

Lab: Mercurial

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08/03/2012

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First: Recap

Distributed Version control

Distributed Version Control

All developers have their own local repository (a.k.a. "decentralized version control")

- 1. Developers work on their working copy
- 2. Developers commit changes of the working copy to their own local repository first
- 3. Changes can be exchanged between repositories ("pushed" and "pulled")



Push and Pull

Push

- Once developers have committed versions on their local repository, they can push them to another repo
- Versions are pushed from local branches into corresponding remote branches
- Like "commit" from one repo to another

Pull

- Latest versions are pulled from remote branches and put into the corresponding local branches
- Like "update" from one repo to another





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Distributed Version Control

- Local and remote repositories are technologically identical.
- Chaining of repositories is possible.
- Several personal repositories can be used:
- Good for testing of new commits:
- one repo for development, one for staging



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Mercurial



- Open-source project, started around 2005
- Used for many open-source projects
- Every developer has a repository, which is a folder
- Repo folder contains working copy, and a subfolder .hg which contains the version data
- Versions are identified locally by natural numbers and globally by hash values, e.g. 5c240805ac2d9530b780cbd514574af398c0cdd6
- Good tool support (TortoiseHg)
- Fairly easy to use

Working with Hg

- 1. Start by cloning existing repo, or creating new one
 - New repo has only "default branch" (like trunk)
 - After cloning you have local copies of all branches of parent repo
- 2. Modify working copy and **commit** to create new versions in your local repo
- 3. Pull to load new versions from parent repo into local repo
 - Does not change working copy
 - Pulled versions are put in separate branch from your local versions

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	1533	default	Fixed DEFAULT_FILEPATH	loke002	3 days ago
¢	1532	default	updated aim-java.jar	Christof	3 days ago
•	1531	default	fixed package name in d	Christof	3 days ago
þ	1530	default	removed unused libraries	Christof	4 days ago
¢	1529	default	removed old/useless doc	Christof	4 days ago
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Most important tool: Tortoise explorer

- Integrated control GUI for mercurial
- In some of the lab tasks you are asked to explore the functions a bit on your own and figure out how certain things work!
- After all, every GUI is intuitive, right?

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commit

- Creates a new version on the local repository.
- Best practices:
- Always review your changes!
- Make sure to add new (a.k.a. untracked) files.
- One commit should be only one logical change.
- Never break the build!
- Never break the tests.



Hg Pull

Pull regularly to stay up to date. Have you committed local versions on some branch?

- 1. If no, you can **update** to the latest pulled version
 - Changes in working copy are merged with pulled version
 - Unless you choose to "discard local changes"
- 2. If you have committed local versions on some branch, they should be **merge**d with pulled versions on same branch





Lab Setup

- Create one repo: repo1
- Create one file in the working copy of repol
- Add it to version control, can you figure out how?
- Commit it.
- Clone the repo: repo2

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- Change a file in the working copy of repol
- Commit to repo1.
- What is on repo2?
- Pull on repo 2. What do you see?
- Update on repo 2

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Hg Push

Push regularly to integrate your changes. Have others committed versions on a remote branch that you have committed to locally?

- 1. If no, **push** will succeed and the local versions will be in the remote repo
- 2. If yes, i.e. others have committed versions on a branch you have committed to locally:
 - You need to merge your versions with their versions
 - When local branches and corresp.
 remote branches are merged,
 push succeeds



- Change something in the working copy of repo2.
- Commit to repo2
- What is on repo1?
- Push in repo 2 to repo1. What do you see?

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- Change a file in the working copy of repo1
- Commit to repo1.
- Change a different file in the working copy of repo2.
- Commit to repo2
- Pull on repo 2. What do you see?
- Push in repo 2 to repo1. What happens?

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- Reproduce the conflict from Lab task 3:
- Use "merge" on repo2, applying it to the two latest commits. Can you figure out how to do that?
- Push in repo 2 to repo1. What happens?

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- Change a file in the working copy of repo1
- Commit to repo1.
- Change a different file in the working copy of repo2.
- Pull on repo 2. What do you see?
- Update, using "merge local changes"
- Now commit on repo2.
- Push in repo 2 to repo1. What happens?
- What is the difference in the version space to lab task 4?

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- Change a file in the working copy of repo1
- Commit to repo1.
- Change a different file in the working copy of repo2.
- Commit to repo2 under a named branch tryout
- Pull on repo 2. What do you see?
- Push in repo 2 to repo1. What happens?
- What is the difference to before?

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- Reproduce the final situation of Lab Task 6:
- Use merge on repo2, on default branch and tryout branch
- Push in repo 2 to repo1. What happens?
- Compare with Lab Task 4

Extensions Tab

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Extensions

- Transplant: Moving a commit from one branch to another
- Strip: deleting one or several commits on a local repository.



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Lab Task E1

- Reproduce the conflict from Lab task 3:
- Strip one head. Can you figure out how to do that?
- Push in repo 2 to repo1. What happens?
- Stripping changes is NOT the standard way to deal with conflicts, the standard way is merging.

Lab Task E2

- Reproduce the conflict from Lab task 3:
- Transplant one head to the other branch. Can you figure out how to do that?
- Strip one head, which one makes sense?
- Push in repo 2 to repo1.
- Compare with merging.

Work routine for committing

- If you think you are ready to commit
- 1. Run tests. If they fail, do not commit
- 2. Pull commits
- 3. If there are changes, **update** to the latest commit, back to 1.
- 4. Check all files that need to be committed.
- 5. Commit
- 6. Push (this is crucial, commit alone doesnt make it available for others.

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Version Control Best Practices

- 1. Complete one change at a time and commit it
 - If you committing several changes together you cannot undo/redo them individually
 - If you don't commit and your hard disk crashes...
 - Continuous integration (see XP)
- 2. Only commit changes that preserve system integrity
 - No "breaking changes" that make compilation or tests fail
- 3. Commit only source files (e.g. not .class files)
- 4. Write a log entry for each change
 - What has been changed and why
- 5. Communicate with the other developers
 - See who else is working on a part before changing it
 - Discuss and agree on a design
 - Follow the project guidelines & specifications

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