

GITHUB FOR TECHNICAL WRITERS

How to Use GitHub to Promote Your Technical Writing Projects

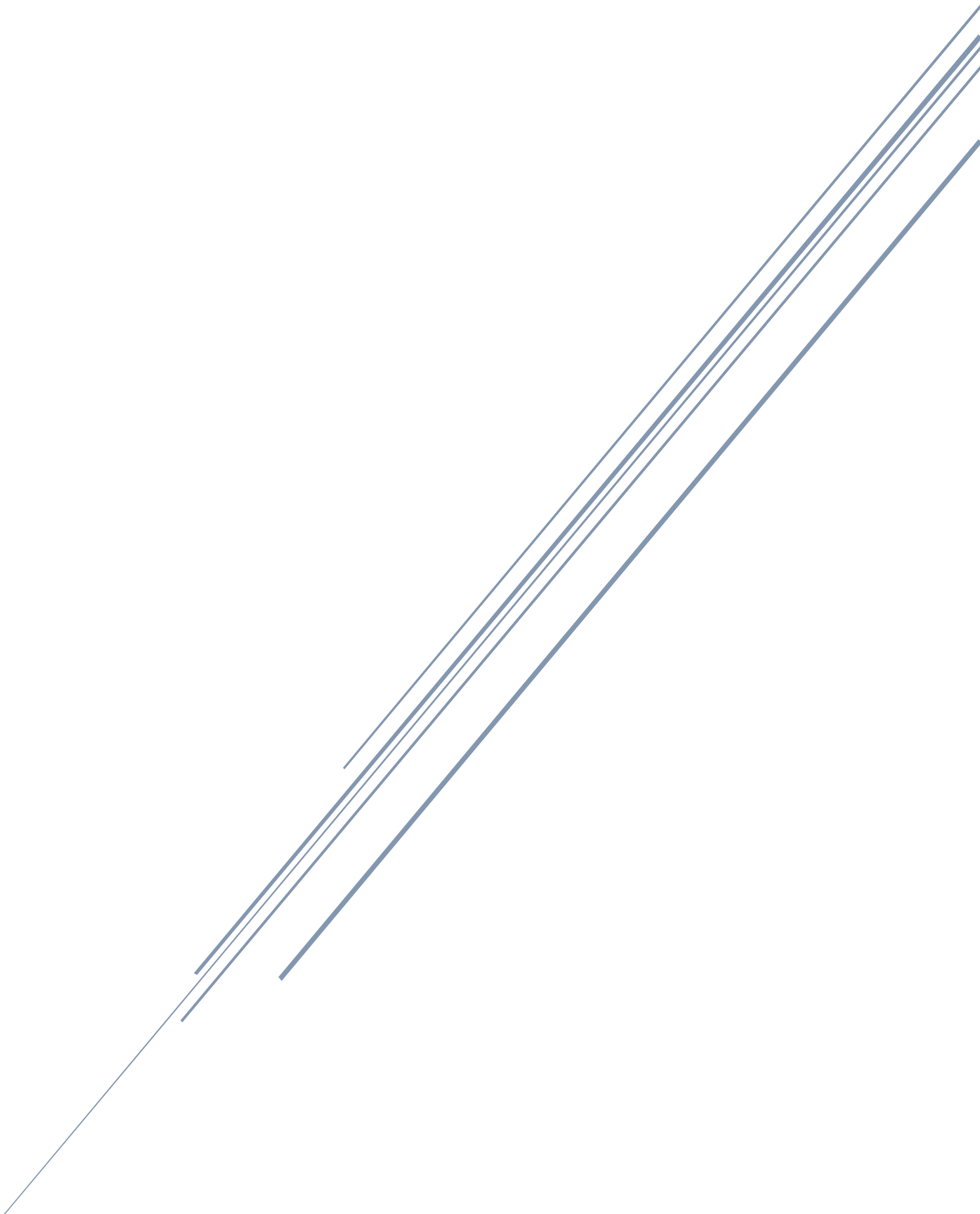


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1 Introduction

This guide provides information for technical writers who want to use a low cost and efficient way to build and promote their writing projects on GitHub. While this guide is not all inclusive, it serves to create the foundation from which the user can build upon.

GitHub is an open-source online Git repository hosting service. A Git is a programming tool that manages and stores revisions of projects and documents. GitHub was created to provide a Web-based Graphical User Interface (GUI) to make Git management user friendly for people that are not computer programmers or web developers. GitHub also provides several collaboration features, such as a publishing service, and basic task management tools for every type of project.

1.1 Purpose

Initially used by software developers to share programming code, GitHub can now be used to:

- Collaborate on or adopt open-source projects
- Share ideas
- Connect with friends and people around the world in the GitHub Community
- Publish and host a technical writer’s projects

The purpose of this guide is to provide the steps necessary to create a GitHub account and GitHub repository that can be used to promote a Technical Writer’s projects.

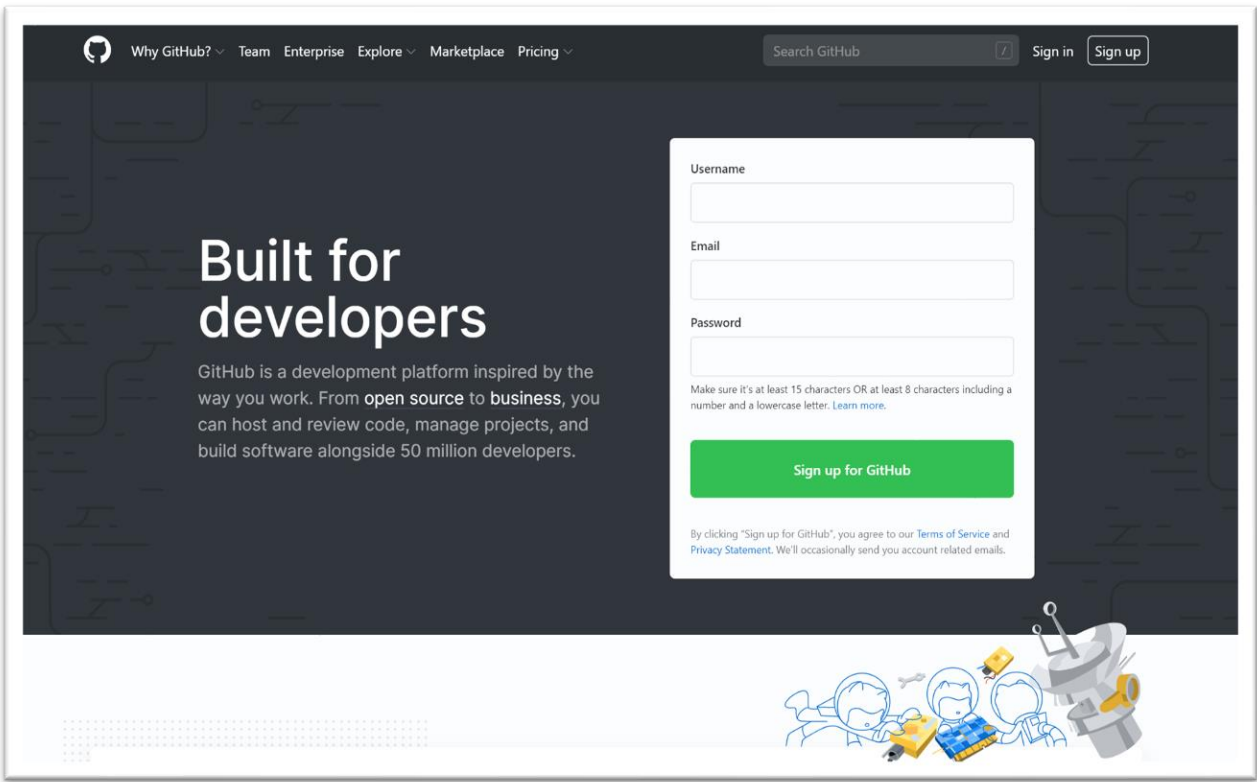
2 Creating Your GitHub Account

2.1 Create a new GitHub account

To share your work on GitHub, you must first create a GitHub account. Listed below are the steps on how to create a GitHub account:

1. Go to www.github.com. You will land on the GitHub home screen.

Figure 1



- 2. Type in a unique username in the username field

Figure 2

Username

Email

Password

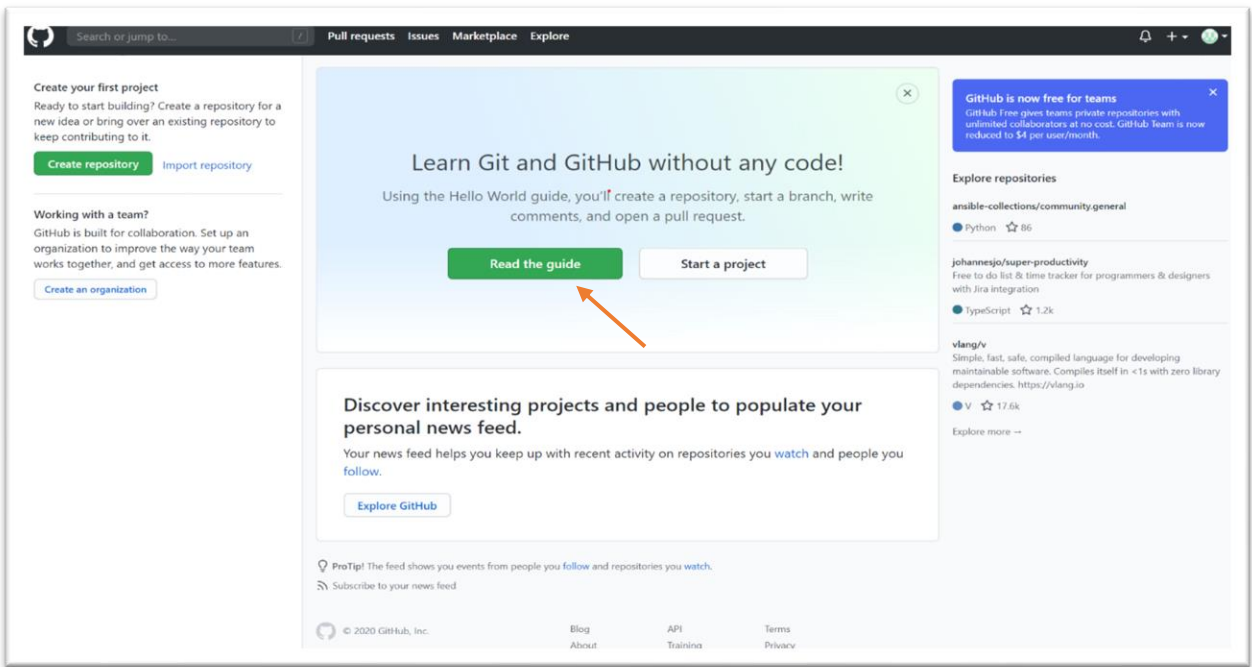
Make sure it's at least 15 characters OR at least 8 characters including a number and a lowercase letter. [Learn more.](#)

Sign up for GitHub

By clicking "Sign up for GitHub", you agree to our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Statement](#). We'll occasionally send you account related emails.

- 3. Type in the email address you want to associate with your GitHub account in the email field in **Figure 2**.
- 4. Type in a unique password to access your GitHub account. **NOTE:** Make sure that the password is at least 15 characters OR at least 8 characters including a number and a lowercase letter.
- 5. Click the green "**signup for GitHub**" button as seen in **Figure 2**.
- 6. Once signup is complete, you should see the GitHub welcome screen shown in **Figure 3** which is also your new GitHub homepage. From here you can launch the GitHub user guide by clicking the green "**Read the Guide**" button. There you will find information on how to create a repository.

Figure 3



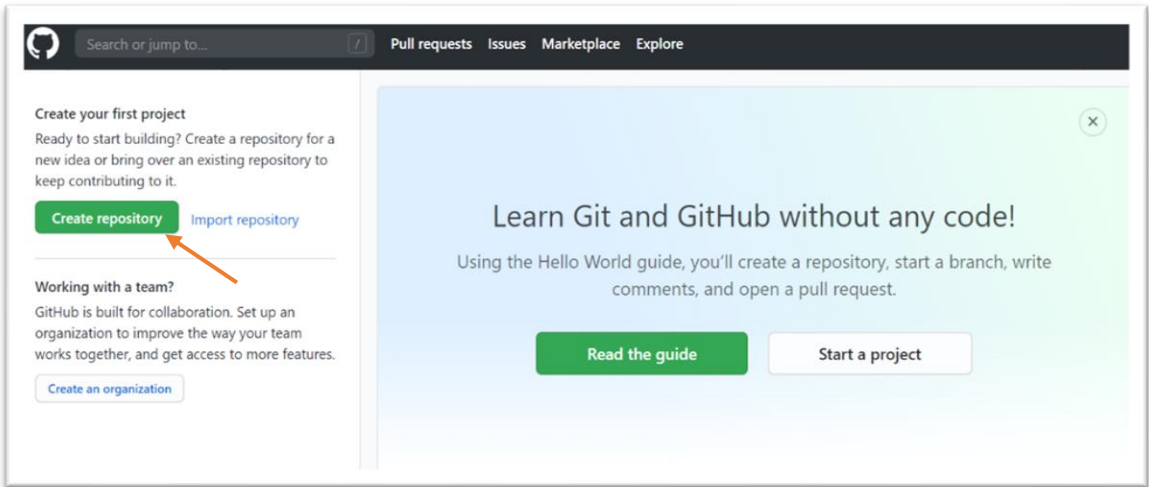
3 Managing Files on GitHub

3.1 Create Your Repository

GitHub uses a repository system to manage files and projects. A repository is usually used for a single project. In this guide we will consider your technical document as a single project. The following steps will help you create a repository and upload your technical document to your repository.

1. Log into GitHub. On your home page, click the green **“Create Repository”** Button in the top left corner of your page as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4



2. **Figure 5** shows the **“Create a new repository screen”** that appears after you click the green **“Create Repository”** button from the first step. Now you will begin the process of naming your repository and setting the viewing permissions: public if you want everyone to see and comment on your project or private if you want only you to review the project. Once the required fields are populated, you are ready to click the green **“Create Repository”** button below and open your first repository!

Figure 5

Create a new repository

A repository contains all project files, including the revision history. Already have a project repository elsewhere?
[Import a repository.](#)

Owner *

Repository name *

Arayna525

/

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about **psychic-bassoon**?

Description (optional)

☒ Public

Anyone on the internet can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

☐ Private

You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.

☐ Initialize this repository with a README

This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer.

Add .gitignore: None

Add a license: None

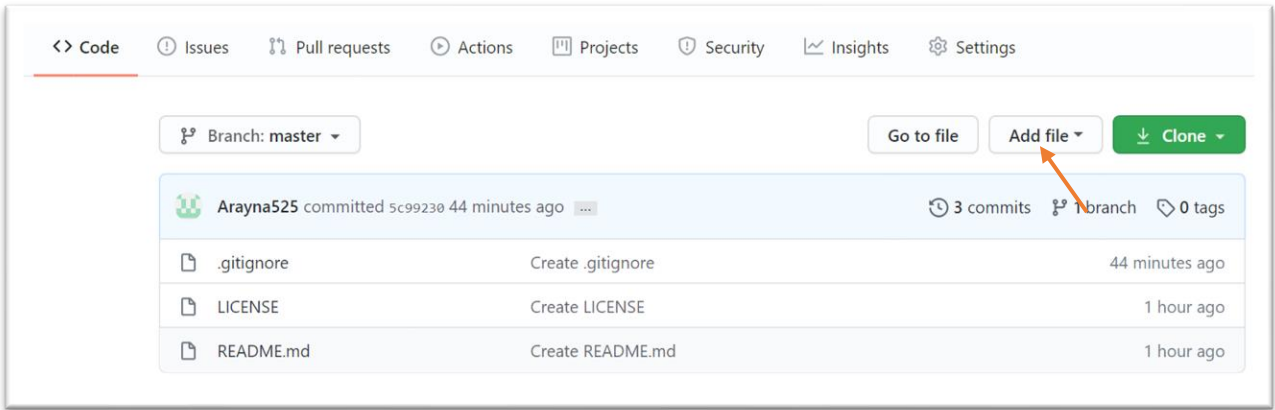
Create repository

3.2 How to upload a document to your GitHub page

Now that your repository has been created, you are ready to upload your technical document to it.

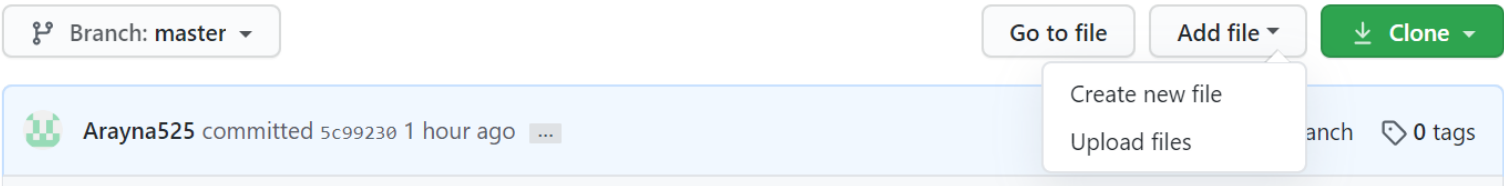
1. Click **“Add File”** From the center ribbon of your repository.

Figure 6



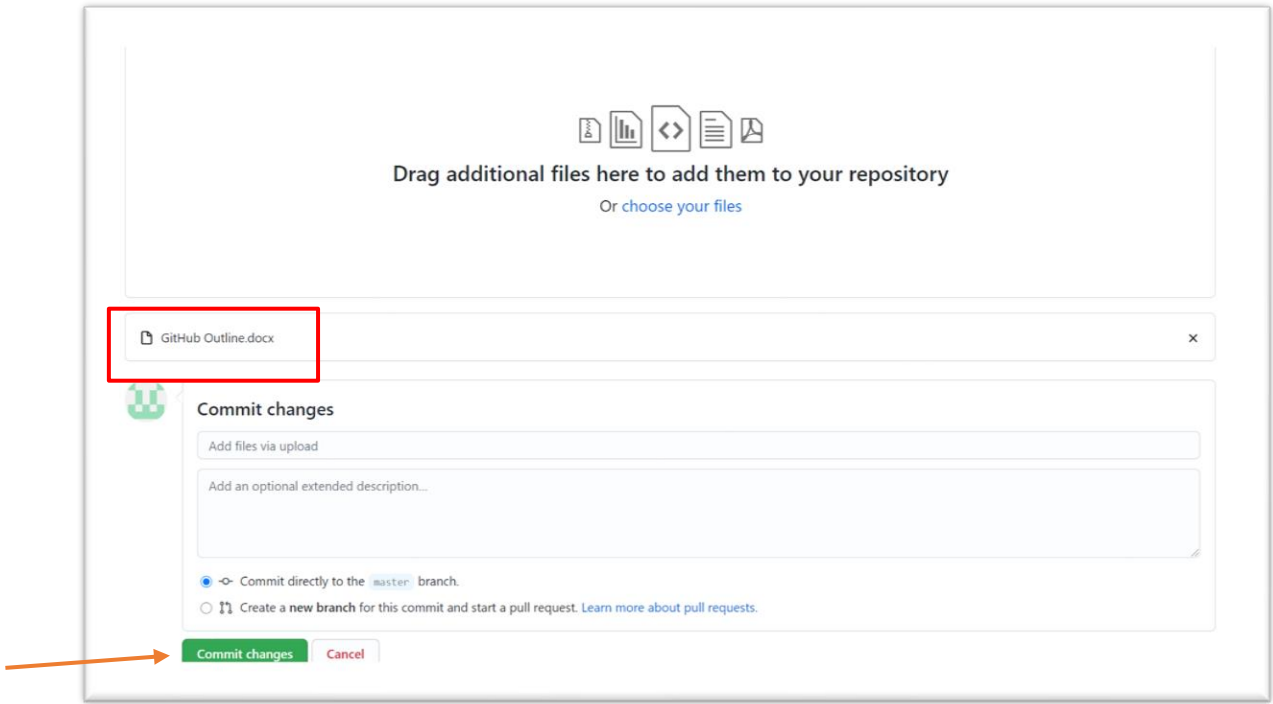
2. Select **“upload files”** from the dropdown list in **Figure 7**.

Figure 7



3. **Figure 8** shows the file upload section that appears after you select **“upload files”** from the previous step. You can choose to drag and drop your document into your repository or you can click the **“choose your files”** hyperlink that lets you point to the location on your computer where your technical document is saved.

Figure 8



4. Once upload is complete, your document is now attached, and you can click the green **“commit changes”** at the bottom of the page to add the document to your repository.

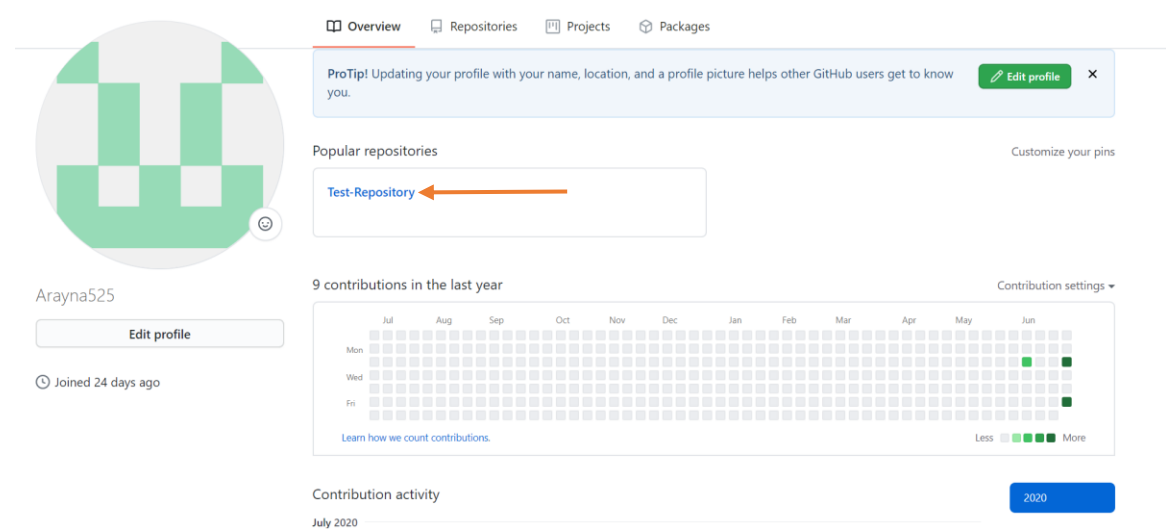
4 Promote Your Projects

4.1 Where to share your GitHub link

There are various places you can share your GitHub link that can provide you easy no cost exposure of your work. The following is an abbreviated list of options. Each social media platform listed has instructions on how to share your GitHub link on their website.

- LinkedIn
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Your resume
- Business cards
- Your email address signature

When a visitor lands on your GitHub page, they will see the hyperlink to your repository posted next to your profile picture as shown in the **“test repository”** example below:



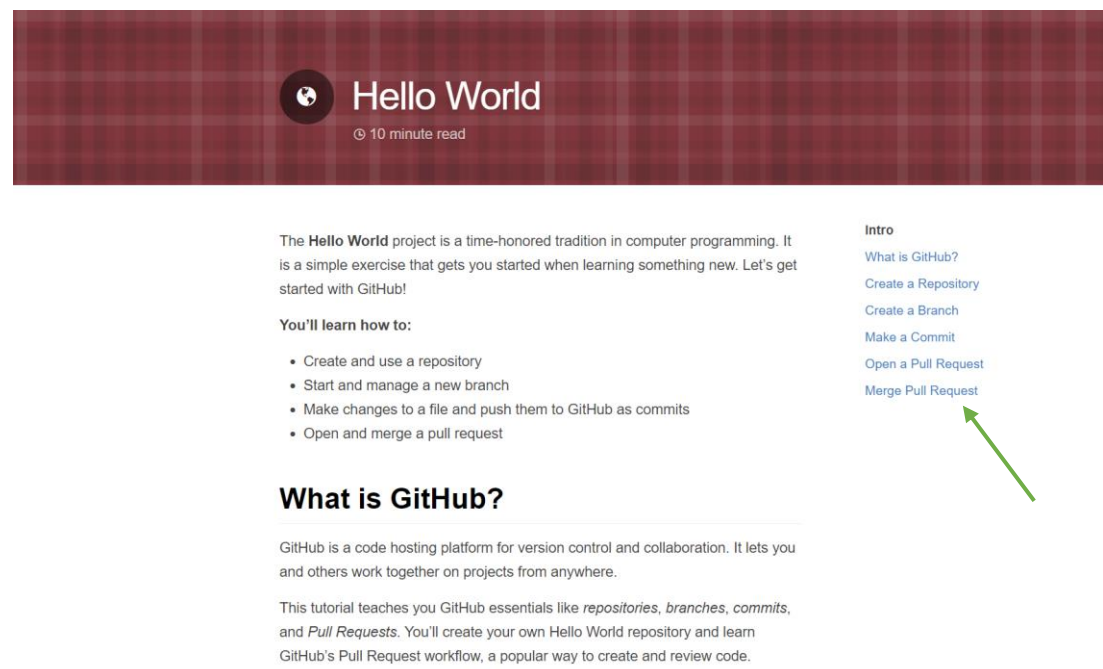
You are all set! The best part of sharing your GitHub link is that once it is shared, you only need to manage your repositories on your GitHub page and let your link do the advertising.

5 Troubleshooting

5.1 Hello World

If you are having trouble on GitHub, you can always click on the green **“Read the Guide”** button on your homepage as seen in **Figure 3** and it will direct you to the **“Hello World”** page. Here you can click on one of the hyperlinks from the **“Intro”** list to troubleshoot a problem.

Figure 8



5.2 Other online resources that can help you

- When in doubt...GOOGLE IT!
- YouTube – There are lots of videos on YouTube created by developers and GitHub enthusiasts who are happy to show you how to navigate and manage your GitHub repository/repositories.
- The GitHub community - The newsfeed on your GitHub homepage is another good resource for not only connecting with people and collaborating, but it is also a place where you can find help and tips from anyone around the world.

6 Conclusion

In Conclusion, GitHub is an easy way to share your technical writing work without the hassle of hiring a web developer or building a web page from scratch. This guide provided the basics on uploading your technical writing projects to GitHub. However, there are many advanced options on GitHub you can explore that can provide you more functionality with publishing once you have the basics mastered.

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