

PDXGit Meeting - August 2012

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Digging into git describe

- What does it do?
- Why is it useful?
- Describe gotchas

What does git describe do?

It shows you the most recent tag reachable from a commit. But also more.

What does git describe do?

If the commit you are on points to a tag, just that tag is shown. If not, the closest reachable tag is shown, along with how many commits difference there is as well as an "abbreviated object name".

Describe me an example

```
$ git describe
v1.7.8-215-gb9cfa4e
$ git rev-parse HEAD
b9cfa4e96be9817e744fb728360e7f37c730d133
$ git checkout v1.7.8
$ git describe
v1.7.8
```

Why is describe useful?

- Easy way to quantify how far you are from a known tag
- Can be used to answer the question "Is this new enough?"
- Especially useful when converting from Subversion to Git when you have code that looks if certain revision numbers are greater/less than others

Describe gotchas

- Only annotated tags by default
- Use `-tags` to also consider non-annotated tags
- Use `-all` consider all refs: local+remote branches or any tags

Should PDXGit be a regular thing?

Let's vote right now!

How do I get involved with PDXGit?

- <https://github.com/pdxgit>
- <http://pdxgit.github.com>
- pdxgit@googlegroups.com

Stalk Me

- <http://dukeleto.pl>
- <http://linkedin.letto.net>
- <http://twitter.com/dukeleto>
- <http://identi.ca/letto>
- dukeleto on irc.perl.org, Freenode, Mozilla