

Git: Undoing Things

Computing

The command for each kind of mistake — and which ones destroy work.

Match the mistake to the row. The safe commands leave your files alone.

To undo	Command	Safe?
Staged the wrong file	git restore --staged FILE	yes
Edits you want to throw away	git restore FILE	DESTROYS
Wrong commit message	git commit --amend	yes
Last commit, keep the work	git reset --soft HEAD~1	yes
Last commit and the work	git reset --hard HEAD~1	DESTROYS
A commit already pushed	git revert SHA	yes
Lost a commit entirely	git reflog, then reset to it	yes
Wrong branch, not committed	git stash, switch, git stash pop	yes

reflog remembers where HEAD has been for ~90 days. Almost nothing committed is ever truly lost.