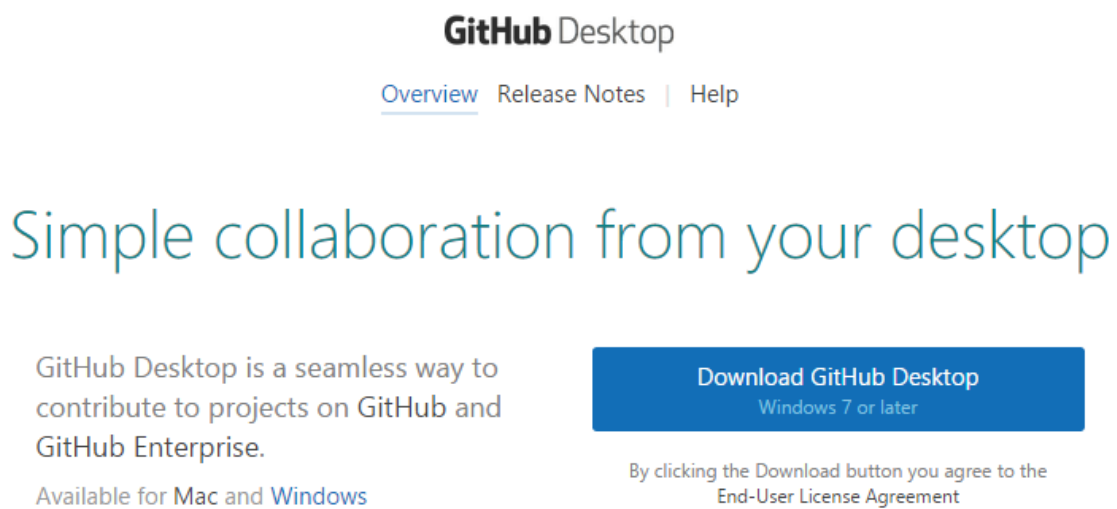# Using GitHub Desktop

This document contains some updated screenshots and instructions for the latest version of the GitHub client. It assumes that you have already set up an account on https://github.com and have read the introductory notes. Firstly, download and install the client:


Then log in using the username and password that you created for your GitHub account:
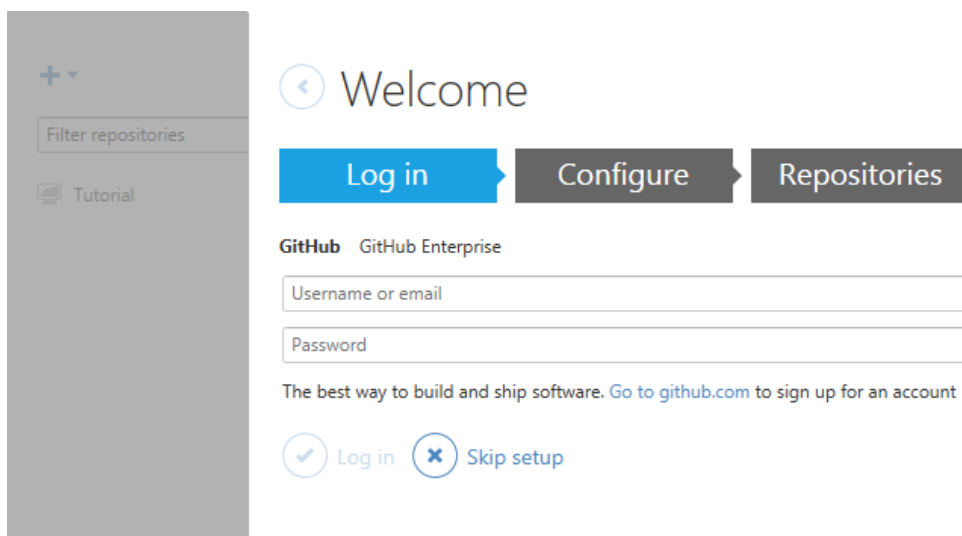
The left hand sidebar of the client shows your repositories. When you first log in you won't see any. You have three options to get yourself set up. You can add a new repository, which lets you turn an existing folder into a repository (this is what you would want to do if you already had code on your computer that you wanted to host on GitHub):
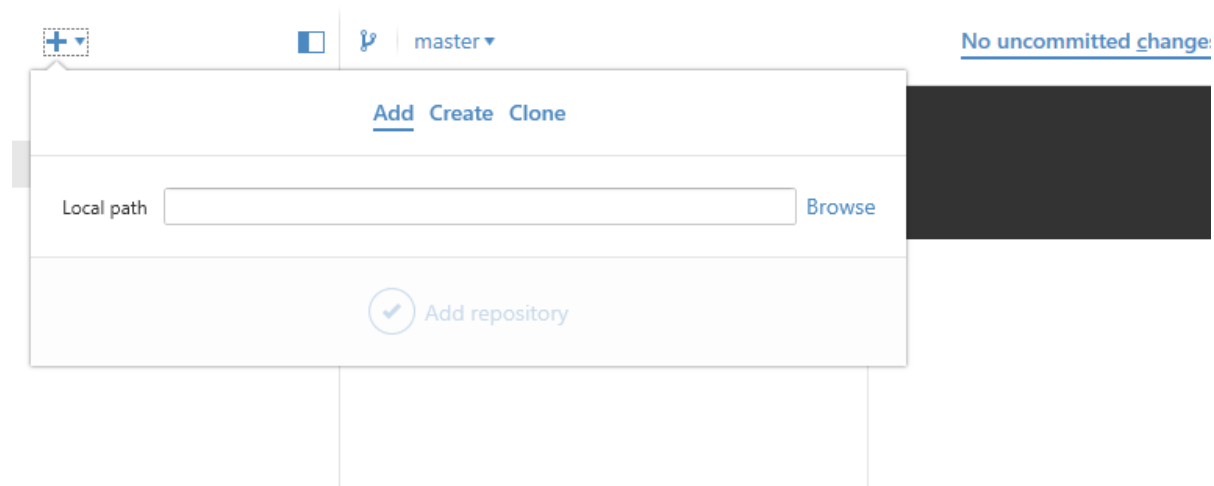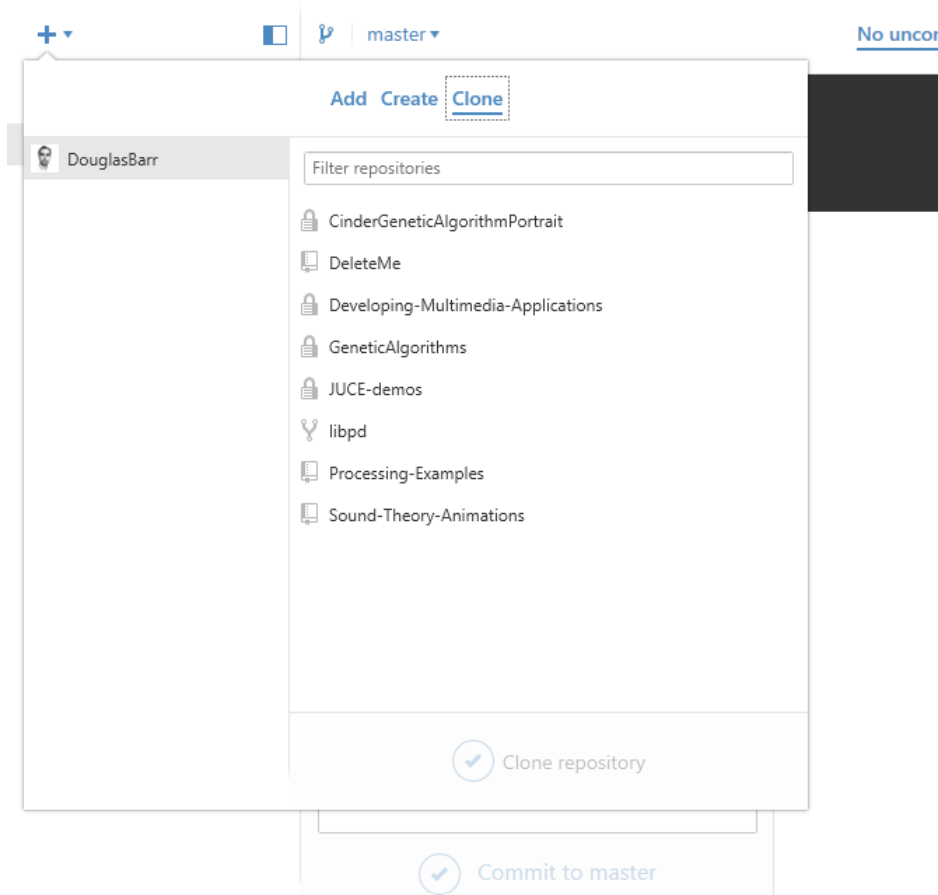

You can Create a new repository (this will be an empty repository, so you'll want to pick this when you decide to start a new project that you want to host on GitHub):
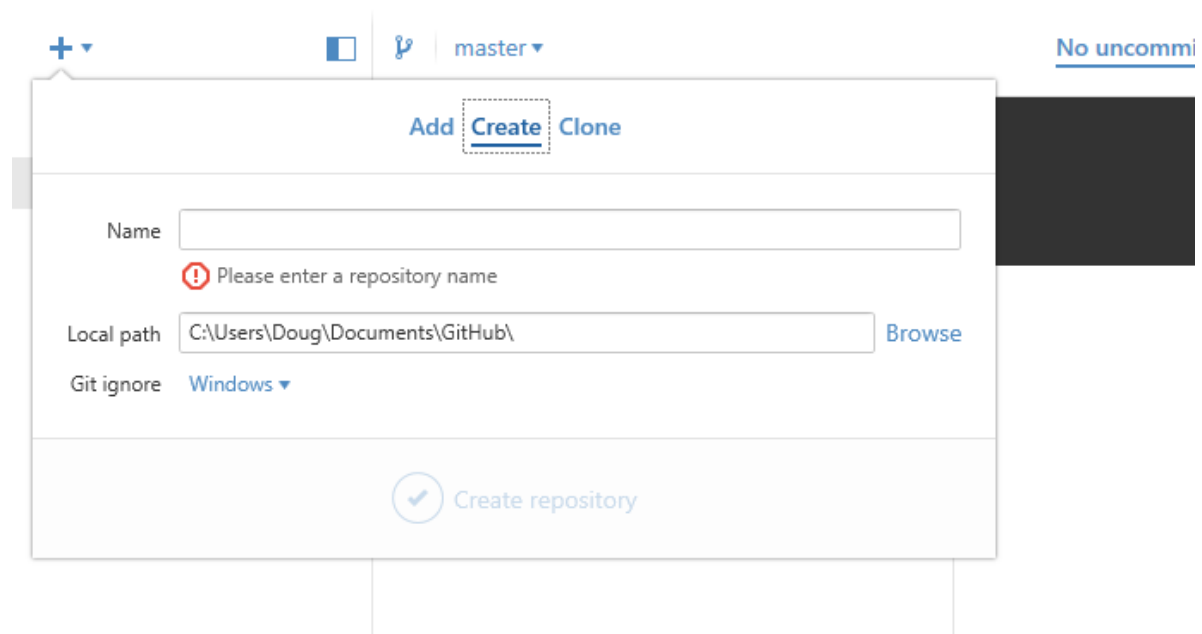

The local path here is just to the default GitHub folder that is set up during installation. You'll want to choose somewhere a little more sensible.

Finally, you can Clone a repository (you would use this to install a local copy of one of your GitHub repositories on this particular computer). In this case you can see a list of my GitHub repositories to choose from (private repos, public repos and forked repos):
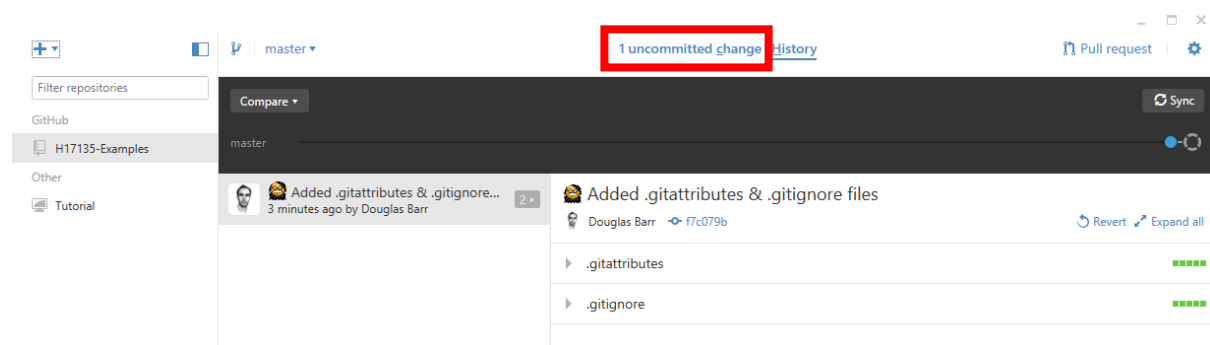

If you create a new repository, the first thing you will want to do is publish it to GitHub:
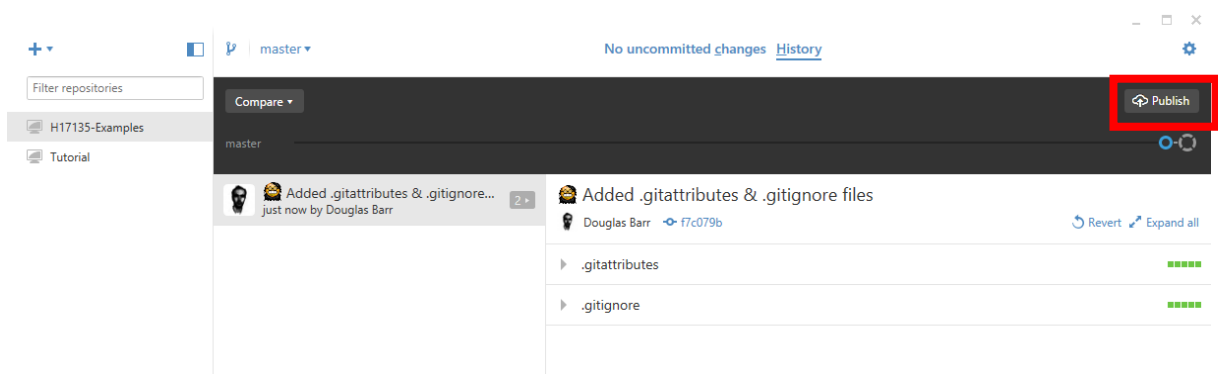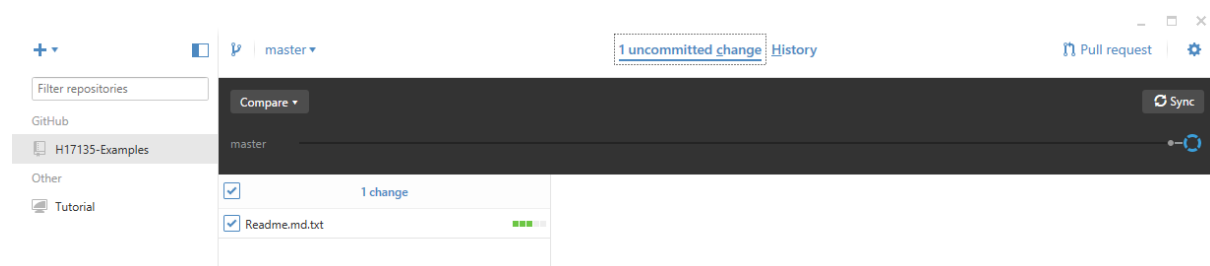
You will be prompted to add a name and description for the online version of the repo:
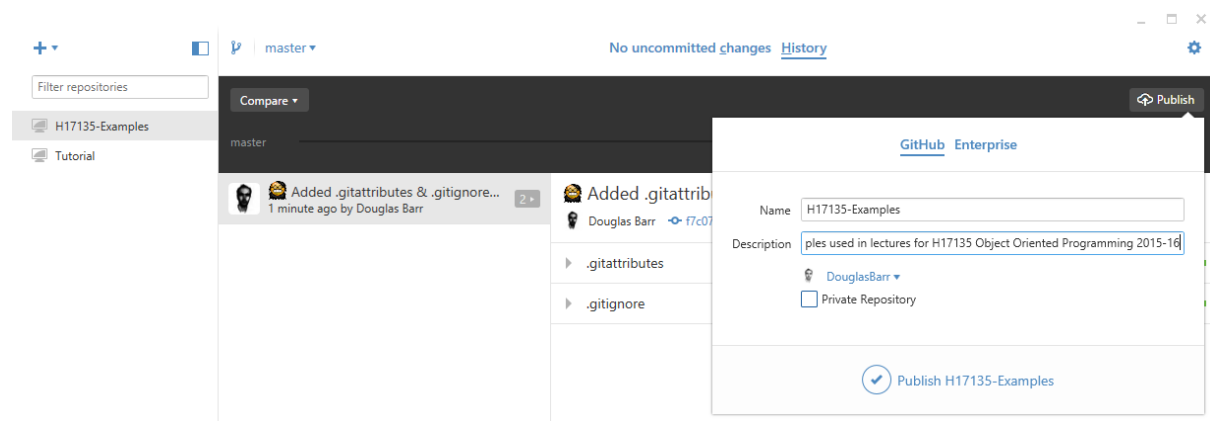
Once you have made some changes to the files in your folder, you will see uncommitted changes showing up in the client:
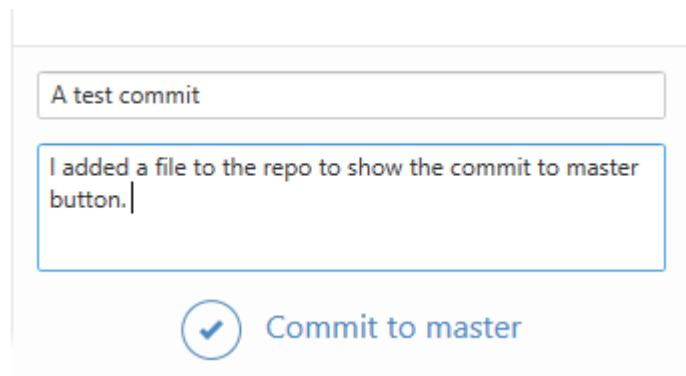

Clicking on this will show you a summary of the files that have been added, removed or changed:

At this stage you will not be able to commit these changes, you will first need to add a commit summary (and an optional description).

Once you have done this you can click the Commit to master button.

You don't need to know what it means by *master* at the moment, but we'll get to this soon.

A test commit

I added a file to the repo to show the commit to master button.

(✓) Commit to master

Remember that committing your changes takes a snapshot of the repository and stores it on your local machine. Once you've committed your changes you need to remember to sync them to the GitHub servers (there used to be an option of automatically syncing any commits, but I haven't found it in the new version of the client yet).