

Version Control and You

How to get started with git

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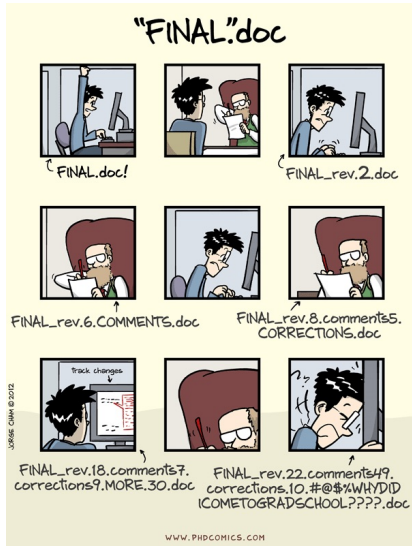
Cornell University

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Overview

- ▶ What is version control?
 - ▶ git: version control for everyone
 - ▶ GitHub: remote version control (to stop e-mailing yourself things!)
- ▶ What are we doing today?
 - ▶ Hands-on workshop: installing git, creating a GitHub account, and getting going with version control
 - ▶ Discussing resources available to learn more

Version Control



- ▶ Version control is for people who are bad at planning — which, at times, is all of us!
- ▶ Creates a chronological log of all your changes
 - ▶ Without having multiple versions of the same file
 - ▶ And while keeping tracking of who did what
- ▶ Allows you to easily roll back to a previous version

Version Control (cont'd)

You can make changes to a document while someone else (say, a collaborator) does, and then seamlessly merge the changes back into one document.




<http://swcarpentry.github.io/git-novice/01-basics/>

Git: the version control system for everyone

- ▶ One of the most popular version control systems to date
- ▶ Lightweight and super easy to learn — even, and especially, for those with no coding experience
 - ▶ But allows incredible control for those who want to dig deeper!
- ▶ An immense user base and thriving community means just about any problem you have is solvable with a quick Google search
 - ▶ Literally I google how to do something in git like, every day

Git-ting started! (last time, I swear)

Download git at <https://git-scm.com/downloads>.



 **git** --local-branching-on-the-cheap



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The entire [Pro Git book](#) written by Scott Chacon and Ben Straub is available to [read online for free](#). Dead tree versions are available on [Amazon.com](#).

Downloads

 **Mac OS X**  **Windows**

 **Linux**  **Solaris**

Older releases are available and the [Git source repository](#) is on [GitHub](#).



Latest source Release
2.12.2
[Release Notes \(2017-03-24\)](#)

[Downloads for Mac](#)

GUI Clients

Git comes with built-in GUI tools ([git-gui](#), [gitk](#)), but there are several third-party tools for users looking for a platform-specific experience.

[View GUI Clients →](#)

Logos

Various Git logos in PNG (bitmap) and EPS (vector) formats are available for use in online and print projects.

[View Logos →](#)

The installation

Windows

- ▶ Keep "Use Git from the Windows Command Prompt" selected
- ▶ Keep "Checkout Windows-style, commit Unix-style line endings" selected
- ▶ Keep "Use Windows' default console window" selected

Mac OS X

- ▶ Just install it from the dmg as you would any other application — no need to select any special settings

Linux

- ▶ Get it from your distro's package manager (i.e., `apt-get` or `yum`)

Setting up git

Let's check and make sure that git was properly installed!

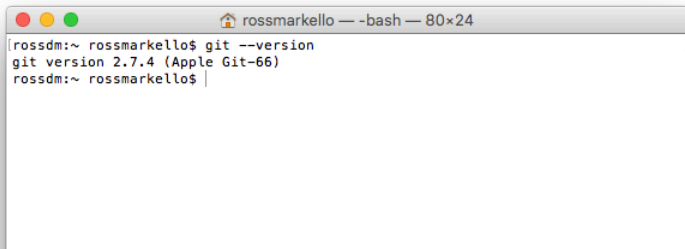
Windows

- ▶ Open up the Command Prompt (Click Start, type "cmd", and press enter)

Mac OS X/Linux

- ▶ Open up the terminal (Press command-space, type "Terminal", and press enter)

Now type `git --version` into the prompt. You should see something like:

A screenshot of a macOS Terminal window. The title bar shows the window name 'rossmarkello' and the shell '-bash' with a size of '80x24'. The terminal content shows the command 'git --version' being executed, resulting in the output 'git version 2.7.4 (Apple Git-66)'. The prompt 'ros sdm:~ ros smarkello\$' is visible at the bottom.

```
ros sdm:~ ros smarkello$ git --version
git version 2.7.4 (Apple Git-66)
ros sdm:~ ros smarkello$
```


Setting up git, cont'd

In order to effectively use git, you need to tell it who you are! We can do this with the following series of commands:

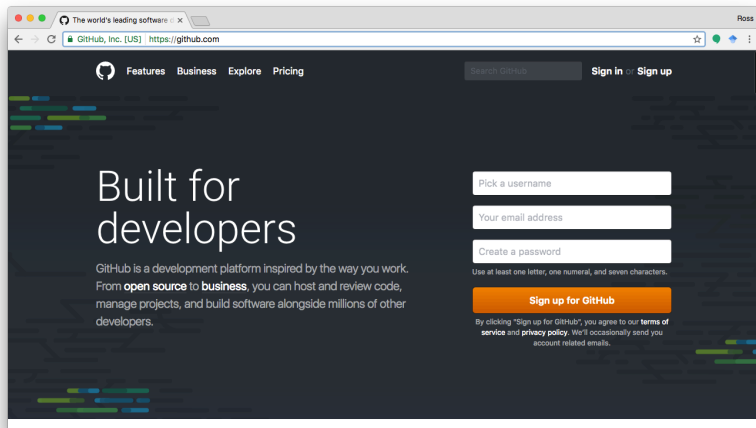
```
git config --global user.name "Ross Markello"  
git config --global user.email "rdm222@cornell.edu"
```

Now, whenever we use git in the future, this information will be included in our changes.

GitHub

While version control and git seem great and all, what happens if we need to access things on different computers?

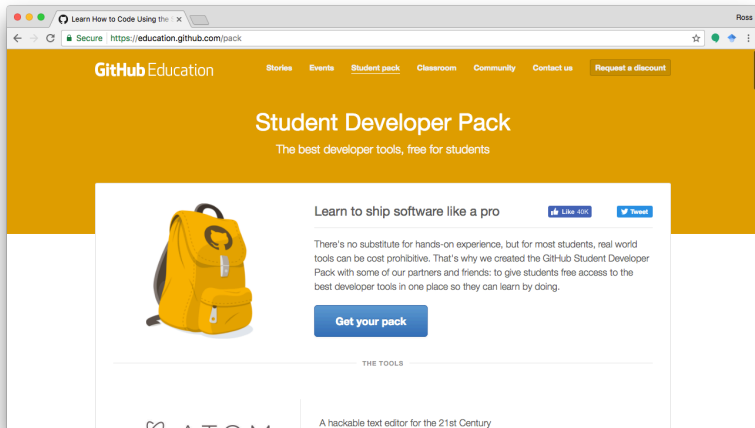
This is where **GitHub** comes into play!



GitHub (cont'd)

GitHub is a service that integrates with git to allow you to remotely store your version controlled documents.

It's totally free to create an account, and as long as you're a student you can actually get some really awesome perks!

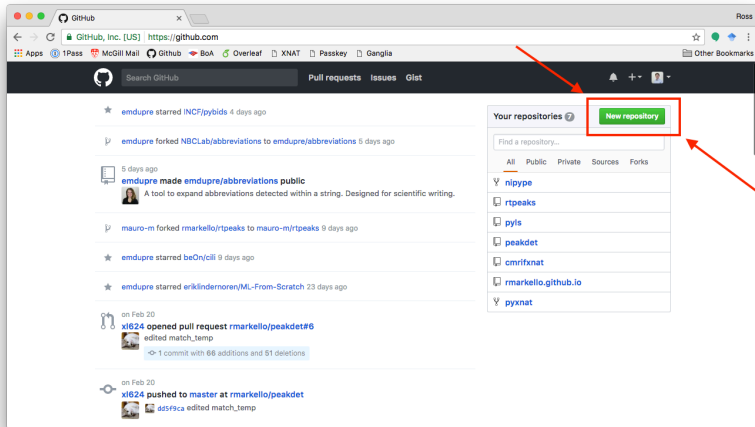


GitHub: The basics

Let's create an account with GitHub at <http://github.com>.

Just pick a username (something reasonable; mine is `rmarkello`) and sign up with your e-mail (ideally an `.edu` e-mail!).

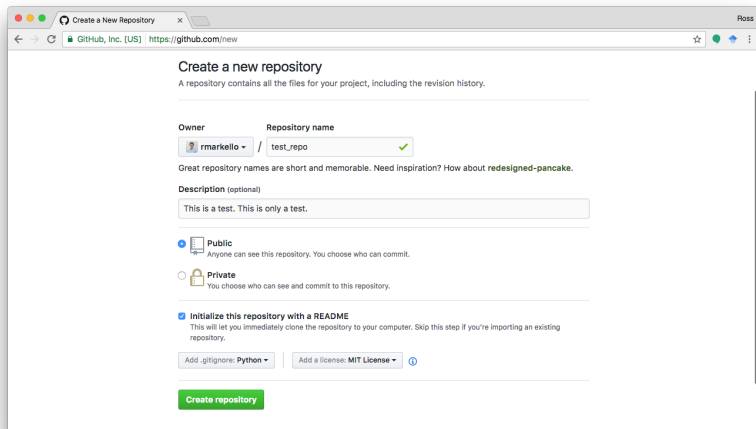
Then, we'll get started by creating a new "repository."



GitHub: Creating a repository

A repository (repo) is the git equivalent of a project.

You have to give it a name, usually a brief description, and then select relevant options (i.e., private or public, etc.).



The screenshot shows the GitHub 'Create a new repository' page in a web browser. The browser's address bar shows 'https://github.com/new'. The page title is 'Create a new repository'. Below the title, a subtitle reads 'A repository contains all the files for your project, including the revision history.' The form includes an 'Owner' dropdown set to 'rmarkello' and a 'Repository name' text box containing 'test_repo' with a green checkmark. A note suggests repository names should be short and memorable, with an example 'redesigned-pancake'. The 'Description (optional)' text box contains 'This is a test. This is only a test.' Under the 'Visibility' section, the 'Public' radio button is selected, with the text 'Anyone can see this repository. You choose who can commit.' The 'Private' option is unselected, with the text 'You choose who can see and commit to this repository.' The 'Initialize this repository with a README' checkbox is checked, with a note: 'This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer. Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.' At the bottom, there are two dropdown menus: 'Add .gitignore: Python' and 'Add a license: MIT License'. A green 'Create repository' button is at the bottom center.

Create a new repository

A repository contains all the files for your project, including the revision history.

Owner: rmarkello / Repository name: test_repo ✓

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about **redesigned-pancake**.

Description (optional): This is a test. This is only a test.

☒ **Public**
Anyone can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

☐ **Private**
You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

☒ **Initialize this repository with a README**
This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer. Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.

Add .gitignore: Python | Add a license: MIT License ⓘ

Create repository

GitHub: Setting up your repository

Options, options

Once you create the repo, GitHub will helpfully give you some information on how to start setting it up.

In the future, you can select the option that works best for you. For now, however, we don't yet have the software that we're going to use to work with this!

Structured madness

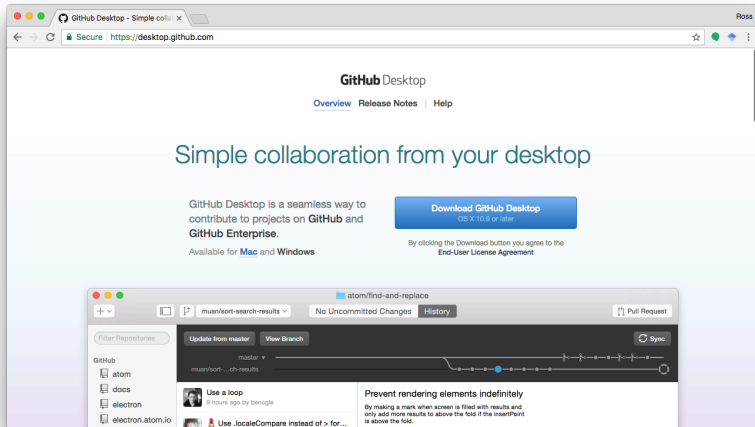
Repos are inherently unstructured; they can contain loose files, directories, and more. Whatever your file organization system is, a repo can handle it.

That being said, in the spirit of open science (i.e., reproducibility), it's probably good to think a bit about the outline for your project structure before getting started!

GitHub Desktop: A better (the best?) way to git

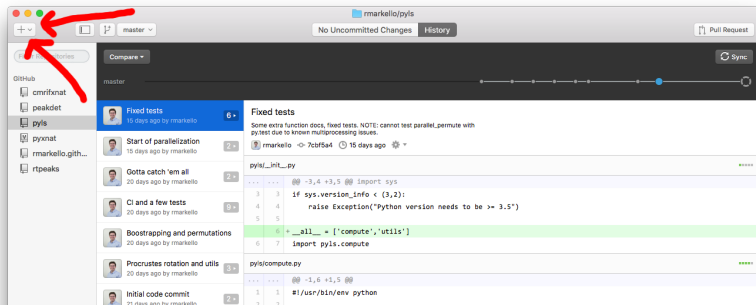
GitHub Desktop provides a (really freakin' nice) user interface to work with git and GitHub.

It handles all the git backend for you, so you never have to use the command line (unless you want to! — we'll get to that).



GitHub Desktop: Cloning your repo

- ▶ After downloading and installing GitHub Desktop, open that bad boy/girl/non-gendered-application up!
- ▶ Log in with the username and password you set up just a few slides ago, and then we'll be able to get going.
- ▶ When you open it up, your GitHub Desktop will be pretty empty. But not for long! We're going to click that little '+' button in the top right corner and toggle over to "Clone."



GitHub Desktop: Cloning your repo (cont'd)

- ▶ Select the test repo we just made and pick somewhere to save it. A new folder will be created there — this folder will be your repository, and everything related to that project must be stored in that folder.

Tidy git

To simplify things, many people recommend creating a single mega-folder that will house ALL your git repositories.

Each repo will get it's own folder within the mega-folder.

This makes it easy to know where your git repos are to separate them from all your other plain old (boring) folders!

Creating a file

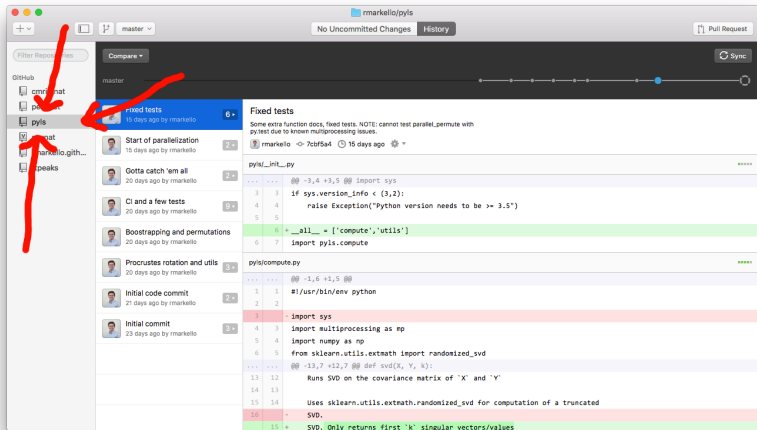
Great! Now, let's git down to business (for REAL the last pun, I swear).

For demonstration purposes, we're just going to create a text file, so crack open your favorite **plain** text editor (i.e., not Microsoft Word!) and get to typing.

Save the newly created document inside your repo directory!

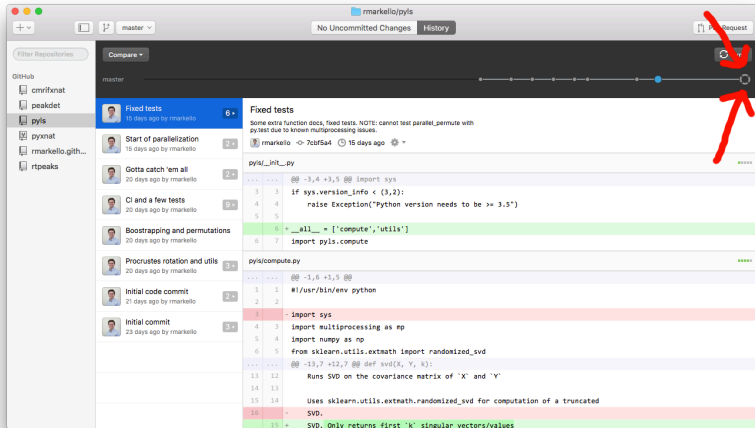
GitHub Desktop: Committing & syncing (1)

Head back to GitHub Desktop and click on the repository name in the left-hand column:



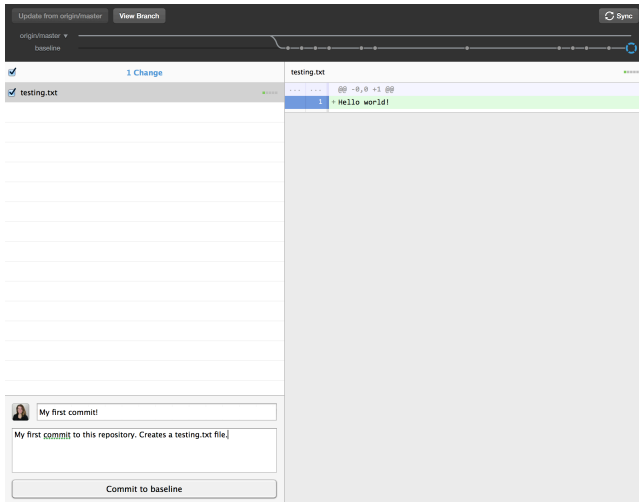
GitHub Desktop: Committing & syncing (2)

Next, click the little wheel over in the top-right corner:



GitHub Desktop: Committing & syncing (3)

You should see a page that looks *something* like this (it won't be exactly the same, but it should be close!):



GitHub Desktop: Committing & syncing (4)

Commits

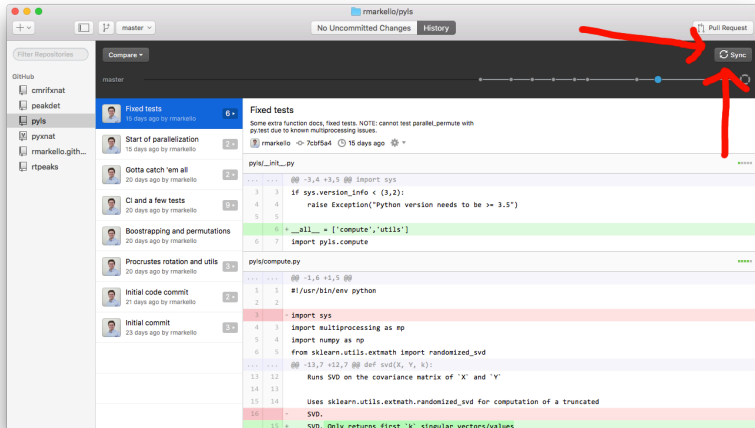
- ▶ A "commit" is how git makes a log of the current state of your files
- ▶ This state is stored with a "commit message," which should detail what's changed in your files since the last time you made a commit
- ▶ These messages should have a brief summary statement and a more detailed, in-depth message
 - ▶ There is NO DOWNSIDE to being very descriptive here

Commit files

- ▶ Not everything has to be included in a commit! You can select which files are included to create a *logical* history of your changes

GitHub Desktop: Committing & syncing (5)

Once you've made a commit, we need to sync it with the GitHub repository. To do so, simply click "Sync":



GitHub: Checking your remote

Now, we need to check and make sure that worked! Go to your GitHub repository and confirm that your file is there. Your repo will be located at:

http://github.com/your_username/your_reponame.

For example:


<http://github.com/rmarkello/pyls>

Pro status: command line git

Git is, of course, designed for the command line. Just because there are nice programs that handle a lot of the backend for us doesn't mean we **HAVE** to use them.

To that end, let's quickly take a look at what git looks like [via the command line](#).

```
[MRI@fh-hd-aka47-l3 test_repo]$ git init
```



Further resources

The git manual — surprisingly accessible:

<https://git-scm.com/book>

A step-by-step walkthrough on command-line git usage:

<https://try.github.io>

Guides to understanding git and its integration with GitHub:

<https://guides.github.com>

Information about getting educational discounts for GitHub:

<https://education.github.com>

Check the [slack channel](#) for more (and join if you haven't!)