

git diff

EVERYDAY

git diff

Unstaged edits (working tree vs index)

git diff --staged

Staged edits (index vs HEAD); --cached is the same

git diff HEAD

Everything uncommitted, staged or not

BRANCHES & COMMITS

git diff main feature

Everything that differs between the two tips

git diff main...feature

What the branch changed since it split off; the PR view

git diff 4d17e0b 8f2a91c

Any two commits; oldest first reads naturally

git show HEAD

The last commit's message and diff together

FILES & STASHES

git diff -- src/app.ts

Limit any diff to one path

git diff --no-index old.csv new.csv

Two arbitrary files, even outside a repo

git stash show -p

Inside the latest stash, without applying it

git stash show -p stash@{2}

An older stash, by index

FLAGS

--stat

Summary per file: lines added and removed

--name-only

Just the changed file names

--word-diff

Mark changed words, not whole lines; best for prose

-w

Ignore whitespace changes

--no-pager

Print without the pager: `git --no-pager diff`

REMEMBER

- `q` quits the pager. `git` pipes diffs through `less`.
- Two dots compares the tips; three dots compares against the common ancestor.
- Untracked files don't appear. Mark one with `git add -N file` first.
- Once staged, an edit moves from `git diff` to `git diff --staged`.
- Prose and data still come out as line noise; render those diffs as documents instead.

Meridian, the native Mac Git client

Read the change, not the diff: Markdown, images, CSV and JSON rendered as documents, old beside new, then stage and commit in the same window. One-time purchase, no subscription.

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