

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 `kdifff3` by setting `difftool.kdifff3.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 difftools 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, --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`.

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.

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