

NAME

`git-difftool` – Show changes using common diff tools

SYNOPSIS

`git difftool` [*<options>*] [*<commit>*] [*<commit>*] [*[--]*] [*<path>...*]

DESCRIPTION

git difftool is a Git command that allows you to compare and edit files between revisions using common diff tools. *git difftool* is a frontend to *git diff* and accepts the same options and arguments. See **git-diff(1)**.

OPTIONS

`-d, --dir-diff`

Copy the modified files to a temporary location and perform a directory diff on them. This mode never prompts before launching the diff tool.

`-y, --no-prompt`

Do not prompt before launching a diff tool.

`--prompt`

Prompt before each invocation of the diff tool. This is the default behaviour; the option is provided to override any configuration settings.

`-t <tool>, --tool=<tool>`

Use the diff tool specified by *<tool>*. Valid values include *emerge*, *kompare*, *meld*, and *vimdiff*. Run **git difftool --tool-help** for the list of valid *<tool>* settings.

If a diff tool is not specified, *git difftool* will use the configuration variable **diff.tool**. If the configuration variable **diff.tool** is not set, *git difftool* will pick a suitable default.

You can explicitly provide a full path to the tool by setting the configuration variable **difftool.<tool>.path**. For example, you can configure the absolute path to *kdiff3* by setting **difftool.kdiff3.path**. Otherwise, *git difftool* assumes the tool is available in *PATH*.

Instead of running one of the known diff tools, *git difftool* can be customized to run an alternative program by specifying the command line to invoke in a configuration variable **difftool.<tool>.cmd**.

When *git difftool* is invoked with this tool (either through the `-t` or `--tool` option or the **diff.tool** configuration variable) the configured command line will be invoked with the following variables available: **\$LOCAL** is set to the name of the temporary file containing the contents of the diff pre-image and **\$REMOTE** is set to the name of the temporary file containing the contents of the diff post-image. **\$MERGED** is the name of the file which is being compared. **\$BASE** is provided for compatibility with custom merge tool commands and has the same value as **\$MERGED**.

`--tool-help`

Print a list of diff tools that may be used with `--tool`.

`--[no-]symlinks`

git difftool's default behavior is create symlinks to the working tree when run in `--dir-diff` mode and the right-hand side of the comparison yields the same content as the file in the working tree.

Specifying `--no-symlinks` instructs *git difftool* to create copies instead. `--no-symlinks` is the default on Windows.

`-x <command>, --extcmd=<command>`

Specify a custom command for viewing diffs. *git-difftool* ignores the configured defaults and runs **\$command \$LOCAL \$REMOTE** when this option is specified. Additionally, **\$BASE** is set in the environment.

`-g, --[no-]gui`

When *git-difftool* is invoked with the **-g** or **--gui** option the default diff tool will be read from the configured **diff.guitool** variable instead of **diff.tool**. The **--no-gui** option can be used to override this setting. If **diff.guitool** is not set, we will fallback in the order of **merge.guitool**, **diff.tool**, **merge.tool** until a tool is found.

--[no-]trust-exit-code

git-difftool invokes a diff tool individually on each file. Errors reported by the diff tool are ignored by default. Use **--trust-exit-code** to make *git-difftool* exit when an invoked diff tool returns a non-zero exit code.

git-difftool will forward the exit code of the invoked tool when **--trust-exit-code** is used.

See **git-diff(1)** for the full list of supported options.

CONFIG VARIABLES

git difftool falls back to *git mergetool* config variables when the difftool equivalents have not been defined.

diff.tool

The default diff tool to use.

diff.guitool

The default diff tool to use when **--gui** is specified.

difftool.<tool>.path

Override the path for the given tool. This is useful in case your tool is not in the PATH.

difftool.<tool>.cmd

Specify the command to invoke the specified diff tool.

See the **--tool=<tool>** option above for more details.

difftool.prompt

Prompt before each invocation of the diff tool.

difftool.trustExitCode

Exit difftool if the invoked diff tool returns a non-zero exit status.

See the **--trust-exit-code** option above for more details.

SEE ALSO

git-diff(1)

Show changes between commits, commit and working tree, etc

git-mergetool(1)

Run merge conflict resolution tools to resolve merge conflicts

git-config(1)

Get and set repository or global options

GIT

Part of the **git(1)** suite