Creating your GitHub Pages site

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Many options for your project site

http://blogs.gwu.edu (WordPress)

Commercial:

- Wordpress
- Squarespace
- Tumblr
- Wix
- LinkedIn
- ...

GitHub Pages

- Free
- Uses Jekyll, a static site builder, on the back end
  - Builds from a set of files you place in a GitHub repository
  - You can do everything via the browser (or not, if you want)
  - Rebuilds automatically when you change things
- No programming required, except:
  - editing .yml configuration files
  - you write pages in Markdown (or HTML)
- Site can be:
  - 1 personal site per account: **myname.github.io**
  - project site (for every repositroy): **myname.github.io/myproject**
  - (optionally) Connect to "mycustomurl.org"

Example:

https://gwu-libraries.github.io/sfm-ui/

Example:

https://www.repidemicsconsortium.org/

Jekyll Templates: Lots of choices...

Officially supported by Github:

Open-source but not officially supported:

https://github.com/topics/jekyll-theme
http://themes.jekyllrc.org/
https://jekyllthemes.io/github-pages-templates

"Beautiful Jekyll" theme

- Works well, reasonably simple
- Looks good on mobile too
- Navigation bar w/links
- Fairly straightforward layout types:
  - page
  - post

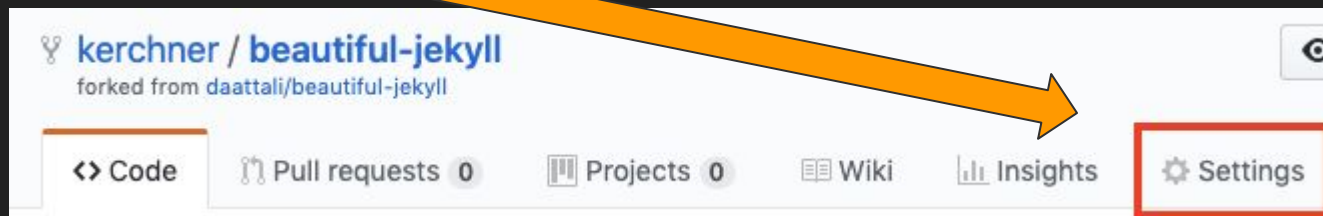# Step 0: GitHub Account

Sign up for a GitHub account!

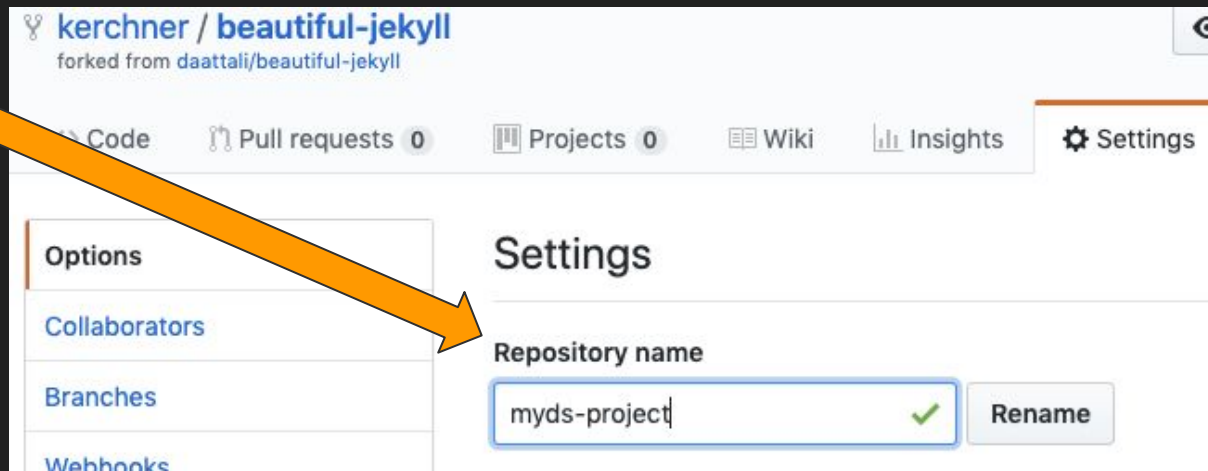Log in

Step 1: Fork the template repository

Go to https://github.com/kerchner/beautiful-project

Press "Fork"
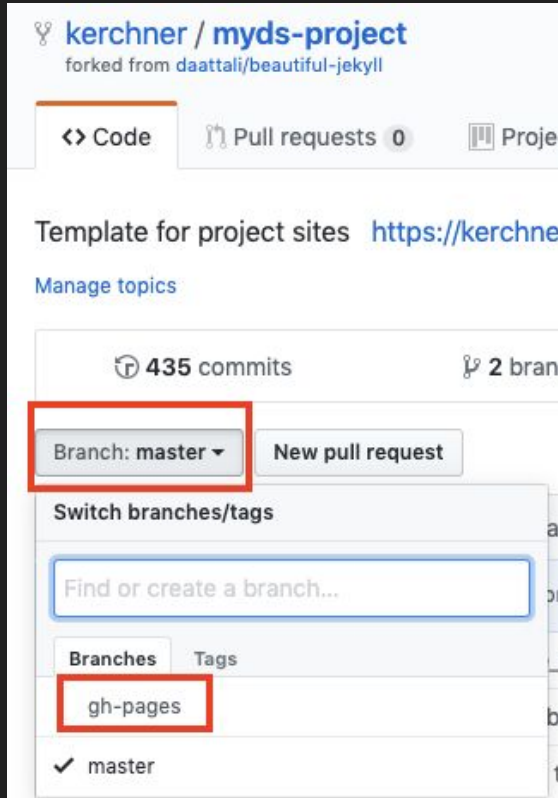
Step 2: Rename your repository

Go to your repository settings
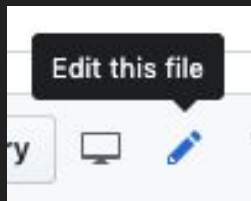

Rename your repository

Switch to the gh-pages branch
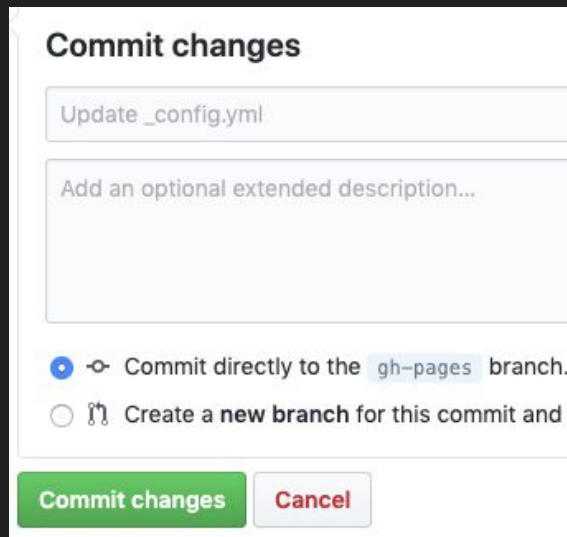
Customizing the template

Editing files on GitHub

1. Click

2. Edit

3. When finished,
- add a note
- press
"Commit changes"

Types of files: .yml ("YAML")

.yml

    Used to contain data (often for configuration)

    Comment out lines with **#**

    `key: value`

    `list:`

        `- key: value`

        `- key: value`

    Be careful to use ***spaces, not tabs***.

    Always put a space after the colon in `key: value` pairs

Types of files: .md ("Markdown")

"Plaintext" way of writing web pages

Basic Markdown: https://guides.github.com/features/mastering-markdown/

Markdown tutorial: https://www.markdowntutorial.com/

beautiful-jekyll site template: Files

📁 _includes - pieces of pages that are included in other pages

📁 _layouts - HTML for layout templates ('page', 'post', etc.)

📁 _posts - Blog posts go here as .md files

📁 css - stylesheets, if you'd like to adjust the appearance

📁 img - image files go here

📁 js - Javascript (for advanced users)

_config.yml - site configuration file

index.html - main page

other .md and .html pages - other site pages

README.md - README that shows on your site's github page

Edit `_config.yml` with your name, project info, etc.

Then....

approx. 1-2 minutes
as GitHub rebuilds your site.

Now try viewing your site

https://myname.github.io/myproject

Try creating a new page

View `md-example.md` and click "Raw"

Copy the page text.

Press "Create new File". Call it newpage.md. Paste the copied page content into the new page. Change something.

Try adding an image to your page

Browse to the **img** folder

Click "Upload files"

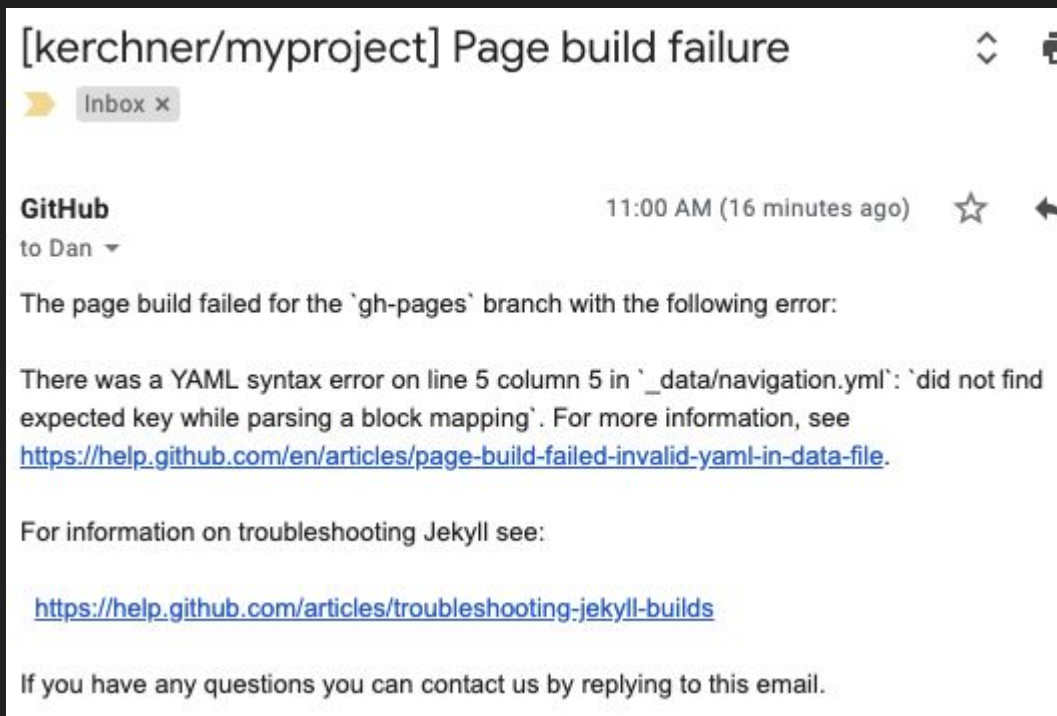Now, add a reference to it in one of the pages

Embedding HTML

- Upload your HTML file to the **_includes** folder

- Add the following to one of your pages where you'd like to embed the visualization. The page can be either Markdown or HTML (substitute the name of your HTML file):

`{% include my_plot.html %}`

Troubleshooting

- Check your email
  for build failure messages

- YAML file syntax can be
  sensitive!

[kerchner/myproject] Page build failure

Inbox ×

GitHub   11:00 AM (16 minutes ago)
to Dan

The page build failed for the `gh-pages` branch with the following error:

There was a YAML syntax error on line 5 column 5 in `_data/navigation.yml`: `did not find expected key while parsing a block mapping`. For more information, see https://help.github.com/en/articles/page-build-failed-invalid-yaml-in-data-file.

For information on troubleshooting Jekyll see:

https://help.github.com/articles/troubleshooting-jekyll-builds

If you have any questions you can contact us by replying to this email.

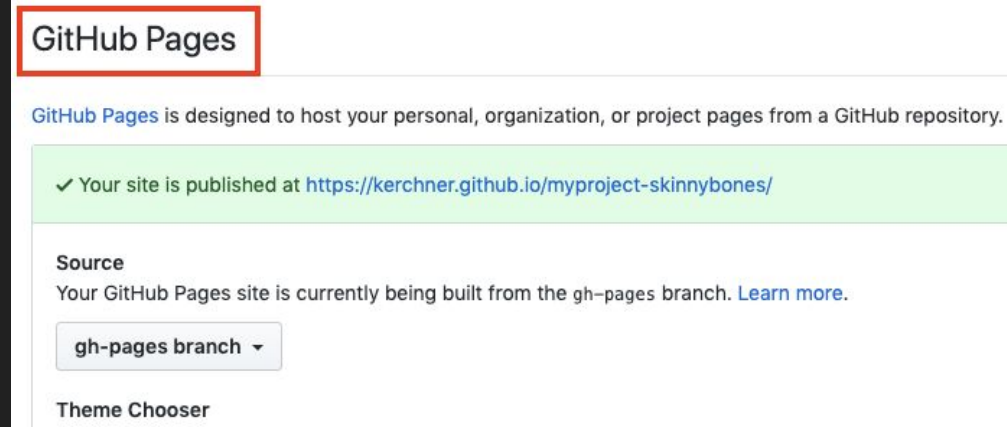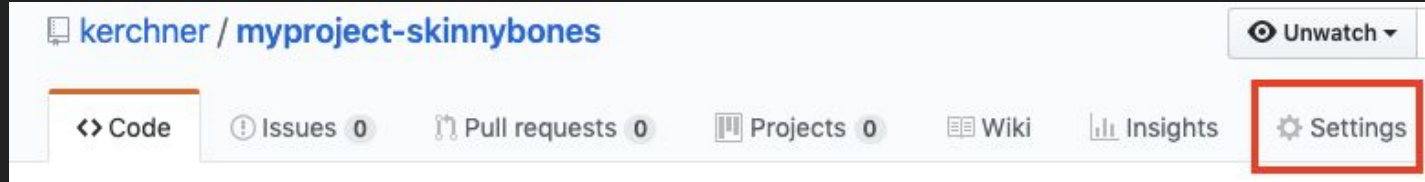- https://help.github.com/en/articles/troubleshooting-github-pages-builds

Troubleshooting

Repository
   settings
---> Options
---> Github Pages

Troubleshooting

- Are you making changes in the **gh-pages** branch?