

Git: A Developer's Time Machine

Nandakumar Edamana

2025-01-16

Tracking Changes



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Leonardo da Vinci

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



(Redirected from [Da vinci](#))

"Da Vinci" redirects here. For other uses, see [Da Vinci \(disambiguation\)](#) and [Leonardo da Vinci \(disambiguation\)](#).

In this [Renaissance Florentine name](#), the name da Vinci is an indicator of birthplace, not a family name; the person is properly referred to by the [given name](#), Leonardo.

Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci^[b] (15 April 1452 – 2 May 1519) was an Italian [polymath](#) of the [High Renaissance](#) who was active as a painter, draughtsman, engineer, scientist, theorist, sculptor, and architect.^[3] While his fame initially rested on his achievements as a painter, he has also become known for [his notebooks](#), in which he made drawings and notes on a variety of subjects, including anatomy, astronomy, botany, cartography, painting, and [palaeontology](#). Leonardo is widely regarded to have been a genius who epitomised the [Renaissance humanist ideal](#),^[4] and his [collective works](#) comprise a contribution to later generations of artists matched



Figure 1: Wikipedia article about Da Vinci

Tracking Changes



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- [\(cur | prev\)](#) **20:33, 18 September 2024** [Onel5969](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) **m** . . (140,631 bytes) **(+8)** . . *(Disambiguating links to [David \(Donatello\)](#) (link changed to [David \(Donatello, bronze\)](#)) using [DisamAssist](#).)*
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) **09:33, 14 September 2024** [Ewulp](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) . . (140,623 bytes) **(-31)** . . *(rv, standard description) (Tag: [Manual revert](#))*
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) **08:58, 14 September 2024** [Divinemomentever](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) **m** . . (140,654 bytes) **(+2)** . . *(Grammar) (Tags: [Reverted](#), [Visual edit](#), [Mobile edit](#), [Mobile web edit](#))*
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) **08:58, 14 September 2024** [Divinemomentever](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) **m** . . (140,652 bytes) **(-25)** . . *(Neutral term, South Europe) (Tags: [Reverted](#), [Visual edit](#), [Mobile edit](#), [Mobile web edit](#))*
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) **08:46, 14 September 2024** [Divinemomentever](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) **m** . . (140,677 bytes) **(+54)** . . *(Neutral term, South Europe) (Tags: [Reverted](#), [Visual edit](#), [Mobile edit](#), [Mobile web edit](#))*

Figure 2: Edit History of the Wikipedia article

Tracking Changes

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Visual **Wikitext** Inline

Revision as of 15:06, 16 April 2024 (view source)

[Per exemplum](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#))

(lead edit for precision (Western art history))

(Tag: Visual edit)

[← Previous edit](#)

Revision as of 15:09, 16 April 2024 (view source)

[Per exemplum](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#))

(lead edit to avoid repetition)

(Tag: Visual edit)

[Next edit →](#)

Line 38:

Leonardo is identified as one of the greatest painters in the history of [[Art of Europe|Western art]] and is often credited as the founder of the High Renaissance.{{sfn|Kemp|2003}} Despite having many [[Lost artworks|lost works]] and [[List of works by Leonardo da Vinci#Major extant works|fewer than 25 attributed major works]]{{snd}} including numerous [[Unfinished creative work|unfinished works]]{{snd}} he created some of the most influential paintings in [[Western art]].{{sfn|Kemp|2003}} His [[magnum opus]], the ''[[Mona Lisa]]'', is his best known work and often regarded as the world's most famous painting. ''[[The Last Supper (Leonardo)|The Last Supper]]'' is the most reproduced religious painting of all time and his ''[[Vitruvian

Line 38:

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Figure 3: Details of one edit of the Wikipedia article

Version Control

- ▶ Keep track of the changes you make

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- ▶ Locate and fix bugs easily

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Version Control

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- ▶ Locate and fix bugs easily
- ▶ Work independently on different features and merge them cleanly
- ▶ Try out new features and rollback
- ▶ Protection from accidental data loss and corruption (to an extent)
- ▶ Not just Git; Mercurial, Fossil, etc. (out-of-fashion: SVN, CVS, Bazaar)

Git vs GitHub

- ▶ Git can run totally offline, without even a local server

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GitHub Profile

67 contributions in 2024

Achievements

Block or Report

Arctic Code Vault Contributor

@nandedamana contributed code to 1 repository in the 2020 GitHub Archive Program.

History

🏆 100% unlocked - Unlocked on Feb 2, 2020

scratchfoundation/scratch-www

thub.com/nandedamana?achievement=arctic-code-vault-contributor&tab=achievements

The image shows a GitHub profile page with a dark theme. At the top, it says '67 contributions in 2024'. Below that is the 'Achievements' section, which contains three circular icons: a blue one with a globe and 'x2', a green one with a pea in a pod, and a shield-shaped one with a mountain and moon. The shield-shaped badge is highlighted in a larger blue box. This box contains the text 'Arctic Code Vault Contributor' and a description: '@nandedamana contributed code to 1 repository in the 2020 GitHub Archive Program.' Below this is a 'History' section with a trophy icon, the text '100% unlocked - Unlocked on Feb 2, 2020', and a link to 'scratchfoundation/scratch-www'. At the bottom of the screenshot, the URL 'thub.com/nandedamana?achievement=arctic-code-vault-contributor&tab=achievements' is visible.

Figure 4: GitHub Badges

GitHub Contribution Types



Figure 5: GitHub Contribution Types

A Project on GitHub















The screenshot displays the GitHub interface for the repository `scratchfoundation/scratch-www`. At the top, navigation links include Product, Solutions, Resources, Open Source, Enterprise, and Pricing. The repository name is shown as `scratchfoundation/scratch-www` with a 'Public' badge. Notification, Fork (840), and Star (1.6k) buttons are visible. Below the repository name, tabs for Code, Issues (516), Pull requests (89), Actions, Projects, Wiki, Security, and Insights are present. The main content area shows a file browser view for the `develop` branch, with 210 branches and 1 tag. A search bar and a 'Code' button are also present. The file browser shows a table of files and folders:




File/Folder	Description	Last Modified
<code>.github</code>	Include vars and secrets for user guiding in CI build	2 months ago
<code>bin</code>	derp.	5 months ago
<code>dev-server</code>	style: enable scratch/es6 lint rules	9 months ago
<code>src</code>	fix: use Title Caps for DSA Requirements link label	3 days ago
<code>static</code>	Merge branch 'develop' into scratch-link-2.0-mac-release	last year
<code>test</code>	fix: use Title Caps for DSA Requirements link label	3 days ago
<code>.babelrc</code>	refactor: ensure any given file is all CJS or all ESM	7 months ago
<code>.eslintrc</code>	Move the eslint ignore from Makefile lint rule to into .eslin...	6 years ago
<code>.eslintrc.js</code>	style: enable scratch/es6 lint rules	9 months ago
<code>.gitignore</code>	circleci setup jest-junit to output junit test results	3 years ago

The right sidebar contains the 'About' section, which includes the project name 'Standalone web client for Scratch', the repository URL `scratch.mit.edu`, and various statistics: 1.6k stars, 125 watching, 840 forks, and a 'Report repository' link. The 'Releases' section shows a '2.2.3 Hotfix' released on Nov 11, 2015, with a 'Latest' badge.


Figure 6: scratch-www on GitHub (1)

A Project on GitHub

 .eslintrc	Move the eslint ignore from Makefile lint rule to into .eslin...	6 years ago
 .eslintrc.js	style: enable scratch/es6 lint rules	9 months ago
 .gitignore	circleci setup jest-junit to output junit test results	3 years ago
 .npmrc	chore(deps): try legacy-peer-deps as a quick/bad fix for s...	8 months ago
 .nvmrc	chore(deps): update dependency node to v18.20.4	3 months ago
 .sass-lint.yml	Upgrade and quiet sass-linter	8 years ago
 LICENSE	Legal fixes	3 years ago
 README.md	Fix typo	5 months ago
 TRADEMARK	Legal fixes	3 years ago
 package-lock.json	chore(deps): update dependency sass to v1.80.1	7 hours ago
 package.json	chore(deps): update dependency sass to v1.80.1	7 hours ago
 renovate.json5	chore(deps): use Scratch js-app Renovate config	8 months ago
 requirements.txt	Use s3cmd to sync with S3	8 years ago
 webpack.config.js	fix: make sure scratch-gui images are where the JS is loo...	last month

 **README**  BSD-3-Clause license 

scratch-www

 **2.2.3 Hotfix** Latest
on Nov 11, 2015

Packages

No packages published

Contributors

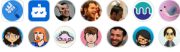
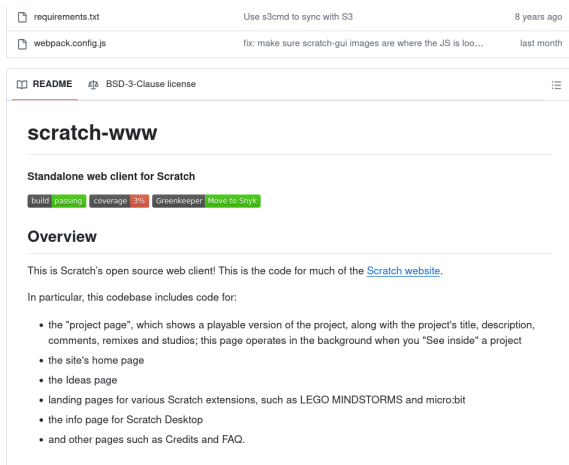
 86

[+ 72 contributors](#)

Figure 7: scratch-www on GitHub (2)

A Project on GitHub



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository interface for 'scratch-www'. At the top, there are two files listed: 'requirements.txt' with a commit message 'Use s3cmd to sync with S3' from 8 years ago, and 'webpack.config.js' with a commit message 'fix: make sure scratch-gui images are where the JS is loo...' from last month. Below the file list is the 'README' section, which includes the license 'BSD-3-Clause license'. The main content of the README is as follows:

scratch-www

Standalone web client for Scratch

build passing coverage 3% Greenkeeper Move to Snyk

Overview

This is Scratch's open source web client! This is the code for much of the [Scratch website](#).

In particular, this codebase includes code for:

- the "project page", which shows a playable version of the project, along with the project's title, description, comments, remixes and studios; this page operates in the background when you "See inside" a project
- the site's home page
- the Ideas page
- landing pages for various Scratch extensions, such as LEGO MINDSTORMS and micro:bit
- the info page for Scratch Desktop
- and other pages such as Credits and FAQ.

Figure 8: scratch-www on GitHub (3)

Git in Action

git log output:

...

commit 668cf51dd378f815b1392bdbbc0c08fb3bef53772

Author: Nandakumar Edamana <EMAIL>

Date: Wed May 24 07:03:51 2023 +0530

ui improvements including grid for viewport

commit 8048bab246e6d8e59a45cc7792bb93ee5e33c367

Author: Nandakumar Edamana <EMAIL>

Date: Wed May 24 06:54:44 2023 +0530

support hard brush strokes with anti-aliasing

...

Git in Action

How many commits did I create on Sundays?

Git in Action

How many commits did I create on Sundays?

```
$ git log | grep 'Sun ' | wc -l
```

```
78
```


Git Status

git status output:

```
nandakumar@nanlap2:~/nandakumar/my-works/software/vara/src$ git status
On branch main
Your branch is ahead of 'nanlap-gitserver/main' by 1 commit.
  (use "git push" to publish your local commits)

Changes to be committed:
  (use "git restore --staged <file>..." to unstage)
        modified:   ../TODO.txt

Changes not staged for commit:
  (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
  (use "git restore <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)
        modified:   ../FIXME.txt
        modified:   ../README-nan-release.txt

Untracked files:
  (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
        ../doc.txt
        ../packaging/
        conv-test-c2ngg.sh
        vara-icons-20240812/
        vara.exe.manifest
        ../stat.sh

nandakumar@nanlap2:~/nandakumar/my-works/software/vara/src$
```

Figure 9: git status

Terminology

States of a repo:

- ▶ **Working Tree** - files in your directory; sandbox; contains latest modifications
- ▶ **Index (Staging Area)** - changes added for committing
- ▶ **Branch History** - changes committed, last snapshot denoted by *HEAD*

One-time Setup for a User

```
git config --global user.name 'Your Name'
```

```
git config --global user.email ROLLNO@smail.iitpkd.ac.in
```

How to Start a Project

```
mkdir PROJECT-NAME  
cd PROJECT-NAME
```

How to Start a Project

```
mkdir PROJECT-NAME
```

```
cd PROJECT-NAME
```

```
# initialize a repo in the current directory
```

```
git init
```

How to Start a Project

```
mkdir PROJECT-NAME
```

```
cd PROJECT-NAME
```

```
# initialize a repo in the current directory
```

```
git init
```

```
# rename the default branch `master`
```

```
git branch -m main
```

Adding Files and Committing

```
git add FILE1 FILE2 ...  
git commit -m 'Commit message'
```

Example: Adding and Committing

*# Write, save, compile, and test a Hello World program
(say hello.c); then:*

```
git add hello.c
```

```
git commit -m 'Basic version of Hello World'
```


Example: Adding and Committing (Stage 1)

```
git status after creation:
```

```
On branch master
```

```
No commits yet
```

```
Untracked files:
```

```
(use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be commi
```

```
hello.c
```

Example: Adding and Committing (Stage 2)

```
git status after git add hello.c:
```

```
On branch master
```

```
No commits yet
```

```
Changes to be committed:
```

```
(use "git rm --cached <file>..." to unstage)
```

```
new file:   hello.c
```

Example: Adding and Committing (Stage 3)

```
git status after commit:
```

```
On branch master
```

```
nothing to commit, working tree clean
```

Example: Adding and Committing

*# Now edit hello.c to add some feature (say, color),
save, and test again; then:*

```
git add hello.c
```

```
git commit -m 'Feature: add color to the output'
```

Example: Adding and Committing

git status **after modifying hello.c, before adding and committing:**

On branch master

Changes not staged for commit:

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

(use "git restore <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)

modified: hello.c

no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit")

State Changes

Time	Action	Working Tree	Index	History
0		empty	clean	empty

State Changes

Time	Action	Working Tree	Index	History
0		empty	clean	empty
1	Create hello.c	hello.c (dirty)	clean	empty

State Changes

Time	Action	Working Tree	Index	History
0		empty	clean	empty
1	Create hello.c	hello.c (dirty)	clean	empty
2	git add hello.c	hello.c	hello.c	empty

State Changes

Time	Action	Working Tree	Index	History
0		empty	clean	empty
1	Create hello.c	hello.c (dirty)	clean	empty
2	git add hello.c	hello.c	hello.c	empty
3	git commit hello.c	hello.c	clean	hello.c

State Changes

Time	Action	Working Tree	Index	History
0		empty	clean	empty
1	Create hello.c	hello.c (dirty)	clean	empty
2	git add hello.c	hello.c	hello.c	empty
3	git commit hello.c	hello.c	clean	hello.c
4	Modify hello.c	hello.c (dirty)	clean	hello.c (old)

Quiz

You committed the initial version of `hello.c`, modified it, and committed again. Will you be able to access the initial version now?

Branching and Merging

Usual workflow:

```
git branch -v
```

```
git checkout -b feature-x
```

Branching and Merging

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git branch -v
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```

```
# like we've already seen; then:
```

Branching and Merging

Usual workflow:

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git branch -v
```

```
git checkout -b feature-x
```

```
# Modify, add, and commit files
```

```
# like we've already seen; then:
```

```
git checkout main
```

```
git merge feature-x
```

```
git branch -d feature-x
```

Branching and Merging

...

```
git checkout main          # (1)
```

```
git merge feature-x       # (2)
```

```
git branch -d feature-x
```

- ▶ hello.c gets restored after (1) (i.e., feature-x gone), gets updated again after (2)

Branching and Merging

...

```
git checkout main          # (1)
```

```
git merge feature-x       # (2)
```

```
git branch -d feature-x
```

- ▶ hello.c gets restored after (1) (i.e., feature-x gone), gets updated again after (2)

Connected Workflow

```
+-----+
|       | ----- clone, pull -----> You
|       | <----- push -----'
| Remote |
|       | ----- clone, pull -----> Your friend
|       | <----- push -----'
+-----+
```

Connected Workflow

- ▶ `git clone URL` – create a local clone of the repo pointed by URL
- ▶ `git clone --depth=1 URL` – shallow clone (no history); useful if not contributing
- ▶ `git pull` – incorporate changes from the remote to the current local branch
- ▶ `git push` – upload changes from all local branches to the remote
- ▶ `git remote -v` – list remotes

Standard GitHub Workflow

1. File/pick an issue

Standard GitHub Workflow

1. File/pick an issue
2. Fork and clone your fork

Standard GitHub Workflow

1. File/pick an issue
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3. Branch

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4. Commit your changes and push
5. File *Pull Request* (aka *Merge Request*)

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Standard GitHub Workflow

1. File/pick an issue
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3. Branch
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Some of these actions are offered by the platform, not Git.

Example: Cloning

```
git clone \  
  https://gitlab.gnome.org/GNOME/gnome-calculator.git
```

```
cd gnome-calculator
```

```
# Now create a branch and start working  
# on your feature or fix
```

Git Counterparts of Standard Commands

- ▶ `git mv`
- ▶ `git rm`
- ▶ `git grep`

Don't forget to commit after `git mv` and `git rm`.

Reset, Restore and Revert

Based on the section "Reset, restore and revert" from the man page:

- ▶ `git revert` - make a new commit that reverts other commits (affects history)
- ▶ `git restore` - restore files in the working tree or the index¹ from either the index or another commit
- ▶ `git reset` - move "the tip in order to add or remove commits from the branch" (affects history)

The man page says: "git reset can also be used to restore the index, overlapping with git restore."

¹--staged

Best Practices

Make sure the following are not added:

- ▶ Secrets (passwords, keys, etc.)

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Best Practices

Make sure the following are not added:

- ▶ Secrets (passwords, keys, etc.)
- ▶ Executable binary files
- ▶ Anything that can be easily generated from the source that is already included
- ▶ Proprietary files that you don't have rights to

Best Practices

- ▶ Do not commit without checking status and diff

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- ▶ Use meaningful commit messages

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- ▶ Always branch
- ▶ Pull before you start working

Best Practices

- ▶ Do not commit without checking status and diff
- ▶ Use meaningful commit messages
- ▶ Set and follow a convention (tense, lowercase, prefixes like "fix:", etc.)
- ▶ Always branch
- ▶ Pull before you start working
- ▶ Avoid altering history after pushing; avoid force pushes in general

.gitignore

Demo

Referencing

- ▶ **HEAD** - Points to the latest commit in the branch history
- ▶ **HEAD^{^n}** - *n*th parent commit of HEAD
- ▶ **HEAD~n** - *n*th predecessor commit of HEAD
- ▶ **HEAD@{n}** - where HEAD used to be *n* moves ago (you can move HEAD around)

Learn Git

- ▶ Man pages: `giteveryday(7)`, `gittutorial(7)`, `gitworkflows(7)`
- ▶ Official documentation on <https://git-scm.com/>
- ▶ Interactive resources from platforms like GitHub and GitLab
- ▶ <https://learngitbranching.js.org/> (game)