output

On branch main

Changes not staged **for** commit:

(use "`git add <file>...`" **to update** what will **be** committed)

(use "`git restore <file>...`" **to discard changes** in working dir)

modified: `index.html`

modified: `themes/dark.css`

# Working locally

## A cheat sheet

```
$ git init # once, for a new repo  
  
# make changes to files  
$ git add file.txt  
$ git commit
```

**Now let's work as a  
team**

# Getting an existing repository

```
$ git clone git@github.com:torvalds/linux.git
```

# Quick Note: Auth

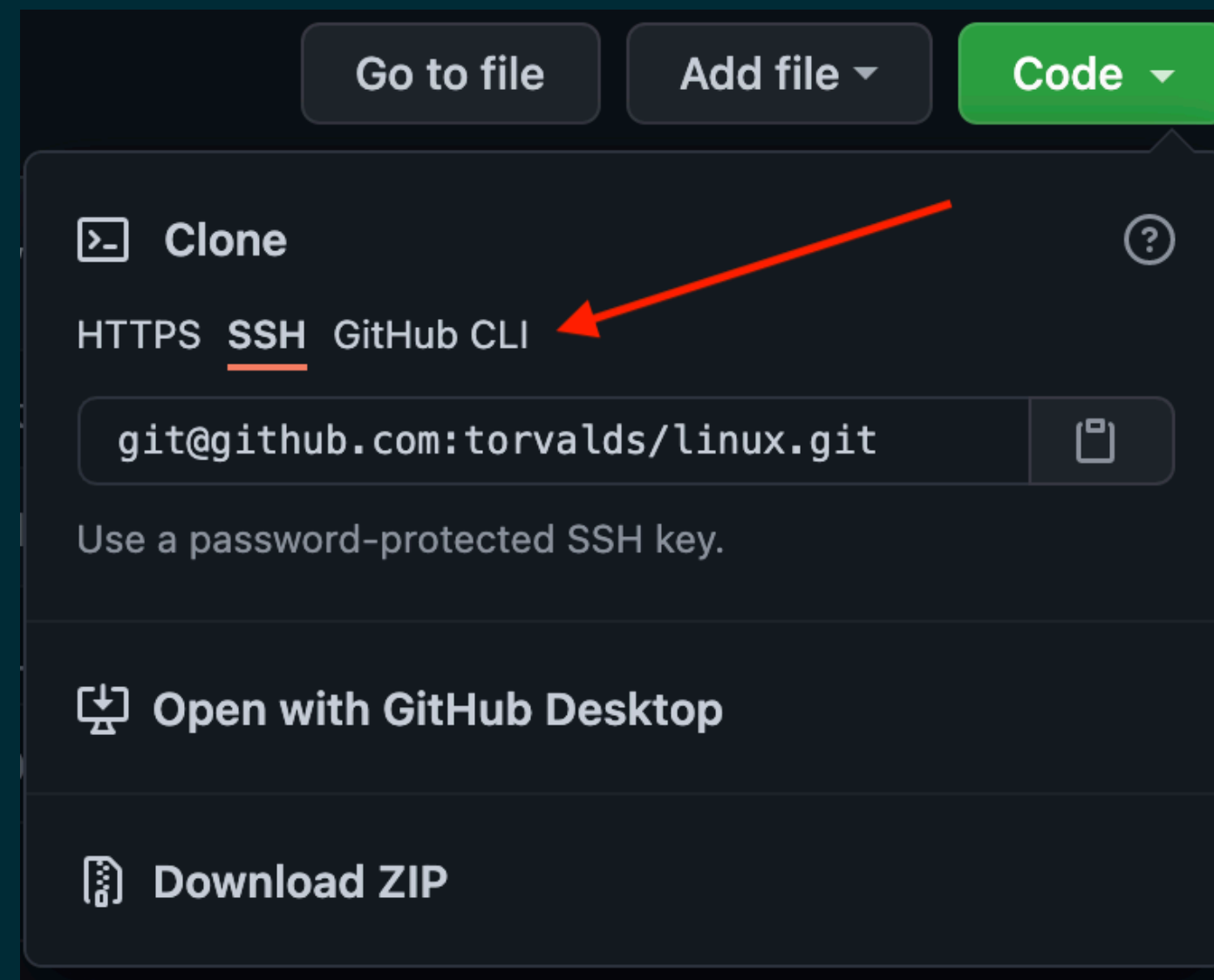
SSH:

```
$ git clone git@github.com:torvalds/linux.git
```

HTTPS:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/torvalds/linux.git
```

# Clone URL Selection



Select it here on GitHub

# SSH vs HTTPS

- SSH relies on the key you already created
- HTTPS will prompt you for credentials every time  
*(Unless you set up a credential manager)*
- SSH works better with most automation

**Back to the commands**

# Getting updates

Someone made a change to a repository you cloned

*Oh no! What do I do?* 🥲

# Pull changes from remote

```
$ git pull
```

# Now you're up to date!



# Stage your changes

```
$ git add foo.html bar.js
```

# Commit your changes

```
$ git commit
```

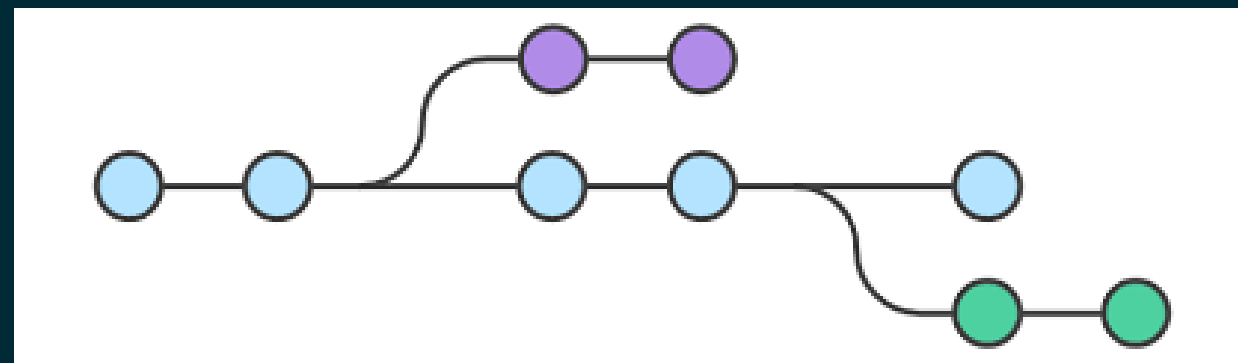
**Committing is local only**

# Share your changes

```
$ git push
```

**One more important  
concept**

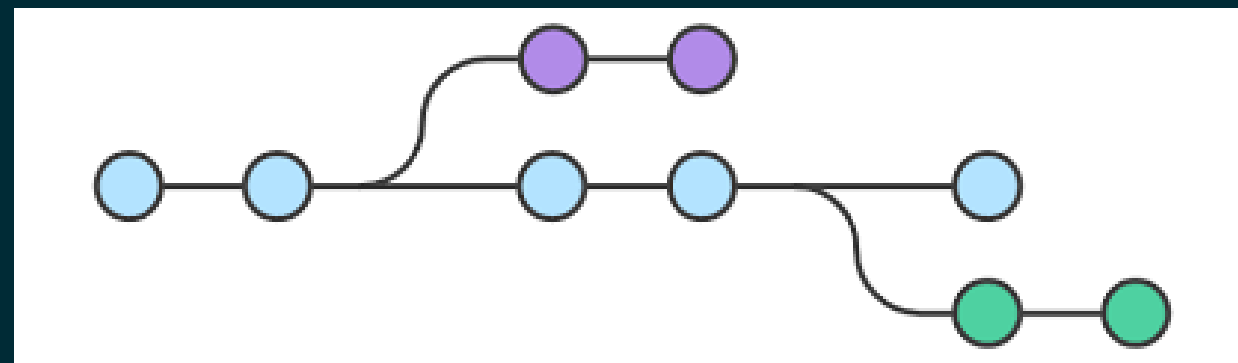
# Git is a tree



*(sometimes displayed sideways)*

**Trees have branches**

# Git has branches!



*(and a trunk)*

# Default branch

The default branch is usually *main*  
(Sometimes it's called "master")

# Create a new branch

```
$ git branch widget-fix
```

# Change to a branch

```
$ git checkout widget-fix
```

# Merging

Merging is the act of combining branches

**We're not going to  
cover manually  
merging**

# Pull Requests

With most hosted Git platforms, you can create a pull request

# What's that?

This is a request to merge your branch into another

*(Typically main)*

# Review!

Best practice with a pull request is to have someone else review your code

**GitHub has useful  
commenting and  
approval tools**

**Let's talk about flows**

# Github Flow

1. Make a feature branch
2. Make your changes
3. Commit your changes
4. Push your changes
5. Make a Pull Request
6. Fix any feedback from review (repeat 2-4)
7. Merge the PR

# Step 1: Make a feature branch

```
$ git branch widget-fix  
$ git checkout widget-fix
```

# Step 2: Make your changes



# Step 3: Commit your changes

```
$ git add fixed-files.txt  
$ git commit
```

# Step 4: Push your changes

```
$ git push
```

# Step 5: Make a PR

## Comparing changes

Choose two branches to see what's changed or to start a new pull request. If you need to, you can also [compare across forks](#).



base: main ▾



compare: s3-bucket-policy ▾

✓ **Able to merge.** These branches can be automatically merged.

Discuss and review the changes in this comparison with others. [Learn about pull requests](#)

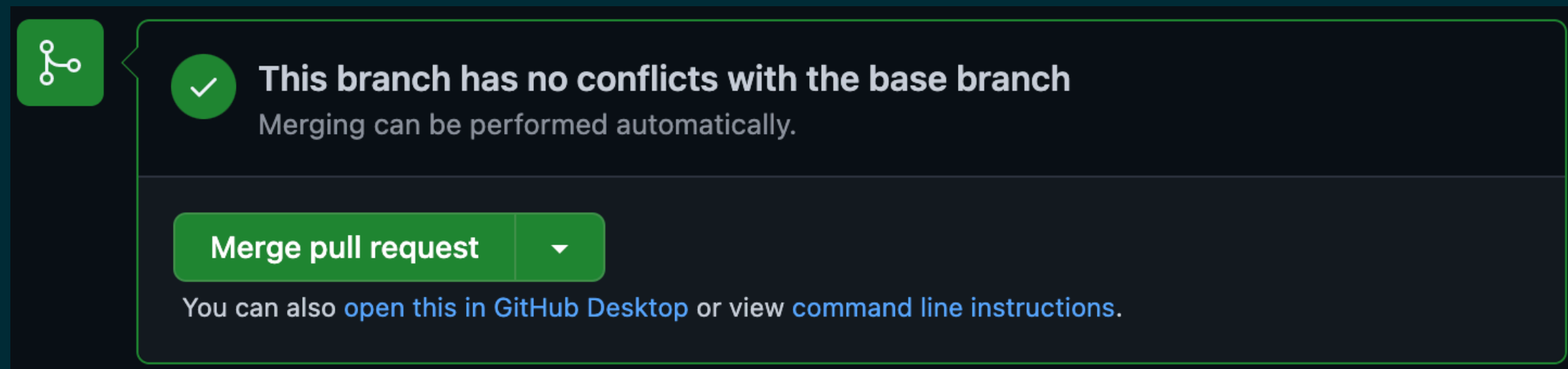
Create pull request

# Step 6: Fix feedback

Fix any feedback from reviews

*(And repeat steps 2-4: make changes, commit, push)*

# Step 7: Merge the PR



*(The final reviewer will likely do this step)*

# GitHub Flow Summary

1. Make a feature branch
2. Make your changes
3. Commit your changes
4. Push your changes
5. Make a Pull Request
6. Fix any feedback from review (repeat 2-4)
7. Merge the PR

**Some final thoughts**

**VSCode is git aware**

# VSCode Integration

All of the git commands can be done in VSCode with  
context menus

*(Look for the "source control" icon on the left)*

# `.gitignore`

`.gitignore` is a special file that tells git which files to ignore.

Those files won't ever be staged or committed

**Questions?**

# Now for some hands on!

Try these commands (or do the following in VSCode):

```
$ git init # once, for a new repo
$ git add file.txt # create file.txt first
$ git commit
$ git status
$ git branch widget-fix
$ git checkout widget-fix

$ git clone <url> # new repo! get this from github
$ git branch your-username
$ git checkout your-username
$ git add file.txt # create file.txt first
$ git commit
$ git push # follow the instructions
```

**Thank you!**