

**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.

--rotate-to=<file>

Start showing the diff for the given path, the paths before it will move to the end and output.

--skip-to=<file>

Start showing the diff for the given path, skipping all the paths before it.

-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 to 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**. This may be selected automatically using the configuration variable **difftool.guiDefault**. The **--no-gui** option can be used to override these settings. 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**

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.

## CONFIGURATION

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

Everything above this line in this section isn't included from the **git-config(1)** documentation. The content that follows is the same as what's found there:

### diff.tool

Controls which diff tool is used by **git-difftool(1)**. This variable overrides the value configured in **merge.tool**. The list below shows the valid built-in values. Any other value is treated as a custom diff tool and requires that a corresponding `difftool.<tool>.cmd` variable is defined.

### diff.guitool

Controls which diff tool is used by **git-difftool(1)** when the `-g/--gui` flag is specified. This variable overrides the value configured in **merge.guitool**. The list below shows the valid built-in values. Any other value is treated as a custom diff tool and requires that a corresponding `difftool.<guitool>.cmd` variable is defined.

### difftool.<tool>.cmd

Specify the command to invoke the specified diff tool. The specified command is evaluated in shell 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.

See the `--tool=<tool>` option in **git-difftool(1)** for more details.

### difftool.<tool>.path

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

### difftool.trustExitCode

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

See the `--trust-exit-code` option in **git-difftool(1)** for more details.

### difftool.prompt

Prompt before each invocation of the diff tool.

### difftool.guiDefault

Set **true** to use the **diff.guitool** by default (equivalent to specifying the `--gui` argument), or **auto** to select **diff.guitool** or **diff.tool** depending on the presence of a **DISPLAY** environment variable

value. The default is **false**, where the **--gui** argument must be provided explicitly for the **diff.guitool** to be used.

## 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