

Pre Condition 3: Code on the local machine

This section explains how you get the JabRef code onto your machine in a form allowing you to make contributions.

Fork JabRef into your GitHub account

- 1 Log into your GitHub account
- 2 Go to <https://github.com/JabRef/jabref>
- 3 Create a fork by clicking at fork button on the right top corner
- 4 A fork repository will be created under your account `https://github.com/YOUR_USERNAME/jabref`.

A longer explanation is available at <https://help.github.com/en/articles/fork-a-repo>.

Clone your forked repository on your local machine

In a command line, navigate to the folder where you want to place the source code (parent folder of `jabref`). To prevent issues along the way, it is strongly recommend choosing a path that does not contain any special (non-ASCII or whitespace) characters. In the following, we will use `c:\git-repositories` as base folder:

```
cd \  
mkdir git-repositories  
cd git-repositories  
git clone --recurse-submodules https://github.com/JabRef/jabref.git JabRef  
cd JabRef  
git remote rename origin upstream  
git remote add origin https://github.com/YOUR_USERNAME/jabref.git  
git fetch --all  
git branch --set-upstream-to=origin/main main
```

IMPORTANT

`--recurse-submodules` is necessary to have the required files available to JabRef. (Background: It concerns the files from [citation-style-language/styles](#) and more).

Note that putting the repo JabRef directly on `C:\` or any other drive letter on Windows causes compile errors (**negative example:** `C:\jabref`).

Please really ensure that you pass `JabRef` as parameter. Otherwise, you will get

`java.lang.IllegalStateException: Module entity with name: jabref should be available`. See [IDEA-317606](#) for details.

BACKGROUND

Initial cloning might be very slow (`27.00 KiB/s`).

To prevent this, first the `upstream` repository is cloned. This repository seems to live in the caches of GitHub.

Now, you have two remote repositories, where `origin` is yours and `upstream` is the one of the JabRef organization.

You can see it with `git remote -v`:

```
c:\git-repositories\jabref> git remote -v
origin      https://github.com/YOURUSERNAME/jabref.git (fetch)
origin      https://github.com/YOURUSERNAME/jabref.git (push)
upstream    https://github.com/jabref/jabref.git (fetch)
upstream    https://github.com/jabref/jabref.git (push)
```