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Introduction

The rationale and the basics of the use of Git in LHCb have been presented and discussed in a few places:

- 62nd Analysis and Software Week (2016-01-25)
- Core Software Meeting (2016-01-06)
- LHCb-INT-2016-001

This page is meant to summarize the main commands to work with Git in LHCb. Some complementary information can be found in the LHCb Starterkit. This page can also be used to document tips and tricks, and troubleshooting instructions.

About Git

Git is a distributed version control system widely used. See http://git-scm.com/ for more details.

There are a lot of resources available on the web, for example:

- Git for Subversion users, Part 1: Getting started
- Git for Subversion users, Part 2: Taking control
- Git Book
- cheatsheets (PDF)
  - www.cheat-sheets.org
  - GitHub
  - Atlassian
- Git tutorial (Google search)

CERN opted for GitLab as a Git hosting platform, at https://gitlab.cern.ch, where you can find documentation about GitLab basics.

To simplify Git use in LHCb, a few custom Git sub-commands have been developed.
Prerequisites

There's a few operations that must be done once (and only once) before start working with Git at CERN.

1. Git command line setup, n.b. for LHCb users an account has likely been created for you on https://gitlab.cern.ch. Go to https://gitlab.cern.ch and see if your CERN single sign-on properly logs you on, then click on "Profile Settings" on the left toolbar and check the account details.

2. Set Git default push policy
   ♦ git < 1.7.11 (SLC6, lxplus):
     
     git config --global push.default current
   ♦ git >= 1.7.11 (CentOS7, Ubuntu, Mac, ...):
     
     git config --global push.default simple

3. (only needed for "ssh authentication") Add SSH keys to GitLab, usually GitLab asks you to do so if it was not done yet (you can upload the key under "Profile Settings" on https://gitlab.cern.ch).

4. (only needed for "ssh authentication") `git config --global lb-use.protocol ssh`

5. (only needed for "https authentication") fix https authentication in newer git versions see here for more details
   ♦ for work on lxplus7 (for the time being):
     
     git config --global http.emptyAuth true

Note that step 3 and 4 are not mandatory, because you can use Kerberos based authentication. The ssh protocol has some advantages over https (used for Kerberos) e.g. "large" transfers may fail over https. On the other hand, the ssh port is blocked in some networks (many hotels, some institutes) while the https port is usually open.

Point 2 is to avoid mistakes and to get a behavior similar to that of Git 2.0 on old versions of Git (current version at 2016-04-03 is 2.8.1).
Using Git for LHCb development

Satellite projects

Working with satellite projects (AKA local projects) is very useful for quick (a few commits) or limited (a few packages) developments.

First we need to create the satellite project

```
lb-dev Project/vXrY
cd ProjectDev_vXrY
```

then declare which project we want to get packages from

```
git lb-use Project
```

and get the package/subdirectory code, from the master (or another) branch

```
git lb-checkout Project/master Some/Package
```

or from a given project version

```
git lb-checkout Project/vXrY Some/Package
```

At this point, we can work on the changes we need to make, for example

```
vim Some/Package/src/MyStuff.cpp
make
make test
git add Some/Package/src/MyStuff.cpp
git commit -m 'fixing feature abc (JIRATICKET-123)'
vim Some/Package/src/MyStuff.cpp
make
make test
git commit -a -m 'improved fix to JIRATICKET-123'
```

Once we are happy with our changes, we can push them to a branch (JIRATICKET-123 in this example) in the remote repository for the project

```
git lb-push Project JIRATICKET-123
```

and create a merge request, by going to the project page on https://gitlab.cern.ch/ then "New merge request". If you add [WIP] at the front of the merge request's title, it is not merged automatically. This gives people the chance to review your changes and accept the merge request.

SetupProject workaround

If for some reason (which you don’t have time to debug right now) you cannot use lb-dev, you can also use SetupProject

```
SetupProject --build-env PROJECT vXrY
git init
```

and then continue as above
Mixing branches

In git, one does not just commit the current content of a file, but a change history. That means whenever you commit work, git needs to know which older version of a branch your change should be applied to. When checking out files from multiple branches with `git lb-checkout`, this will lead to confusion (i.e. error messages about merge conflicts when doing `git lb-push`). In this case a combination of vanilla git and git-lb commands might be useful.

Example: You want to commit changes on top of the 2018-patches branch of a project, but pick the master version of a few files for that. You want to use the nightly that was compiled last Monday. The steps then look like:

```bash
lb-dev --nightly=lhcb-2018-patches Mon DaVinci/2018-patches
cd ./DaVinciDev_2018-patches
git lb-use Phys
# checkout Phys/LoKiPhys with git lb-checkout
git lb-checkout Phys/2018-patches Phys/LoKiPhys
# checkout three files from the master branch with vanilla git
git checkout Phys/master -- Phys/LoKiPhys/python/LoKiPhys/functions.py
git checkout Phys/master -- Phys/LoKiPhys/LoKi/BeamLineFunctions.h
git checkout Phys/master -- Phys/LoKiPhys/src/BeamLineFunctions.cpp
# edit Phys/LoKiPhys/python/LoKiPhys/functions.py to resolve small bug fix
git add Phys/LoKiPhys/python/LoKiPhys/functions.py
git commit

The git lb-push command then should not fail in merge conflicts and is suited for a merge request into the 2018-patches branch (i.e. the branch used in the git lb-checkout command).

Whole projects

The tools to work with satellite projects have limitations. In particular they fail on binary files and do not support branch juggling.

For this reason and because working with plain git is better, it's generally suggested to work on whole projects with a workflow like:

```bash
git clone --recurse-submodules ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/lhcb/Project.git
cd Project
lb-project-init
# use '-b' only if that branch does not exist in the remote repository
git checkout -b JIRATICKET-123
make
make test
# edit edit edit...
git add Some/Package/src/MyStuff.cpp
git commit -m 'fixing feature abc (JIRATICKET-123)'
vim Some/Package/src/MyStuff.cpp
make
make test
git commit -a -m 'improved fix to JIRATICKET-123'
git push -u origin JIRATICKET-123
```
Data Packages

Since December, 12 2017 data packages are in managed in Gitlab (see announcement on lhcb-core-soft).

To work on a data package is equivalent, in some sense, to working with full projects.

You can get a local clone of a data package with something like

```
git clone https://gitlab.cern.ch/lhcb-datapkg/Hat/Name.git Hat/Name
```

or, as a handy shortcut,

```
git lb-clone-pkg Hat/Name
```

So, for example:

```
git lb-clone-pkg Gen/DecFiles
cd Gen/DecFiles
git checkout -b ${USER}/my-changes
# edit edit edit
# edit edit edit

git add dkfiles/YourDecFile.dec
git add doc/release.notes
git commit -m "Added dkfiles for XXX"
git push -u origin ${USER}/my-changes
# create merge request
```
Examples

To better understand how to apply the recipes, here we have a few specific examples.

Committing Hlt2 lines

Start from the latest Moore version with lb-dev.

```
  lb-dev Moore/v<latest>
  cd MooreDev_v<latest>
  git lb-use Hlt
  git lb-checkout Hlt/master Hlt/Hlt2Lines
```

Make your changes. Add a line describing your change in doc/release.notes

```
  git diff
  git status
```

to review changes and see which files need to be added to your commit

```
  git add <file1> <file2>...
  git commit -a -m "Describe your changes here, first line short summary, second line can be more comprehensive"
  git lb-push Hlt <your name>/<something describing your change>
```

Go to gitlab.cern.ch, search for the project LHCb/Hlt (https://gitlab.cern.ch/lhcb/Hlt). Create a merge request with the master branch.

Upgrade Tracking

Use case: work on a few packages from different projects in a specific nightly build slot.

Note: The branch upgradeTracking was merged to master and deleted. Therefore, from now on it is recommended to use the master branch.

Development:

```
#Create environment
  lb-dev --nightly-cvmfs --nightly lhcb-head Brunel/HEAD
#for a specific nightly add Mon,Tue,Wed,Thu,Fri,Sat,Sun as i.e.: lb-dev --nightly-cvmfs --nightly Mon Brunel/HEAD
  cd BrunelDev_HEAD

# Add packages from Rec that you want to modify. e.g.:
  git lb-use Rec
  git lb-checkout Rec/master Tr/TrackFitter
  git lb-checkout Rec/master Tf/TrackSys
  git lb-checkout Rec/master Pr/PrAlgorithms
  git lb-checkout Rec/master Pr/PrMCTools
  git lb-checkout Rec/master Pr/PrKernel
  #contains properties of the tracking sequence
  #contains tracking algorithm ( Seeding/Forward/Matching/Downstream )
  #contains truth matching tool and tools to study detector properties
  #contains base classes and interfaces used by PrAlgorithms and PrMCTools

# Add Brunel for testing:
  git lb-use Brunel
  git lb-checkout Brunel/master Rec/Brunel

# add/change files

#Compile
  make
```
#locally commit the code

git commit -a -m "changed something"

#Test the changes
#run all qm tests
make test

#or, for specific tests:
make test ARGS="-R brunel-upgrade-baseline"

#push to server

git lb-push Rec upgrade-newbranchname

**Merge requests**

- go to https://gitlab.cern.ch/lhcb/Rec/merge_requests/new (from https://gitlab.cern.ch/lhcb/Rec click on +, then on "New merge request")
- select my-*new-feature* as source branch and *master* as destination branch, and click on "Compare branches and continue"
- fill in the form with details and submit
- repeat for all projects (Brunel)

**Update local packages after** the merge requests are applied

```bash
cd BrunelDev_master
git fetch --all
git lb-checkout Rec/master Tr/TrackFitter
git lb-checkout Brunel/master Rec/Brunel
```

**Upgrade Tracking Example 2**

**Use case:** work on significant changes to the tracking code, building packages from scratch

**Preparation** (can be setup as a shell script for easy rebuilds): 

```bash
source /cvmfs/lhcb.cern.ch/group_login.sh  # Only needed for non-lxplus systems
#LbLogin -c $CMTDEB  # Uncomment for debug builds
export CMTPROJECTPATH="$HOME/upgradeTracking:/cvmfs/lhcbdev.cern.ch/nightlies/lhcb-upgradeTracking/Today:$CMTPROJECTPATH"
export CCACHE_DIR=/<somewhere>/.ccache
export CMAKEFLAGS=-DCMAKE_USE_CCACHE=ON
unset VERBOSE
export PATH=$PATH:/cvmfs/lhcb.cern.ch/lib/contrib/ninja/1.4.0/x86_64-slc6
```

Note that for best performance you should pick / local to the machine you run on. Also, you should increase the cache size a bit, as the default is a little small. For instance the following will set the size to 10G.

```bash
> ccache --max-size=10G
```

**Building (using ssh for gitlab authentication):**

```bash
mkdir ~/upgradeTracking
cd ~/upgradeTracking
git clone --recurse-submodules ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/lhcb/LHCb.git LHCb/LHCb_upgradeTracking
cd LHCb/LHCb_upgradeTracking
git checkout -b upgradeTracking origin/upgradeTracking
cd ~/upgradeTracking
git clone --recurse-submodules ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/lhcb/Lbcom.git LbCOM/LbCOM_upgradeTracking
```

**Upgrade Tracking**
cd LBCOM/LBCOM_upgradeTracking
git checkout -b upgradeTracking origin/upgradeTracking

cd ~/upgradeTracking

git clone --recursive-submodules ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/lhcb/Rec.git REC/REC_upgradeTracking

cd REC/REC_upgradeTracking

git checkout -b upgradeTracking origin/raaij-upgradeTracking

Edit each of the CMake lists in the last three packages to use the upgradeTracking version instead of the versions listed for the above packages. In each directory, in order, run the following commands to build:

lb-project-init
make configure
make install

Note: if you want or need to use prerelease versions of heptools you can edit the toolchain.cmake file created by the lb-project-init command with the additional lines at the top:

set(CMAKE_PREFIX_PATH /cvmfs/lhcb.cern.ch/lib/lhcb /cvmfs/lhcb.cern.ch/lib/lcg/releases /cvmfs/sft.cern.ch/lcg/releases ${CMAKE_PREFIX_PATH})
list(REMOVE_DUPLICATES CMAKE_PREFIX_PATH)

which adds the location of the central heptools location as used by the nightly builds.

Building everything locally example

This example is a minor modification of the upgrade tracking example2. In this example the aim is to build everything, from Gaudi upwards, locally. The advantage of this approach is it decouples your development from the nightlies, the only dependencies taken from /cvmfs are the LCG releases.

First, set up your environment in a very similar way :-

# Only needed for non-lxplus systems
source /cvmfs/lhcb.cern.ch/group_login.sh

# If required, set CMTCONFIG to the platform you wish to build
export CMTCONFIG=<platform>

LbLogin -c $CMTCONFIG

# Define the sub-directory you wish to use for the project checkouts
export User_release_area="/path/to/somewhere"

export CMTPROJECTPATH=${User_release_area}:$CMTPROJECTPATH

# Use ccache
export CCACHE_DIR=/<somewhere>/.ccache
export CMAKEFLAGS="-DCMAKE_USE_CCACHE=ON"

Then, starting with Gaudi, checkout and build each project in turn

cd $User_release_area

git clone --recursive-submodules ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/gaudi/Gaudi.git

cd Gaudi

git checkout <branch>

lb-project-init
make configure
make install

cd $User_release_area

git clone --recursive-submodules ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/lhcb/LHCb.git

cd LHCb
git checkout <branch>
lb-project-init
make configure
make install

Repeat for whatever project you require, up to the top level application (Brunel, DaVinci etc.). Note in each step running make configure explicitly before make install is technically not required, but its useful to do the first time as it allows you to check the configuration before continuing. In particular check that each project is correctly using those it requires from your build area.

Do not worry if, the first time you build a project it takes a long time. The likes of LHCb and Rec indeed take a short while to build at first. In subsequent builds though, you will find only the file you have touched, or those that use them, will need to be rebuilt each time. In addition, if you ever need to trigger a complete rebuild, using ccache will significantly improve the time those rebuilds take.
Tips & Tricks

Replacement for "svn update" in local projects

In an lb-dev generated project, with packages checkout out with git lb-checkout, it is not possible to run git merge to get the local copy of the packages synchronized with remote changes while keeping the local ones.

It is possible, though, to emulate the behaviour of svn update via a git rebase with the following procedure:

Show example of local project set up  Hide example

```bash
lb-dev LHCb/v40r1
cd LHCbDev_v40r1
git lb-use -q LHCb
# get an old version as an example
git lb-checkout LHCb/v40r0~ GaudiObjDesc
# ... some development ... edit edit edit commit commit commit

# update the package
( imported=$(git config -f .git-lb-checkout lb-checkout.LHCb.GaudiObjDesc.imported)
git checkout $imported GaudiObjDesc
)
git lb-checkout LHCb/master GaudiObjDesc
git rebase HEAD master
# resolve conflicts (if needed) following instructions from git-rebase
```

Remove from a local project a package checked out with "git lb-checkout"

If in your local project you have a copy of a package you do not need anymore, you can safely remove it from the local repository and remove the associated metadata with:

```bash
cd ~/cmtuser/MyProjectDev_vXrY
git rm -r Hat/MyPackage
git config -f .git-lb-checkout --remove-section lb-checkout.TheProject.Hat/MyPackage
git add .git-lb-checkout
git commit -m 'removed Hat/MyPackage'
```

where you replace TheProject and Hat/MyPackage with the correct values (you can use git config -l -f .git-lb-checkout to be sure).

Commit a change to both a patches branch (e.g. 2017-patches) and master

In general, merges to *-patches branches are also merged to the master branch by the project release manager. So just make your merge request to the *-patches branch and it will be propagated for you to master when the MR to *-patches is merged.

N.B. if your branch originated from anything other than your target patches branch, you must first "rebase" the branch, see instructions below
Commit a change to both master and future branches

In general, merges to master branch are also periodically merged to the future branch by the project release manager. So if you have a change that can apply to both master and future (i.e. it does not require any special features only available in future branch) just make your merge request to the master branch and it will be propagated for you to future some time later, after the MR to master is merged.

N.B. if your branch originated from anything other than the master branch, you must first "rebase" the branch, see instructions below

Rebase a feature branch to a different origin branch

Sometimes you may have been working on a new feature or bug fix in a branch that you created starting from e.g. master, but you wish to make the merge request against another branch, e.g. 2017-patches. Before you push your branch you need to rebase it. In the following example, we assume that you are working on a feature branch called myFeatureBranch in Phys project and wish to rebase it to 2017-patches branch. Proceed as follows:

```
cd $TMPDIR
git clone --recurse-submodules ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/lhcb/Phys.git
cd Phys
git checkout myFeatureBranch
git rebase -i origin/2017-patches
# an editor opens. You should keep only the lines with your commits and save
git log  # make sure the history looks right
git push --force  # much better to use --force-with-lease, but you might not have it in your git
# see e.g. https://developer.atlassian.com/blog/2015/04/force-with-lease/
```

Port an existing commit to another branch

Sometimes you wish to commit a change to more than one branch. If you cannot rely on the automatic merging described in previous headings, use the git cherry-pick command: once your commit(s) is in a given branch, just checkout the other branch and issue

```
git cherry-pick sha1 [...]
```

where sha1 is the name of your commit, or a space separated list of commits (in the order they should be applied).

cherry-picking may trigger conflicts if the commit does not apply cleanly. In such a case, one has to resolve the conflicts, readd the fixed files to the index and say

```
git cherry-pick --continue
```

as explained by git on its output

Last remark: if you find somewhere that you could achieve something similar using git merge --ours or --theirs, this is a very bad idea! These commands are explicitly revoking commits, so losing work. they actually mean "Keep our/their work, and revoke their/our work". This reverting will even be merged into other branch in the future.

Move packages between projects

Warning: please use this recipe with care! See this JIRA comment for the details.
Add a package to a project

git clone --recurse-submodules https://:@gitlab.cern.ch:8443/lhcb/TheProject.git
cd TheProject
git checkout -b ${USER}/MyNewPackage
# copy the files
git add Hat/MyNewPackage
git commit -m 'add package Calibration/Pi0Calibration'
git push -u origin ${USER}/MyNewPackage

where you replace TheProject and Hat/MyNewPackage with the appropriate values

Port changes from an SVN checkout to Git

If the project you work on moved to Git, and you didn't have the chance to "svn commit" your changes before the write access to SVN was closed, this is how you can take your changes from your SVN checkout and port them to a Git clone.

Let's imagine we were working on the package Hat/MyPackage from the project MyProject, so probably you have a directory called ~/cmtuser/MyProjectDev_vXrY/Hat/MyPackage.

# ensure we are up to date
cd ~/cmtuser/MyProjectDev_vXrY
svn update
cd..
# rename the old checkout to leave place for a new one
mv MyProjectDev_vXrY MyProjectDev_vXrY.svn
# initialize the local project to work with Git
lb-dev MyProject/vXrY
cd MyProjectDev_vXrY
git lb-use MyProject
git lb-checkout MyProject/master Hat/MyPackage
# import the changes
( cd ../MyProjectDev_vXrY.svn/Hat/MyPackage && svn diff ) | ( cd Hat/MyPackage && patch -p0 )
# commit the changes
git add Hat/MyPackage
git commit -m 'my changes'

At this point you can continue your development as described above.

**WARNING:** Please, ensure that all your changes have been ported before removing the old SVN checkout.

Formatting code for LHCb

As discussed at the 11th LHCb Computing Workshop and detailed in a Core Software Meeting, contributions to LHCb code have to be formatted according to common LHCb style. To avoid issues with different interpretations of the style, the rules are applied using the automatic tools clang-format (for C++) and YAPF (for Python). A helper command (lb-format) is available to simplify the interaction with the low level tools.

Formatting individual files

The simplest way to format a C++ or Python file is to call lb-format on them:

cd <Project>
lb-format MyPkg/src/MySource.cpp MyPkg/python/MyPkg/SomePython.py
lb-format ignores unsupported file types (printing a warning), so it's safe to call it with something like:

```bash
cd <Project>
git ls-files | xargs -r lb-format
find MyPkg -type f | xargs -r lb-format
```

### Formatting only files modified wrt to a reference branch

When working on large projects, running a no-op formatting on all files takes a lot of time, so it's useful to run it only on the files you are working on.

Assuming you are working on a branch that you want to merge into origin/master, you can do something like:

```bash
cd <Project>
lb-format --format-patch /dev/null origin/master
```

for files already committed, or

```bash
cd <Project>
git diff --name-only --diff-filter=MA | xargs -r lb-format
```

for files not committed yet.
Troubleshooting

Merge conflict in gitlab

You have pushed your commits to gitlab into a branch, you try to merge with the master or some other branch, and gitlab tells you there is a merge conflict.

The currently easiest way to see where the merge conflict is:

1. `git clone --recurse-submodules ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/lhcb/<Project>.git`
2. `cd <Project>`
3. `git checkout <your branch>`
4. `git merge <target branch>`
5. `<solve conflict>` (Remove every >>>>> or <<<<<< )
6. `git commit`
7. `git push origin <your branch>`

Go back to gitlab and check if you can merge now.

Conflict after the global re-format of the project

This is a pretty rare case... I'll fill the blank ASAP.

Warning about push.default not being set

When calling `git push` from a CentOS7 machine, you may get this warning:

```
warning: push.default is unset; its implicit value is changing in
Git 2.0 from 'matching' to 'simple'. To squelch this message
and maintain the current behavior after the default changes, use:

    git config --global push.default matching

To squelch this message and adopt the new behavior now, use:

    git config --global push.default simple
```

See 'git help config' and search for 'push.default' for further information. (the 'simple' mode was introduced in Git 1.7.11. Use the similar mode 'current' instead of 'simple' if you sometimes use older versions of Git)

To fix it you need to call `git config --global push.default xyz`, as described in #Prerequisites.

Warning about not being able to push to the repository

There are three ways to access the git repostory, for example for the Rec package they are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Git URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kerberos</td>
<td>https://:@gitlab.cern.ch:8443/lhcb/Rec.git</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTTPS</td>
<td><a href="https://gitlab.cern.ch/lhcb/Rec.git">https://gitlab.cern.ch/lhcb/Rec.git</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ssh</td>
<td>ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/lhcb/Rec.git</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The command `git lb-use project` sets the Kerberos method, so anyone with access to their CERN AFS area should be able to push changes to gitlab.cern.ch. If you are working outside CERN the ssh access is a better option, you must first register your ssh key with CERN (see https://cern.service-now.com/service-portal/article.do?n=KB0003136 for details).
To either set or reset the remote site use the command

git remote -v

to view the current remote repositories. Then

git remote set-url Rec ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/lhcb/Rec.git

to adjust a repository or

git remote add -f Brunel ssh://git@gitlab.cern.ch:7999/lhcb/Brunel.git

to add a new repository. The official repository links can be found on the gitlab.cern.ch home page for each package.

**Dealing with submodules when changing branches (incl. checkout, pull, merge, cherry-pick)**

We are using git submodules. The above `git clone --recurse-submodules` mostly takes care of that, except for changing branches with `git checkout` for branches that use different versions of a submodule. In this case, updating the submodule manually can be done with

```bash
git submodule update --recursive=
```

`git submodule update --recursive` can also be run when a project was cloned without the `--recurse-submodules` option.
Known Issues

- git lb-push does not handle correctly binary files
- after a git lb-push Project my-branch you have to call git lb-checkout Project/my-branch My/Package to continue working on the same branch

-- MarcoClemencic - 2016-04-25, MarcoCattaneo - 2017-07-10

This topic: LHCb > Git4LHCb
Topic revision: r66 - 2019-04-17 - PaulSeyfert