Version control

- Bigger projects have many files to track, with variants to be used for different versions, different platforms

- "version control" refers to techniques for keeping them all organized and accessible

- Lots of version control tools available, at lots of price points

- We'll be using git (will discuss in later session)

Common version control actions

- Set up a new repository (repo) – a collection of files to be placed under version control

- Add/change/remove files in repo, "commit" aterations we decide to keep

- Create a new snapshot (checkpoint), remembering what every file in repo looks like right now

- Search for an earlier snapshot, possibly by name, date, id number, etc

- Compare what changed between one snapshot and another

- Control/coordinate file access between multiple programmers

Branching and merging

- Sometimes want to take existing code base and create a new variant (e.g. we have a windows version, we want to create a linux variant)

- We create a branch – a new copy of the previous version, allows us to change both versions independently

- Can switch between branches to work on one or other

- Can also merge branches together into single branch