Terminal and git

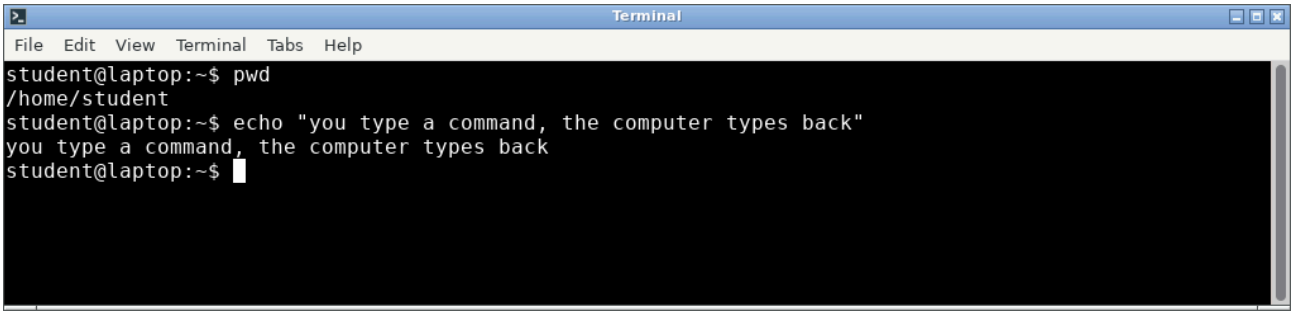
Every later step in IC101 assumes you have a way to type commands and that git is installed. This page covers just enough of both to get you through the course, and it isn't meant as a full tutorial on either. You'll open a terminal and install git in Lab 01.

The terminal

A **terminal** (also called a shell, or the command line) is a text window where you type commands instead of clicking buttons. Every operating system comes with one:

OS	Terminal app
macOS	Terminal
Windows	Windows Terminal, or PowerShell
Linux	Varies by Linux distribution (distro), for example GNOME Terminal or Konsole

When the terminal opens, it shows a **prompt**, which often ends in `$` or `>`, and waits for you to type. When a page in this course says "run this command", it means you click into the terminal window, type or paste the command, and press Enter.



A shell prompt waiting for a command. The `$` marks where you type, but it isn't part of the command, so don't type the `$` itself.

Git

Git is a tool for downloading a folder of files from a site like GitHub onto your computer and keeping the two copies in sync. The folder is called a **repository**, or **repo**, and copying a repo onto your computer for the first time is called **cloning** it.

In IC101 we only use git for one thing. In Lab 03 you run a single command, `git clone`, to copy the team's shared `workspace` repo onto your laptop, and that's all the git you need for this course.

Next: Lab 01: Terminal and git.