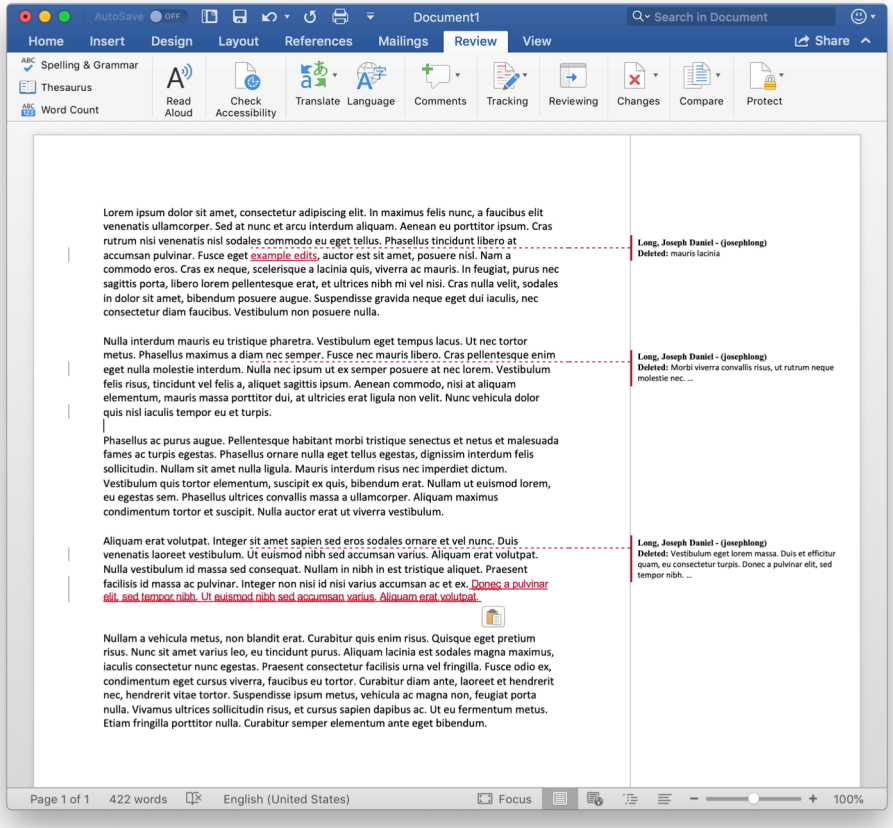
git and GitHub for research

Joseph Long

Code Coffee

November 13, 2018

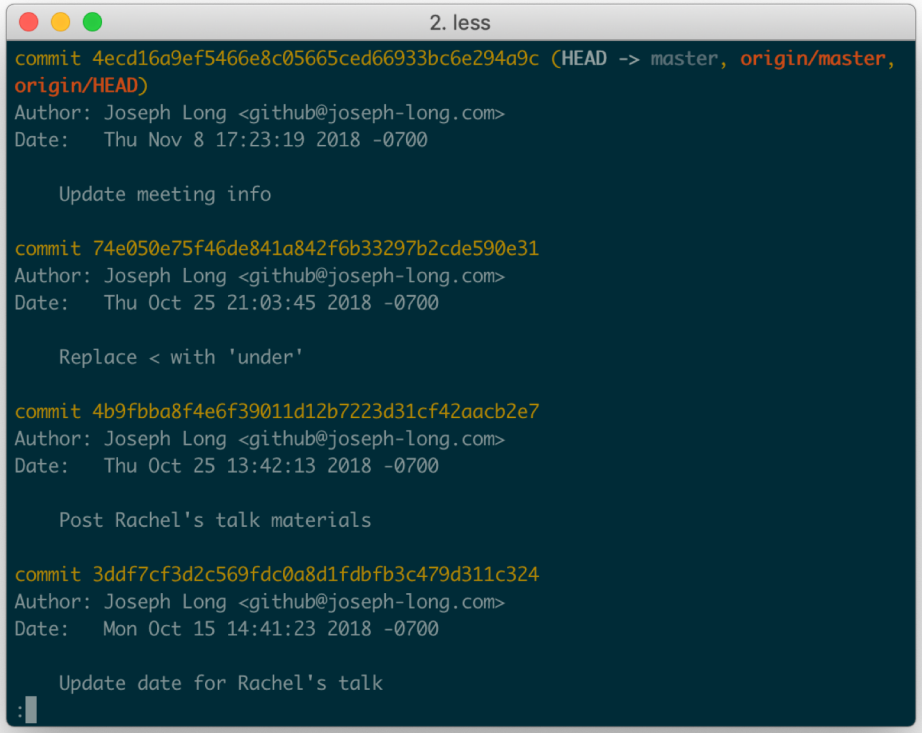
What is version control?

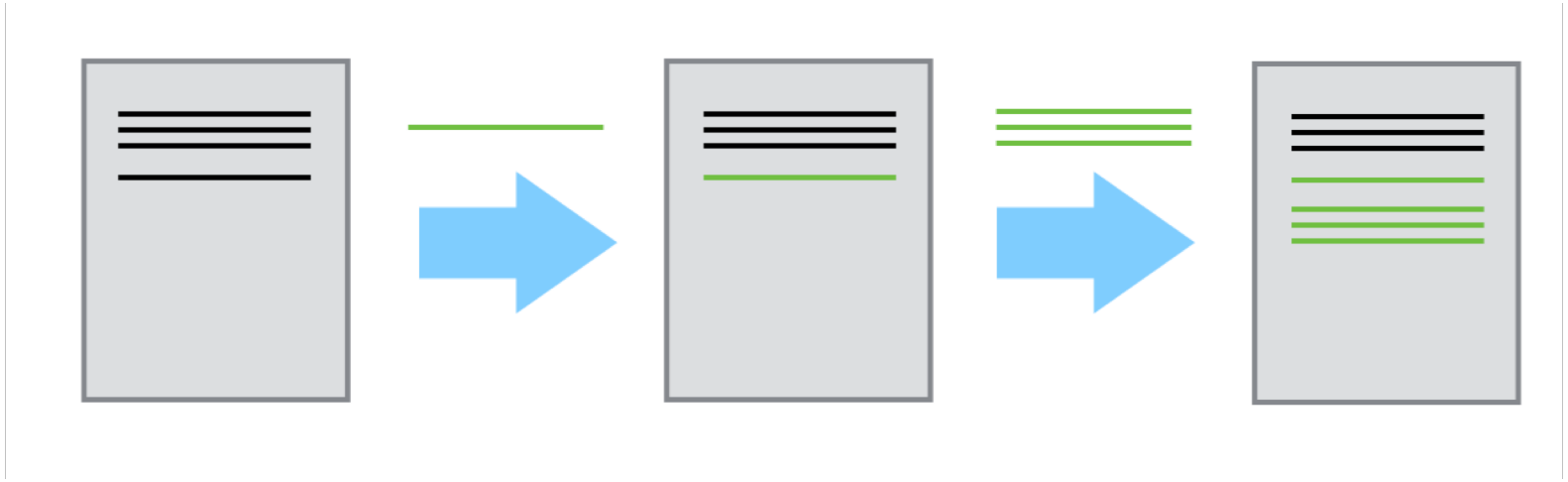


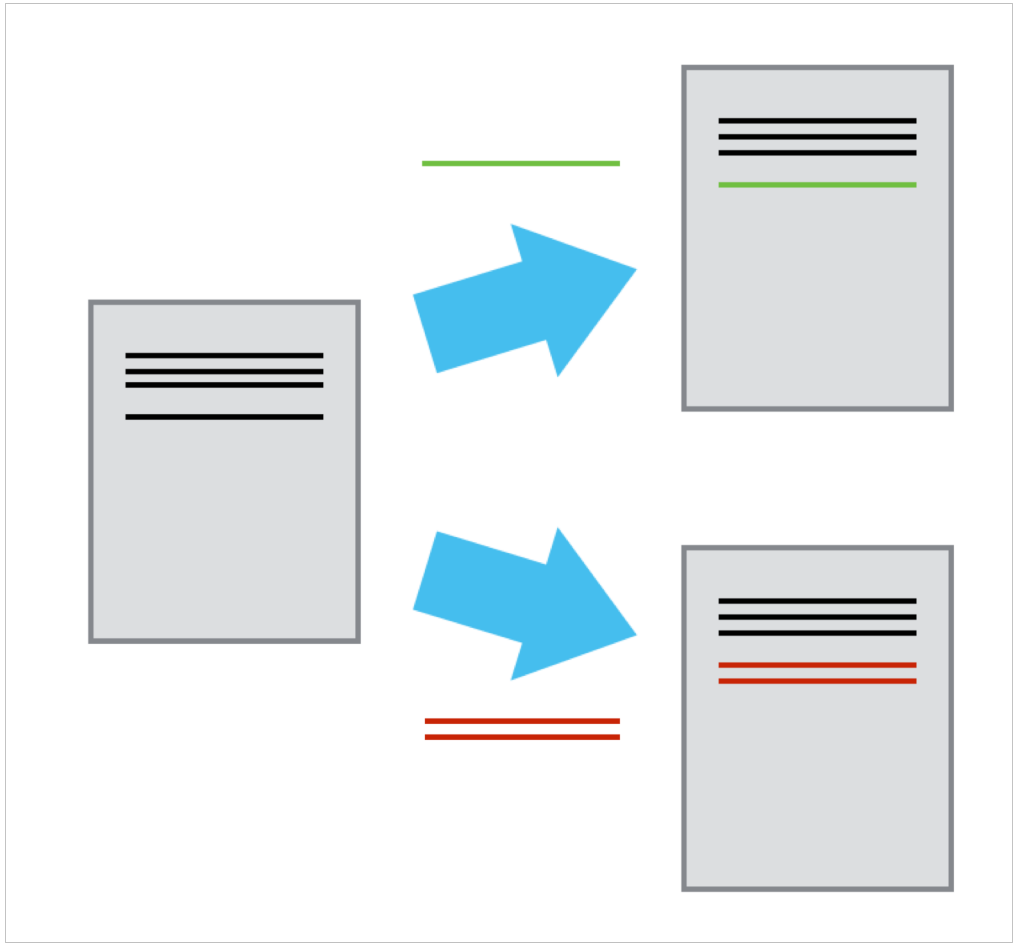
- Think of “track changes” for your source code
  - Or LaTeX documents, or…
- Make checkpoints (called *commits*) that store known good versions
- Allows you to *merge* changes from other sources (i.e. collaborators)

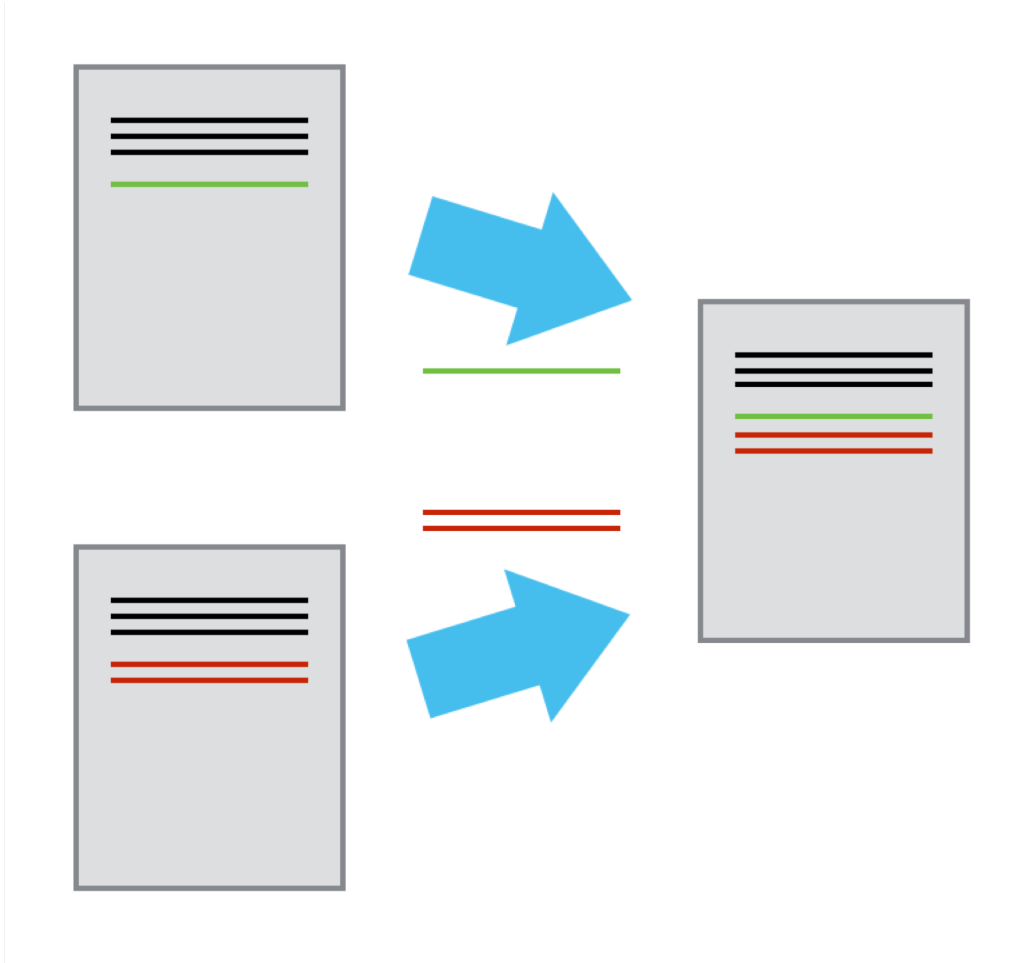
git

- Invented by Linus Torvalds (that Linux guy)
- Terminal (command-line) tool to make commits, perform merges, etc.
- Instead of tracking changes to a document (file), git tracks changes to a *repository* (folder of files)

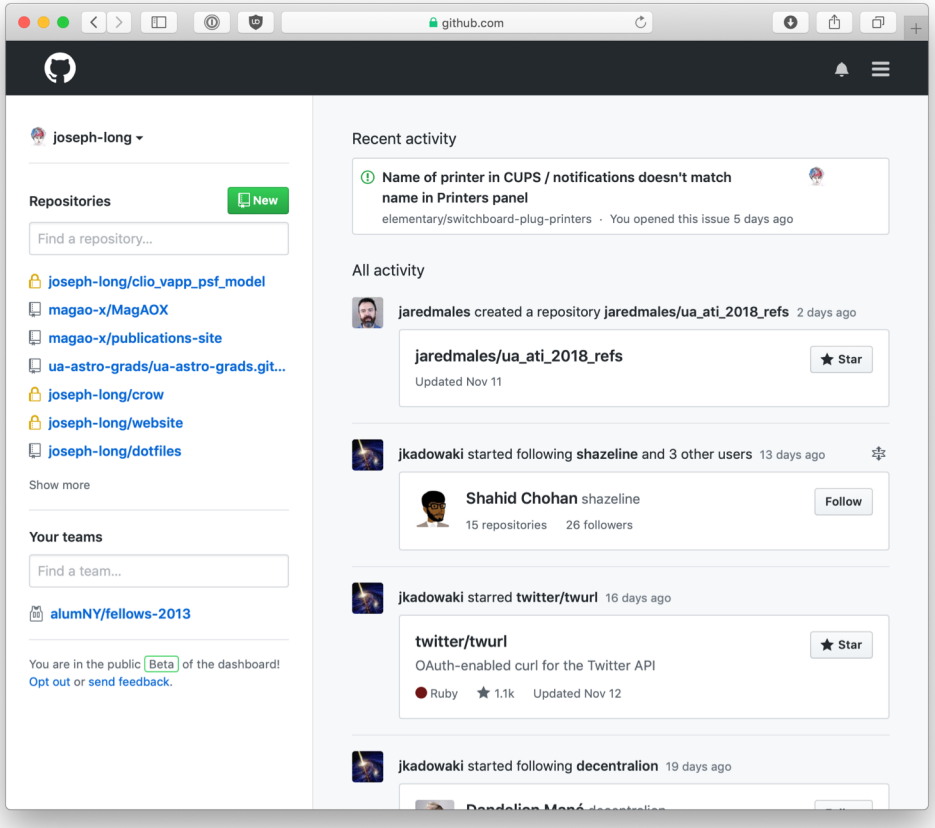








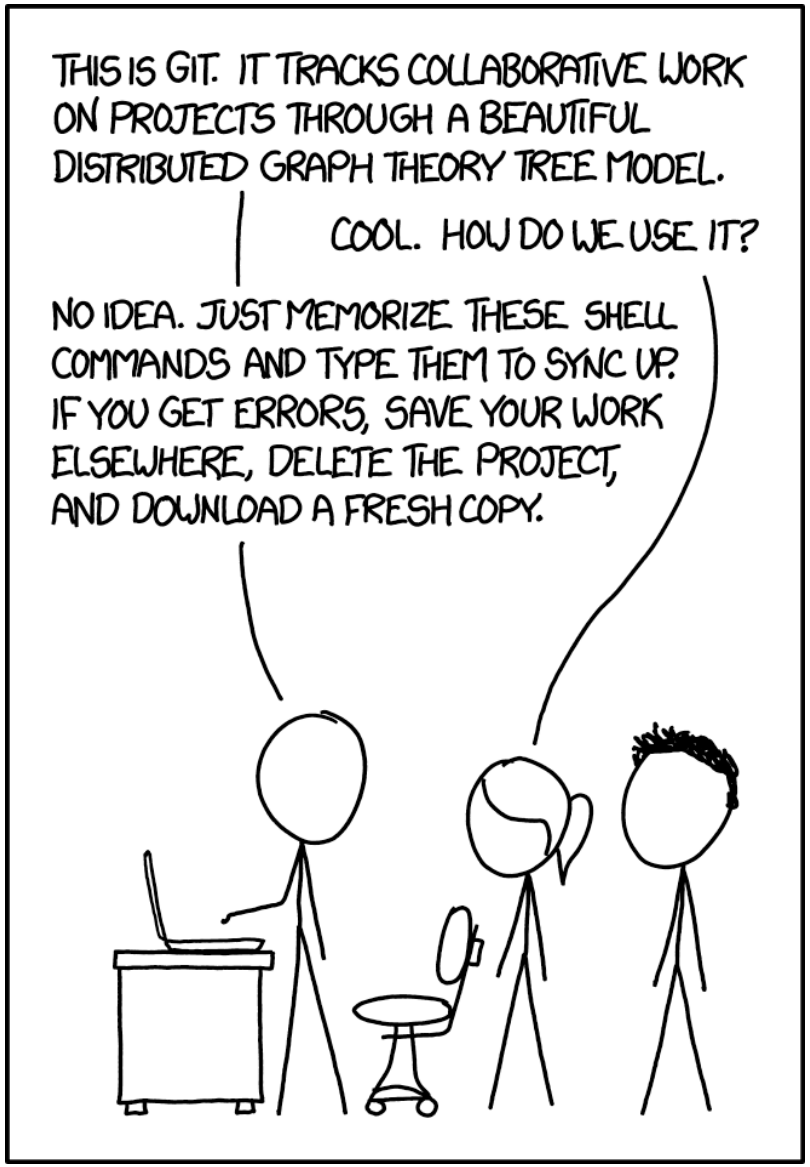
GitHub



- Commercial service to store and share git repositories
  - free for open-source
- https://github.com/
- Includes issue tracker (i.e. bug reporting)
- Web-based change requests called *pull requests*
- Used by Astropy, numpy, scipy, millions more

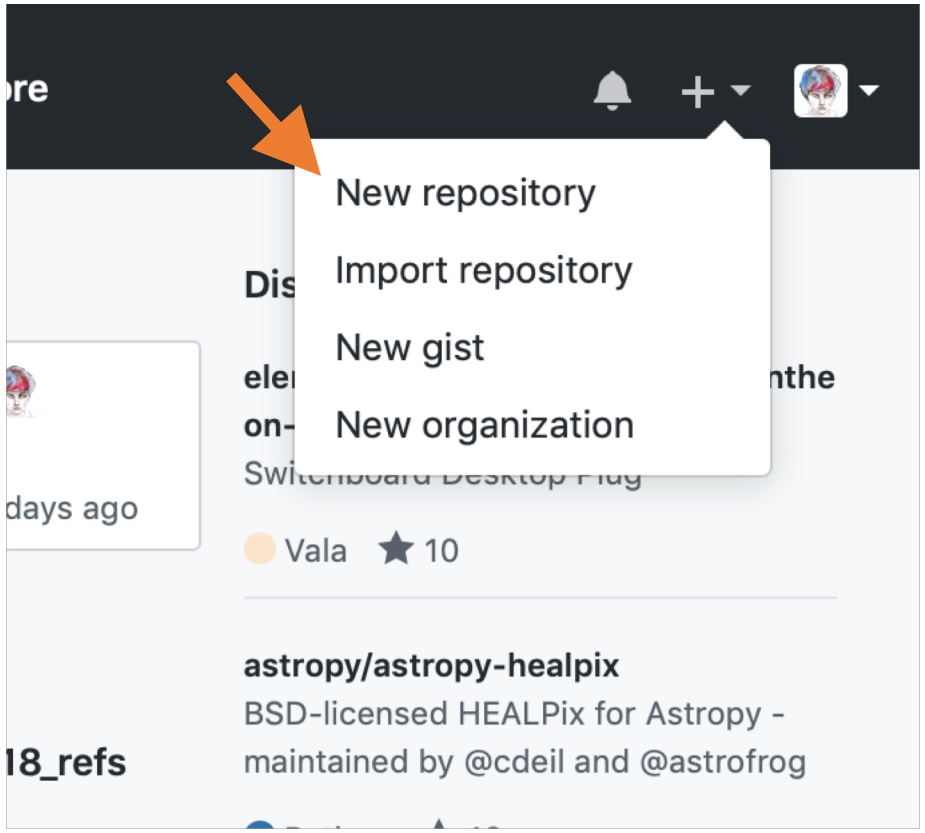
Getting started with git

1. Open a terminal
2. Type `git`
3. Witness the overwhelming number of options



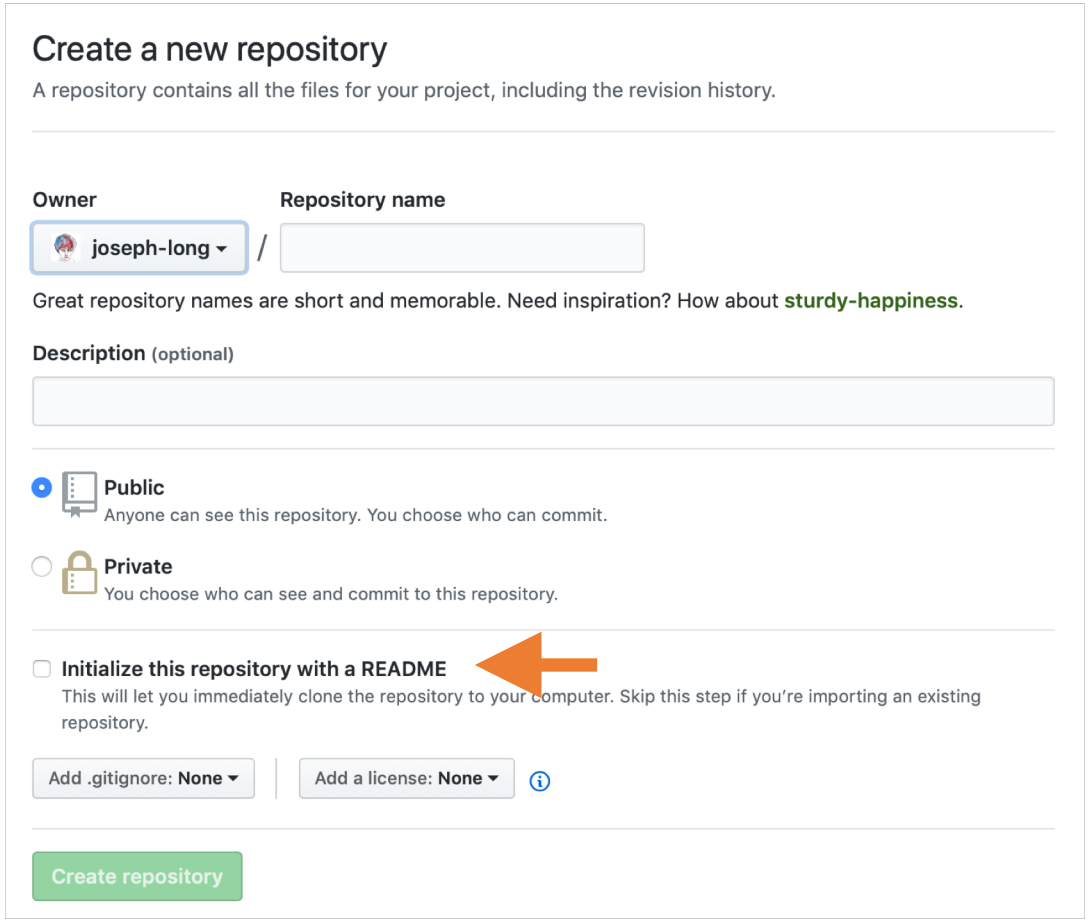
Getting started with ~~git~~ GitHub

- Log in to https://github.com/
- Click the “+” icon at top right



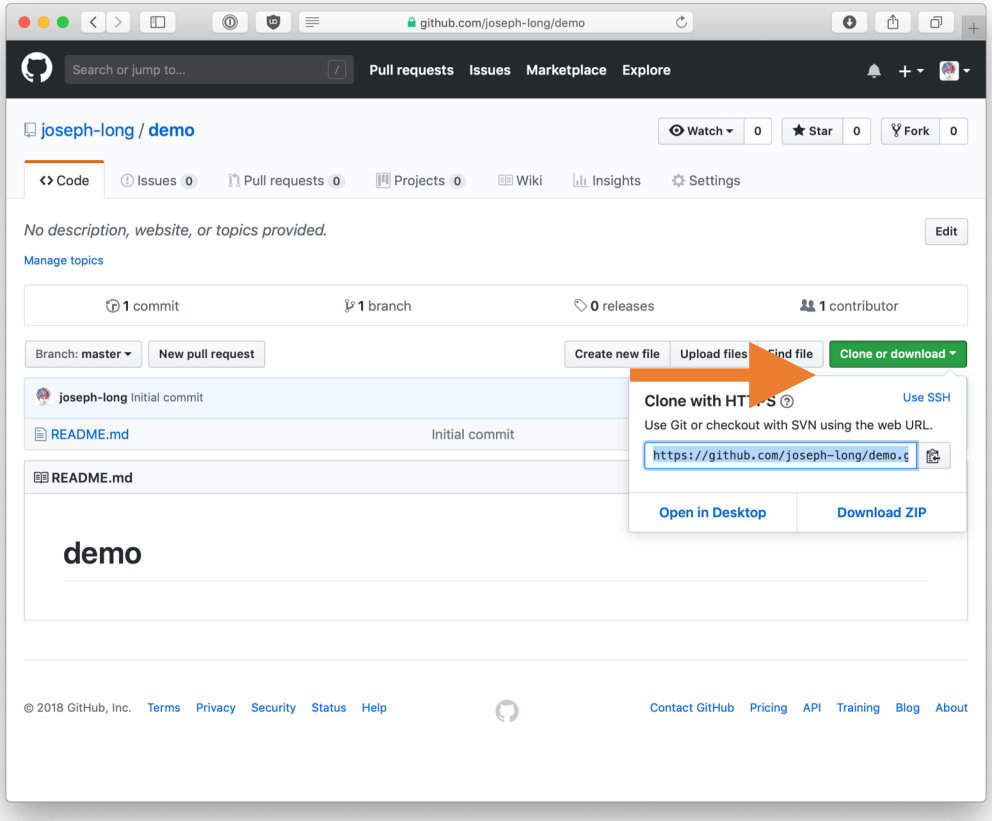
Getting started with ~~git~~ GitHub

- Log in to https://github.com/
- Click the “+” icon at top right
- Click “Initialize this repository with a README”
  - As the instructions say, you don’t always want this.
  - You can initialize a repository yourself locally with `git init`, but then connecting up to GitHub is more complex



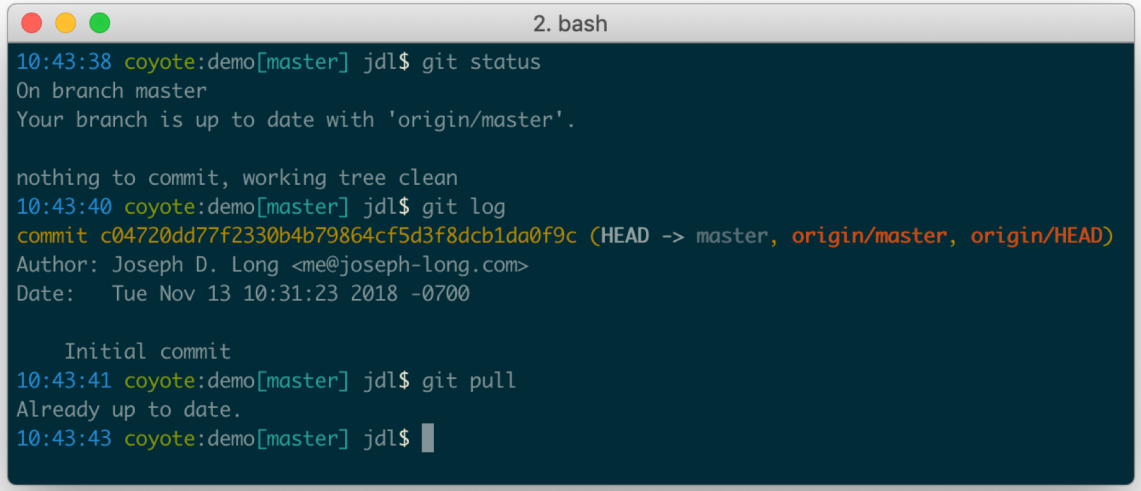
Make a local clone of your new repository

- We say *clone* and not copy because we get two things
  1. a copy of all the files
  2. a complete history of the repository
- Copy the repository URL from GitHub
- Open a terminal window and `git clone https://github.com/joseph-long/demo.git`
  - Well, modified for your username



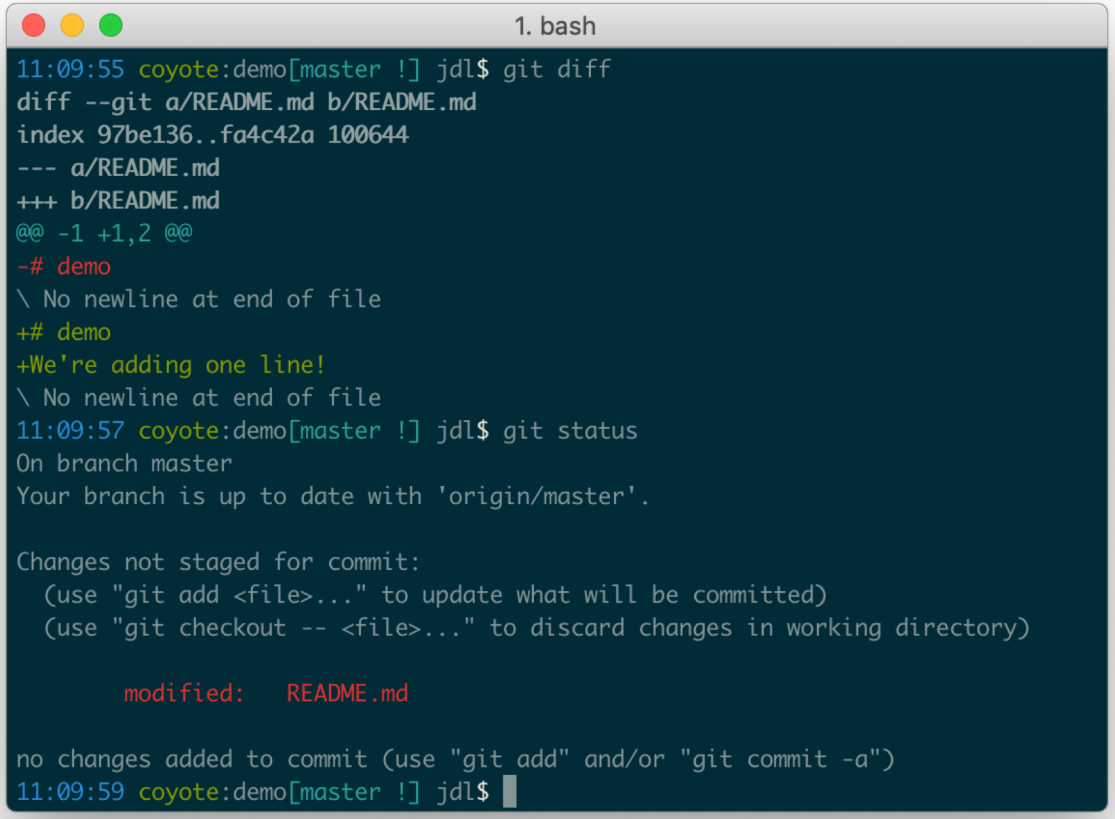
Getting started with ~~GitHub~~ git, actually

- Verify you have a new “demo” directory, “cd” into it
- Three commands you’ll use all the time
  - `git status`
  - `git log`
  - `git pull`
- One option you’ll use some of the time
  - `git [subcommand] --help`



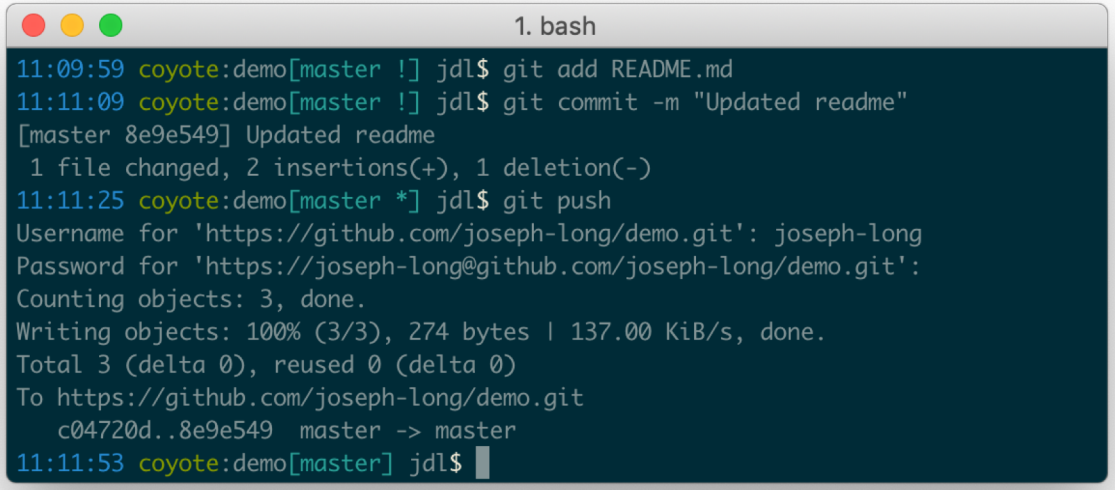
Making a change

- Four **more** commands you'll use all the time
  - `git diff`
  - `git add`
  - `git commit`
  - `git push`
- We're going to edit the README.md file
- Use `git diff` to see just your changes
- After editing, `git status` again
  - The status message gives you hints…



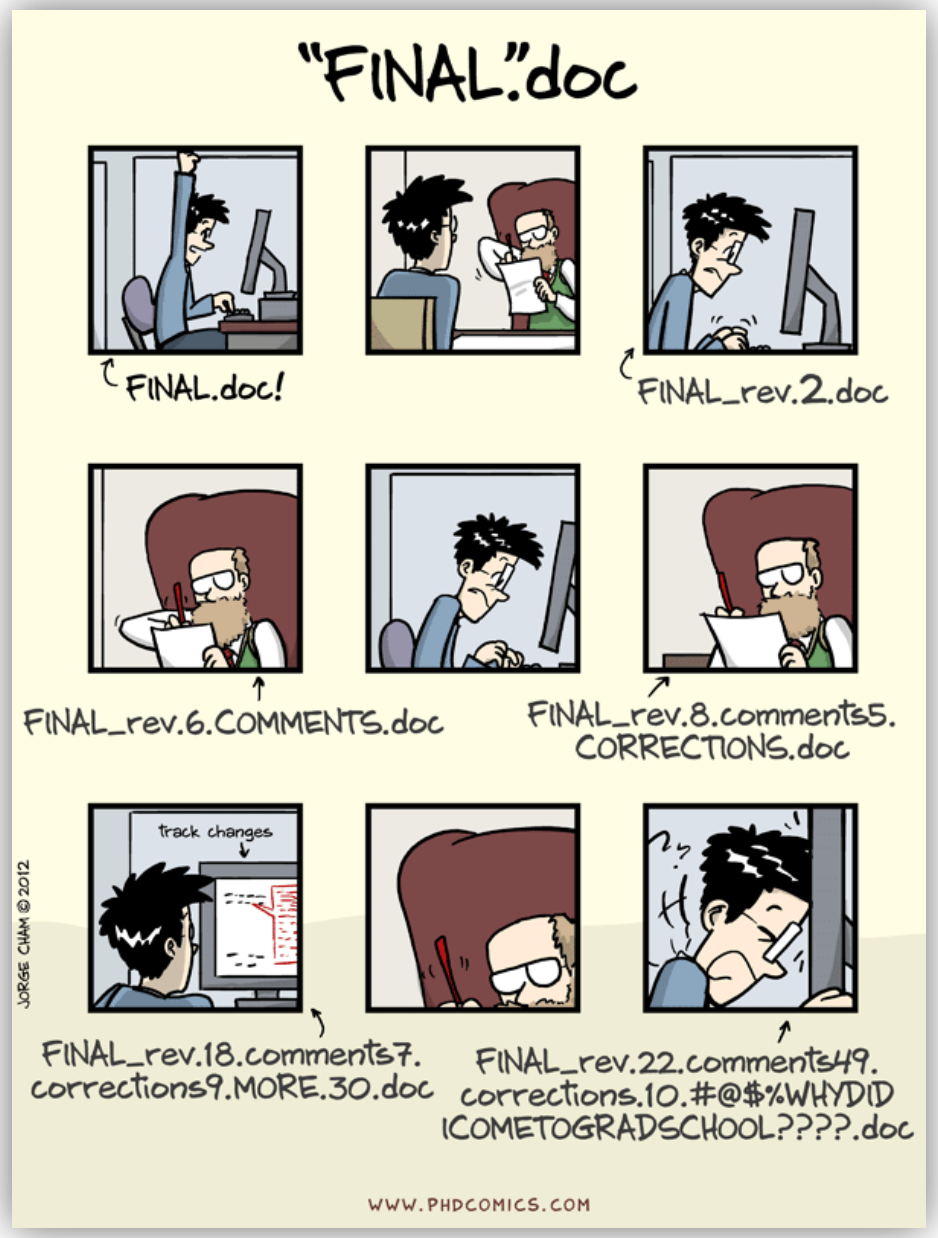
Making a change

- A brief digression on the “staging area”
  - Or, when to `git add`
- After adding, `git commit` your changes
  - Forget something after you committed?
    `git commit --amend`
- And `git push` them
  - Git remembers where you cloned from, and will default to pushing changes there



What would you like to talk about?

1. Using branches to experiment with different ways to evolve your code in parallel
2. Collaborating with others through GitHub Pull Requests
3. Resolving merge conflicts
4. Something else?



Additional resources

- Cheat sheet by GitLab
  - https://about.gitlab.com/images/press/git-cheat-sheet.pdf
- Hosting services
  - https://bitbucket.org
  - https://about.gitlab.com
- Free services for students
  - https://education.github.com/students
- Software Carpentry lessons
  - http://swcarpentry.github.io/git-novice/