

Version Control for the Solo Developer

Why it matters more than you think!



Memory Constraints

- Growing Complexity
 - Business Rules
 - Edge Cases
 - Changing Needs
- Slows Change
 - Let me think about that...
- Discourages Innovation

The Typical Approach

- Working on a major refactor
- Urgent bug fixes in production release
- Make a copy...
- Where did I change that code?



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A Powerful Combination

VCS Add-in

+

GitHub

Text-based Source Files

Linear History

VCS Add-in

- Export to Source Files
 - Extensive object support
- Build from Source
 - Entirely from text files (no binary stub)
 - No hidden surprises
- Merge Source
 - Import only changed files



GitHub Repository

- Efficient storage of object changes
- Commit history with developer notes
- Familiar toolset for branching, merging
- Free private repositories
- Any other text-based version control system



Easier than you Think!

- The One-Click Snapshot
- Build From Source – Anywhere!
- Build Any Version



Getting Started

- Create a repository
- Copy database file
- Export source
- Commit changes



DATE 2/19	RECORDING TACH TIME	TODAY'S FLIGHT	TOTAL TIME IN SERVICE	Description of Inspections, Tests, Repairs and Alterations Entries must be endorsed with Name, Rating and Certificate Number of Technician or Repair Facility. (See back pages for other specific entries.)
4-18				AIRCRAFT THOROUGHLY CLEANED AND
				INSPECTED, RIGGING CHECKED, WHEELS GREASED
				NEW WINDSHIELD INSTALLED, PROPELLER USED
				IS A SENSINICH W 72 CK 40 (LUB PROP)
				THIS AIRCRAFT WAS INSPECTED IN ACCORDANCE
				WITH A CONDITION INSPECTION AND WAS
				DETERMINED TO BE IN AIRWORTHY CONDITION
				IA



Powerful Tools

- Everything – Instantly find source files
- DocFetcher – Instant code search across projects
- WinMerge – Compare versions





New Possibilities!

- Git Lens in VSCode
- Analyze a Codebase
- Document Code
- Refactor Functions

Links to Free Resources

- VCS Add-In: <https://github.com/joyfullservice/msaccess-vcs-addin>
- GitHub Desktop: <https://github.com/apps/desktop>
- WinMerge: <https://winmerge.org>
- Everything: <https://www.voidtools.com/>
- DocFetcher: <https://docfetcher.sourceforge.io>
- Notepad++ <https://notepad-plus-plus.org/>
- VS Code: <https://code.visualstudio.com/>

AI Tools (Free/Trial/Subscription)

- Windsurf: <https://windsurf.com/>
- Cursor: <https://cursor.com/home>