



# INTRODUCTION TO GIT & GITHUB

*by Bobby Ilier*



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```

root@do-dev:~/demo# git init .
Initialized empty Git repository in /root/demo/.git/
root@do-dev:~/demo# touch demo.txt
root@do-dev:~/demo# git add .
root@do-dev:~/demo# git commit -m "First commit"
[master (root-commit) 45f651d] First commit
 1 file changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
 create mode 100644 demo.txt
root@do-dev:~/demo# echo "Wrong changes..." > demo.txt
root@do-dev:~/demo# git add .
root@do-dev:~/demo# git commit -m "Wrong commit..."
[master 9688e23] Wrong commit...
 1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
root@do-dev:~/demo# git log
commit 9688e23761a6ccbbfaa4362a391b50a63d4ba39a (HEAD -> master)
Author: Bobby Iliev <bobby@bobbyiliev.com>
Date:   Wed Jan 8 08:49:49 2020 +0000

    Wrong commit...

commit 45f651dd4e83205fe1a72ac16bf0d7a3ecfba904
Author: Bobby Iliev <bobby@bobbyiliev.com>
Date:   Wed Jan 8 08:49:27 2020 +0000

    First commit
root@do-dev:~/demo# git reset --soft HEAD~1
root@do-dev:~/demo# git log
commit 45f651dd4e83205fe1a72ac16bf0d7a3ecfba904 (HEAD -> master)
Author: Bobby Iliev <bobby@bobbyiliev.com>
Date:   Wed Jan 8 08:49:27 2020 +0000

    First commit
root@do-dev:~/demo# echo "Fixed changes..." > demo.txt
root@do-dev:~/demo# git add .
root@do-dev:~/demo# git commit -m "Fixed commit..."
[master 081f0fb] Fixed commit...
 1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
root@do-dev:~/demo# git log
commit 081f0fbf3d32ad7e7946e1ec4cc5b432fc699fef (HEAD -> master)
Author: Bobby Iliev <bobby@bobbyiliev.com>
Date:   Wed Jan 8 08:50:28 2020 +0000

    Fixed commit...

commit 45f651dd4e83205fe1a72ac16bf0d7a3ecfba904
Author: Bobby Iliev <bobby@bobbyiliev.com>
Date:   Wed Jan 8 08:49:27 2020 +0000

    First commit
root@do-dev:~/demo#

```

**Note:** You can reset your changes by more than one commit by using the following syntax:

```
git reset --soft HEAD~n
```

where **n** is the number of commits you want to reset back.

Another approach would be to use **git revert COMMIT\_ID** instead.

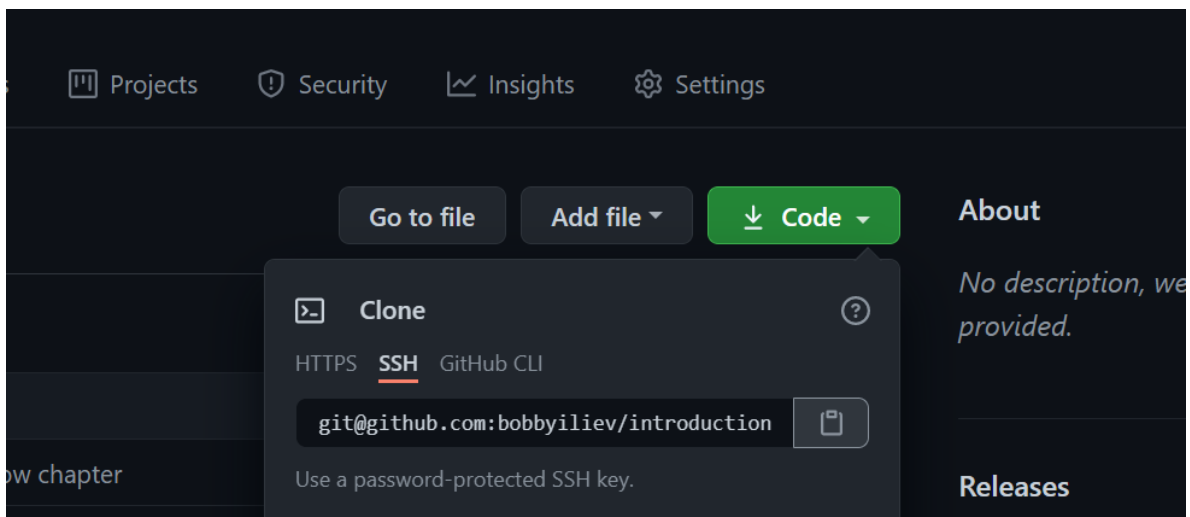
Here is a quick video demo on how to do the above:

[Reverting changes](#)

# Git Clone

More often than not, rather than starting a new project from scratch, you would either join a company and start working on an existing project, or you would contribute to an already established open source project. So in this case, in order to get the repository from GitHub to your local machine, you would need to use the `git clone` command.

The most straightforward way to clone your GitHub repository is to first visit the repository in your browser, and then click on the green **Code** button and choose the method that you want to use to clone the repository:



In my case, I would go for the SSH method as I already have my SSH keys configured as per chapter 14.

As I am cloning this repository [here](#), the URL would look like this:

```
git@github.com:bobbyiliev/introduction-to-bash-scripting.git
```

Once you have this in my clipboard, head back to your terminal, go to a directory where you would like to clone the repository to and then run the following command:

```
git clone git@github.com:bobbyiliev/introduction-to-bash-scripting.git
```

The output that you would get will look like this:

```
Cloning into 'introduction-to-bash-scripting'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 21, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (21/21), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (16/16), done.
remote: Total 215 (delta 7), reused 14 (delta 4), pack-reused
194
Receiving objects: 100% (215/215), 3.08 MiB | 5.38 MiB/s,
done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (114/114), done.
```

Essentially what the `git clone` command does is to more or less download the repository from GitHub to your local folder.

Now you can start making the changes to the project by creating a new branch, writing some code, and finally committing and pushing your changes!

One important thing to keep in mind is that in case that you are not the maintainer of the repository and do not have the right to push to the repository, you would need to first fork the original repository and then clone the forked repository from your account. In the next chapter, we will go through the full process of forking a repository!

# Forking in Git

When contributing to an open-source project, you will not be able to make the changes directly to the project. Only the repository maintainers have that privilege.

What you need to do instead is to fork the specific repository, make the changes to the forked project and then submit a pull request to the original project. You will learn more about pull requests in the next chapters.

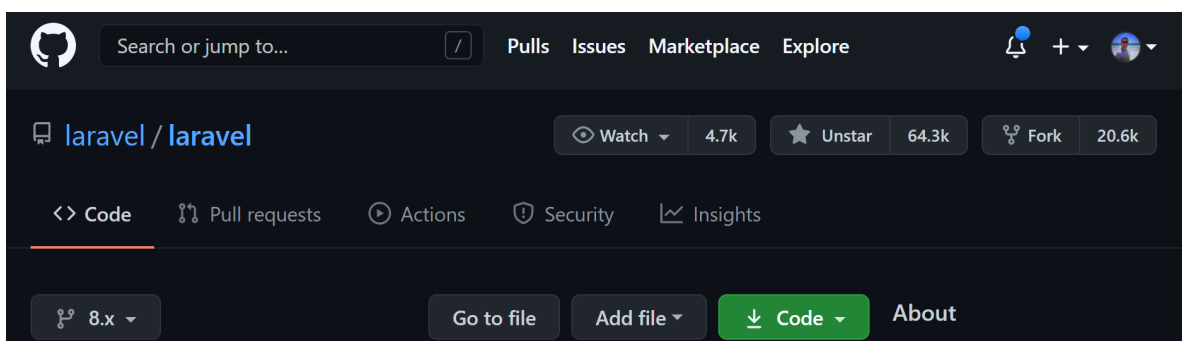
If you clone a repository that you don't have the access to and then try to push the changes directly to that repository, you would get the following error:

```
ERROR: Permission to laravel/laravel.git denied to bobbyiliev.  
Fatal: Could not read from remote repository.
```

```
Please make sure you have the correct access rights  
and the repository exists.
```

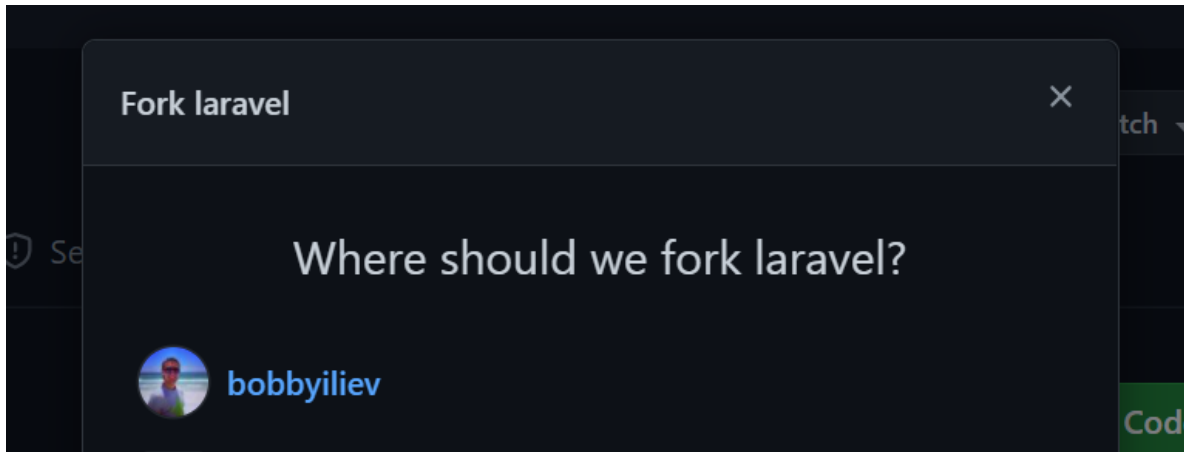
This is where Forks come into play!

In order to fork a repository, you need to visit the repository via your browser and click on the Fork button on the top right:

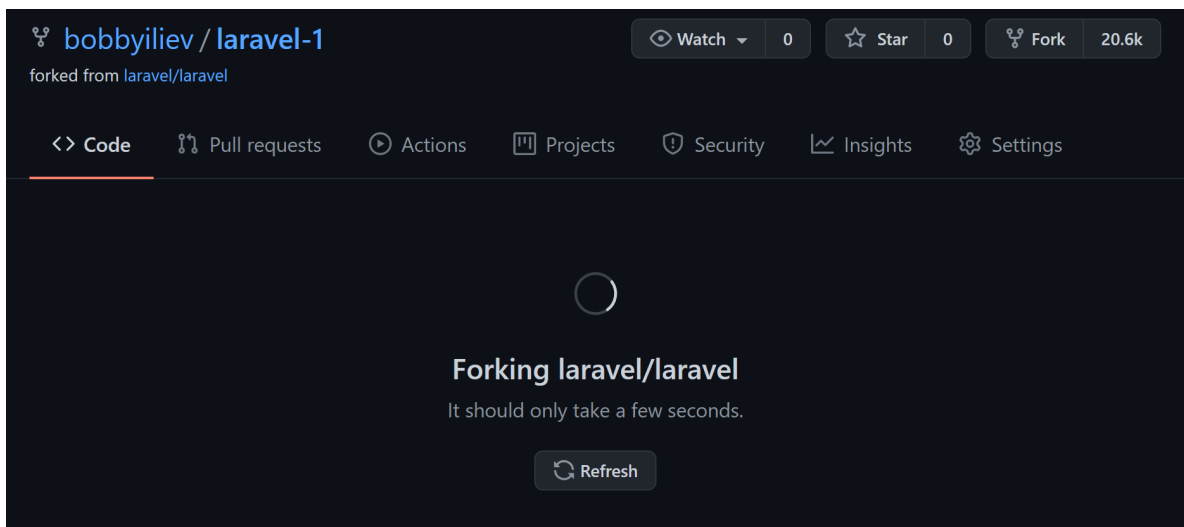


Then choose the account that you want to fork the repository to:





Then it might take a few seconds for the repository to be forked under your account:



With that, you would have an exact copy of the repository in question under your account.

The benefit here is that you can now clone the forked repository under your account, make the changes to that repository as normal, and then once you are ready, you can submit a pull request to the original repository contributing your changes.

As we've now mentioned submitting pull requests a few times already, let's go ahead and learn more about pull requests in the next chapter!

# Authentication

Once you have **gh** installed, you need to login to your GitHub account.

To do so, you need to run the following command:

```
gh auth login
```

You will see the following output:

```
? What account do you want to log into? [Use arrows to move,  
type to filter]  
> GitHub.com  
    GitHub Enterprise Server
```

You have an option to choose between GitHub.com or GitHub Enterprise. Click enter and then follow the authentication process.

Another useful command is the **gh help** command. This will give you a list with the available **gh** commands that you could use:

## USAGE

gh <command> <subcommand> [flags]

## CORE COMMANDS

gist: Create gists  
issue: Manage issues  
pr: Manage pull requests  
release: Manage GitHub releases  
repo: Create, clone, fork, and view repositories

## ADDITIONAL COMMANDS

alias: Create command shortcuts  
api: Make an authenticated GitHub API request  
auth: Login, logout, and refresh your authentication  
completion: Generate shell completion scripts  
config: Manage configuration for gh  
help: Help about any command

## FLAGS

--help Show help for command  
--version Show gh version

## EXAMPLES

```
$ gh issue create  
$ gh repo clone cli/cli  
$ gh pr checkout 321
```

## ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

See 'gh help environment' for the list of supported environment variables.

## LEARN MORE

Use 'gh <command> <subcommand> --help' for more information about a command.

Read the manual at <https://cli.github.com/manual>

## FEEDBACK

Open an issue using 'gh issue create -R cli/cli'

Then let's clone an existing project which we will use to play with. As an example, we can use the [LaraSail](#) repository. Rather than cloning the repository using the standard `git clone` command, we will use `gh` to do so:

```
gh repo clone thedevdojo/larasail
```

You will see the following output:

```
Cloning into 'larasail'...
```

After that `cd` into that folder:

```
cd larasail
```

We are now ready to move to some of the more useful `gh` commands!

## Useful GitHub CLI commands

Using **gh**, you can pretty much get all of the information for your repository on GitHub without having even to leave your terminal.

Here's a list of some useful commands:

### Working with GitHub issues

To list all open issues, run:

```
gh issue list
```

The output that you will see is:

```
Showing 4 of 4 open issues in thedevdojo/larasail

#25  Add option to automatically create database
      (enhancement)  about 3 months ago
#22  Remove PHP mcrypt as it is no longer needed
      about 3 months ago
#11  Add redis support
      about 8 months ago
#10  Wondering about the security of storing root MySQL
      password in /etc/.larasail/tmp/mysqlpass          about
      3 months ago
```

You can even create a new issue with the following command:

```
gh issue create --label bug
```

Or if you wanted to view an existing issue, you could just run:

```
gh issue view '#25'
```

This is a sample from "Introduction to Git and GitHub" by Bobby Iliev.

For more information, [Click here](#).