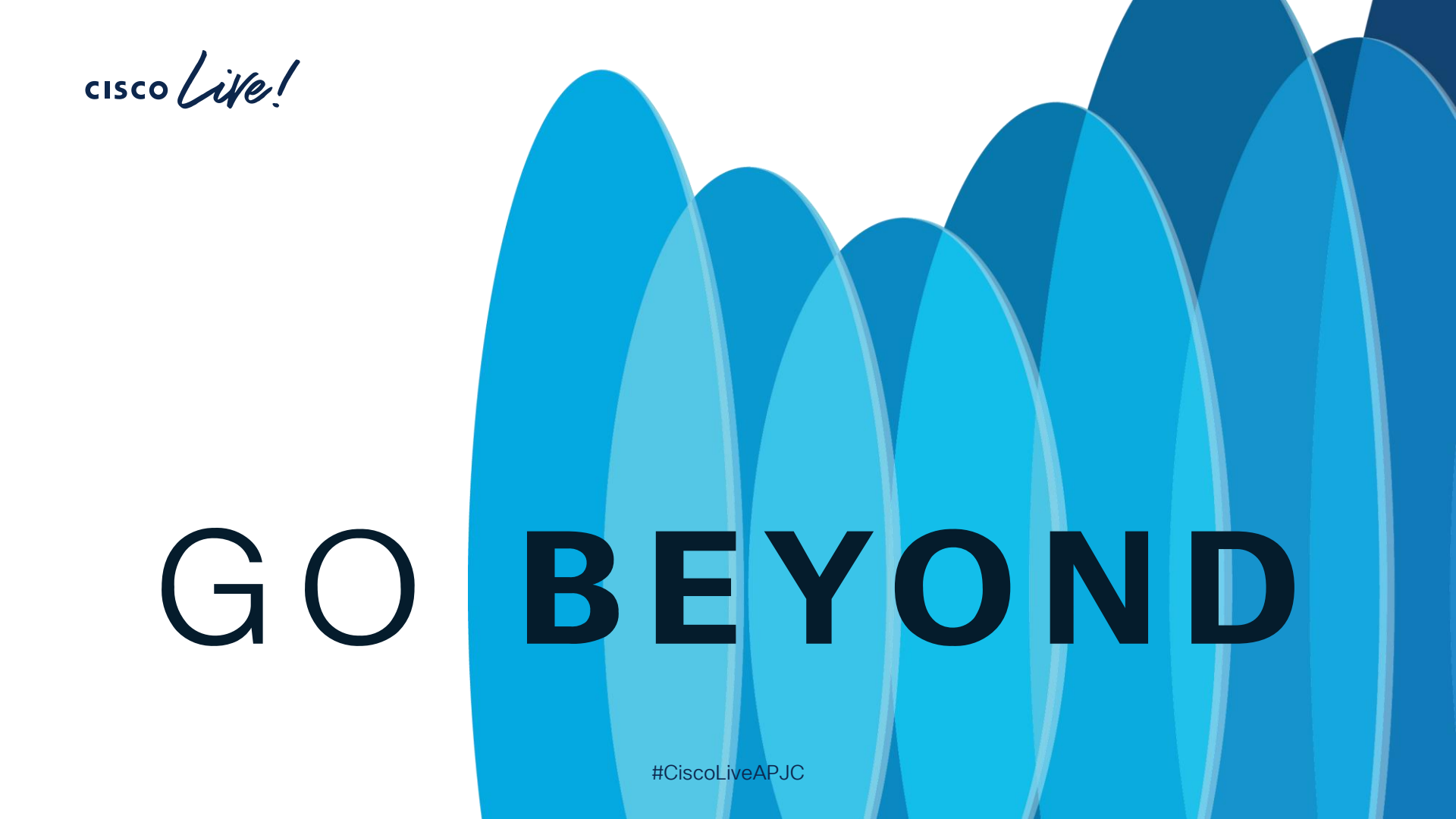
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Get into Git!

The Advanced guide to Git commands

Kareem Iskander, Lead Technical Advocate
@Kareem_Isk

DEVNET-2123

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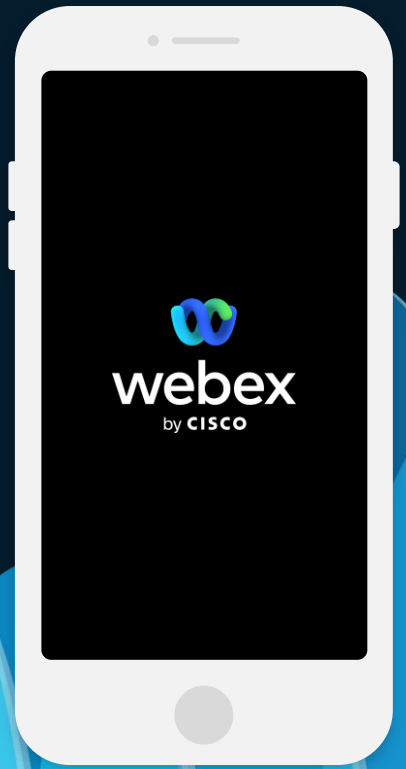

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Agenda

- 2min git refresher
- Merging and Pull Request
- Interactive Rebase
- Recovering Deleted Commits
- Submodules
- Search and Find
- Resources

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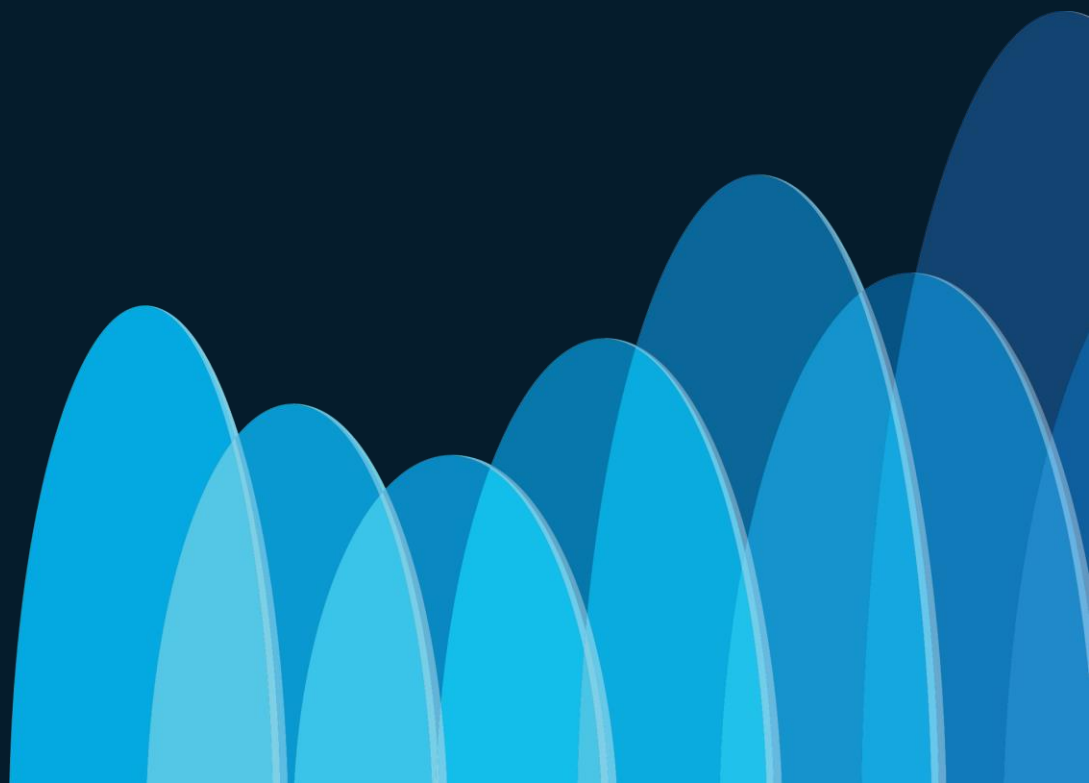
What is Git?



Git

- An open-source distributed version control system
- Designed with performance, security, and flexibility in mind
- Stores snapshots of the full file instead of diffs
- Changes are stored in trees
- Trees contain changed files
- Commits contain trees

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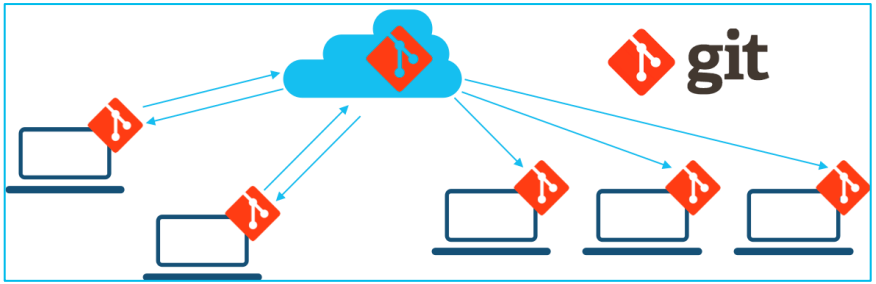
Git vs. GitHub

- GitHub is a commercial company, that runs github.com based on Git Version Control System.



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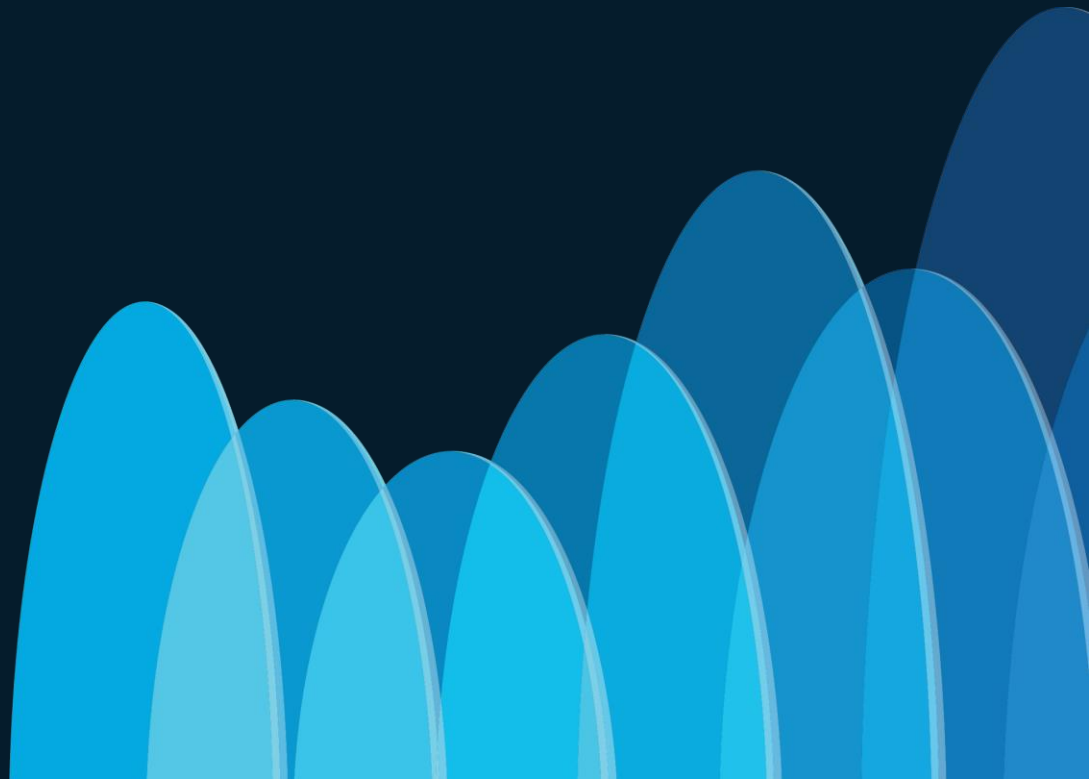
Git: Technical Overview



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Useful Git Commands

Action	*What it does*	***Command***
Setup	Tell git who you are one-time setup	*> git config --global user.name "your name"* *> git config --global user.email your@email.com*
Clone	Clone ("download") a git repository	*> git clone <ur>*
Status	Check the Status of your local repository	*> git status*
Checkout A Branch	Create and Checkout a local Branch Creates a "safe place" for your changes	*> git checkout -b new-branch-name*
Add	Add a file to your next commit.	*> git add filename*
Commit	Commit your changes.	*> git commit -m "Your commit message."*
Checkout A File	Check-out a file from the last commit. Reverts any changes you have made and restores the last committed version of a file.	*> git checkout filename*

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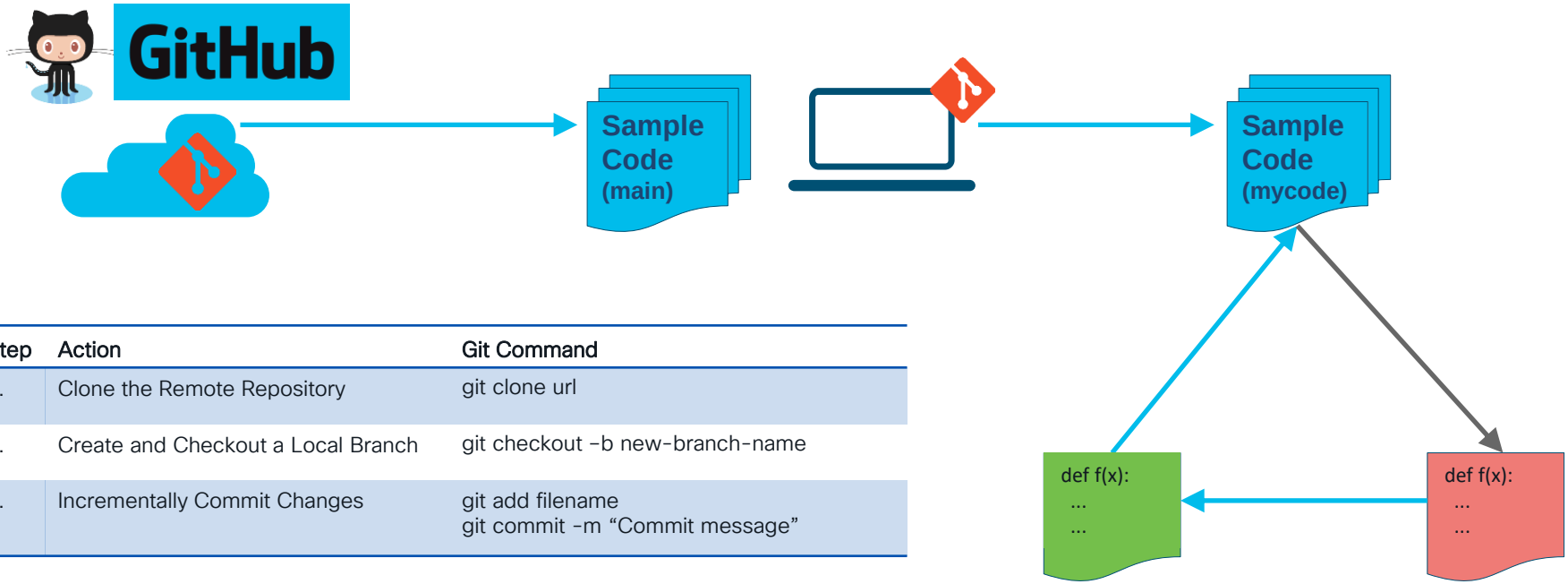
DevNet Sample-Code Workflow



Step	Action	Git Command
1.	Clone the Remote Repository	git clone url
2.	Create and Checkout a Local Branch	git checkout -b new-branch-name
3.	Incrementally Commit Changes	git add filename git commit -m “Commit message”

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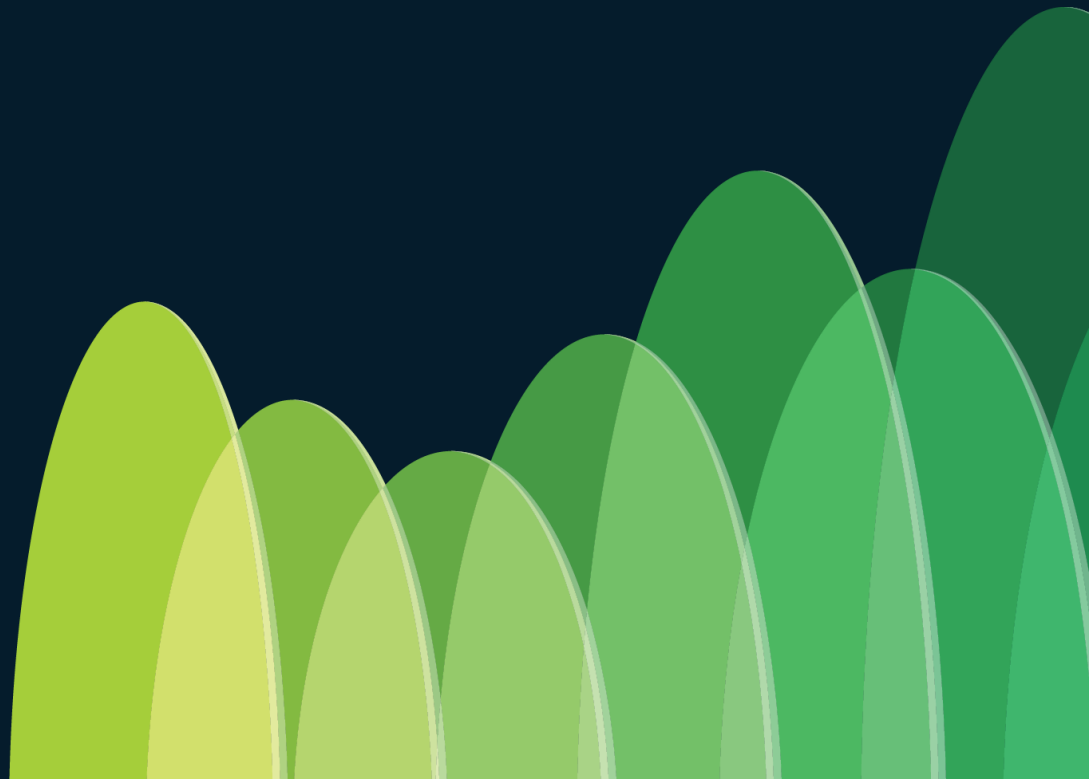
Merge & PR

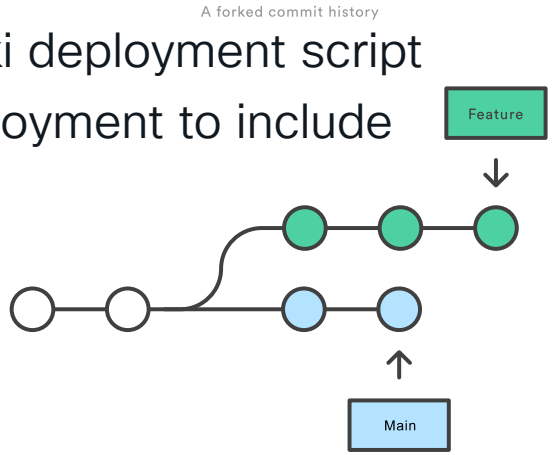


Merging

- Merging is designed to integrate changes from one branch into another branch

Use Case

- Multi-site Python deployment automation in the main branch
- The Main branch also contains a newly added Meraki deployment script
- The Feature branch needs to expand on Meraki deployment to include camera option for the new site



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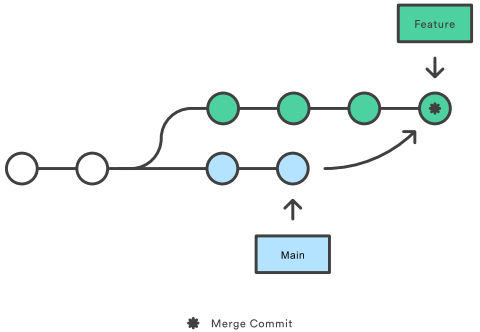
Merge - Steps

```
git checkout feature
git merge main
```

OR

```
git merge feature main
```



- Merging is a non-destructive operation
- Existing branches are not changed in any way
- **Feature** branch will have irrelevant commits
- Can be difficult for developers to understand features added to branch

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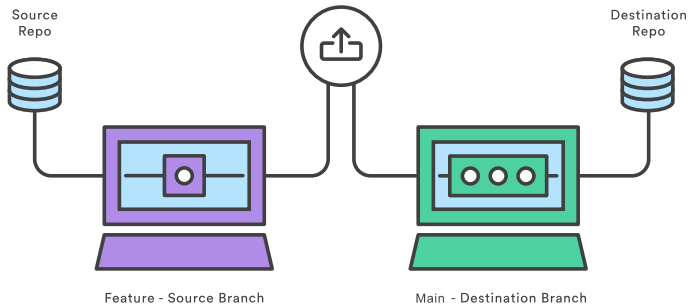
Pull Request

- Pull requests are a mechanism for a developer to notify team members that they have completed a feature.
- Once their feature branch is ready, the developer files a pull request via their GitHub account
- This lets everybody involved know that they need to review the code and merge it into the main branch.



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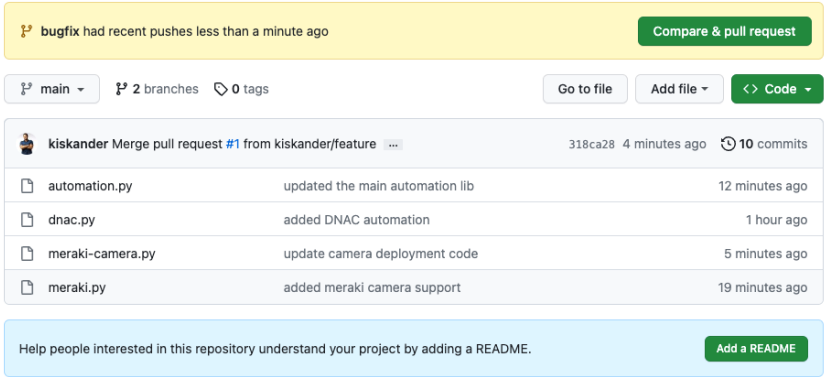
Pull Request - Steps

```
git push origin feature
```



Use Case

- Let's take our Meraki cameras **Feature** branch
- I've made changes, commits and I'd like to notify **Main** branch owners
- **Feature** branch is to become the base code in **Main**

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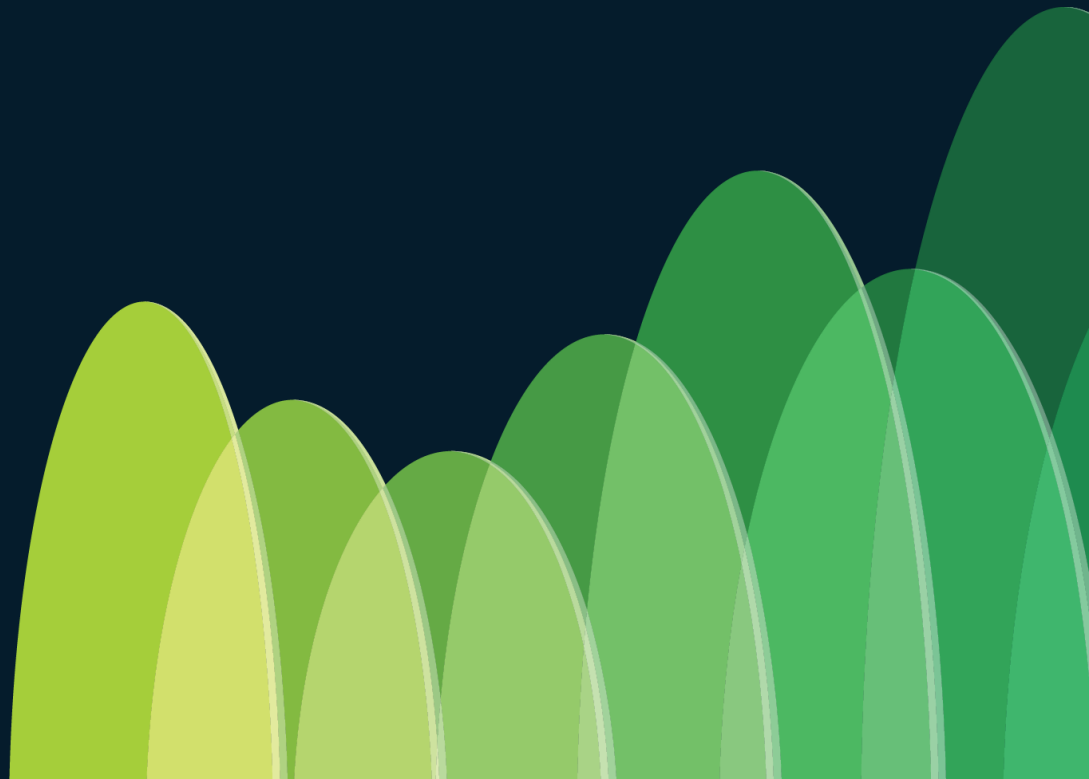
Interactive Rebase



Interactive Rebase

A Tool for Optimising & Cleaning up Commit History

- Change a commit's message
- Delete a commit
- Reorder commits
- Combine multiple commits into one
- Edit/Split an existing commit into multiple new ones

⚠ DO NOT use Interactive Rebase on commits that you've already pushed/shared on remote repo!

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Interactive Rebase

Use Case

- You are working on the **Feature** branch to expand Meraki automation
- You have been making commits ever function you write
- You are ready to merge into **Main** branch
- You have realized:
  1. “Over Commit-ted” - get it?
  2. Commit messages aren’t cutting it

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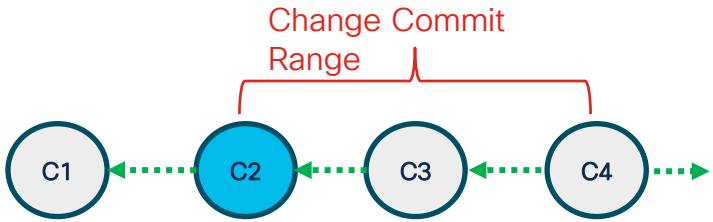
Interactive Rebase - Steps



1. How far back do you want to go?

2.
```
git rebase -i HEAD~2
```

3. Determine action to apply to your commits
4. Make changes & save

5.
```
git    log --oneline
```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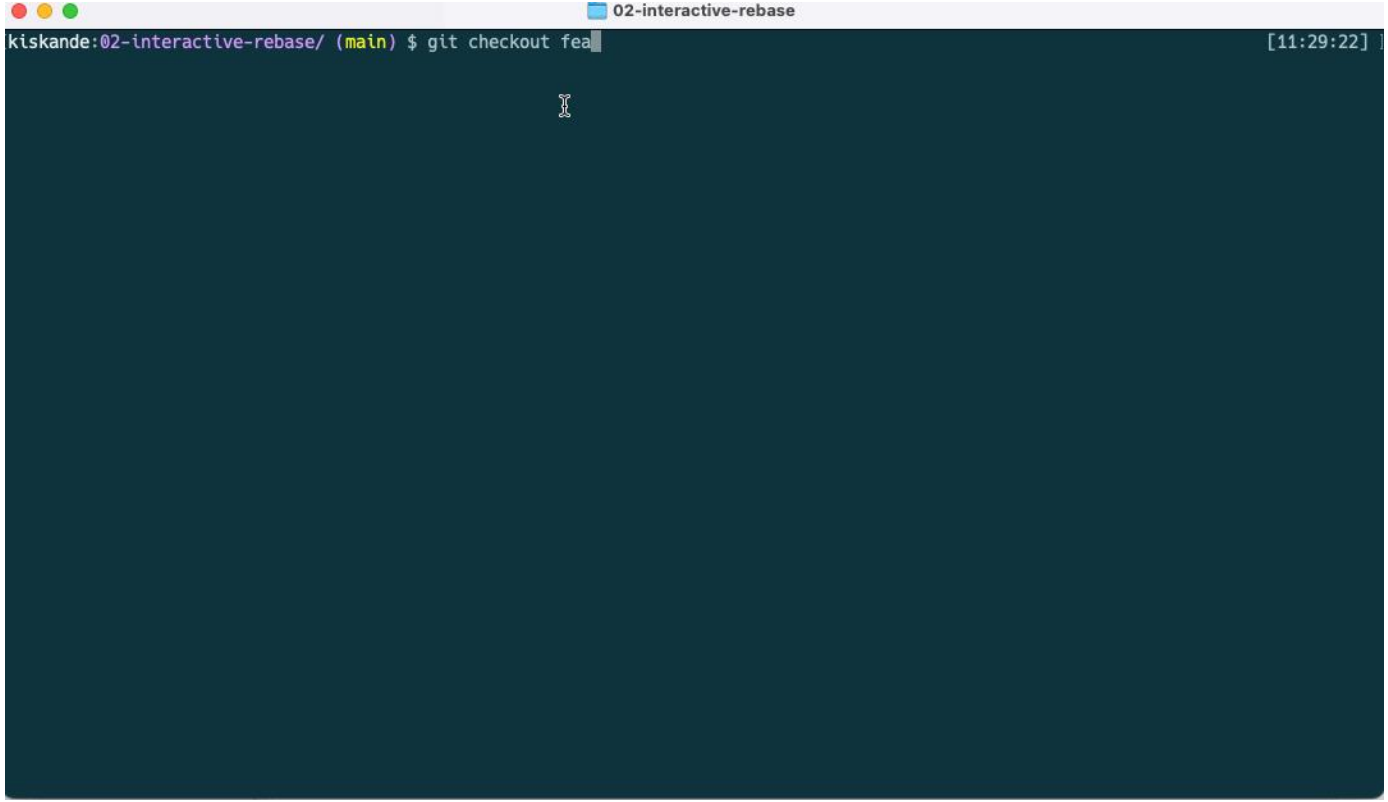
Let’s try it!

Interactive Rebase - Reword



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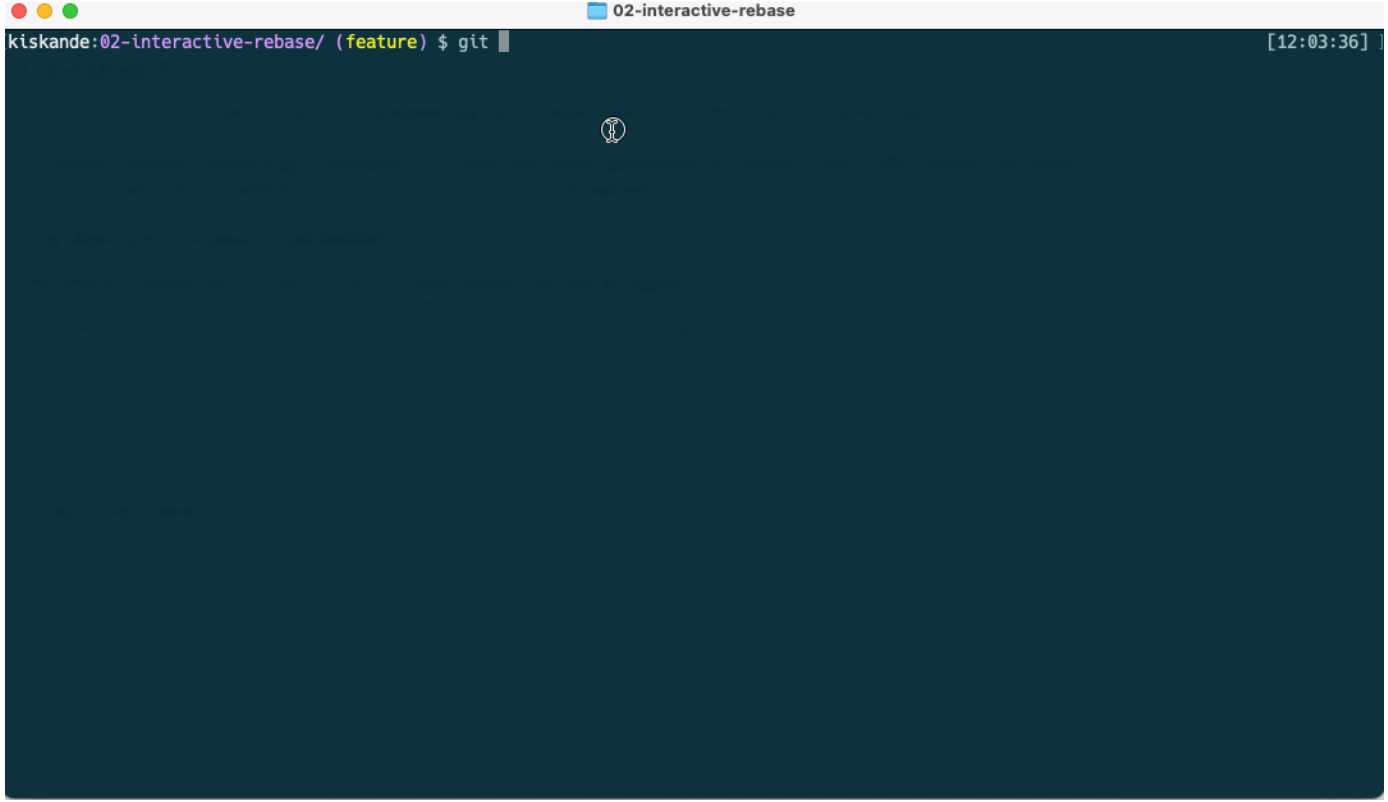
Interactive Rebase - Squash



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Cherry Picking

Cherry Picking 🍒

Use Case

- You are working on the **Feature** branch to expand your Meraki site automation
- You have made a commit on the **Feature** Branch
- You noticed you are working in the **Main** Branch
- The commit does not belong in **Main** .. Yet
- What to do??

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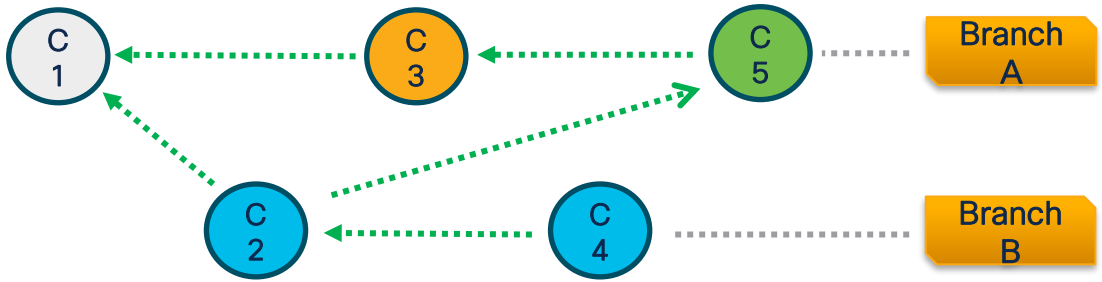
Cherry Picking 🍒

Integrate Single, Specific commit

- Cherry Picking allows you to select individual commits
- Cherry Picking integrate specific commits to Branch
- Only Commit C2 from Branch B to integrate into Branch A



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Cherry Picking 🍒 - Steps

1. While on **Main** Grab the commit hash

```
git    log --oneline
```

2. Checkout the **Feature** branch

```
git checkout Feature
```

3. Cherry Pick the commit

```
git cherry-pick a827df1
```

4. Clean up **Main**

```
git checkout main
git reset --hard HEAD~1
```


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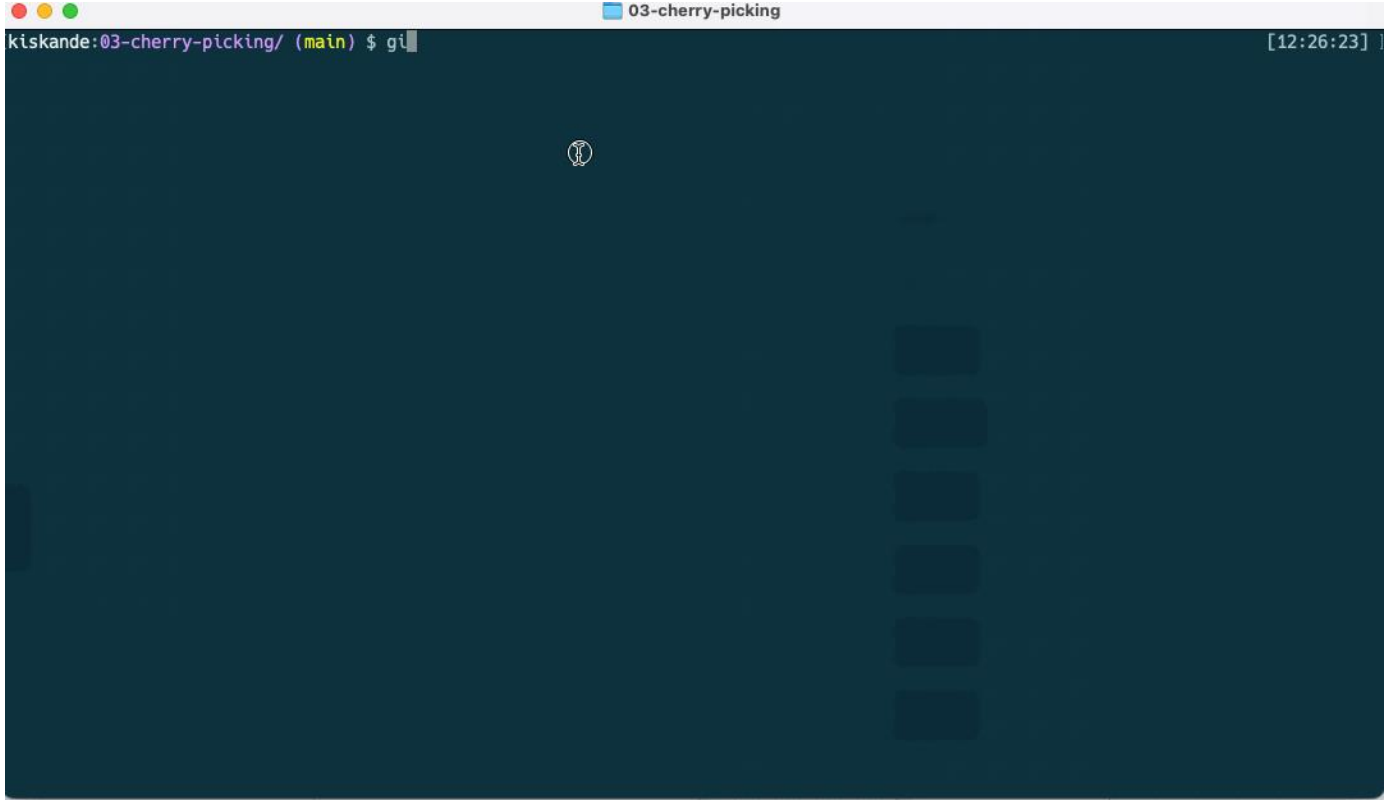
Let’s try it!

Cherry Picking



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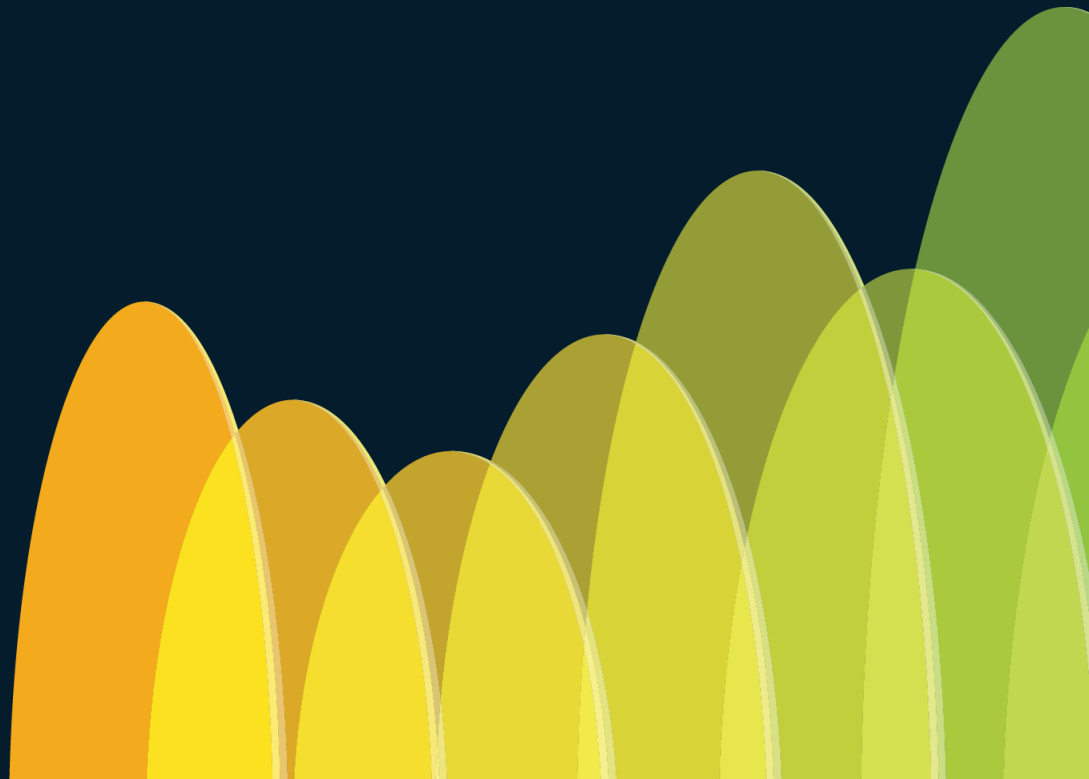
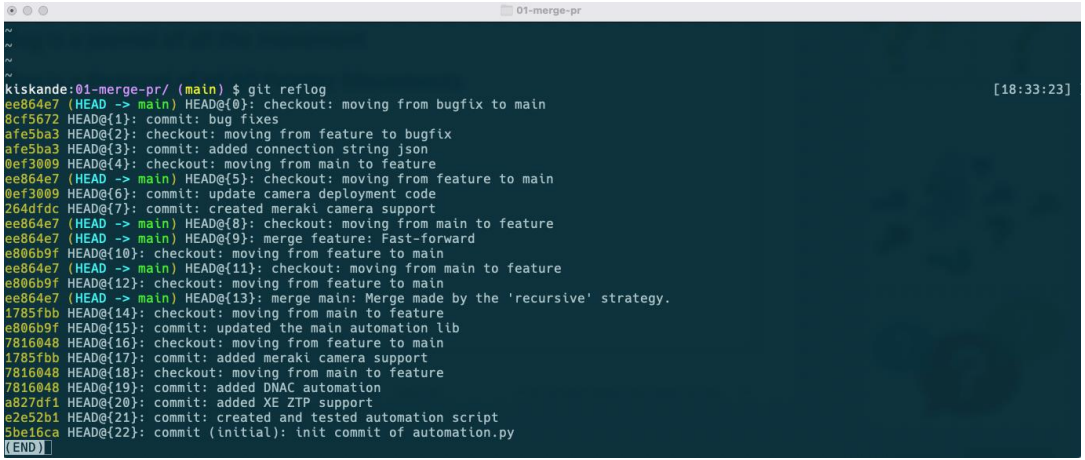
Reference logs



Reflog

- Reflog is a journal of all the movement
- Reflog is a Protocol of HEAD Pointer Movements
- Merge, Rebase, Cherry Pick, Reset .. All of the movements



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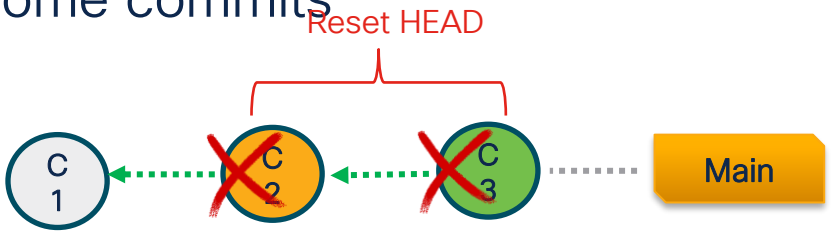
Reflog

Use Case

- You are working on the **Feature** to expand your Meraki site automation
- You have gone “commit-crazy”
- You think you want to get rid of some commits
- You use “git reset”
- You delete an important commit
- Panic Mode 😱



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Reflog - Steps

1. Reflog are in chronological order

```
git reflog --oneline
```

2. Find the catastrophic reset and copy the state before into new Branch

```
git branch recovery 8cf5672
```


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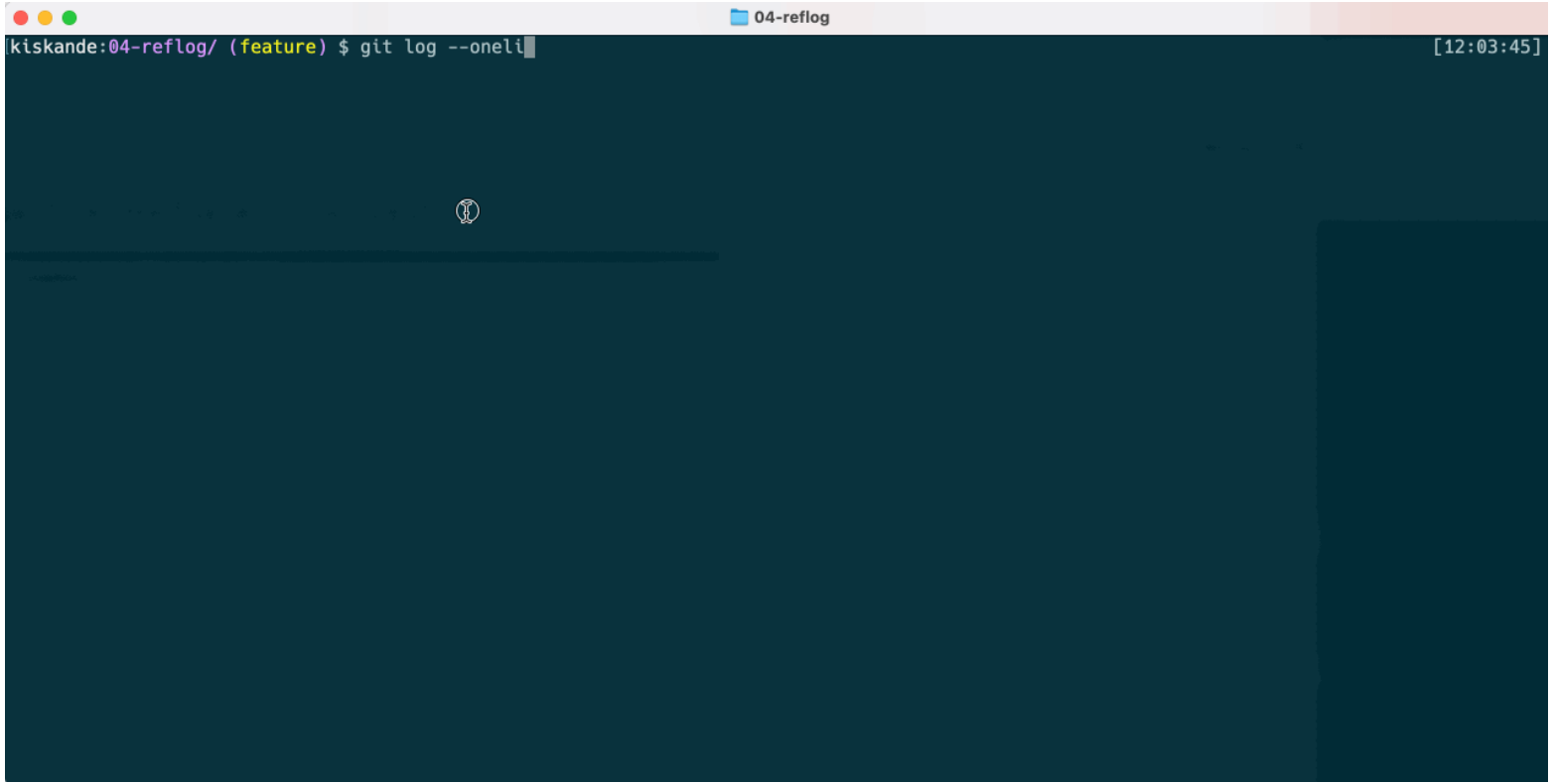
Let’s try it!

Reflog - Recover Commits



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Submodules

Submodules

- Git Repo inside Git Repo
- Submodule is a standard git repo which means you can add, commit, pull ..
- Difference is that it is nested within a parent repo
- Important to know:
  - Submodule content are not stored in the parent repository
  - Parent repo stores:
    - Submodule remote URL
    - Local path
    - Checked out revision

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Submodules

Use Case

- You decided to use an SDK to automate your Meraki Deployment
- SDK needs to be embedded into your **Branch**
- Option 1 (bad):
  - Download the SDK , Mix it with your code and treat it as one branch
  - Updating the external code is now a manual process
- Option 2 (good):
  - Git Submodules

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Submodules - Steps - Local Project

1. Let's create a subfolder with our library

```
mkdir lib
cd lib
```

2. Grab the library as a Git Submodule

```
git submodule add https://github.com/meraki/dashboard-api-python.git
```

3. View system files

```
cat .gitmodules
cat .git/config
```

⚠ DO NOT forget to commit the submodule in Parent repo

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Submodules - Steps - Cloned Repo

1. Clone Repo with Submodules

```
git clone https://github.com/apache/airflow.git
```

2. Notice the submodules. empty folders

3. Populate the submodules

```
git submodule update --init --recursive
```

OR

```
git clone --recurse-submodules <url>
```


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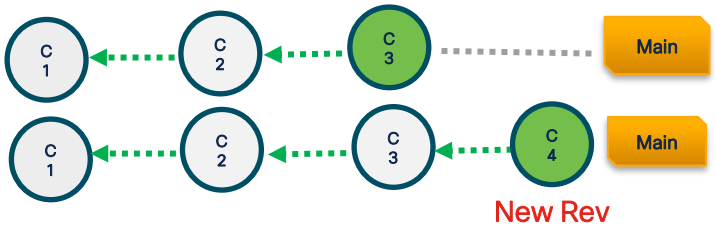
Submodules – Revision

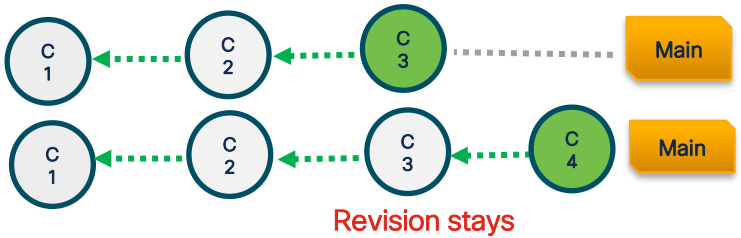
In a “Standard” Git Repo

- You checkout a Branch
- The last commit is your checkout revision
- The new revisions are always the latest commits



In a Submodule Git Repo

- Your last commit is your checkout revision
- You must explicitly update and commit a submodule for the point to move



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Search and Find

Search & Find 🔎

Action	*flag*	***Command***
By date	*--before / -- after*	*git log --after="2023-2-1" --before"2023-4-1"*
By message	--grep	*git log --grep="" (Can use Regex)*
By author	--author	*git log --author="Kareem iskander"*
By file	*-- <filename>*	*git log -- README.md*
By branch	<branch-A>	*git log feature..main (in main but not in feature)*

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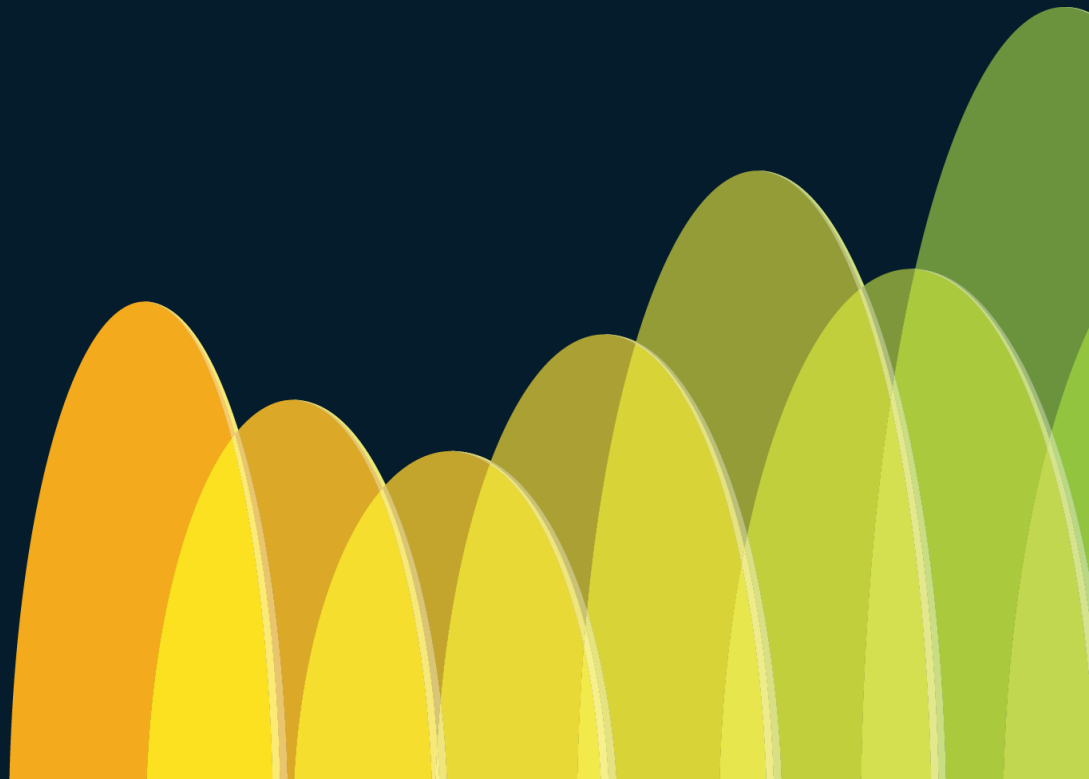
Resources



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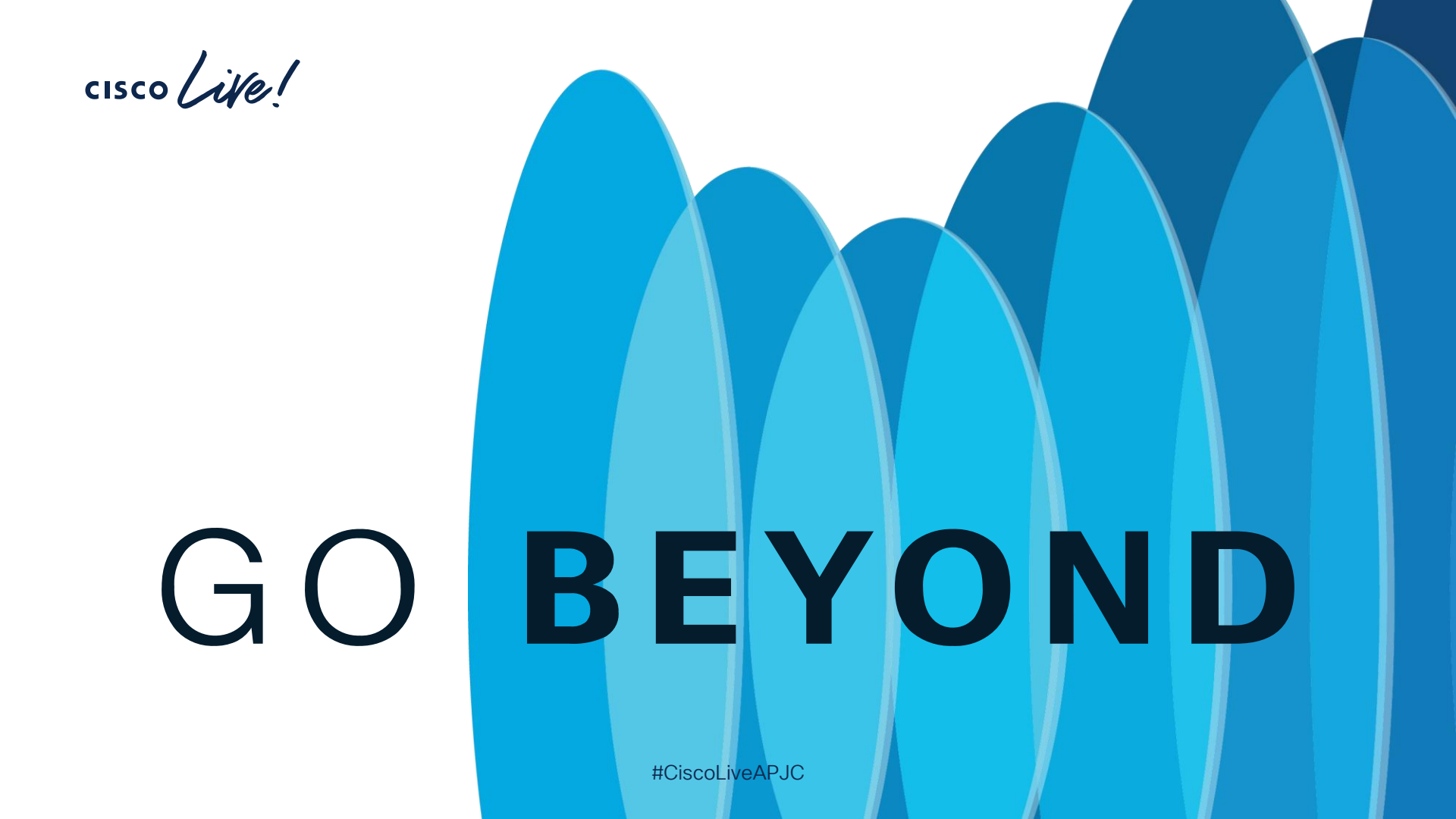
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