Laptop and Tools Familiarization Checklist

Welcome to your new Tech Elevator equipment!

All Tech Elevator work must be completed on this laptop. To ensure a solid foundation at the start of the cohort, it's important that your laptop is set up by Day 1. This document will guide you through both initial setup and troubleshooting steps to ensure that your equipment is functioning properly during your time at Tech Elevator.

NOTE: Tech Elevator has loaned the equipment to you for the duration of the training. Remember to store the boxes and shipping materials in a dry, safe place so you can return them easily. You will receive return shipping labels at the end of the program.

Laptop Usage Guidelines

In order to keep your laptop performing at the level needed for software development, observing the following guidelines is required:

1. **Do not install Windows 11. Ignore or cancel all prompts to do so.**
2. Acquire an extra screen/monitor. This will be critical to code along with the morning lecture sessions.
3. **Do not install other software**. Everything you need is already installed for you. (Other software has been known to interfere with the audio and video drivers prepackaged on the laptop)
4. Be mindful of your internet browsing, don't visit sites that are inappropriate for a professional work environment.
5. Be mindful of how many tabs are open on Chrome - a large number of tabs can drain your laptop's memory. We typically advise no more than 6 tabs are open at a single time.
6. Do a periodic shut-down of your machine. A reboot at least once every two days, and a full shut down at least once a week is recommended.
7. Avoid using tobacco products near your machine.
8. Be careful with drinks (any sort of fluid) near your machine.

If you are a Mac user and want a quick primer on using Windows 10, here is a helpful article: https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/15-windows-10-tips-for-mac-users**.**

Log in with the credentials you were provided and complete the following checklist...

Software tools

1. **Integrated Development Environments (IDEs)**

IntelliJ IDEA
This is the primary tool you'll use to write Java code.

Find IntelliJ IDEA on your workstation, run it, and verify that it starts without issue.

VS Code
VS Code is a powerful text editor. You'll use it primarily for writing HTML, CSS, and JavaScript during the web application module.

Find VS Code on your laptop, run it, and verify that it starts without issue.

2. **Zoom**

Zoom is a teleconference platform. All Tech Elevator hosted sessions will be hosted and recorded on Zoom. **Create a Zoom Account at https://zoom.us/.** This allows you to update your profile to have your preferred names and pronouns. Please sign-in to Zoom before joining classroom and pathway meetings to help us track attendance.

Find the Zoom client on your laptop, run it, and verify that it starts without issue.

3. **Shell Applications:**

Git BASH
Git BASH is a command-line tool that allows you to interact with your laptop or a remote computer by typing commands. We will use this primarily for working with git.

Find Git BASH on your laptop (using the Windows search feature), run it, and verify that it starts without issue. Note Git BASH is different from Git CMD which has a similar icon.

Windows Terminal
The Windows Terminal app is a command-line tool that allows you to interact with your laptop or a remote computer by typing commands.

Find Windows Terminal on your laptop (using the Windows search feature), run it, and verify that it starts without issue. Note Windows Terminal is different from the Windows Command Prompt which has a similar icon.

4. Postman

Postman is a tool used to interact with web APIs. You'll start using this in Module 2 when we learn to build web API's.

Find Postman on your laptop, run it and verify that it starts without issue.

Online tools

1. Sococo

Sococo is a virtual presence service and helps you be a part of our virtual campus. Each room in the virtual campus will contain the links to lecture broadcasts, pathway events, or collaboration rooms.

Each Sococo user has a virtual avatar that indicates if they are on or off campus, making it easier to find someone when you need assistance. Instructor avatars are yellow, while academic fellows are red. **Please update your profile to set your avatar to the color of your assigned classroom** (i.e. green, blue, orange, purple).

You should have received an email from Tech Elevator with your credentials. To access Sococo, log in here https://app.sococo.com/ and ensure you have access to our NLR January Campus under spaces.

For more information on using Sococo, see our Guide to Using Sococo.

2. Slack

Slack is a chat platform. You can use Slack to send messages to your classmates, instructors, or Tech Elevator staff. Your instructor and pathway director also post important announcements through Slack.

Go to Slack and update your profile. **Please add a picture of yourself, and update your name and add preferred pronouns.**

Make sure that you can see the following channels:

- The general cohort channel (nlr-x-general)
- The pathway channel (nlr-x-pathway)
- A classroom channel (nlr-x-java-somecolor)
- The kudos channel (nlr-x-culturekudos)

Note: Channels will not have these exact names, but will be close.

It's also recommended that you install the Slack app on your phone as an easy way to reach out to staff and stay connected to your peers after hours.

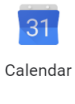
For more details, read our Slack for Students guide.

3. Google Drive

Google Drive will be used to hold any assets related to your Pathway Program search. Your elevator pitch, resume, and headshots that you can use for social media or job applications will reside here.

Verify that you have access to Google Drive.

4. Google Calendar



Google Calendar will be used to indicate which events you need to be aware of as a student. The entire Tech Elevator syllabus (academic and pathway) will be shared here. On any given day, this will show the topics covered and where you need to be.

Verify you see the class calendar for your campus.

5. BootcampOS LMS

The BootcampOS LMS is the home of the Tech Elevator curriculum. You will use this to read and practice new topics prior to lecture, take quizzes, and submit and receive feedback on assignments. You should have received an email asking you to confirm your BootcampOS account and set up a password.

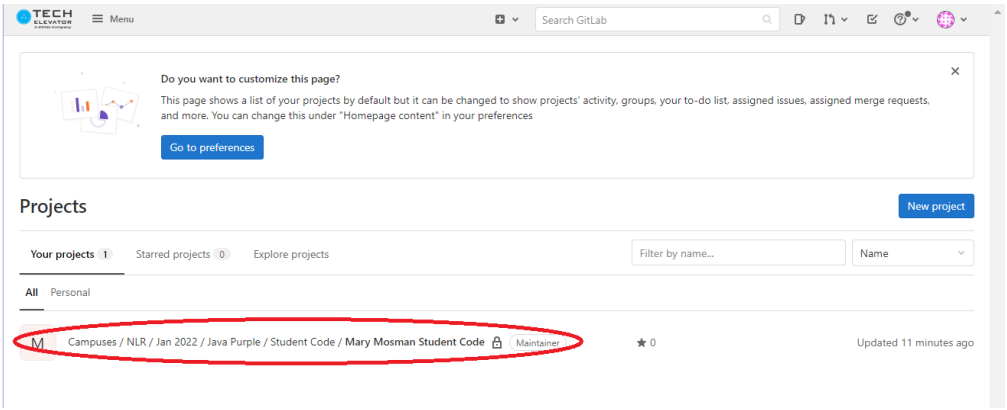
Go to the student BootcampOS: https://auth.techelevator.com/sign_in and log in with your email and the password you established when confirming the account.

6. GitLab

GitLab is a web-based version control service that utilizes git. It hosts the code we distribute to Tech Elevator students, and it is also where you'll upload your completed homework assignments.

1. You should have received an email from Tech Elevator stating that you've been granted access to a student repository. **Accept the invite**.

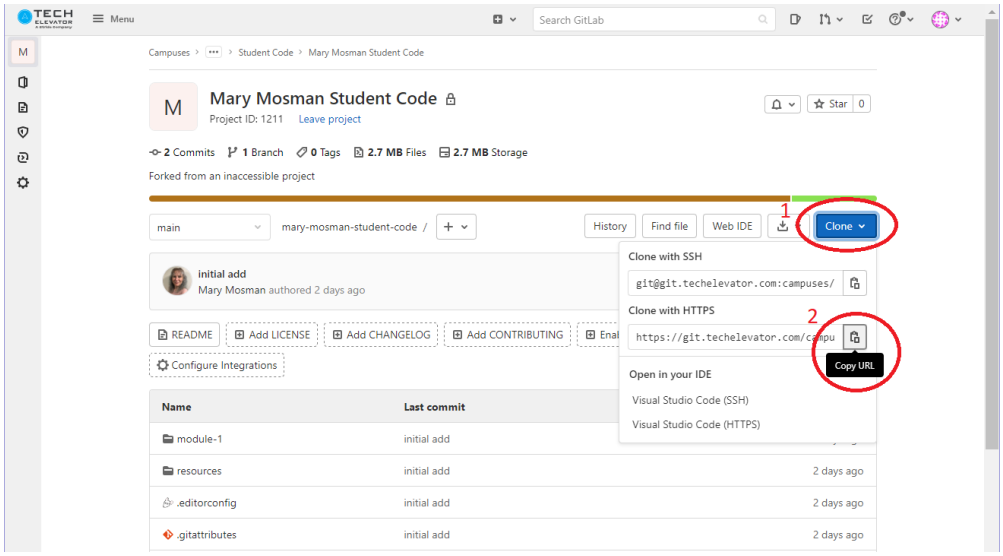
2. Log in to GitLab: https://git.techelevator.com/users/sign_in. You should see Your Projects when you log in. If not, you can find this view from the menu in the upper left. Look for a repository that contains your name and click on it.



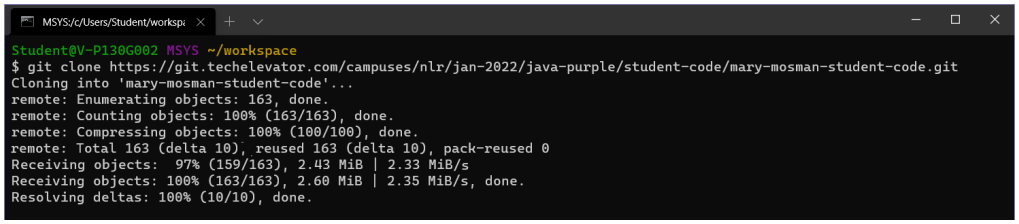
3. Open your shell application (Git BASH or Windows Terminal).

4. Navigate to the workspace folder by typing `cd ~/workspace`.

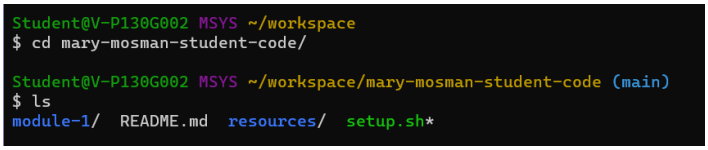
5. Copy the clone command from your repository in Bitbucket.



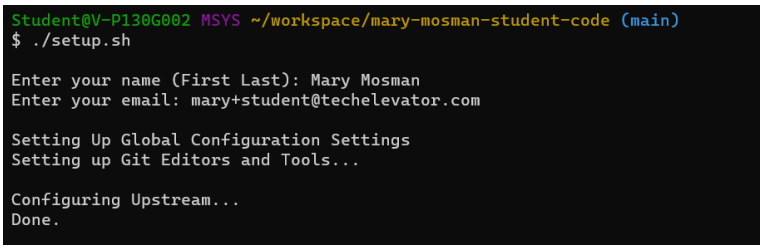
6. In your shell application, enter `git clone` and paste the url you copied above into the command. (You can use right-click to paste into the shell.) Press enter to run the command. Verify that you see a message similar to this one.



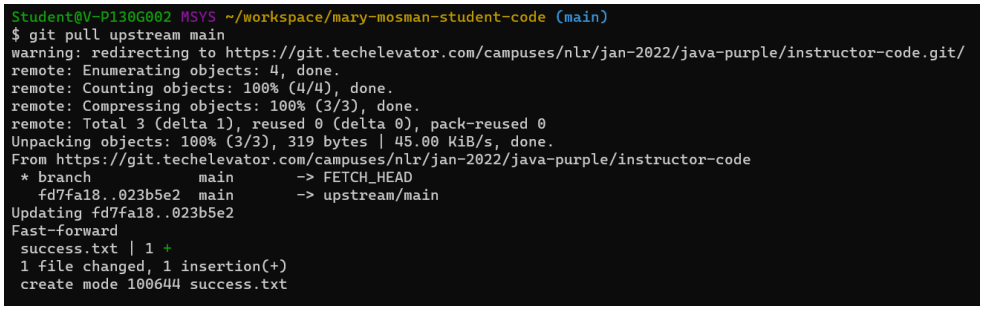
7. Still within your shell application, navigate into the repository folder by typing: `cd yourname-student-code`.(Replace yourname-student-code with the name of the repository in GitLab). Then enter `ls` and verify you see a file `setup.sh` listed in the results.



8. Next, enter the command `sh setup.sh` to complete your repository setup, entering your name and GitLab email when prompted.



9. Still within your shell application, enter `git pull upstream main`. This is how you will get updated class code from your instructor.



10. Finally, enter the `ls` command again and verify that you now see the `success.txt` file listed in the results. If you see this file you're all done!

Now that you've finished...

Great work! Walking through each of these tools and acclimating yourself with them will help during your first few weeks at Tech Elevator when there's so much to learn!

If you had any trouble working through this checklist, please send your Instructor(s) a direct message (DM) in Slack to let them know and do some troubleshooting.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience an issue with your computer during a lecture, there's no need to panic.

- If you lose your connection to the classroom:
    - Send a message to your instructor via Slack from your phone or another device.
    - If you have another device with connectivity, use that to watch the remainder of the lecture, following along as best as you are able.
- After lecture, contact your Instructor or Academic Fellow for assistance. They will help you assess if it is a Hardware or Software issue.
    - Academic Fellows and Instructors can assist with most Software issues.
    - For Hardware issues, you will be referred to Tech Elevator IT Support for further assistance.