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Git Under the Hood

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Vjeko.com

Why Git?

BC/NAV
TECH
DAYS
2022
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Why Git?

I mean, it's 2022, not 2005...







What is Git?

stupid content tracker

About

Documentation

Reference

[Book](#)[Videos](#)[External Links](#)

Downloads

Community

Version 2.37.3 ▾ git last updated in 2.37.3**Topics** ▾ **English** ▾

NAME

git - the stupid content tracker

SYNOPSIS

```
git [-v | --version] [-h | --help] [-C <path>] [-c <name>=<value>]
    [--exec-path[=<path>]] [--html-path] [--man-path] [--info-path]
    [-p|--paginate|-P|--no-pager] [--no-replace-objects] [--bare]
    [--git-dir=<path>] [--work-tree=<path>] [--namespace=<name>]
    [--super-prefix=<path>] [--config-env=<name>=<envvar>]
    <command> [<args>]
```

DESCRIPTION

Git is a fast, scalable, distributed revision control system with an unusually rich command set that provides both high-level operations and full access to internals.

See [gittutorial\[7\]](#) to get started, then see [giteveryday\[7\]](#) for a useful minimum set of commands. The [Git User's Manual](#) has a more in-depth introduction.

Git is a fast, scalable, distributed revision control system with an unusually rich command set that provides both high-level operations and full access to internals.

*Git is a fast, scalable, distributed revision control system with an unusually rich **command set** that provides both high-level operations and full access to internals.*



Git is a **command line tool**.



What is the **most common thing** Git does?

Git is a dictionary

Git is a dictionary

```
var xyz: Dictionary of [Text, Boolean];
```


Git is a dictionary

```
var git: Dictionary of [?, ?];
```

Inside the dictionary

Value: Any **sequence** of bytes

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 57 | 68 | 65 | 72 | 65 |
| 27 | 73 | 20 | 57 | 61 |
| 6C | 64 | 6F | 3F | 0A |

Key: SHA-1

526405142abb3ed4745b9f66da0226172d03703d

Inside the dictionary

Value: Any sequence of bytes

```
57 68 65 72 65  
27 73 20 57 61  
6C 64 6F 3F 0A
```

Key: SHA-1

```
526405142abb3ed4745b9f66da0226172d03703d
```

```
git hash-object
```


Inside the dictionary

SHA-1

Same input **always** gives the same output

Git is a dictionary

```
git hash-object
```

Git is a **persisted** dictionary

```
git hash-object -w
```

```
git hash-object -w
```

content

Where's Waldo?\x0a

```
git hash-object -w
```

| header | content |
|---------|--------------------------|
| blob 15 | \u0000Where's Waldo?\x0a |


```
git hash-object -w
```

| header | content |
|---------|--------------------------|
| blob 15 | \u0000Where's Waldo?\x0a |

| hash |
|--|
| 526405142abb3ed4745b9f66da0226172d03703d |

```
git hash-object -w
```

compressed object

```
78 01 4b ca c9 4f 52 30 34 65 08 cf 48 2d 4a 55  
2f 56 08 4f cc 49 c9 b7 e7 02 00 56 99 07 1b
```

hash

```
526405142abb3ed4745b9f66da0226172d03703d
```

`git hash-object -w`

compressed object

```
78 01 4b ca c9 4f 52 30 34 65 08 cf 48 2d 4a 55
2f 56 08 4f cc 49 c9 b7 e7 02 00 56 99 07 1b
```



52



6405142abb3ed4745b9f66da0226172d03703d

```
git hash-object -w
```



52



6405142abb3ed4745b9f66da0226172d03703d

A few persisted dictionary takeaways

- Git works like a **dictionary**
- Value is any **data**, in **binary format**
- Key is **SHA-1**
- SHA-1 is **identity**, it identifies content **globally**
- Objects in the dictionary are **immutable**

~~Stupid~~ Content Tracker



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10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

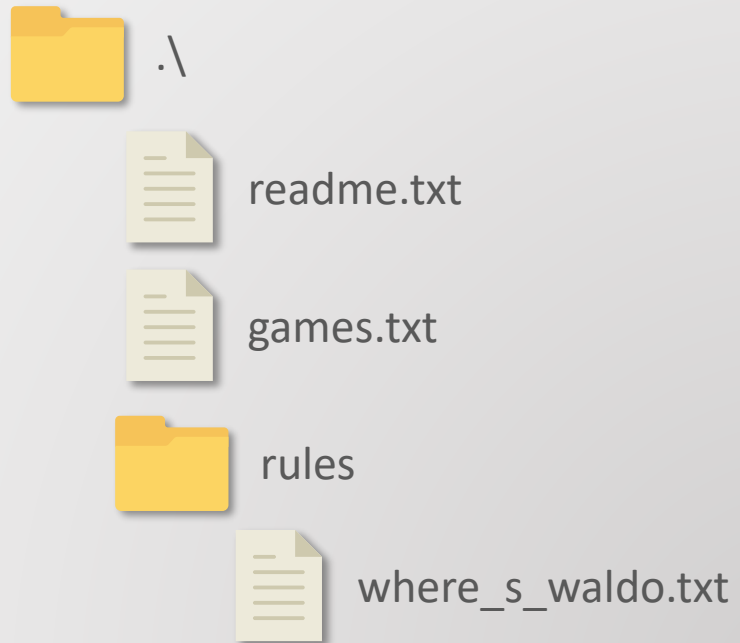
Git does not **monitor** source code

Three areas of Git



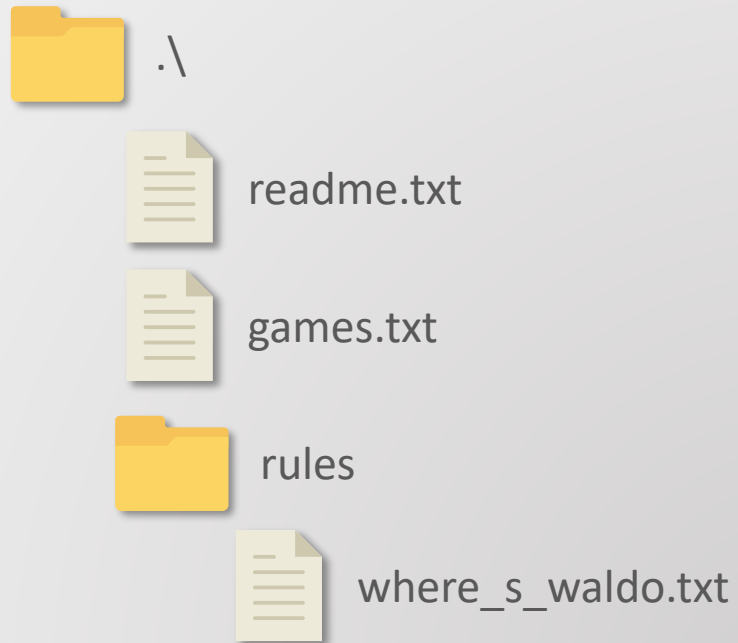
Three areas of Git

Working Tree



Three areas of Git

Working Tree

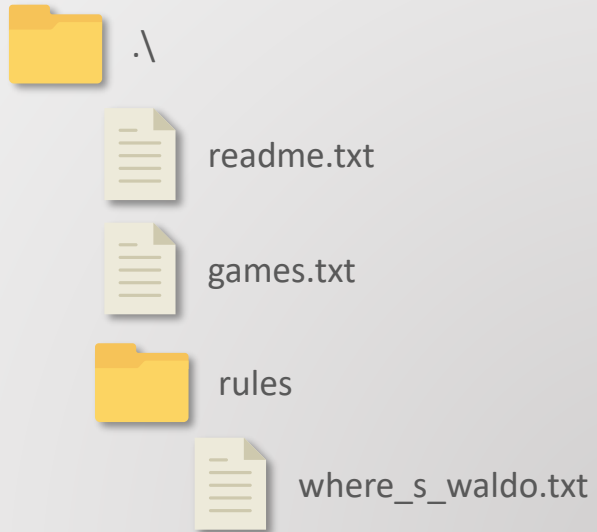


Local Repository



Three areas of Git

Working Tree



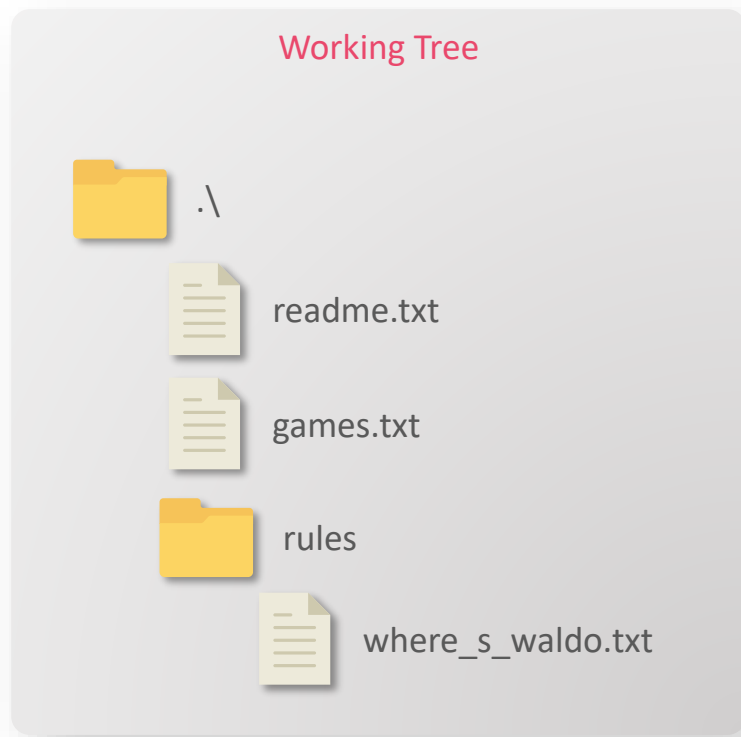
Staging Area



Local Repository

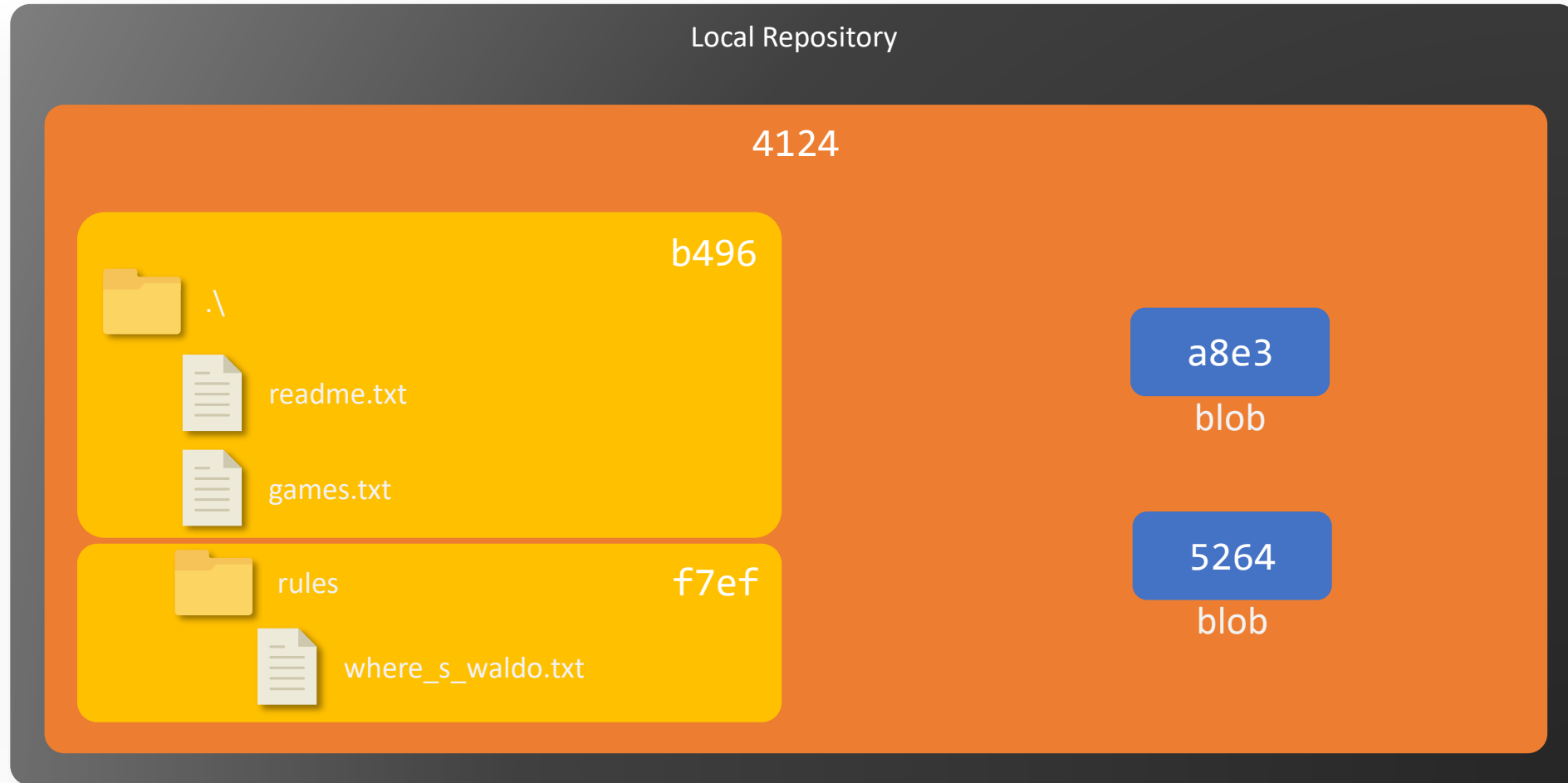


What happens during staging?



```
git add .\readme.txt .\games.txt .\rules\where_s_waldo.txt
```

What happens during committing?



```
git commit -m "First commit"
```

4124

b496



.



readme.txt



games.txt



rules



where_s_waldo.txt

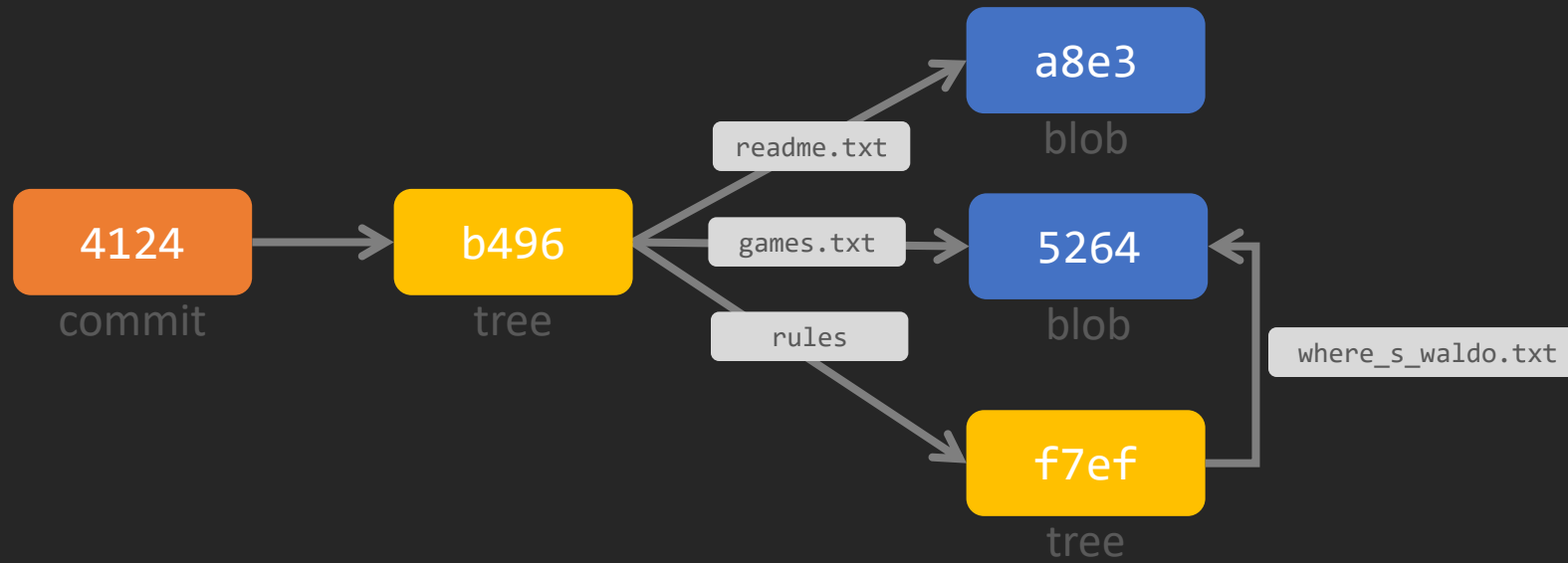
f7ef

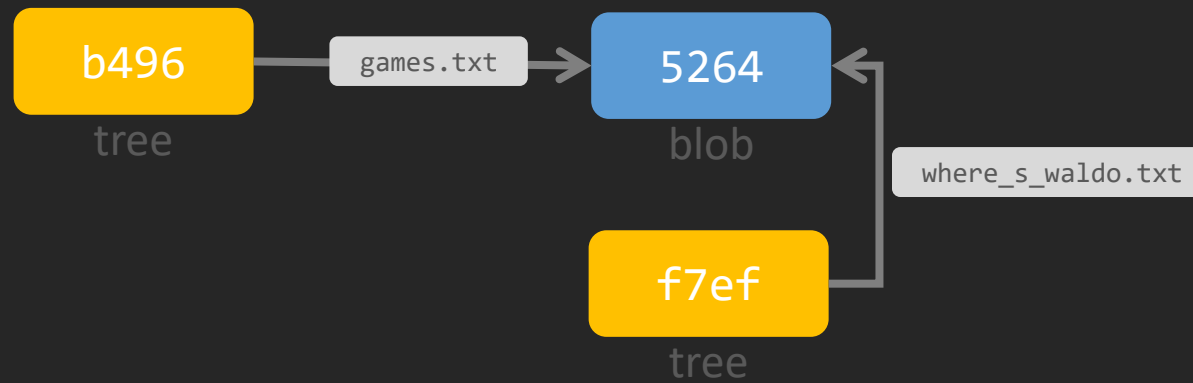
a8e3

blob

5264

blob





A few ~~stupid~~ content tracker takeaways

- Index is **blueprint for next commit**
- Commit creates **commit object**
- Commit object **points to a tree**
- Trees are catalogs of **named pointers** to blobs and other trees
- Git **hates duplication**

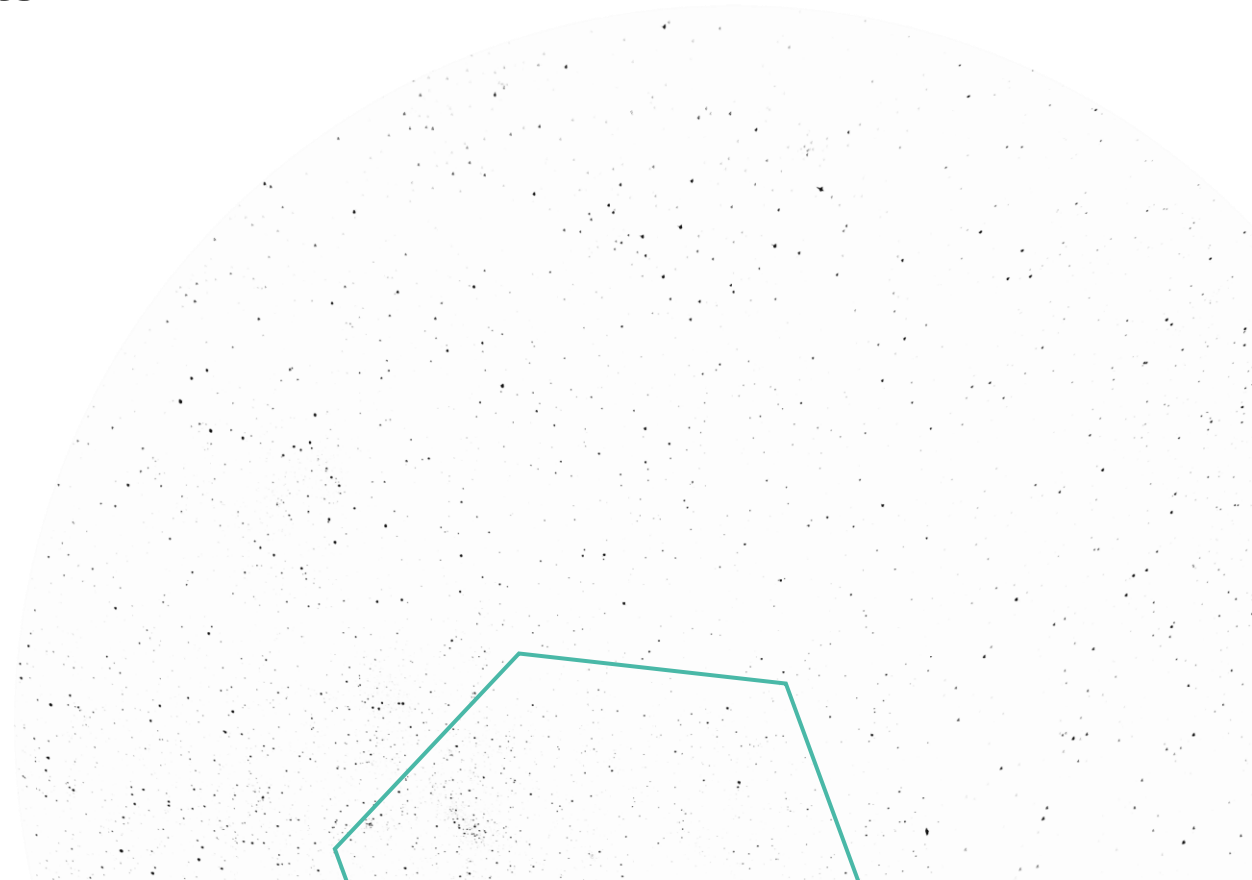
Revision Control System

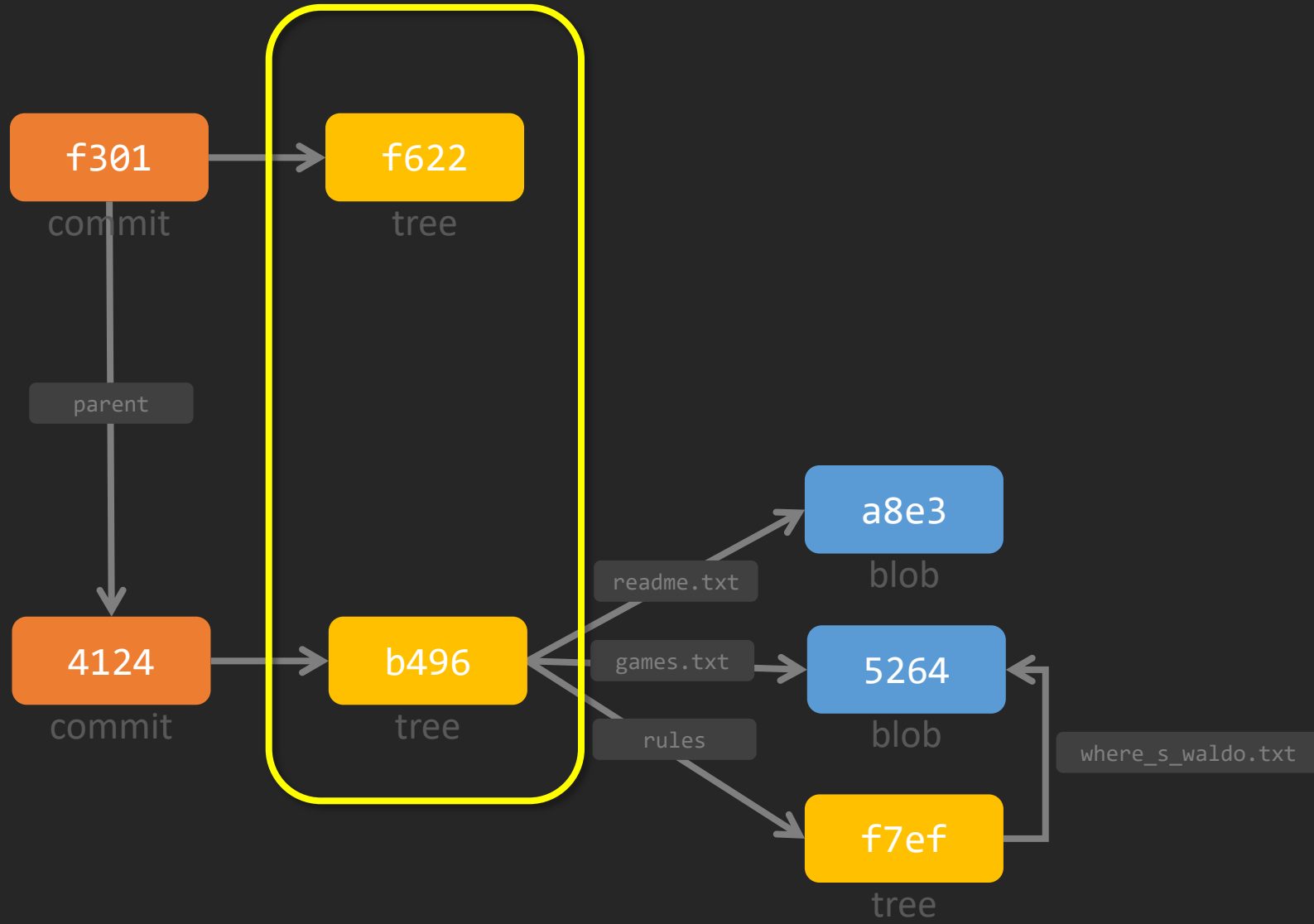
What is a revision control system

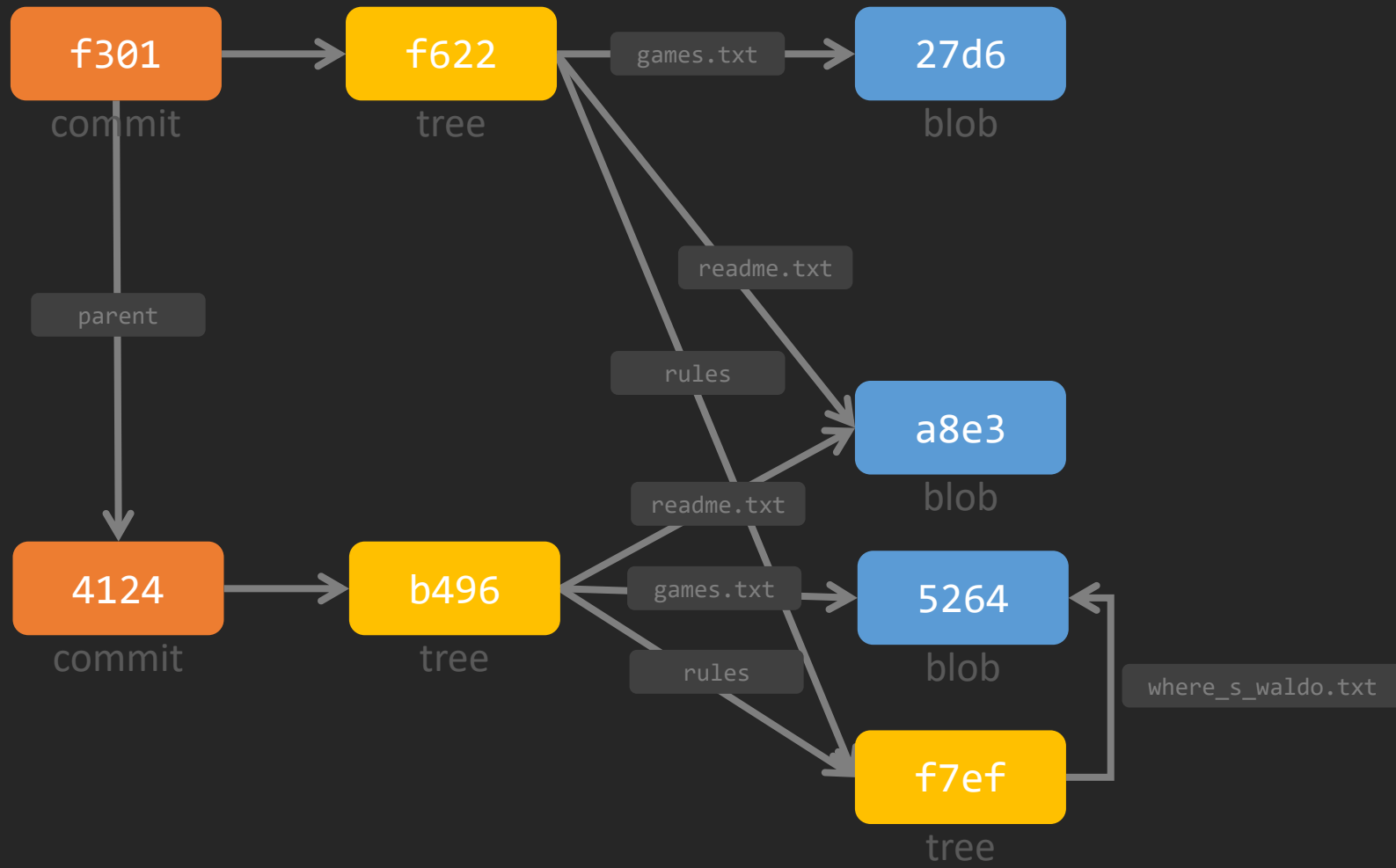
- Manages changes of data over time
- Identifies differences between revisions
- Allows isolation of changes
- Allows integration of changes

Git as a revision control system

- Manages history of commits
- Identifies differences between commits
- Allows isolation through branches
- Allows integration of branches







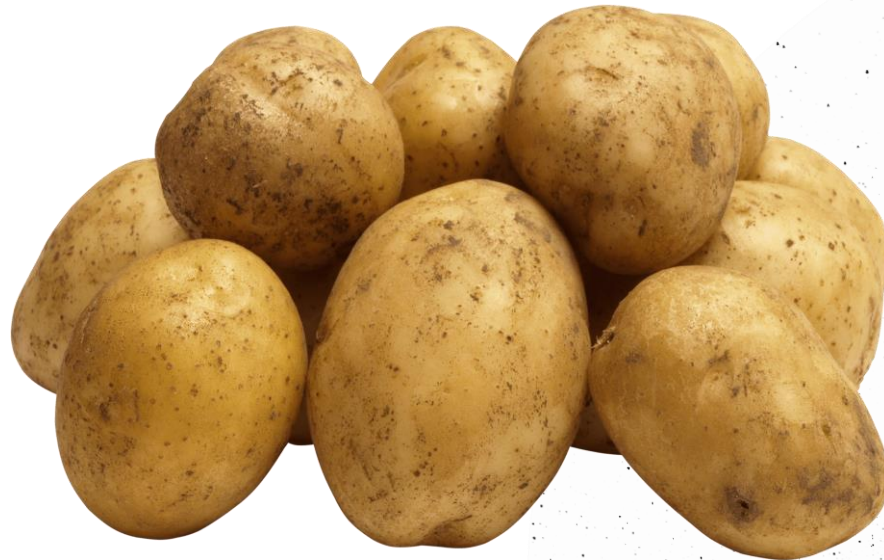
Common misconceptions about Git

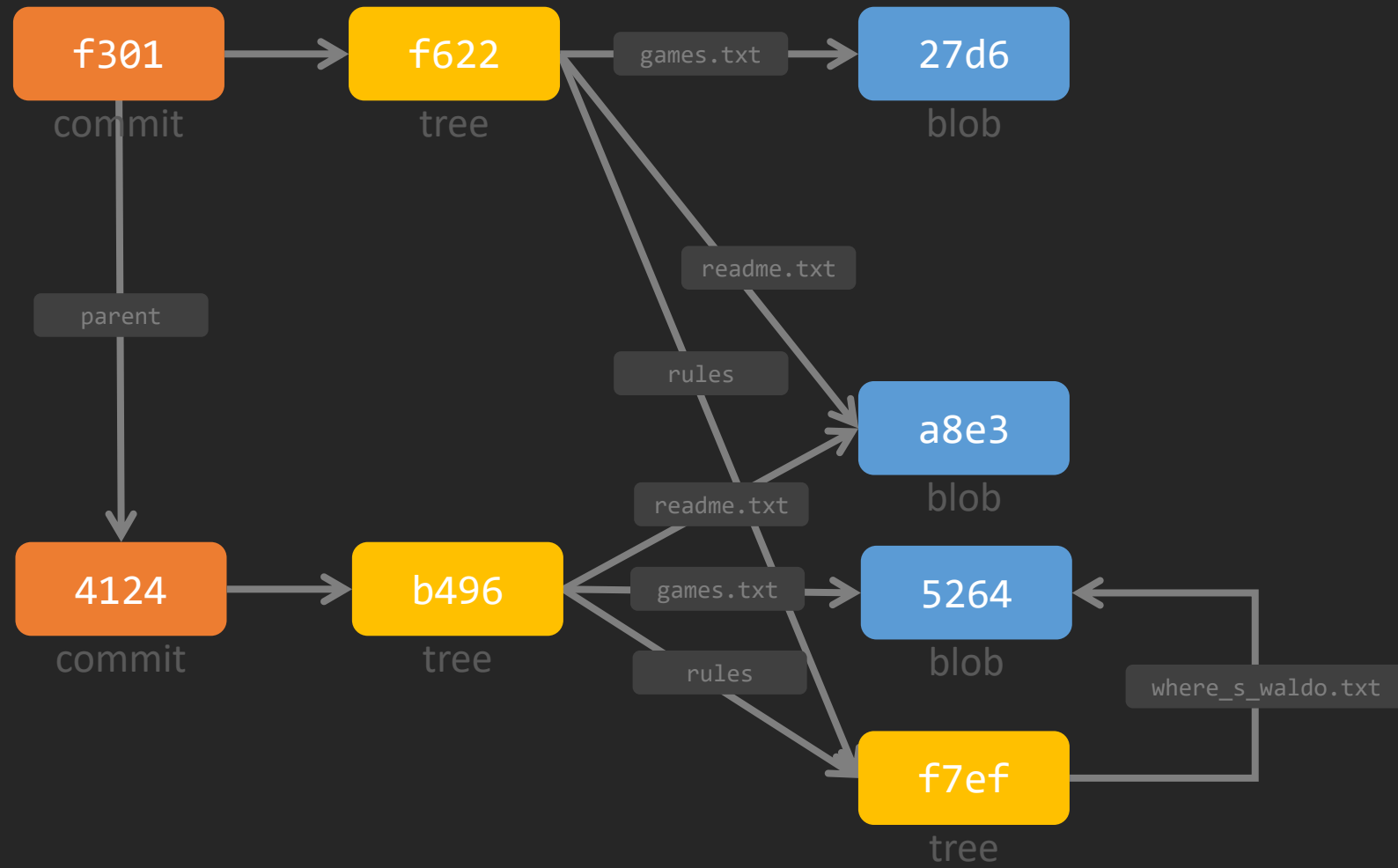
- Git stores deltas
- Git tracks changes

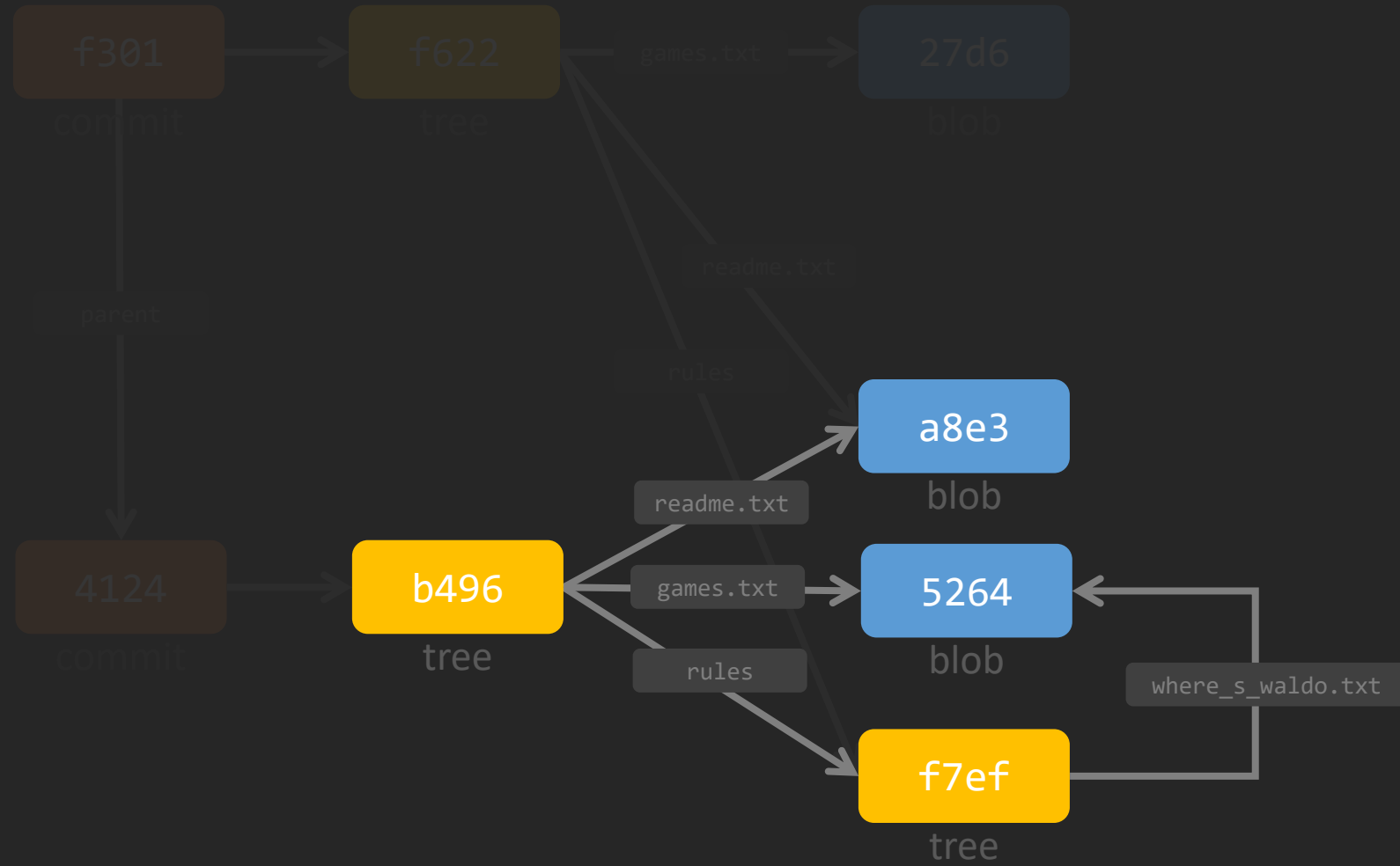


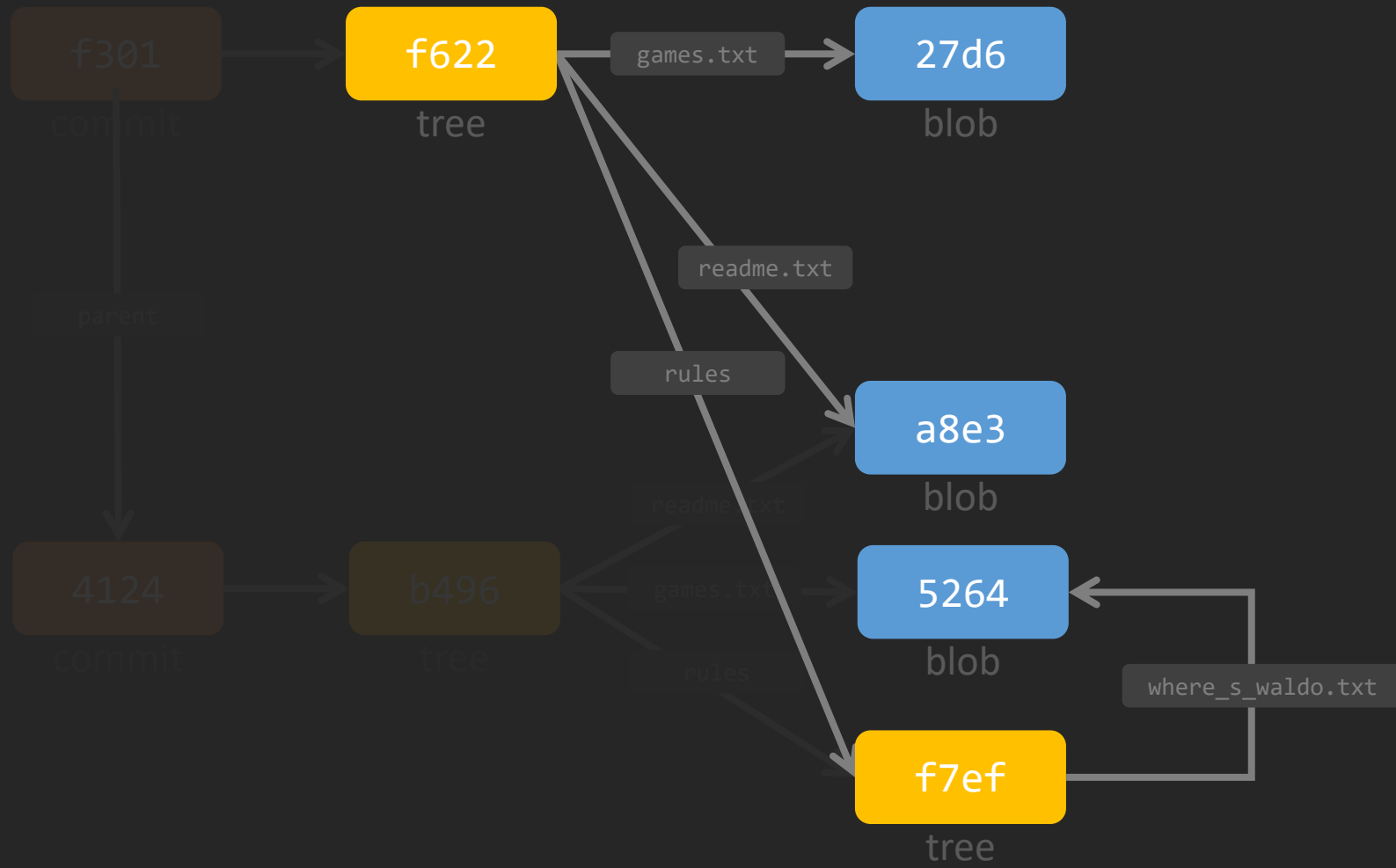
Common misconceptions about Git

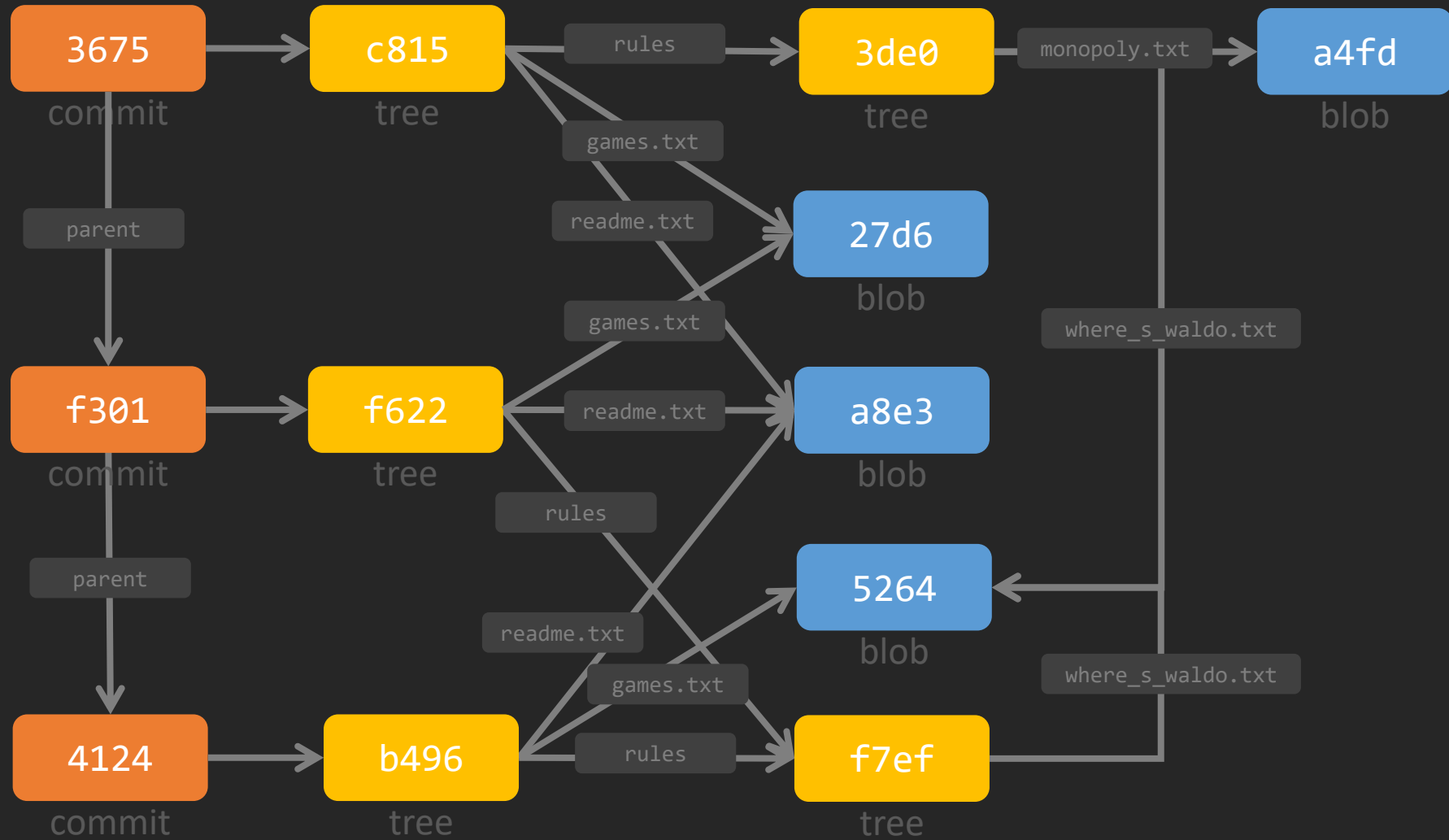
- Git stores ~~deltas~~ *snapshots*
- Git tracks ~~changes~~ *content*

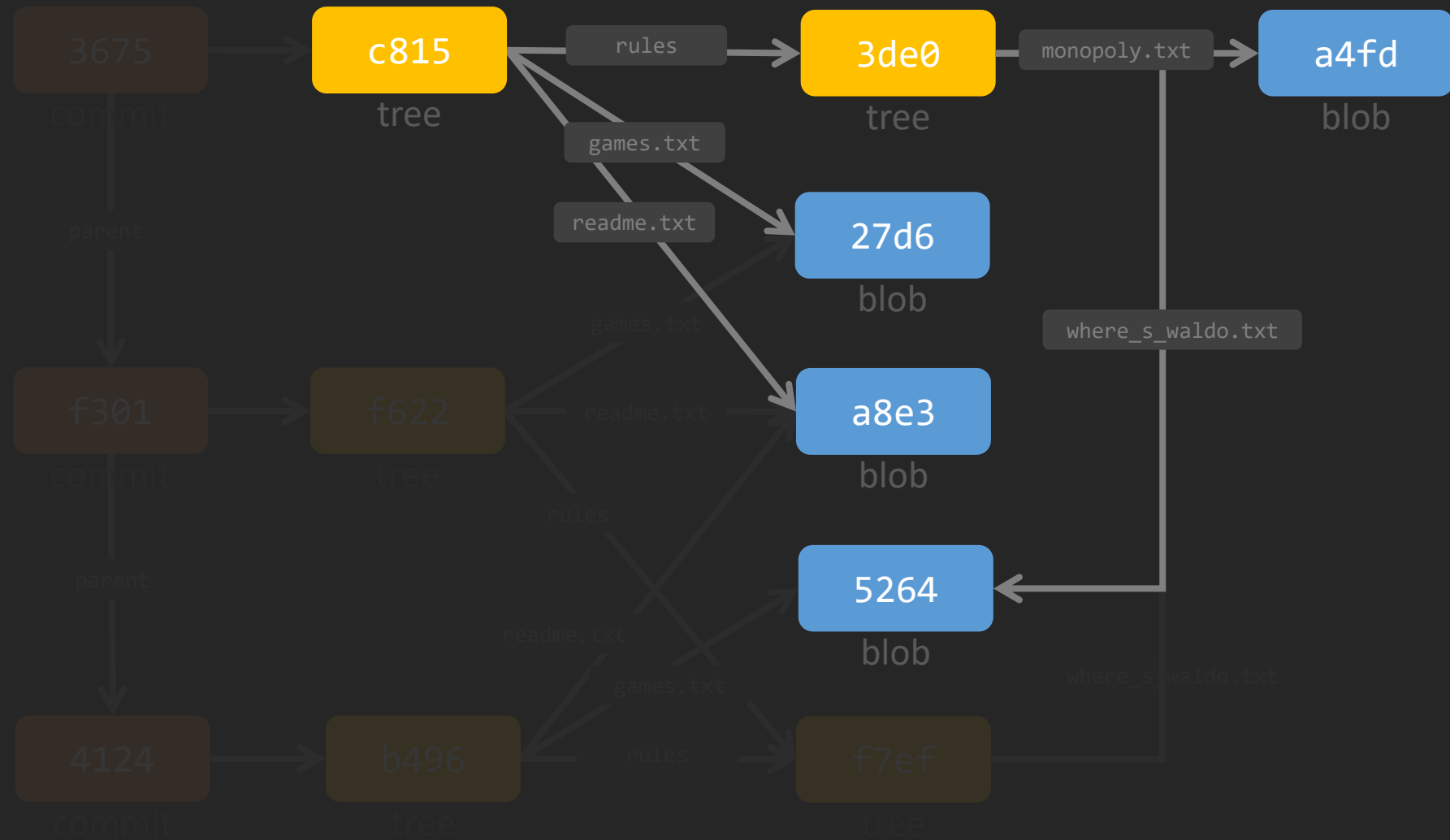












But... *how*?

- You know that Git stores differences, you've seen this:



The screenshot displays a code diff interface with two panels. The top panel, titled 'DTSTransferRequest.Table.al +5', shows five lines of code being added to the file. The bottom panel, titled 'DTSTransferRequestLine.Table.al -17 +5', shows 17 lines of code being removed and 5 lines being added. The removed code includes a trigger 'OnValidate()' and a 'begin' block. The added code includes 'ObsoleteState = Removed;' and 'ObsoleteReason = 'Field moved to header table';'. Each panel has a 'View' button on the right.

```
DTSTransferRequest.Table.al +5
/App/Src/Transfer/DTSTransferRequest.Table.al

266 + Rec.TestField("Map ID");
267 + DTSMap.Get("Map ID");
268 + DTSMap.TestField("Map Is Valid");
269 +
265 270 TransferReqLine.SetRange("Transfer Request No.", "No.");
266 271 if not TransferReqLine.FindSet() then
267 272     exit;
-----

DTSTransferRequestLine.Table.al -17 +5
/App/Src/Transfer/DTSTransferRequestLine.Table.al

75 75 Caption = 'Map ID';
76 76 DataClassification = CustomerContent;
77 77 TableRelation = "DTS Map" where("Source Database ID" = field("Source Database ID"), "Target Database ID"
78
79 - trigger OnValidate()
80 - var
81 -     DTSMap: Record "DTS Map";
82 - begin
83 -     if (Rec."Map ID" <> xRec."Map ID") and (Rec."Map ID" > 0) then begin
84 -         DTSMap.Get("Map ID");
85 -         DTSMap.TestField("Map Is Valid");
86 -     end;
87 - end;
78 + ObsoleteState = Removed;
79 + ObsoleteReason = 'Field moved to header table';
88 80 }
```

- So, Git does track changes, doesn't it?

Git vs. Git tools

- Humans are *bad* at handling snapshots
- Humans are *good* at understanding change
- Git tools *translate snapshots into changes*
- All Git tools present history of Git snapshots as a series of changes.
It's just *easier for us* to follow that.

git diff

- Works out and *reports changes* between two snapshots
- Takes *massive* advantage of SHA-1!
- Whenever you want to know what changed, Git tools call `git diff`

git diff

| First Commit | | 1ead |
|--------------------|------|-------|
| Name | Type | SHA-1 |
| .\ | tree | c81f |
| .objidconfig | blob | 74ee |
| app.json | blob | 20b5 |
| \src\First | tree | 49d1 |
| First.Page.al | blob | 7c13 |
| First.Table.al | blob | 5119 |
| \src\Second | tree | a792 |
| Second.Codeunit.al | blob | e191 |
| Second.Table.al | blob | 3010 |

| Second Commit | | 983b |
|-------------------|------|-------|
| Name | Type | SHA-1 |
| .\ | tree | 3141 |
| .objidconfig | blob | 74ee |
| app.json | blob | 6f0f |
| \src\First | tree | 49d1 |
| First.Page.al | blob | 7c13 |
| First.Table.al | blob | 5119 |
| \src\Third | tree | 0e15 |
| Third.Codeunit.al | blob | e191 |
| Third.Page.al | blob | 818e |

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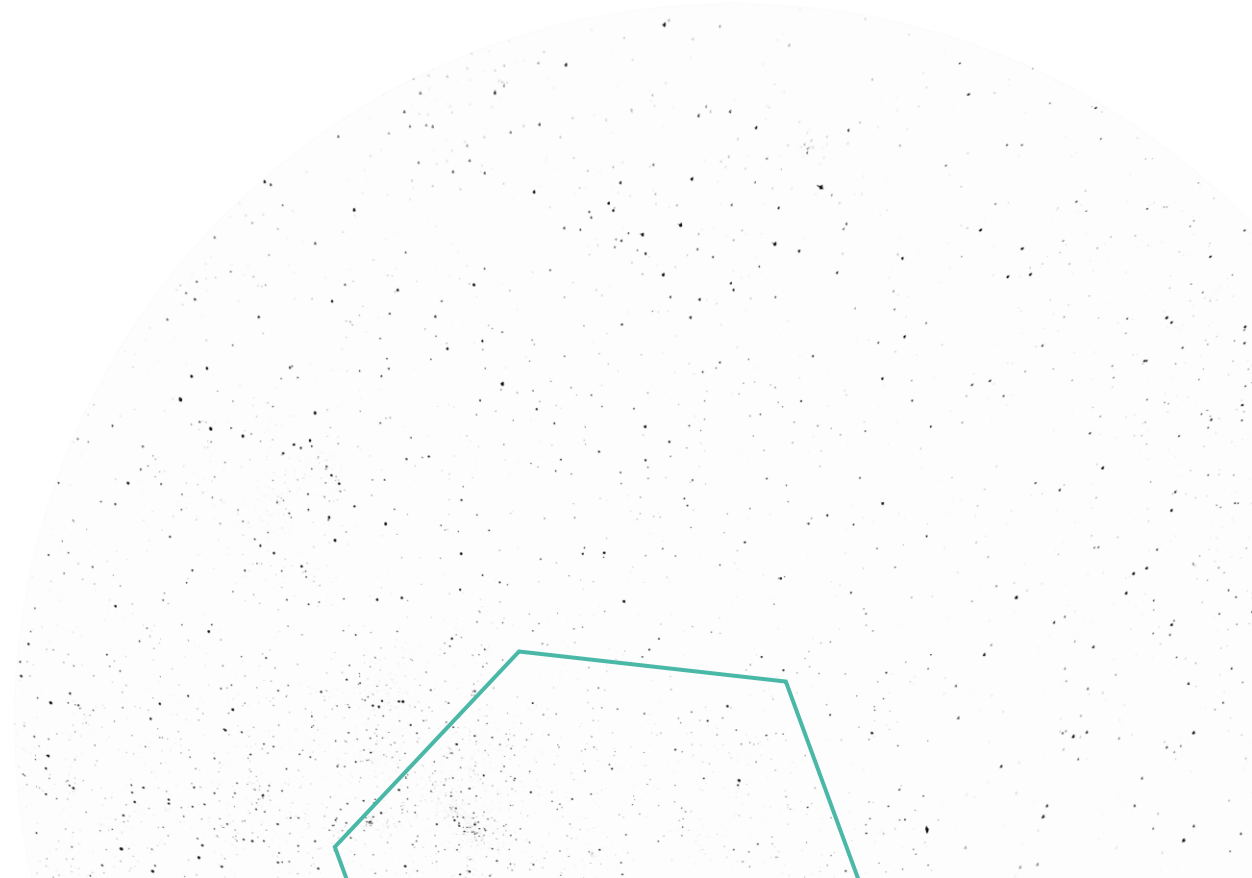
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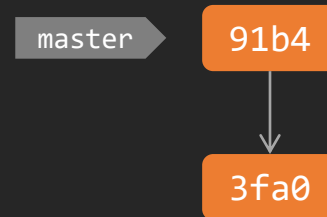
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Branches

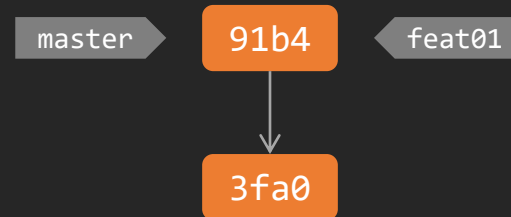
- Independent line of development
- Isolates work between developers
- In Git, they are pretty smart



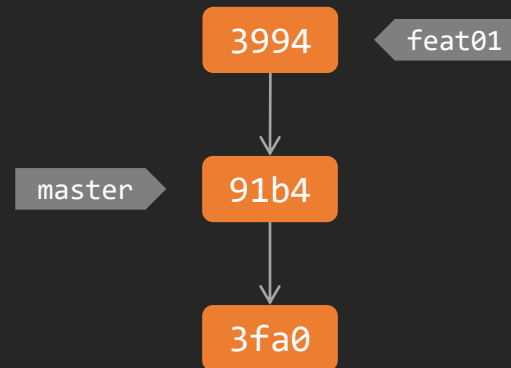
What is a branch?



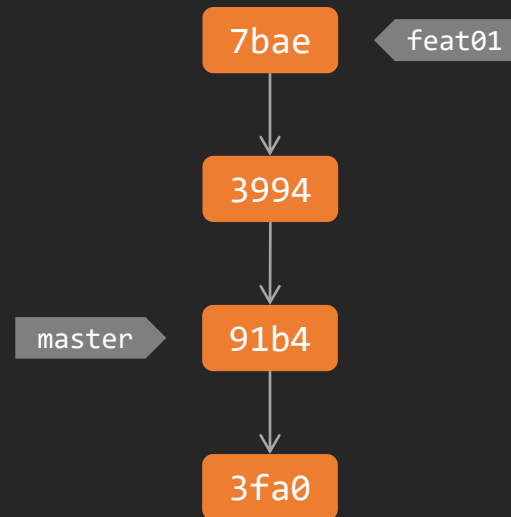
What is a branch?



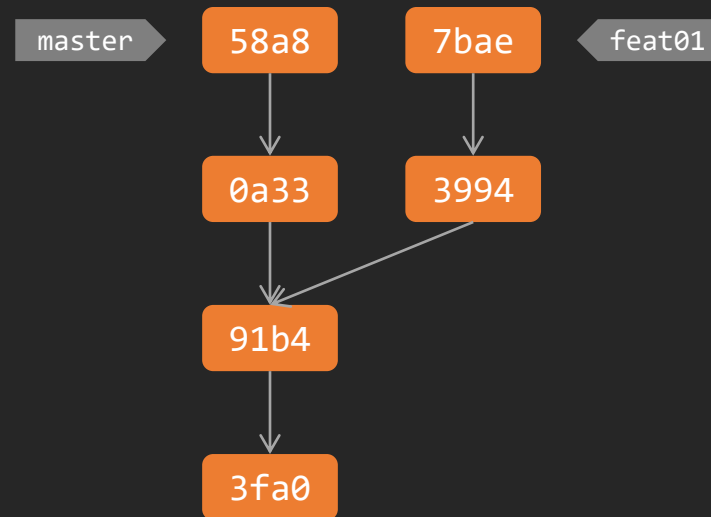
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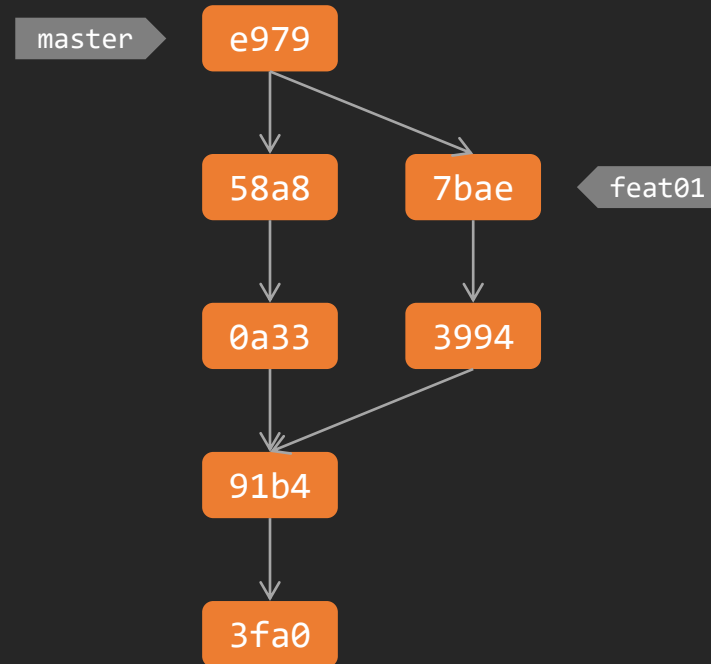
What is a branch?



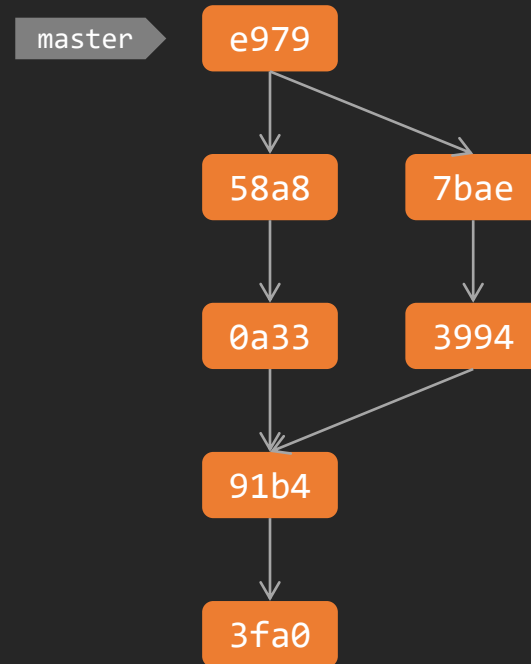
What is a branch?



What is a branch?

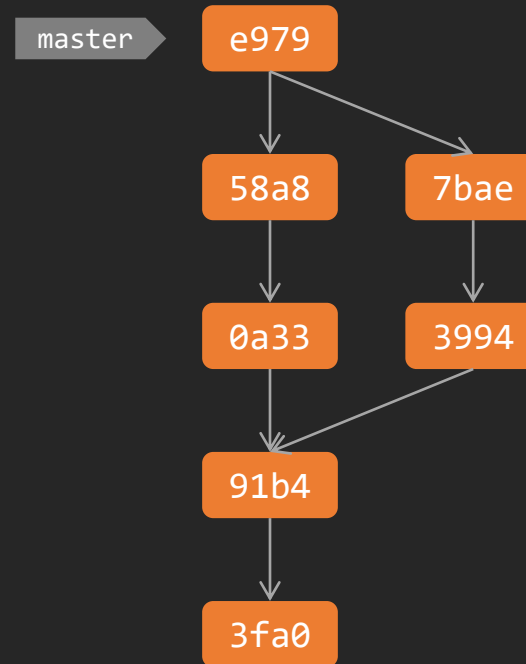


What is a branch?

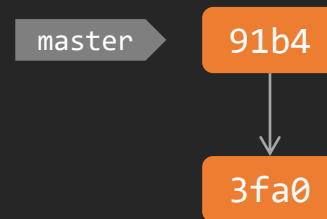


What is a branch?

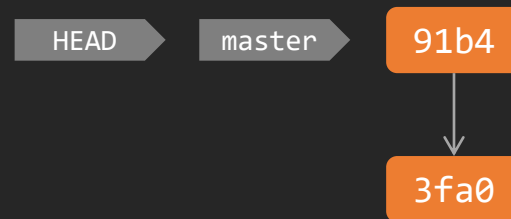
Branch is **name** for commit



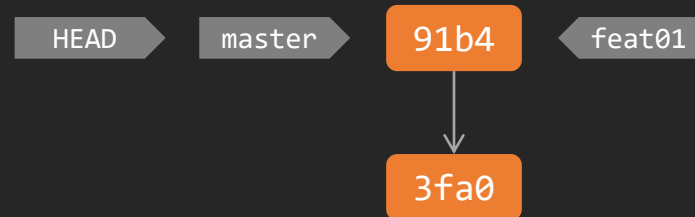
How does Git know which branch is current?



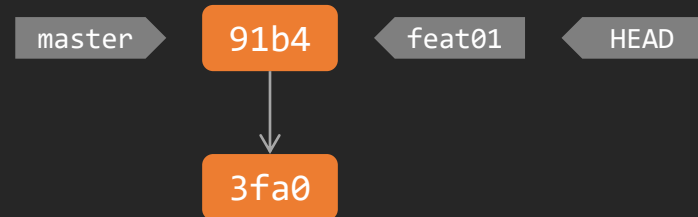
How does Git know which branch is current?



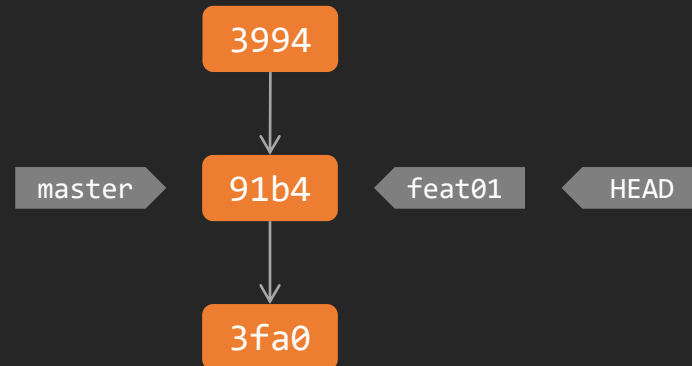
How does Git know which branch is current?



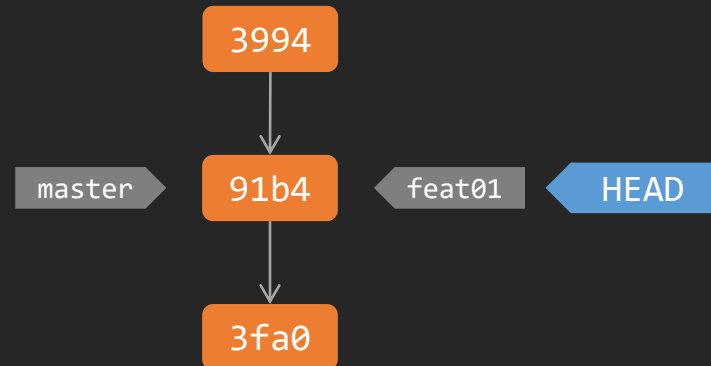
How does Git know which branch is current?



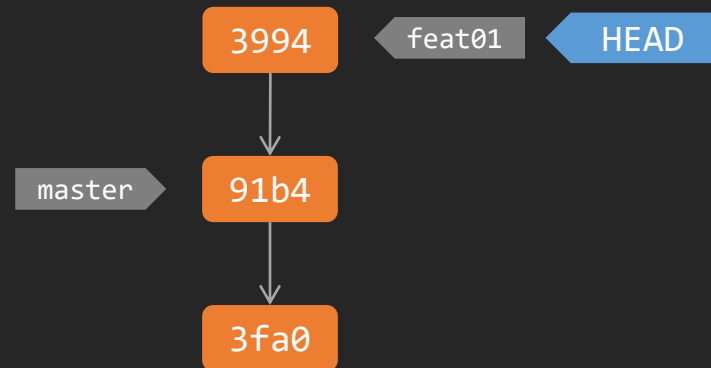
How does Git know which branch is current?



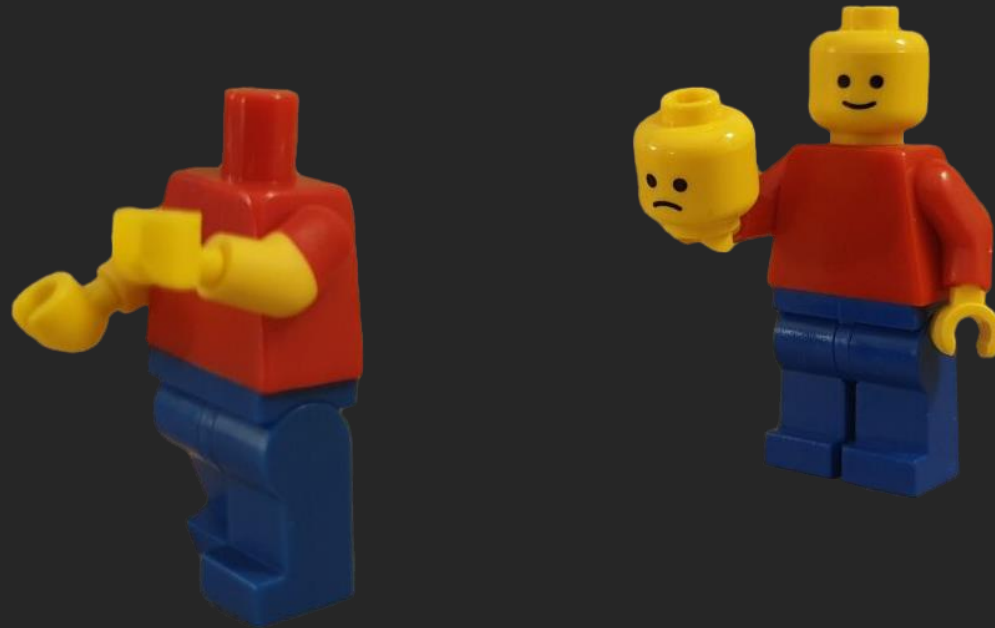
How does Git know which branch is current?



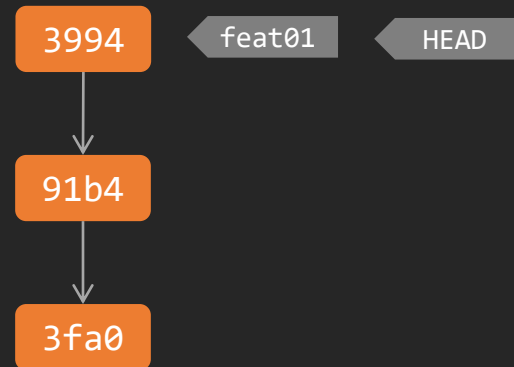
How does Git know which branch is current?



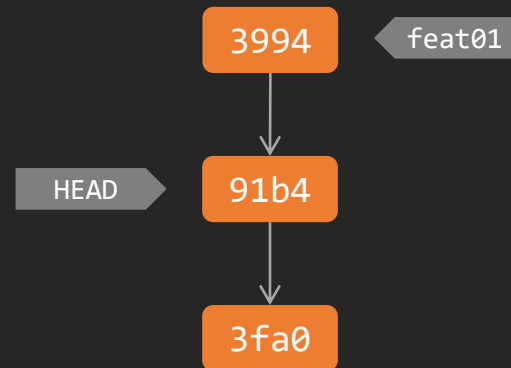
Detached head



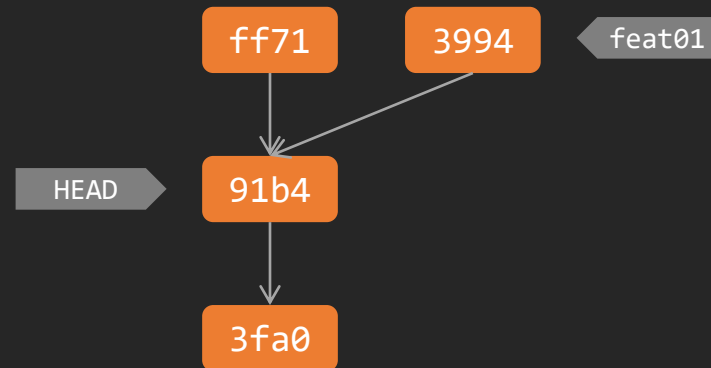
Detached head



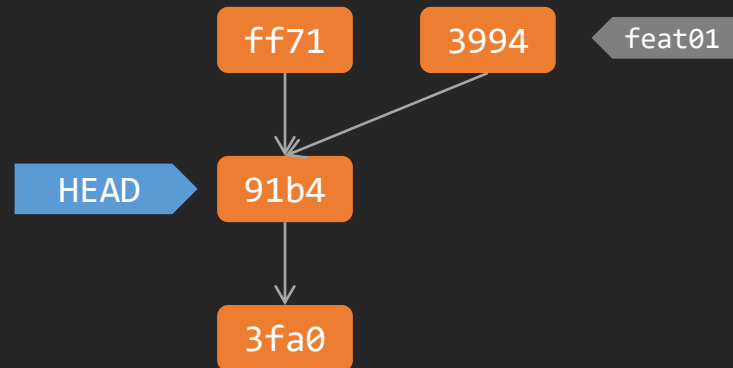
Detached head



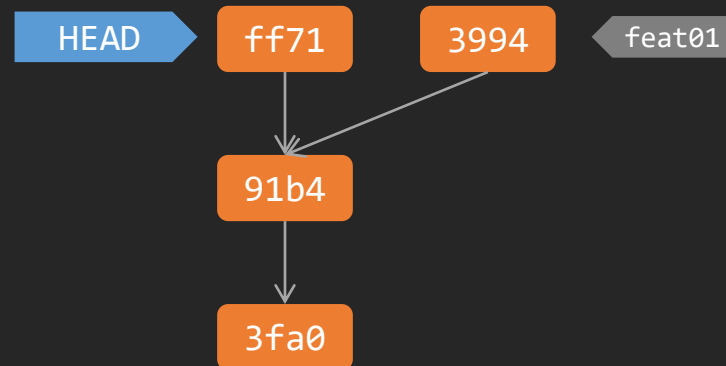
Detached head



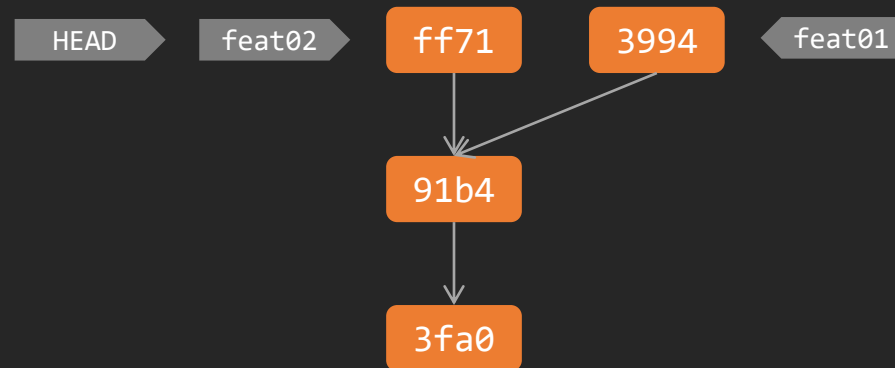
Detached head



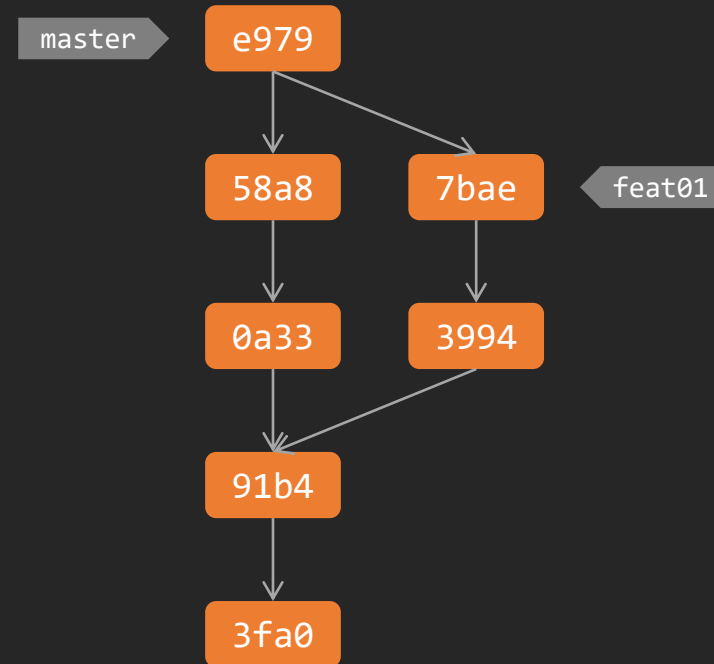
Detached head



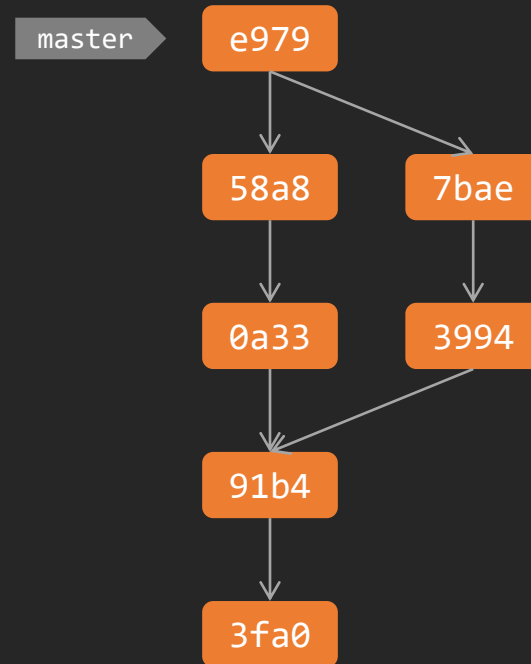
Detached head



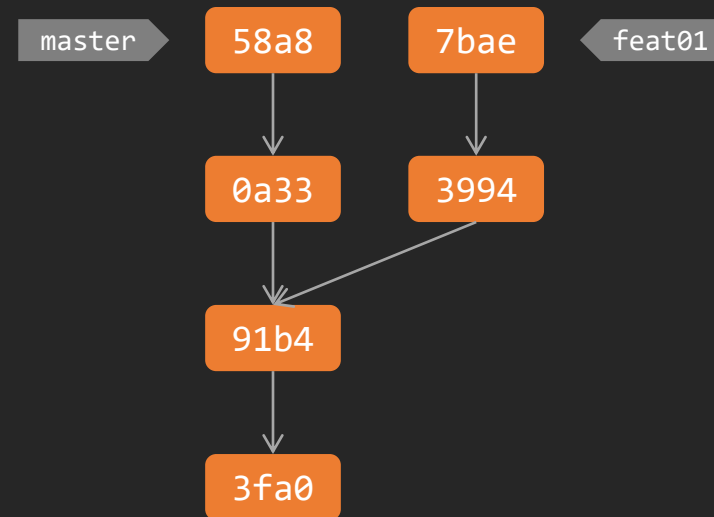
Deleting a branch



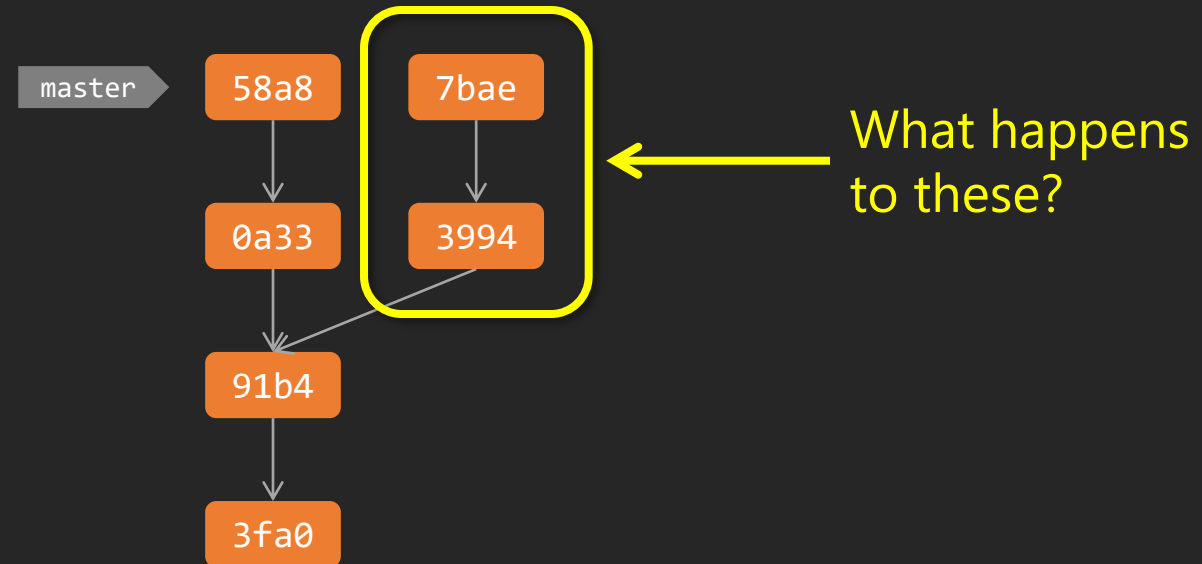
Deleting a branch



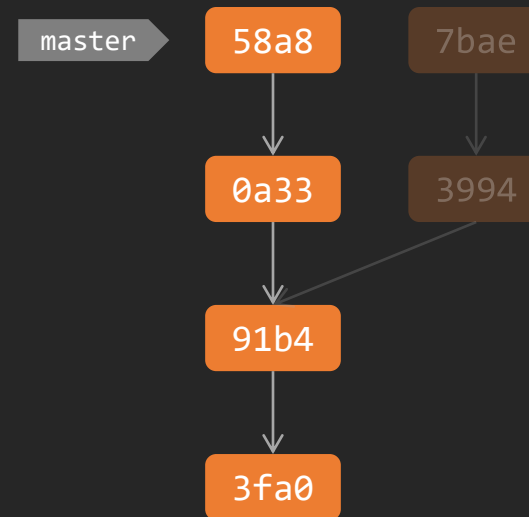
Deleting a branch



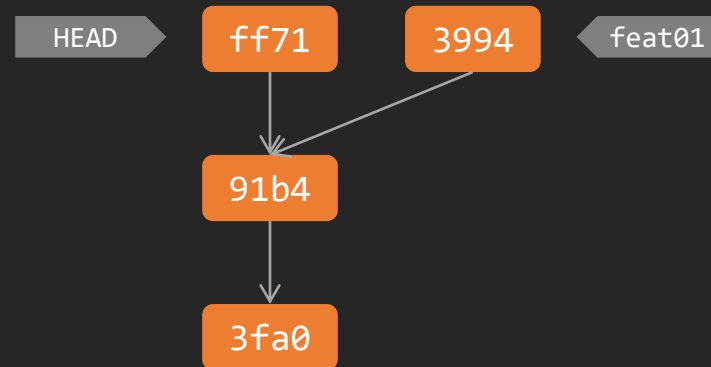
Deleting a branch



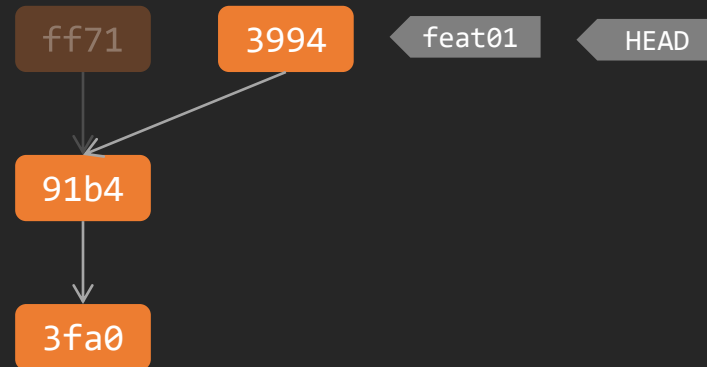
Deleting a branch



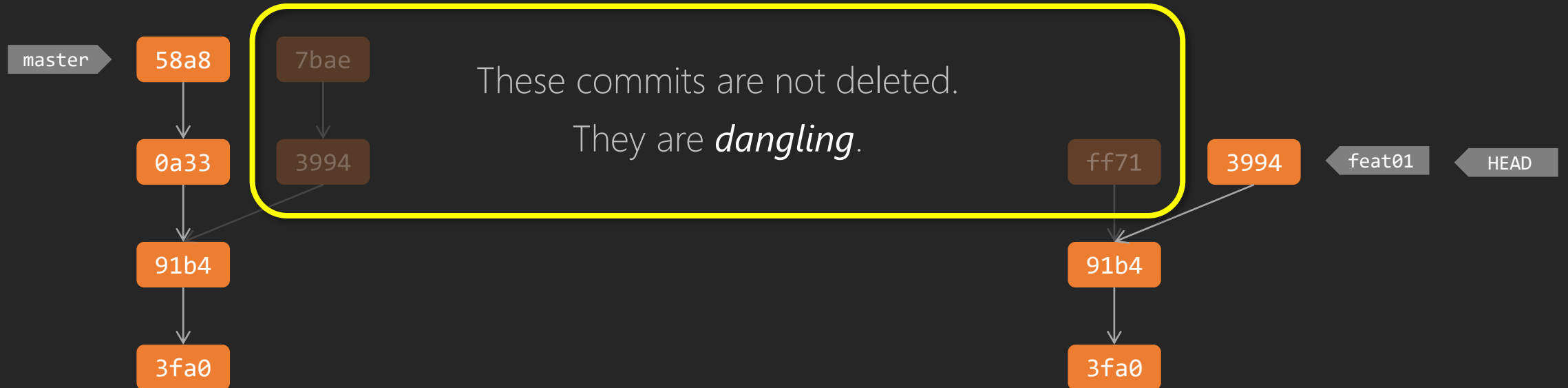
Abandoning commit from detached head



Abandoning commit from detached head



Dangling commits

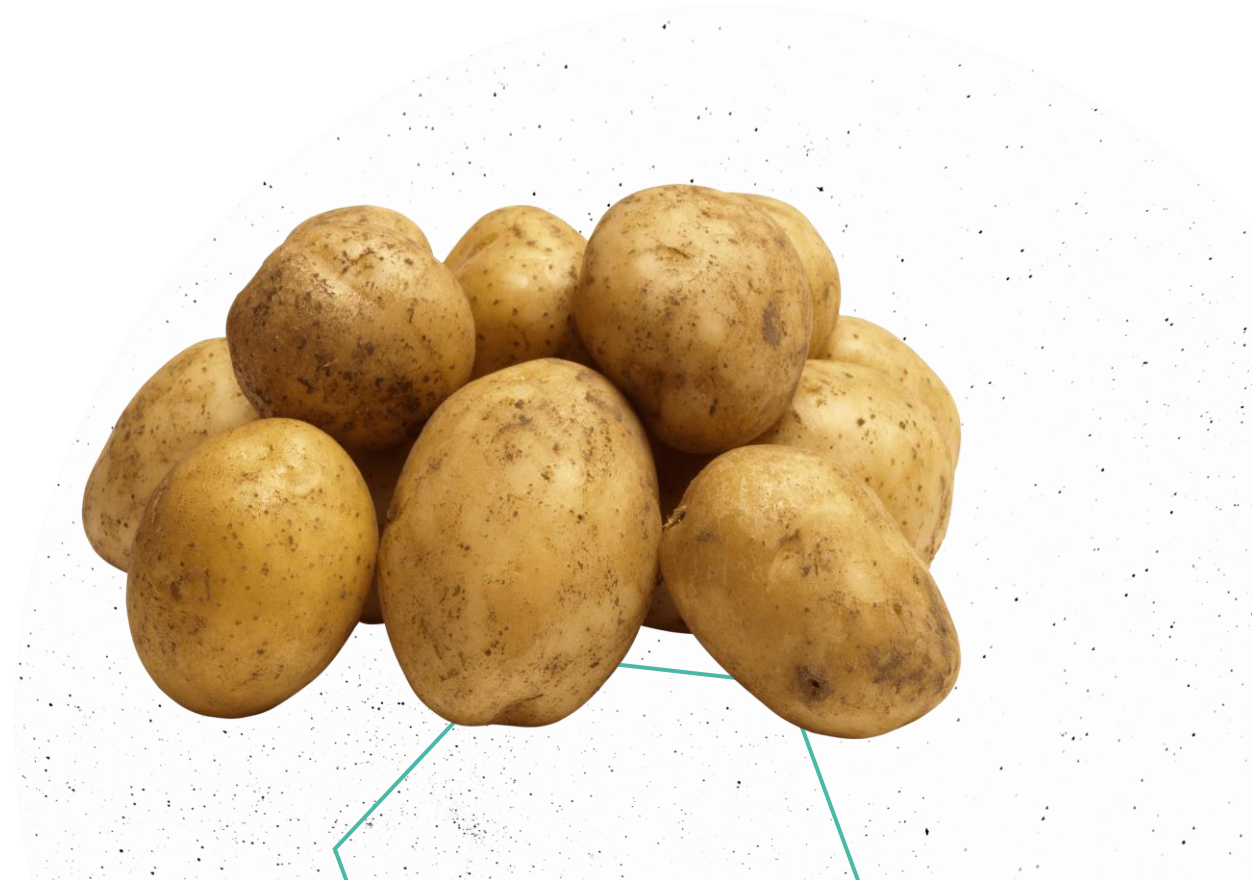


Recovering commits

- Git **never loses** anything
(at least not immediately 😊)
- You can **recover** from **all situations**
(manual hacking through `.git` folder *not covered* by this statement 🤪)
- Git gives ample grace period for recovery

Reference log

- *Not the same thing as log*
- Keeps track of *changes* to *references*:
 - HEAD changes
 - Tips of branch changes



Recovering lost commits

- Step 1: Identify lost commits

```
git reflog
```

```
git fsck --lost-found
```

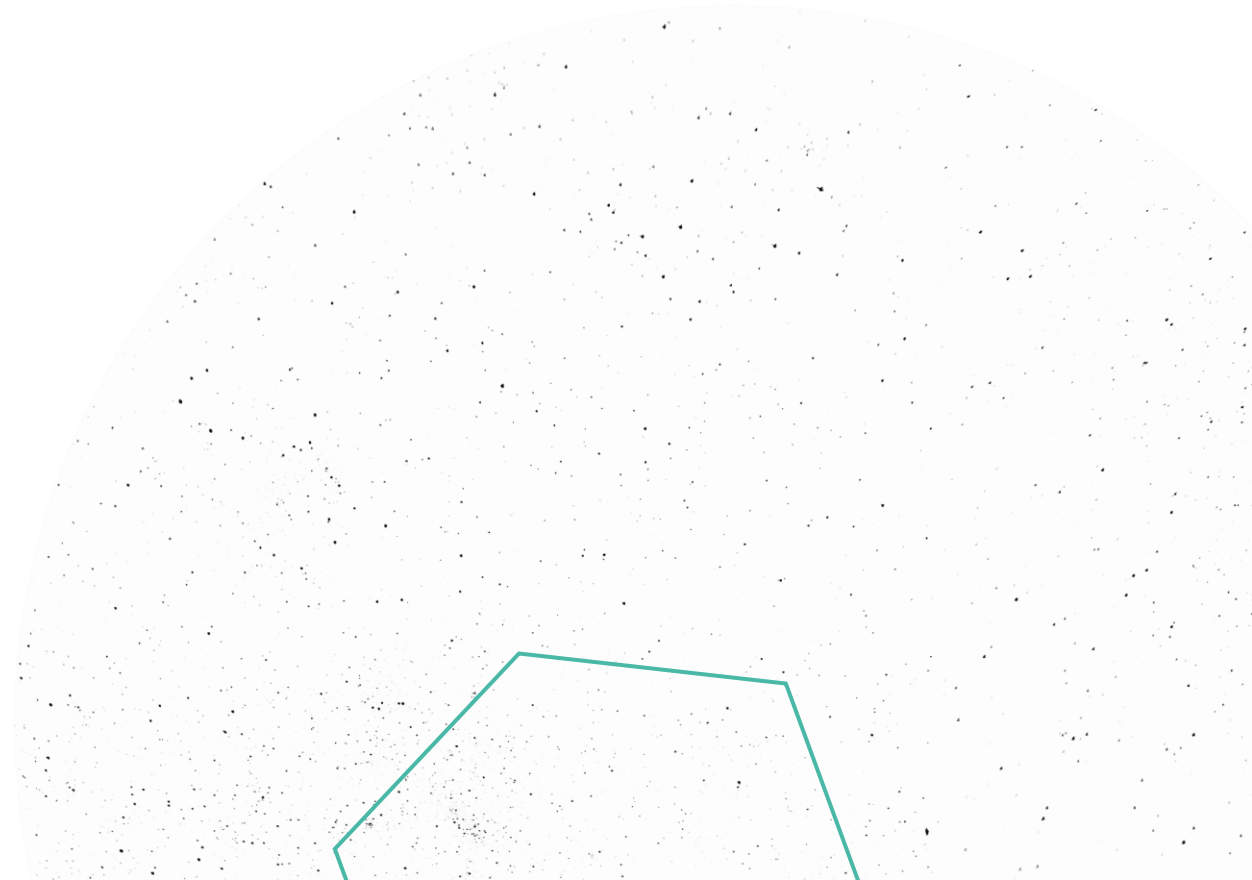
- Step 2: Create branch from (or detach head into) the commit

Garbage collection

- Reference log is kept for *90 days* (by default)
 - Any commit reachable from reference log *is reachable*
- Dangling commits are kept for *14 days* (at least)
- Git runs garbage collection on:
git fetch
git merge
git rebase

Rewriting history

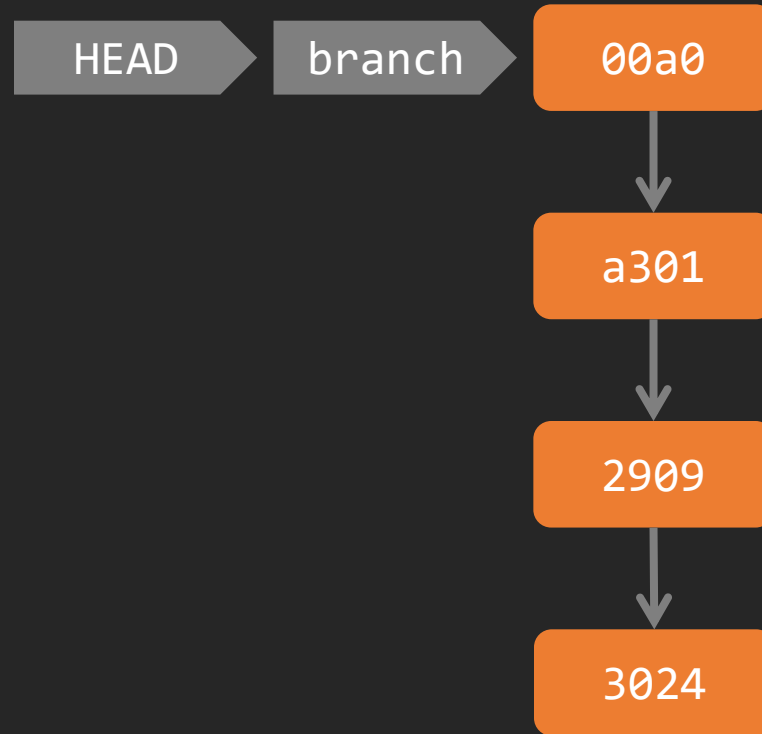
- Git allows manipulating history
- Ways of manipulating history
 - Resetting
 - Amending
 - Interactive rebasing (rewriting)
- You cannot modify history
- You can only create alternate histories

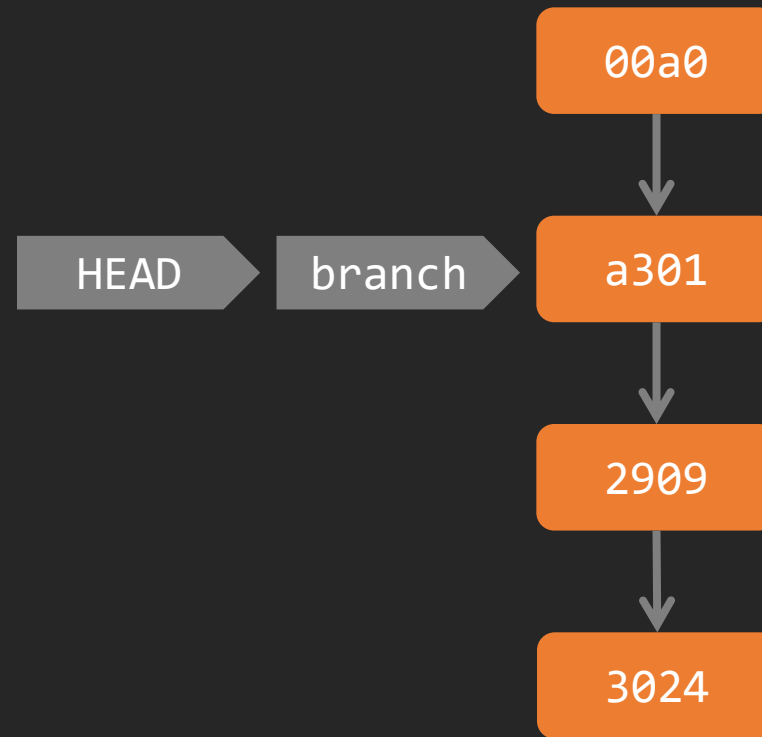


Resetting

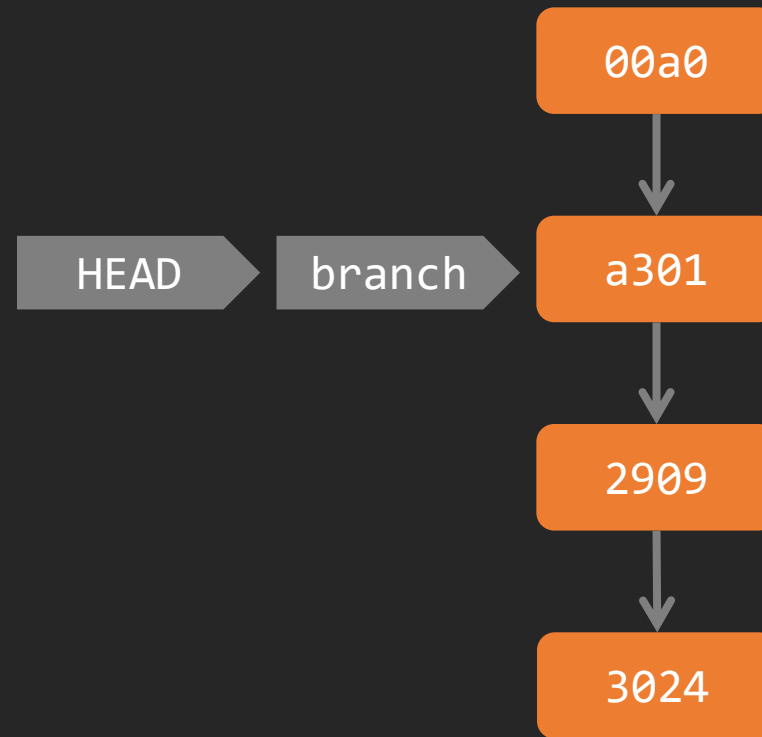
- Think of it as sort of a **git undo**
- Moves HEAD pointer backwards
- Useful for:
 - Undoing commits
 - Correcting commits
 - Removing commits from history
 - Squashing

```
git reset
```

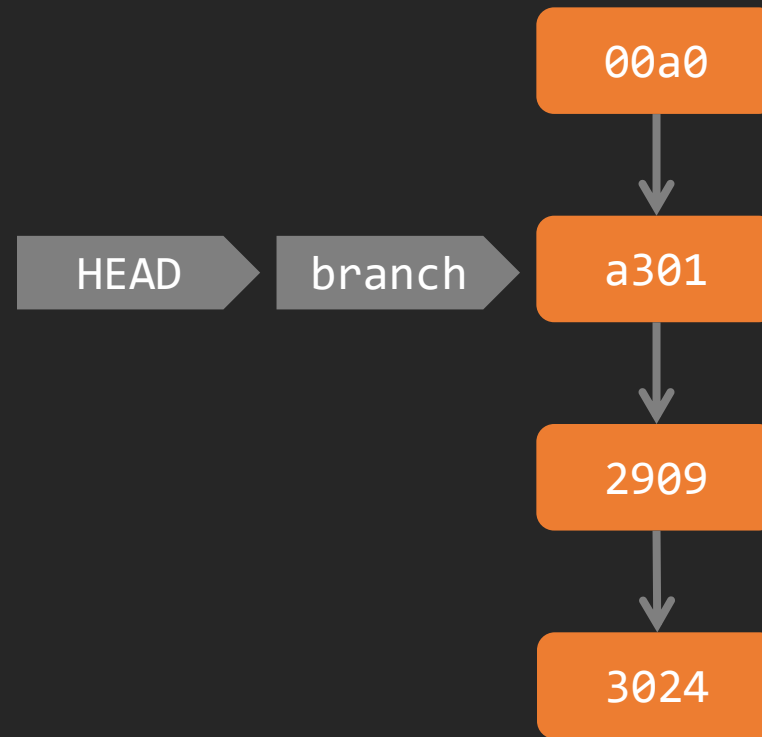




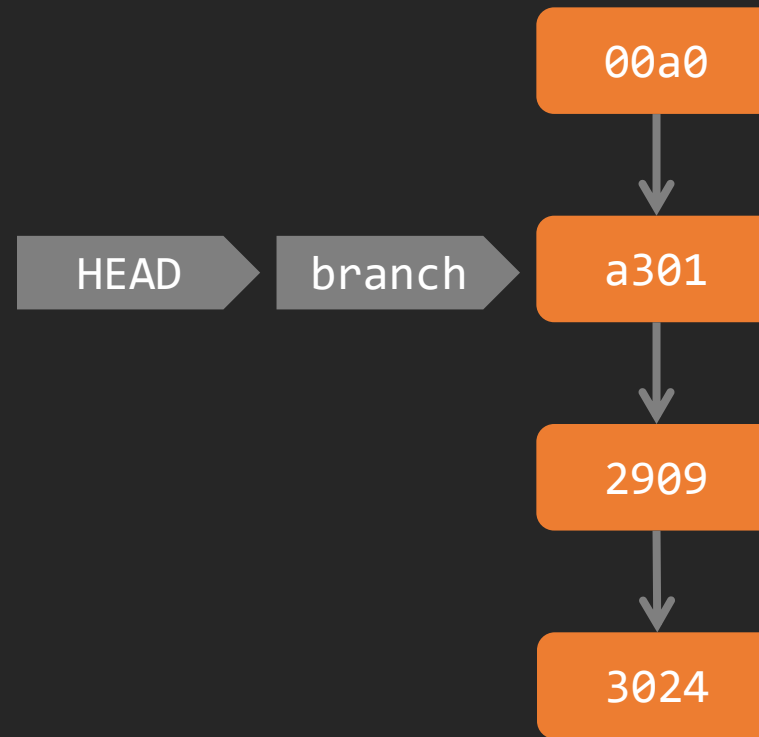
`git reset a301`



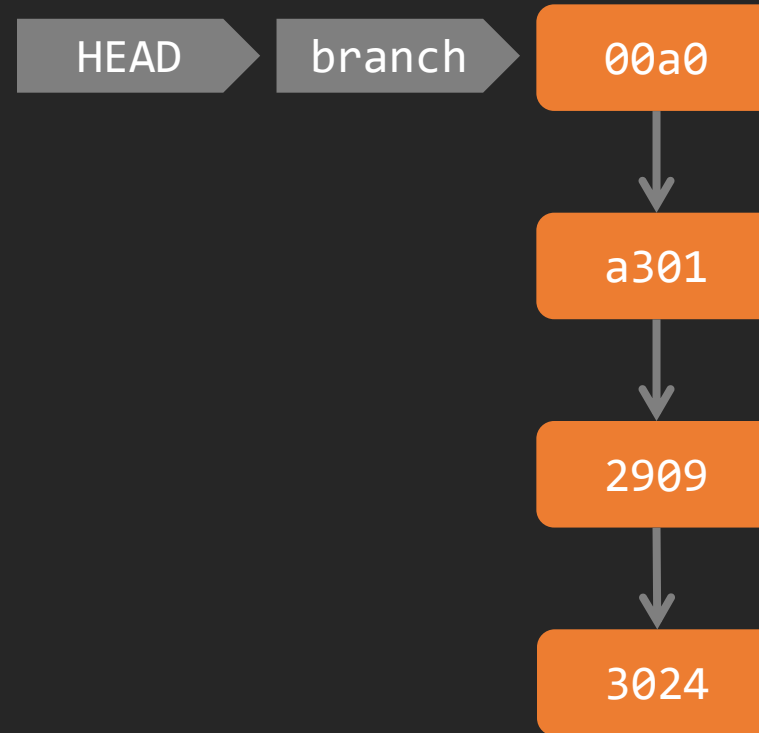
`git reset HEAD~1`

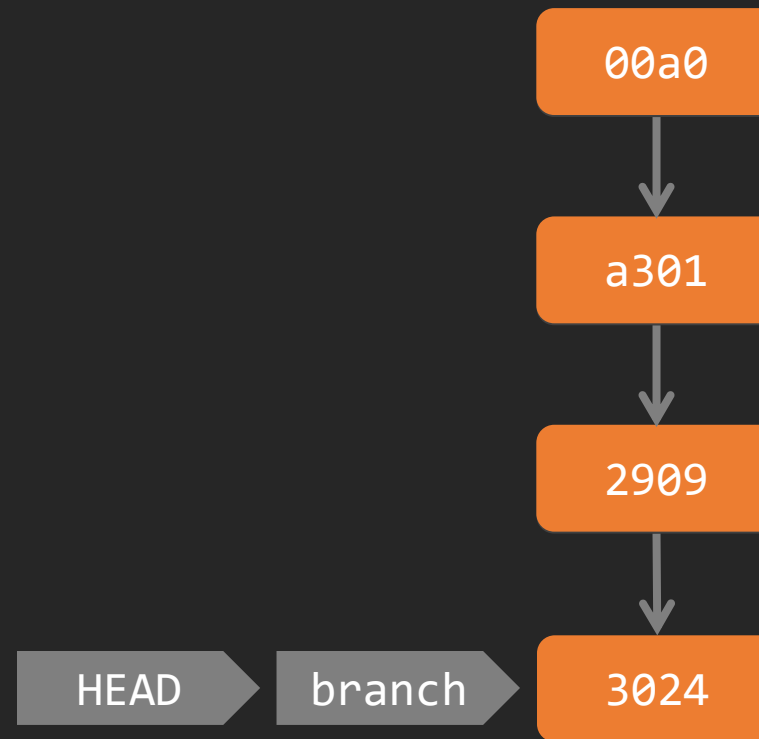


```
git reset HEAD~1
```

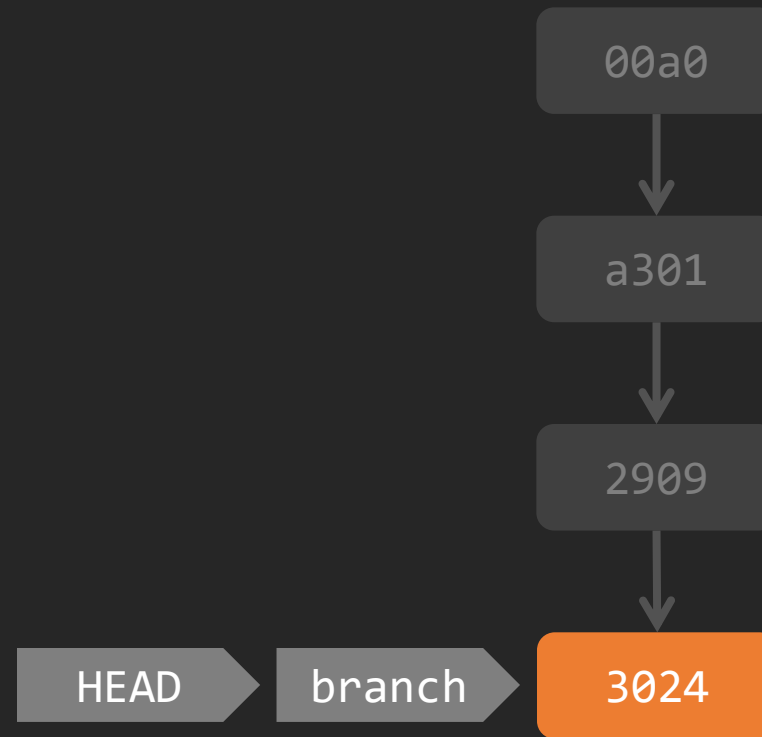


`git reset HEAD~1`



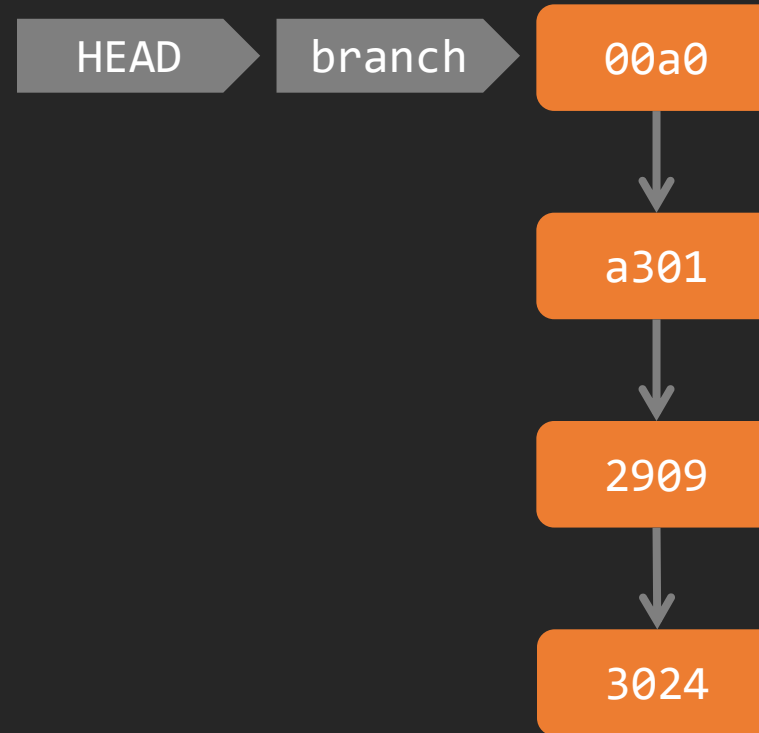


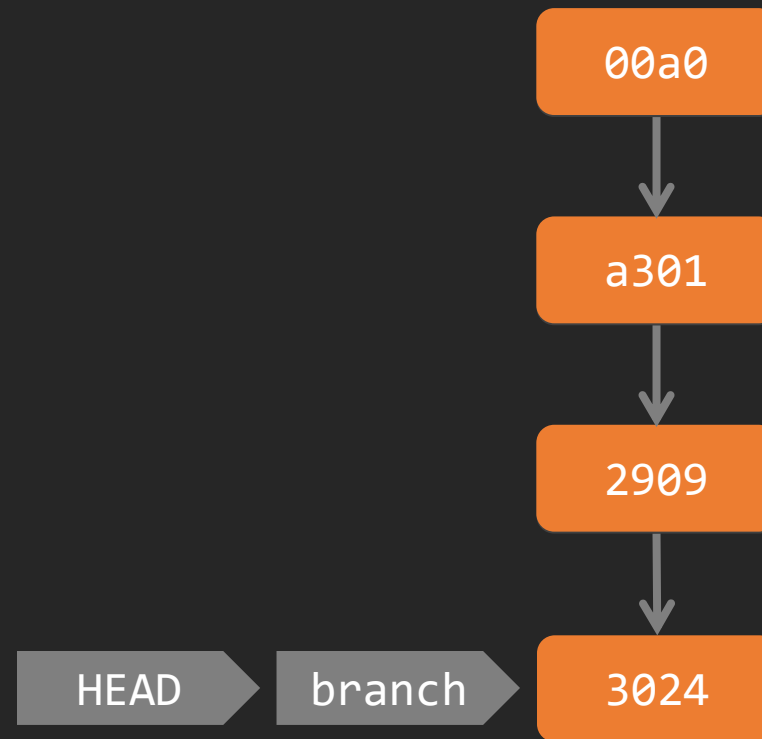
`git reset HEAD~3`



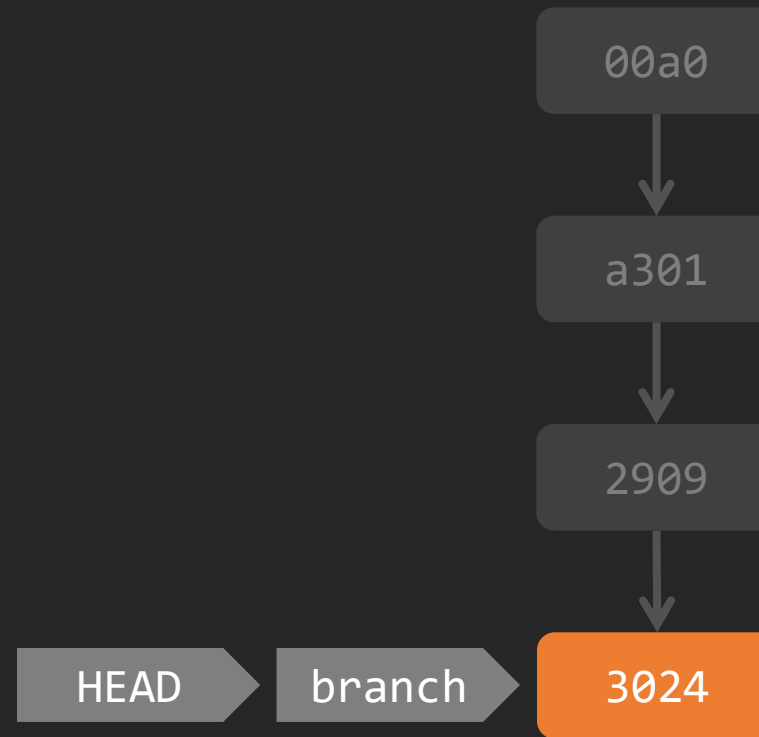
`git reset HEAD~3`

Working tree



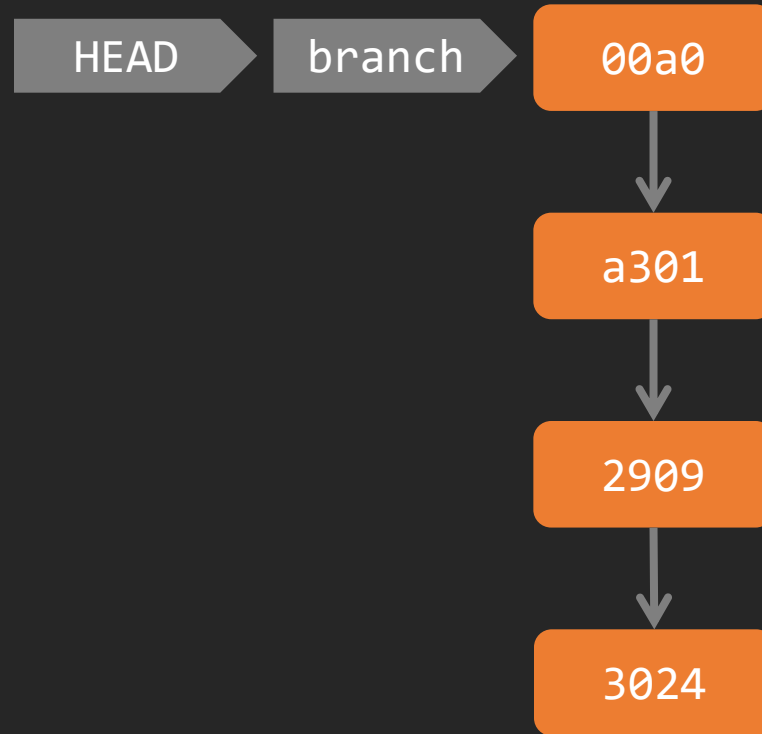


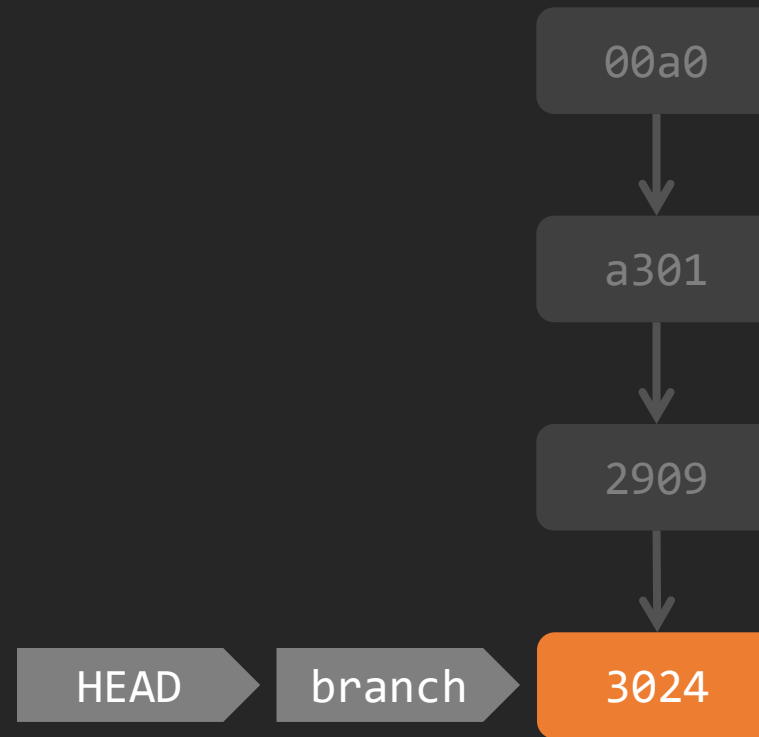
```
git reset HEAD~3 --soft
```



```
git reset HEAD~3 --soft
```

Staging area (index)





```
git reset HEAD~3 --hard
```


Amending

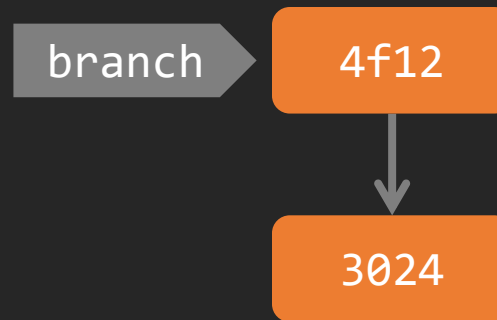
- Directly modifies last commit
- It can:
 - Add, remove, change contents of
 - Modify commit message
 - Modify some properties (e.g. author)
- Never actually changes last commit!
- Always creates new commit

Amending

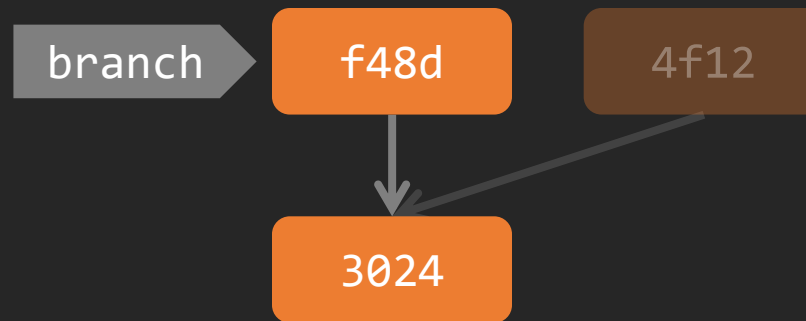
branch

3024

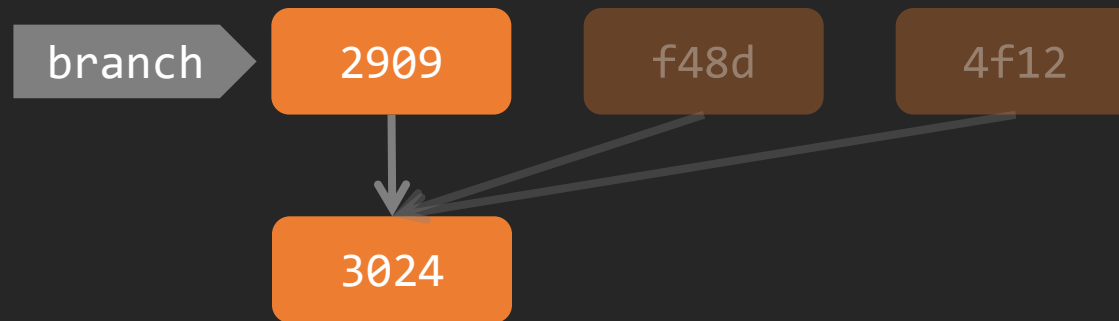
Amending



Amending



Amending



Important to know!

- Only safe before `git push`
- You cannot (just) push alternate histories
- Any destructive changes to histories of pushed branches are always rejected by remotes

All destructive changes require

`git push --force`

Important to know!

All destructive changes require

`git push --force`

`git push --force`

Solved!!



A few revision control system takeaways

- Branches are just **pointers**
- Git **never loses anything**
- Lost commits **can be recovered**, often for 90 days
- History can be **freely rewritten** before pushing

Integrating Changes

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

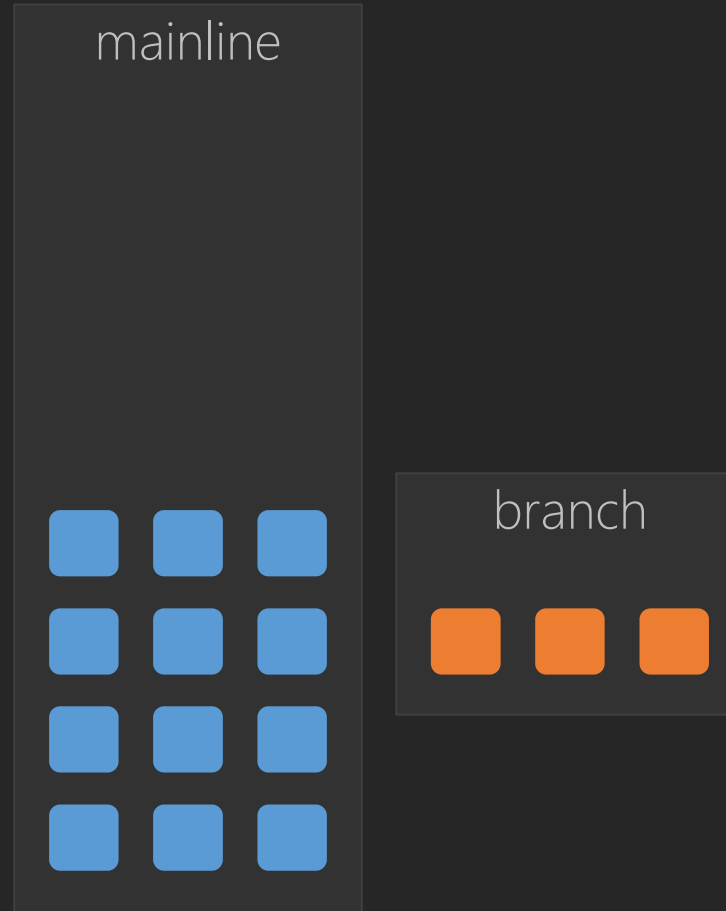


mibuso.com

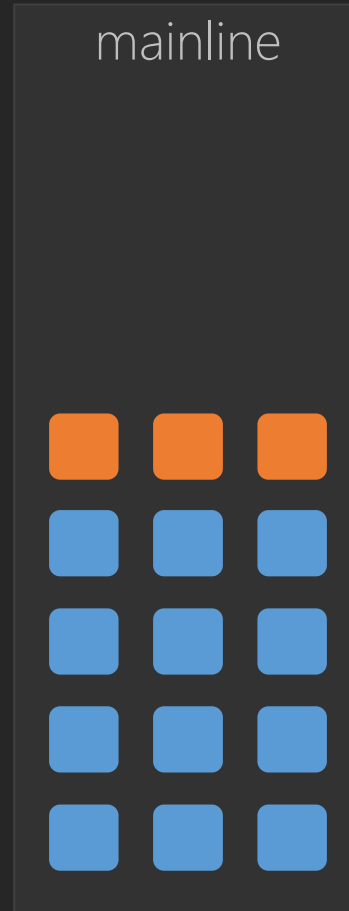
Integrating changes

- Colloquially also known as *"merging"*
- Process of combining separate histories (branches)
- Typically making contents of a branch a permanent part of mainline

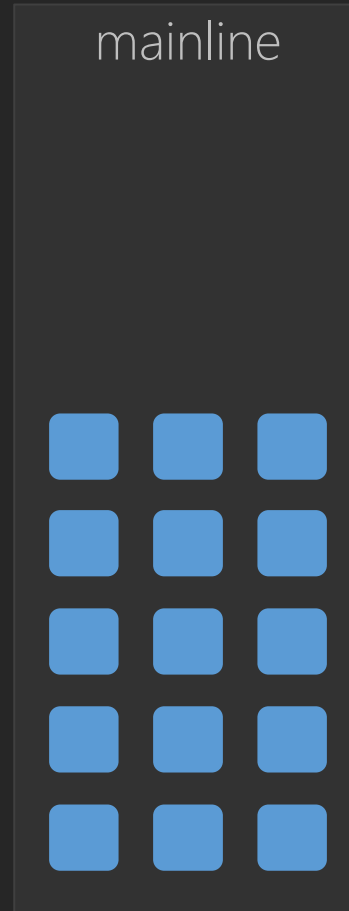
Integrating changes



Integrating changes



Integrating changes



Integrating changes

Merge

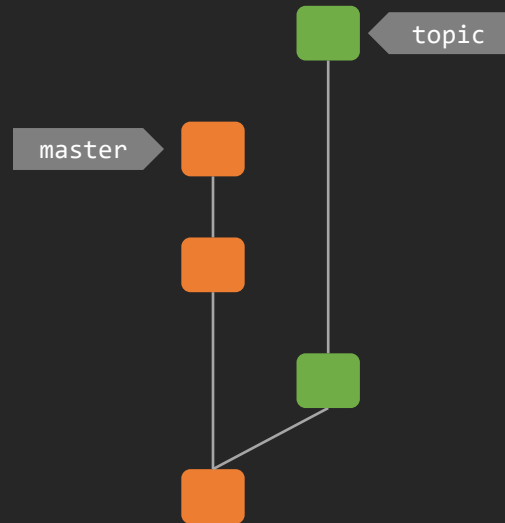
master



topic

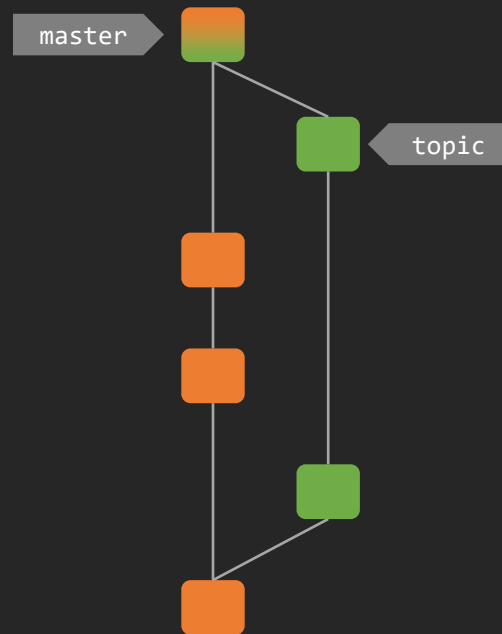
Integrating changes

Merge



Integrating changes

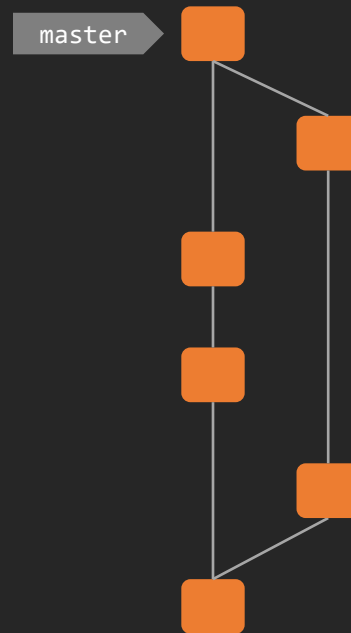
Merge



```
git checkout master  
git merge topic
```


Integrating changes

Merge



```
git checkout master  
git merge topic
```

```
git branch -d topic
```

Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

master

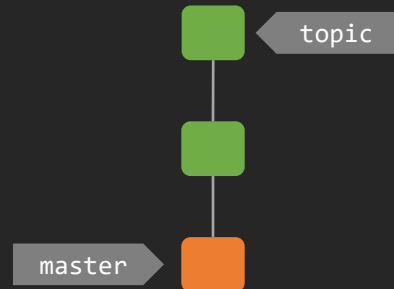


topic

Integrating changes

Merge

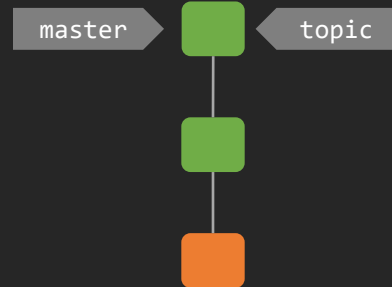
Fast-forward



Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

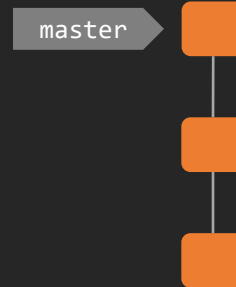


```
git checkout master  
git merge topic
```

Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward



```
git checkout master  
git merge topic
```

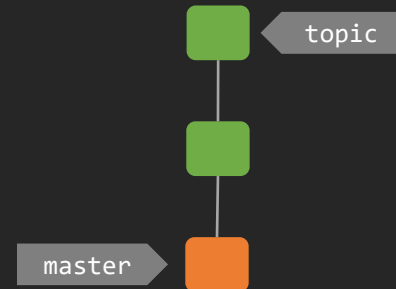
```
git branch -d topic
```

Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

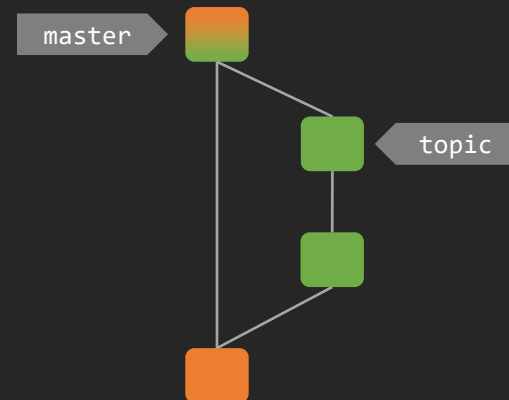


Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy



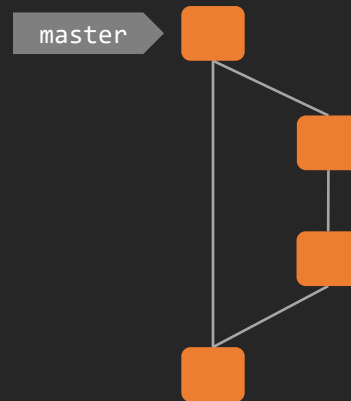
```
git checkout master  
git merge topic --no-ff
```

Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy



```
git checkout master  
git merge topic --no-ff
```

```
git branch -d topic
```

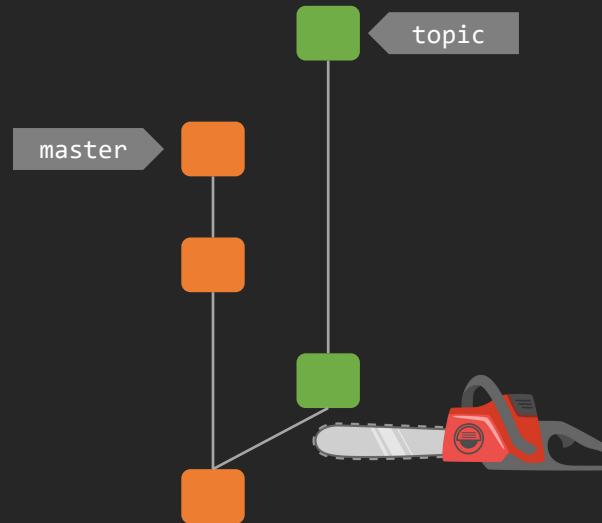

Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase



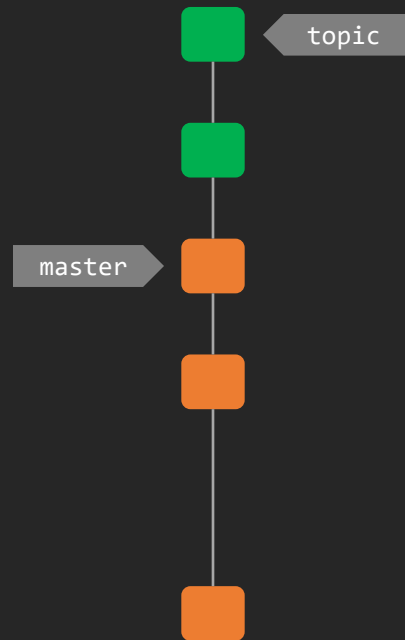
Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase



```
git checkout topic  
git rebase master
```

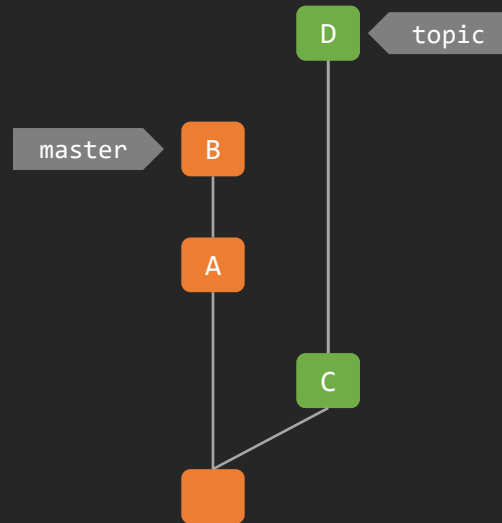
Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

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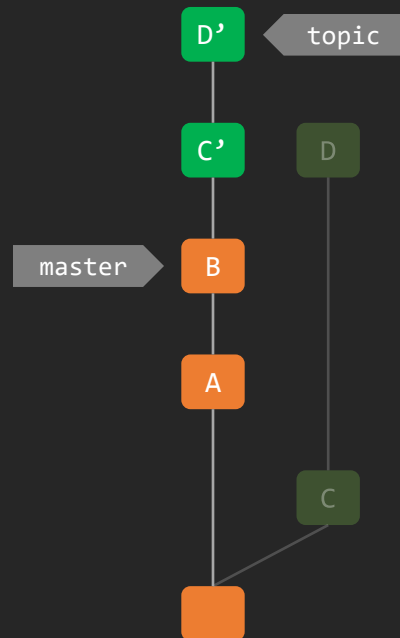
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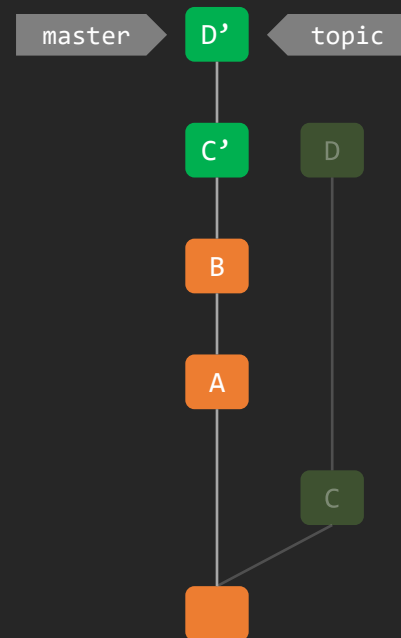
Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase



```
git checkout topic
git rebase master
```

```
git checkout master
git merge topic
```

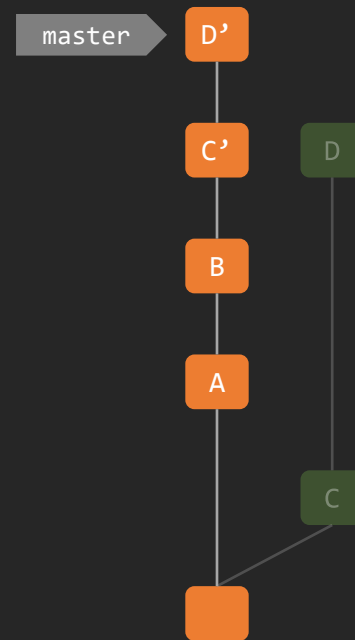
Integrating changes

Merge

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git checkout master  
git merge topic
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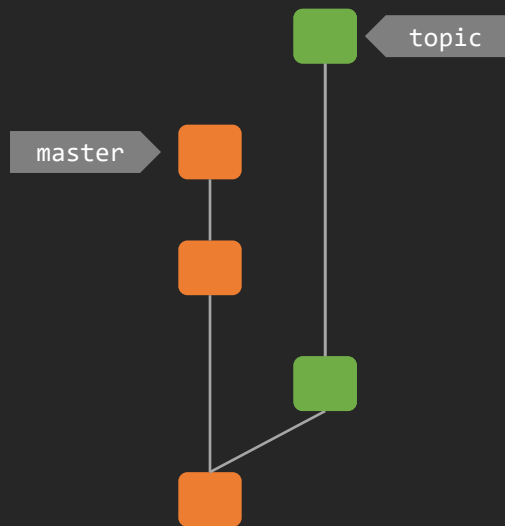
Integrating changes

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Merge
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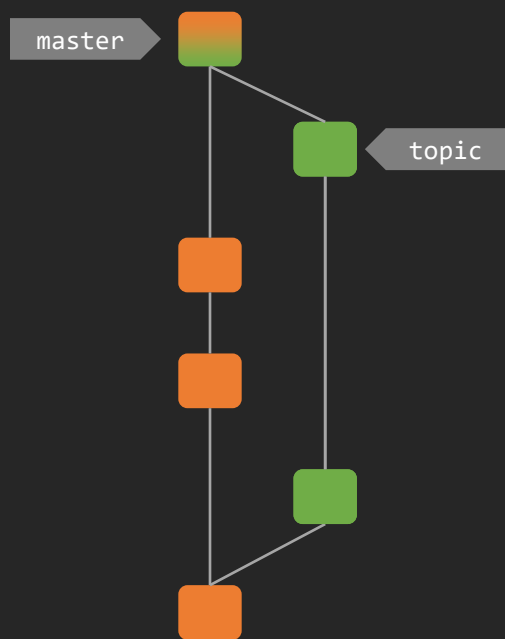
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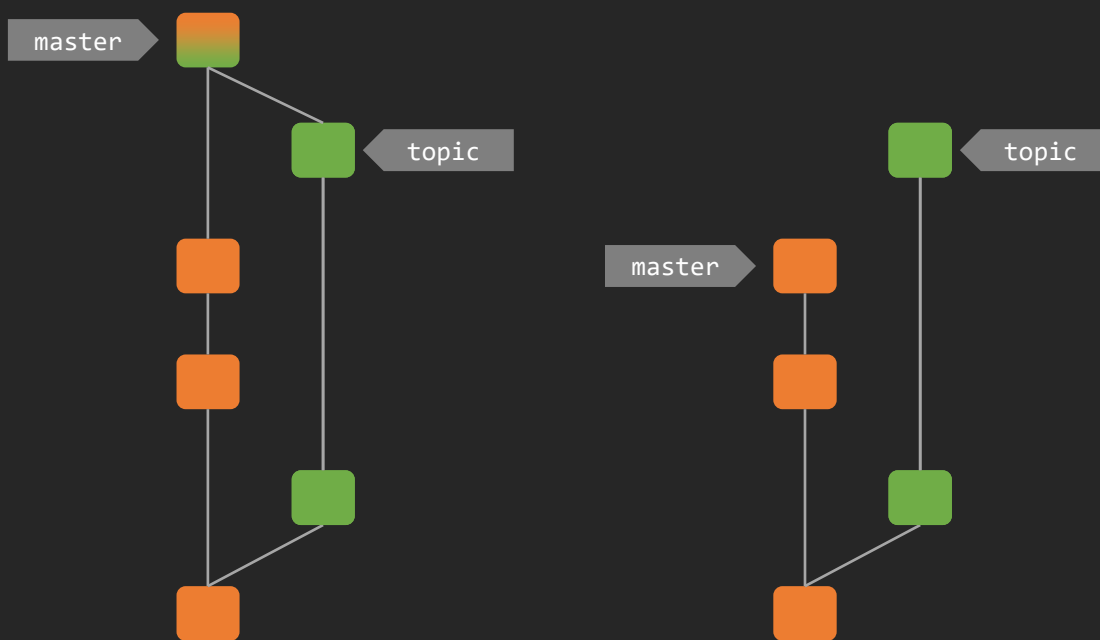

Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase



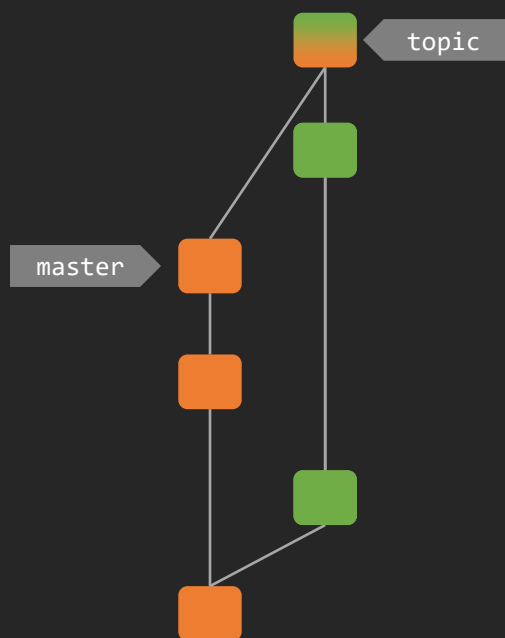
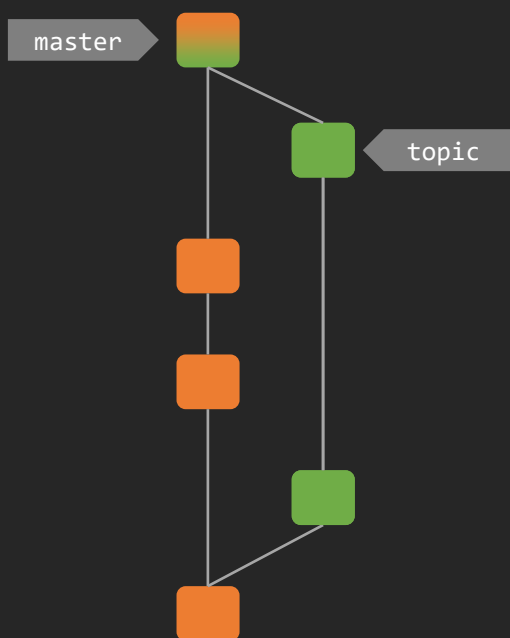
Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase



```
git checkout topic  
git merge master
```

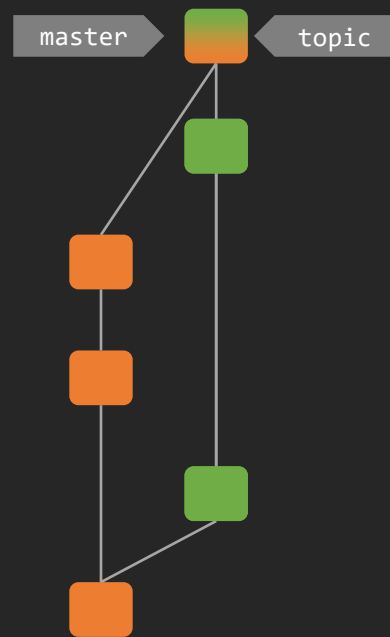
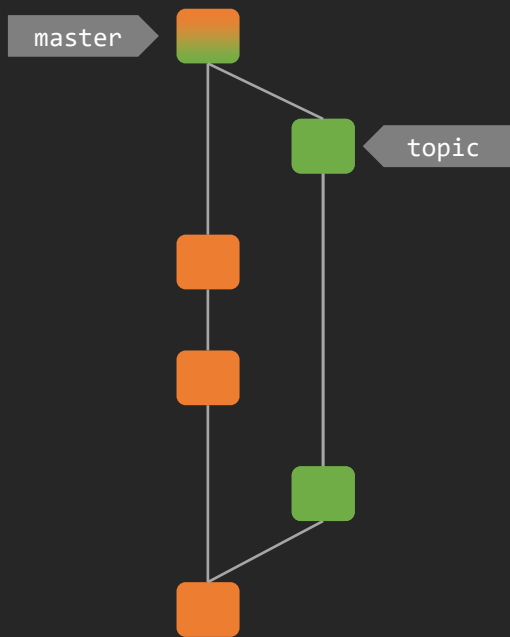
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Rebase



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```

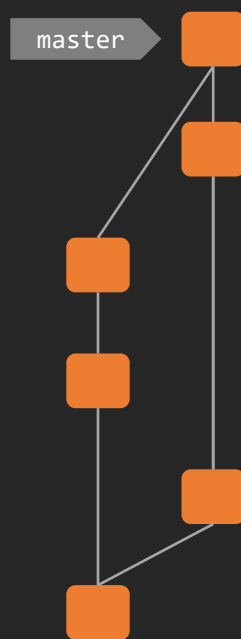
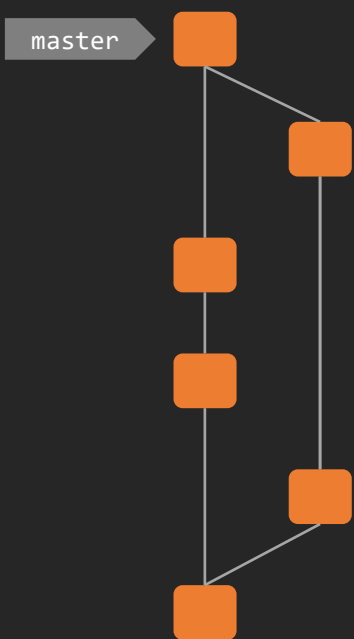
Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
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policy

Rebase



Integrating changes

Merge

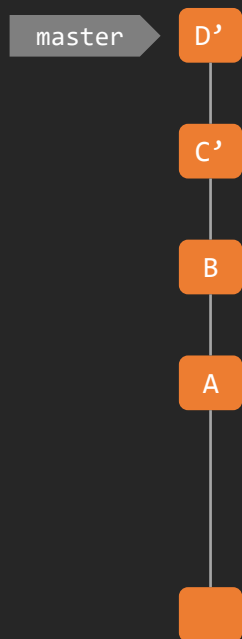
Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

```
git checkout topic  
git rebase master
```

```
git checkout master  
git merge topic
```



Integrating changes

Merge

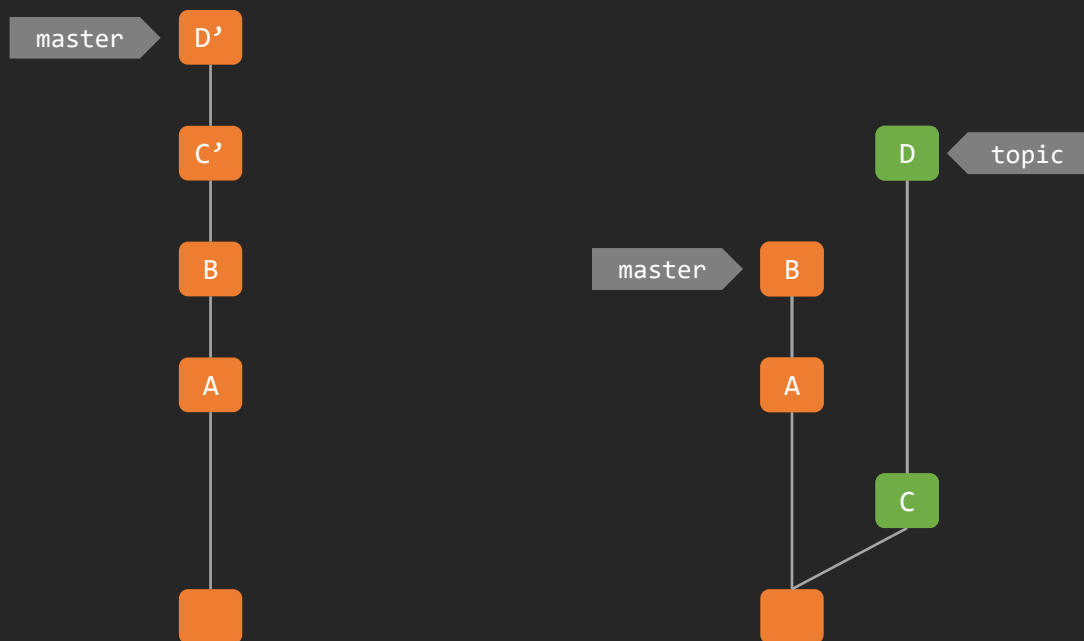
Fast-forward

Merge
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Rebase

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git rebase master
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Integrating changes

Merge

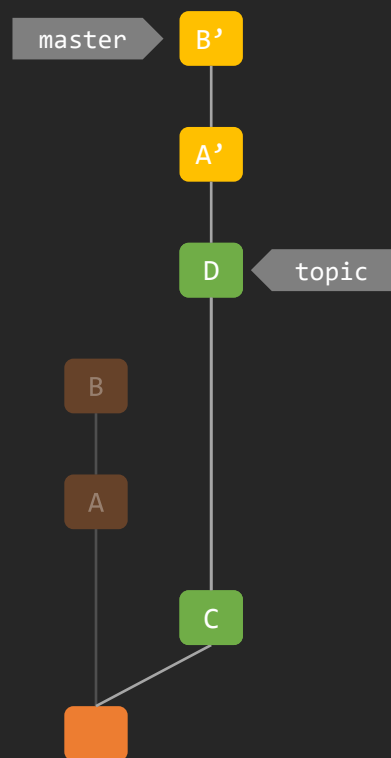
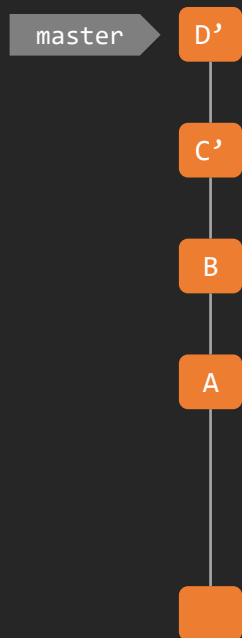
Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

```
git checkout topic  
git rebase master
```

```
git checkout master  
git merge topic
```



```
git checkout master  
git rebase topic
```

Integrating changes

Merge

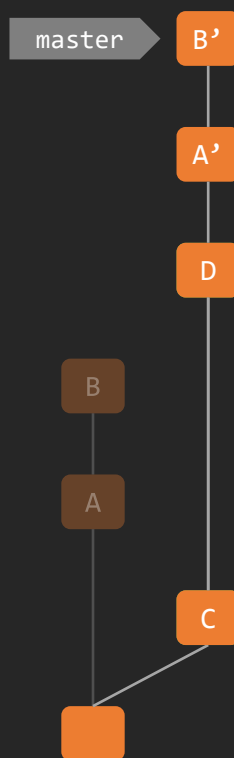
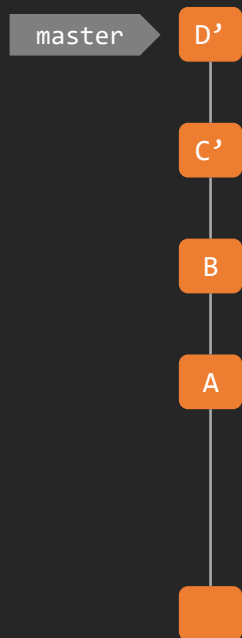
Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

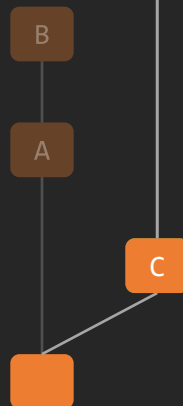
```
git checkout topic  
git rebase master
```

```
git checkout master  
git merge topic
```



```
git checkout master  
git rebase topic
```

```
git branch -d topic
```



Integrating changes

Merge

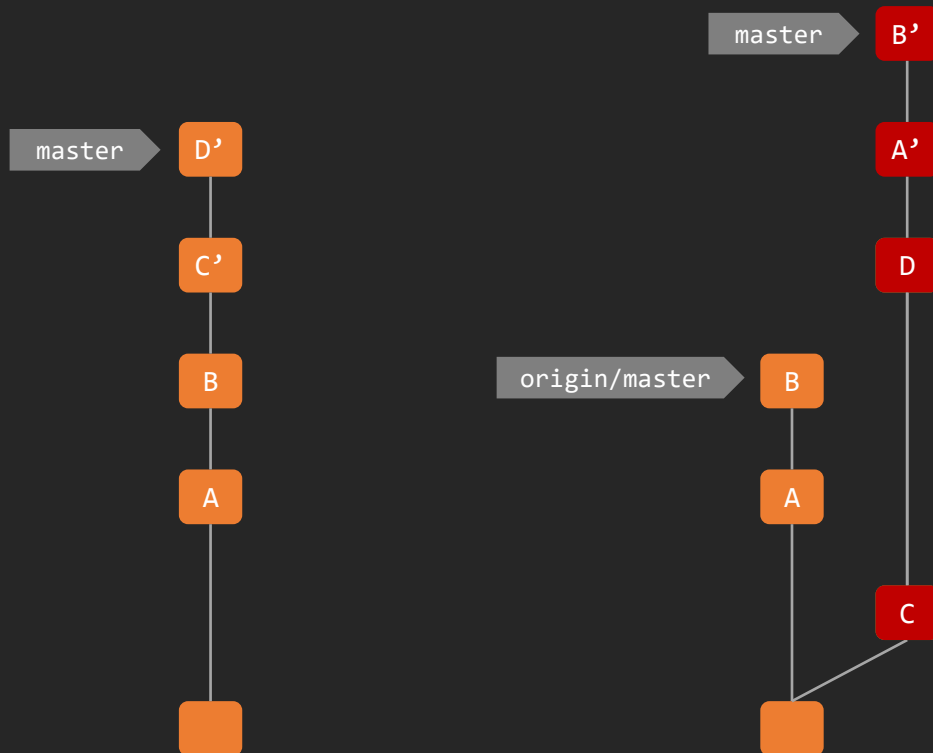
Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

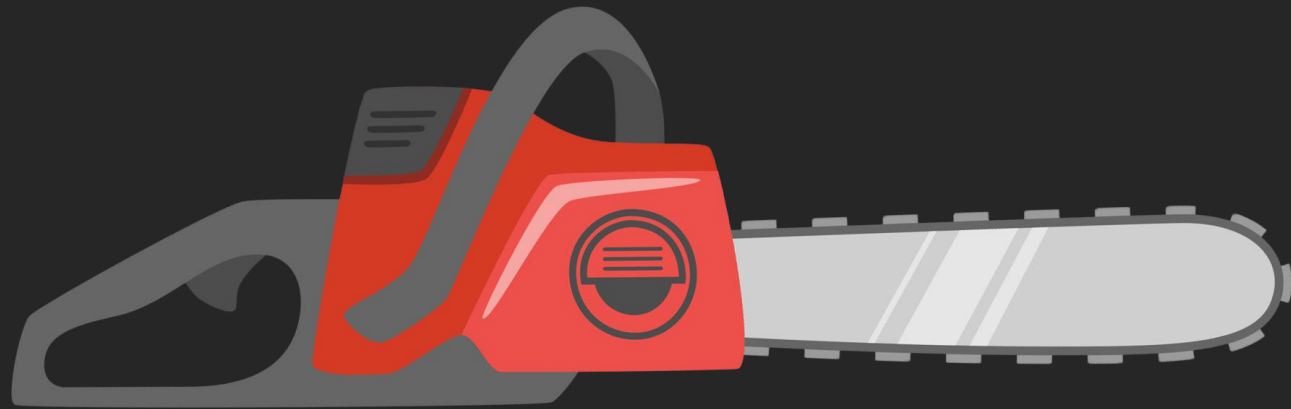
```
git checkout topic  
git rebase master
```

```
git checkout master  
git merge topic
```



```
git checkout master  
git rebase topic
```

```
git branch -d topic
```







Integrating changes

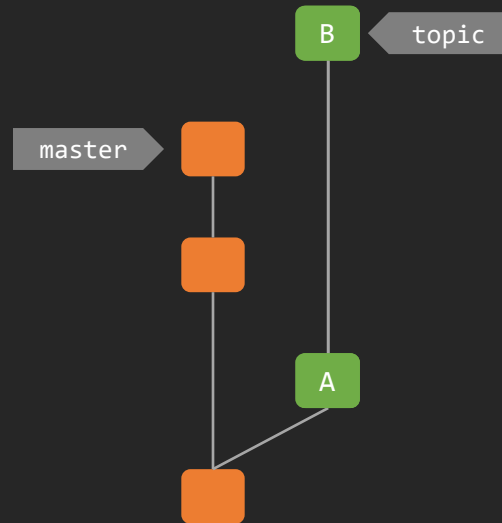
Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

"Squash"



Integrating changes

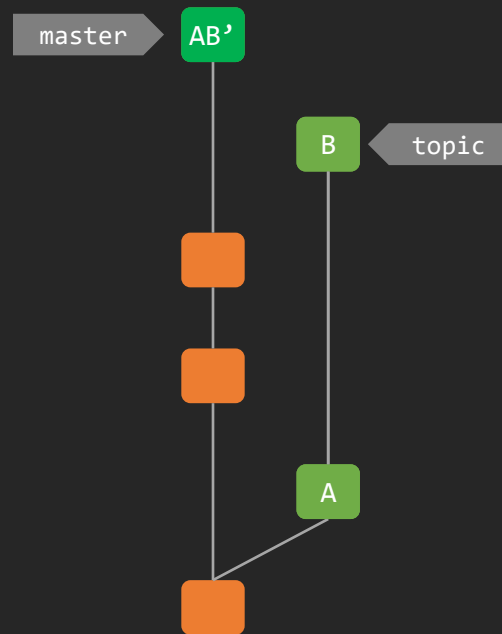
Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

"Squash"



```
git checkout master  
git merge --squash topic
```

Integrating changes

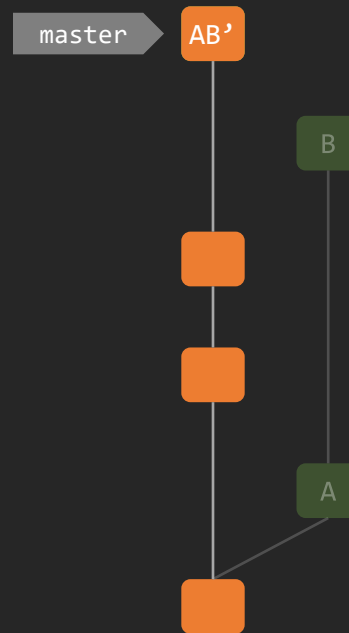
Merge

Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

"Squash"



```
git checkout master  
git merge --squash topic
```

```
git branch -D topic
```

Integrating changes

Merge



Fast-forward


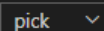

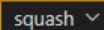

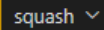

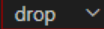

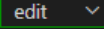

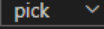
Merge
no fast-forward
policy

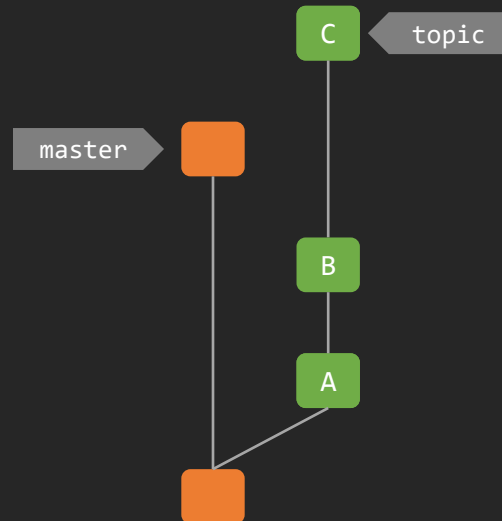
Rebase

"Squash"

Interactive
Rebase

GitLens Interactive Rebase  test Rebasing 67 commits onto 

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  | Merged PR 4632: feature - Config popup rounding |
|  |  | Merged PR 4630: feature - Styling infobox |
|  |  | Merged PR 4628: feature - Simplebar scroll and configuration pop... |
|  |  | initial-work-on-data-row-binding |
|  |  | Merged PR 4618: 449555 - Scrollbar for config popup |
|  |  | Merged PR 4615: 449555 - Drawer scroll to top on close |



```
git checkout topic  
git rebase --interactive master
```


Integrating changes

Merge

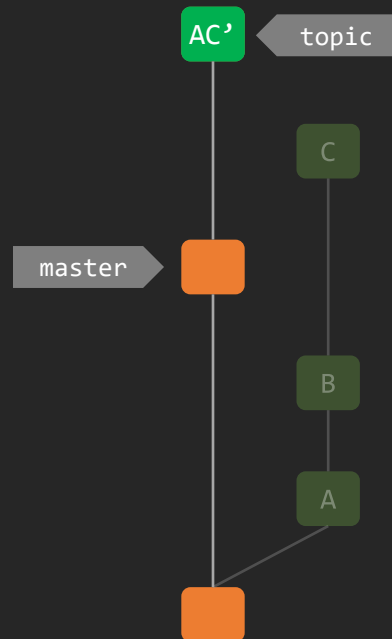
Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

"Squash"

Interactive
Rebase



```
git checkout topic  
git rebase --interactive master
```

```
git rebase --continue
```

Integrating changes

Merge

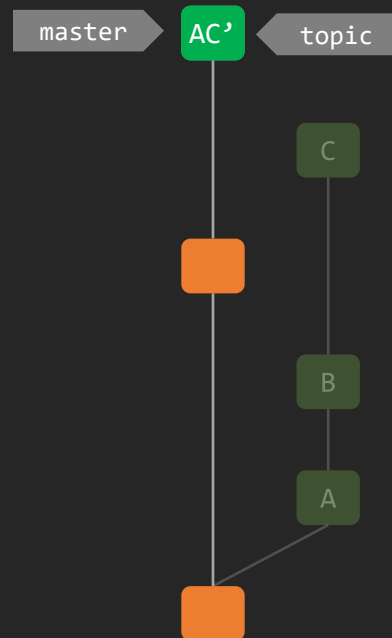
Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

"Squash"

Interactive
Rebase



```
git checkout topic  
git rebase --interactive master
```

```
git rebase --continue
```

```
git checkout master  
git merge topic
```

Integrating changes

Merge

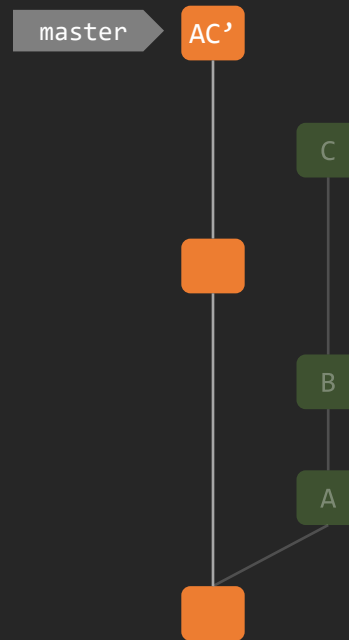
Fast-forward

Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

"Squash"

Interactive
Rebase



```
git checkout topic  
git rebase --interactive master
```

```
git rebase --continue
```

```
git checkout master  
git merge topic
```

```
git branch -d topic
```

Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

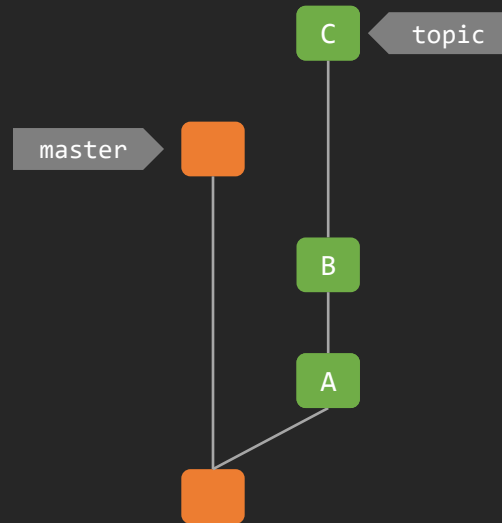
Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

"Squash"

Interactive
Rebase

Cherry-
picking



Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

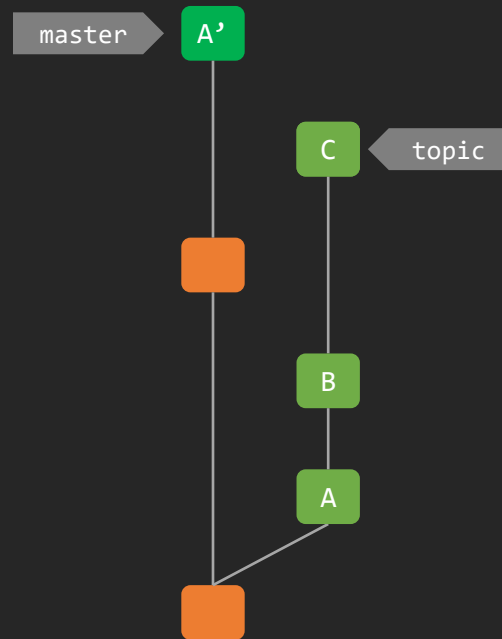
Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

"Squash"

Interactive
Rebase

Cherry-
picking



```
git checkout master  
git cherry-pick <sha1_a>
```

Integrating changes

Merge

Fast-forward

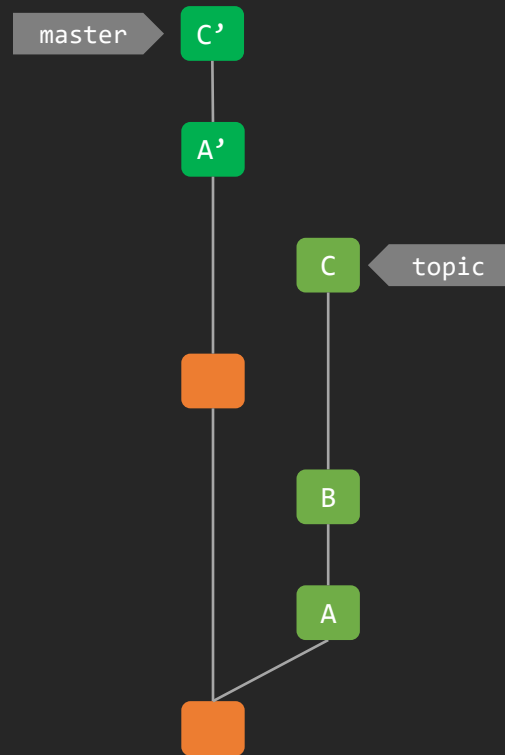
Merge
no fast-forward
policy

Rebase

"Squash"

Interactive
Rebase

Cherry-
picking



```
git checkout master
git cherry-pick <sha1_a>
git cherry-pick <sha1_c>
```



Any Questions?

Thank
You!