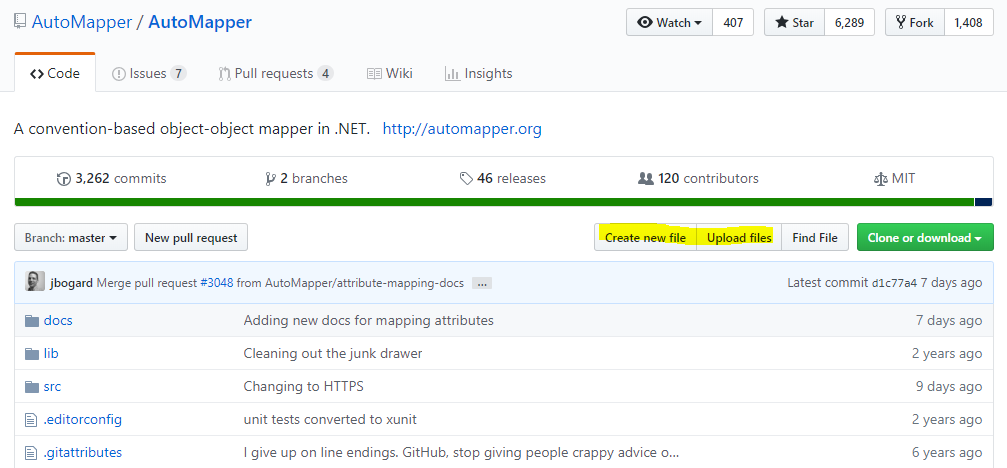
1. **Adding Files to Repos You Don’t Own**

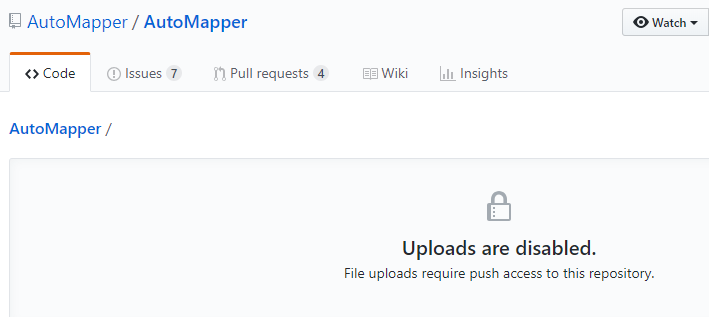
Ok, now you’ve seen how to edit a file and you hopefully has at least some idea of what forks and pull requests are. So how do you add a new file to a repo you don’t own?

I’m going to return to Automapper again for this example. When I view the main page of the repo, I see this:

Note buttons for Create new file and Upload files…

GitHub exposes functionality to let me create a new file. If I click that button, I’ll get the same experience as if I edited a file, with the one addition being that I can specify a file name. This might be fine for some scenarios, but won’t help me if I’m trying to add a PowerPoint or ZIP file to the site.

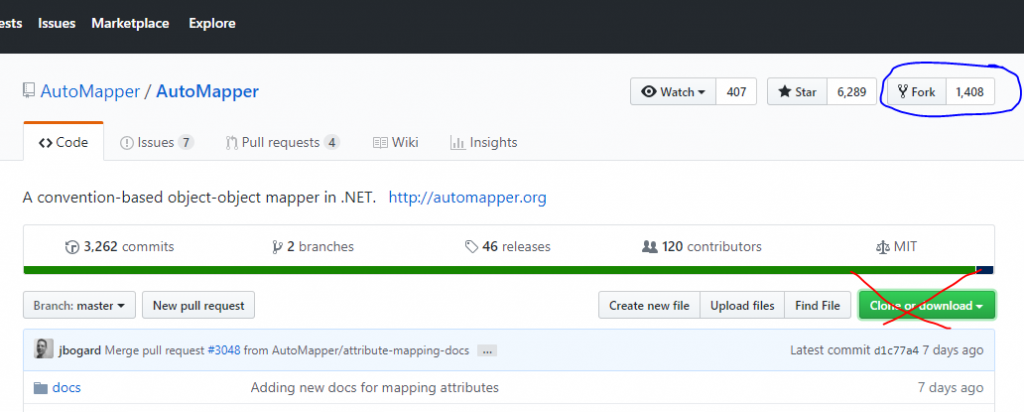
Now, if I click Upload files, I get this helpful dialog:

Shouldn’t the button have been grayed out?

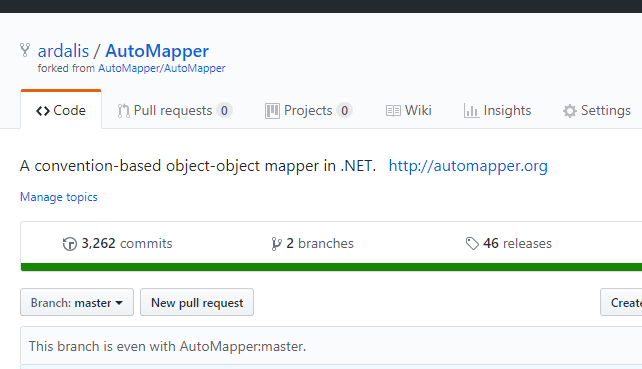
The GitHub repository says Uploads are disabled. File uploads require push access to this repository. This sounds like you’re stuck, but you’re not. You just need to use a pull request.

**Note**: Even if your experienced with GitHub, it’s easy to mess up the next step. You need to remember to Fork the repository before you Clone it. There’s nothing to prevent you from Cloning the repo you don’t own, but without a Fork it’s much harder for you to contribute to it.

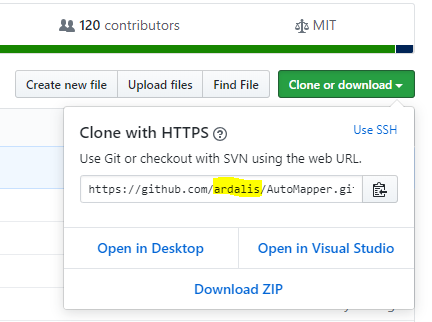
At the very top of the screen, click on the Fork button. It’s not bright and green, and it will have some number next to it representing how many people have forked this repository in the past.

Fork, don’t Clone, at this point.

Now that you’ve forked the repo, you should see something like this (but with your account name instead of ‘ardalis’):

Note the small text stating where the repo is forked from

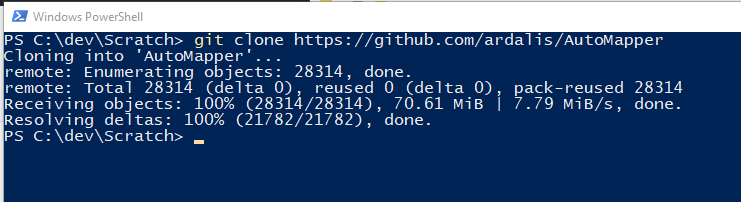
Now we’re ready for that big green buttonon the right that says Clone or download. Click that, and choose Clone. Copy the URL (you can also just grab the repo’s URL from the status bar). Make sure it has your username or organization name in it, not the original one.



We’re going to download the GitHub repo to our local computer. Open a command or terminal window and go to a folder where you want to copy the files. I typically have a folder like C:\dev\scratch for things I’m going to download once but don’t plan on keeping around long term. Note that [you need to have Git installed](https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Getting-Started-Installing-Git) for this next step.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | git clone https://github.com/ardalis/AutoMapper<br> |



Now we have a copy of our fork of the repo on our machine.

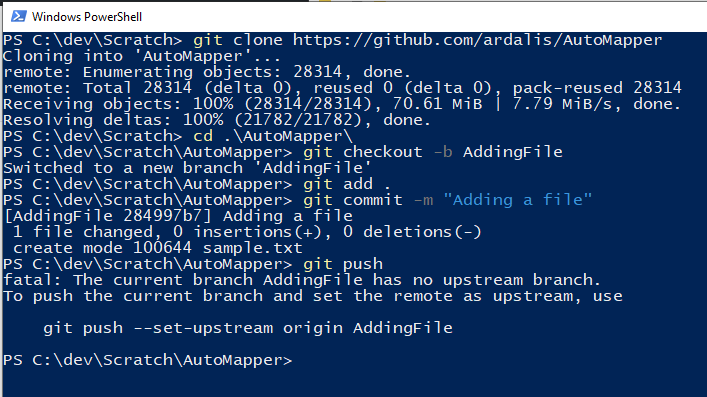
Now you have a copy of the repo (your *fork*of the original) locally. Open it up in Windows Explorer (Finder on mac) and add the file you want to upload to the appropriate folder. Once you’re done, go back to your console/terminal window and run these commands:



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | cd .\AutoMapper\<br>git checkout -b AddingFile<br>git add .<br>git commit -m "Adding a file"<br>git push |

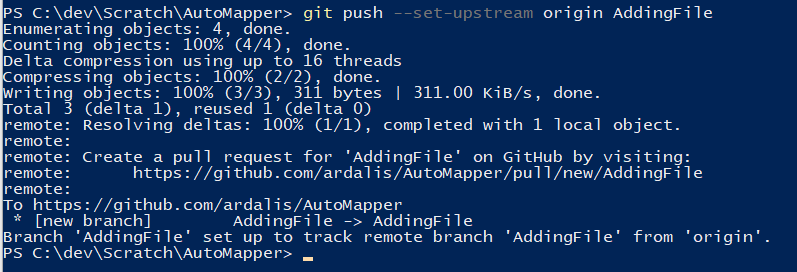
Change the first line to be the actual folder where the repo is.

These commands will create and check out a new branch, then add any pending changes to the current set of things to check in. You should see it add the file you added. The next line checks in (“commits”) the change locally, just on your machine. And the last command will push the change to GitHub. Usually if this is the first time you’re doing this, you’ll need to add one more command:



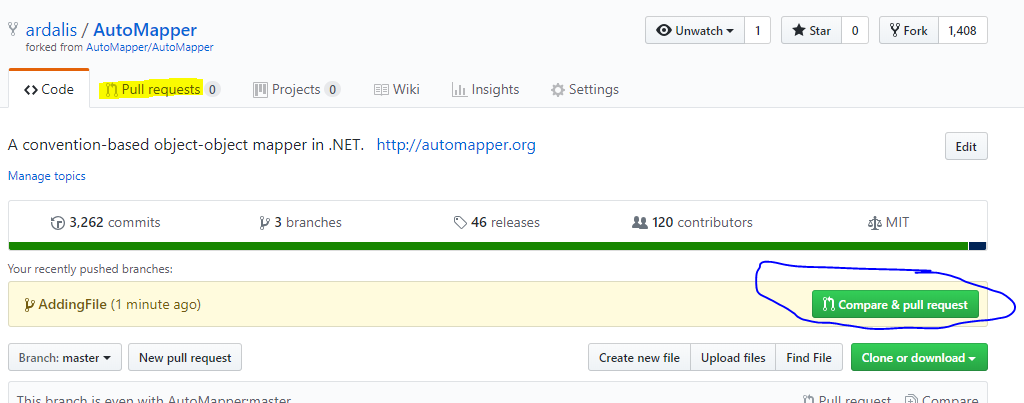
Almost there!

Fortunately it tells you the exact command to run. Do it and you should be all set. What you’re doing is telling it to create a matching branch on GitHub called ‘AddingFile’ and to use that as the place you’re going to push your changes to. After running that command you should see this:

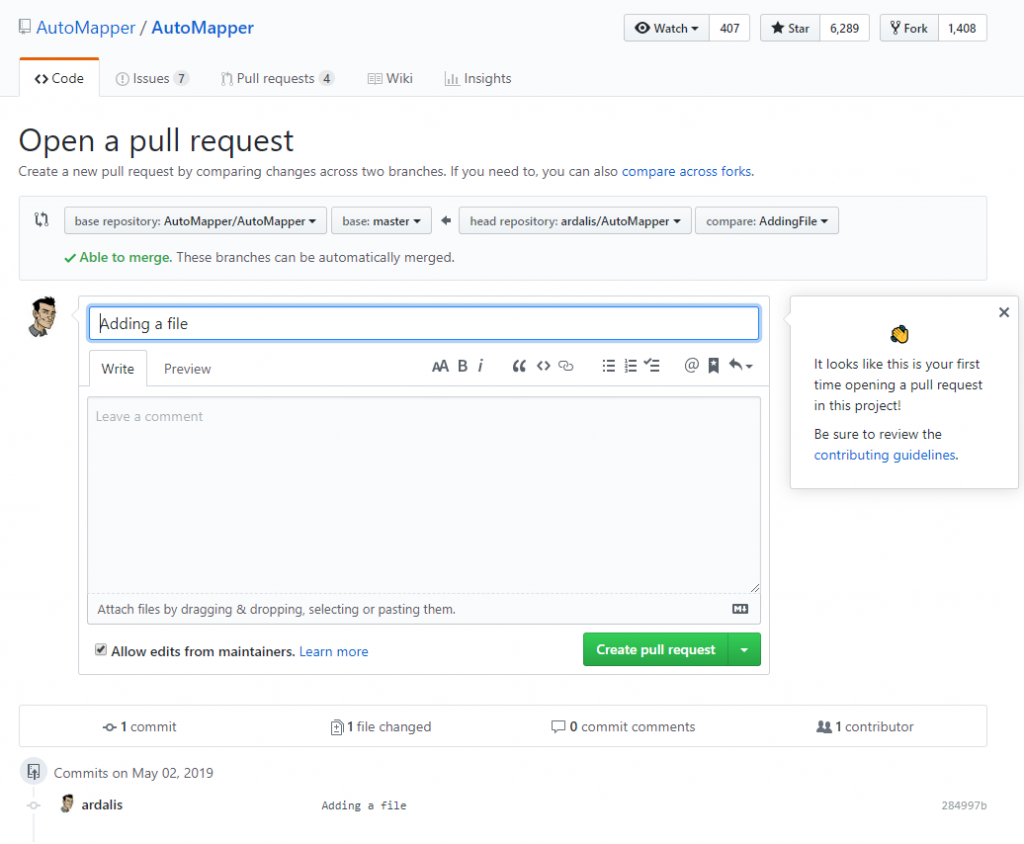


Our changes are on GitHub! Only one more step!

Now go pack to your fork of the repo in the browser. GitHub should helpfully offer to let you create a pull request right from the home page, but if not, go to the Pull requests tab.



Now just fill out the form and click Create pull request when you’re done!



The owner(s) of the original repository will be notified and they’ll review your file change and decide whether or not to accept it. If they have questions or comments, they’ll appear in the pull request and you should get notifications if you’ve enabled them. In any case, check the pull request URL to see its status.