delta Better git diffs

git diff / log / show unified diff → `core.pager` → **delta** syntax + word diff → `features` → **Styled output** numbers, side-by-side → `if long` → **less** scroll, n and N

CONCEPTS

delta is a pager for git, diff and grep output. It does not run diffs itself: git pipes into it once core.pager = delta is set.

Options live in [delta] of ~/.gitconfig. Command-line flags override them. Named groups ([delta "name"]) are switched on with features.

SETUP

`git config --global core.pager delta`
Send git output through delta

`git config --global interactive.diffFilter "delta --color-only"`
Colour git add -p

`git config --global delta.navigate true`
Enable n / N jumping

`git config --global delta.dark true`
Force dark colours (or light)

`git config --global merge.conflictStyle zdiff3`
Show merge base in conflicts

SETUP (cont.)

`git config --global delta.line-numbers true`
Show old and new line numbers

`git config --global delta.side-by-side true`
Always side-by-side

`git config --global diff.colorMoved default`
Detect moved code blocks

`delta --version`
Print installed version

`delta --show-config`
Show every active option

`delta --no-gitconfig`
Ignore gitconfig settings

VIEWING DIFFS

`git diff`
Unstaged changes

`git diff --staged`
Staged changes

`git log -p`
Commits with patches

`git show <commit>`
One commit

`delta <a> <b>`
Compare two files, no repo needed

VIEWING DIFFS (cont.)

`diff -u <a> <b> | delta`
Highlight any unified diff

`delta <(sort <a>) <(sort <b>)`
Compare processed input

`-s / --side-by-side`
Two panels

`-n / --line-numbers`
Number columns

`--navigate`
Enable n / N

`--width <n>`
Width of decorations; variable fits text

`--paging auto|always|never`
When to start the pager

`n / N`
Next / previous file (pager)

SIDE-BY-SIDE

`DELTA_FEATURES=+side-by-side`
Toggle on for this shell

`DELTA_FEATURES=+`
Switch the toggle off again

`git -c delta.features=side-by-side diff`
Side-by-side for one run

SIDE-BY-SIDE (cont.)

Keep side-by-side and line-numbers out of the main [delta] section if you want to toggle them with DELTA_FEATURES.

COLOURS AND THEMES

`delta --show-themes`
Preview delta themes on a diff

`delta --list-syntax-themes`
List syntax themes

`delta --show-syntax-themes`
Preview syntax themes

`--syntax-theme <name>`
Pick syntax colours (none = off)

`--dark / --light`
Defaults for terminal background

`features = <theme>`
Activate a named theme

`--minus-style <style>`
Style of removed lines

`--plus-style <style>`
Style of added lines

COLOURS AND THEMES (cont.)

Themes are features: they set colours and decorations, not layout. Add side-by-side or navigate separately.

BEYOND DIFFS

`rg --json -C 2 <pattern> | delta`
Highlight ripgrep results

`[pager] blame = delta`
Use delta for git blame

`--hyperlinks`
Clickable hashes and paths

Merge conflicts need merge.conflictStyle = zdiff3: delta then shows two diffs, base to ours and base to theirs.

RECIPES

Starter gitconfig

```
[core]
    pager = delta
[interactive]
    diffFilter = delta --color-only
[delta]
    navigate = true
    line-numbers = true
[merge]
    conflictStyle = zdiff3
```