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Apps ติดตั้ง JDK (Ja... Backtesting A... MATLAB for P... Tableau Server Coursera-Stan... Guide Ragnar... » Reading list

C_

My Home Course Menu

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Tutorial: GitHub CLI (Command Line Interface)

In this article and tutorial, learn about how to interact with your repository's GitHub Issues and pull requests, right from the terminal!

GitHub CLI is a powerful command-line tool that enables developers to handle several of the critical functionalities of GitHub from a terminal. We can see open issues, make pull requests, link pull requests to issues, and even merge pull requests without touching the GitHub UI.

In this tutorial, you'll download the GitHub CLI and practice a few commands on an existing project.

Installation

Download and execute the installer for your operating system from the GitHub CLI public webpage. Once the installation is complete, open a new terminal and verify the default configuration:

```
gh --version
```

Review the list of the supported APIs and functionalities:

```
gh --help
```

GitHub CLI in action

[Fork the try-GitHub-cli-off-platform-project repository](#) to your GitHub account and clone it onto your local computer. Next, open a terminal and change the current directory to the directory of the cloned repository.

The repository contains a simple Python application for a Magic Eight Ball. The application, however, has a defect. The code tries to use the Python `random` library without importing it.

Back

Next


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Apps ติดตั้ง JDK (Ja... Backtesting A... MATLAB for P... Tableau Server Coursera-Stan... Guide Ragnar... » Reading list

C_

My Home Course Menu

Get Unstuck Tools 

Login to GitHub from your terminal using GitHub CLI and follow the instructions to complete the authentication.

```
> gh auth login
```

Use the command line to create a GitHub Issue documenting the problem:

```
> gh issue create --title "Fix magic8.py error" --body "The code for magic8.py uses the Python random library without importing it. This causes issues during runtime."
```

Follow the instructions in the terminal and select the forked repository to create the issue.

```
Creating issue in Codecademy/try-github-issues-off-platform-project
? Title "Fix magic8.py error"
? Title "Fix magic8.py error"
? Body <Received>
? What's next? [Use arrows to move, type to filter]
> Submit
  Continue in browser
  Add metadata
  Cancel
```

Once the issue is created, you can view it on GitHub web interface under the Issues tab.

Fix magic8.py error #1

Open sabajamalian opened this issue 1 minute ago · 0 comments



sabajamalian commented 1 minute ago

Owner 🗑️ ⋮

The code for magic8.py uses the Python random library without importing it. This causes issues during runtime.

You can also use GitHub CLI to list all opened issues so far:

```
gh issue status
```

Let's now create a new branch to actually fix the issue.

```
git checkout -b "fix-magic8 "
```

Open the `magic8.py` file using an editor of your choice and add the following line at the beginning of the file to fix the defect:

Back Next

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Apps ติดตั้ง JDK (Ja... Backtesting A... MATLAB for P... Tableau Server Coursera-Stan... Guide Ragnar... » Reading list

c

My Home Course Menu

Get Unstuck Tools

at the beginning of the file to fix the defect.

```
import random
```

Commit and push your change to the remote.

```
git commit -a -m "Fixed magic8.py file by importing the proper required library"
git push --set-upstream origin fix-magic8
```

Now that there's a full solution to the problem in your branch, it's time to create a pull request! You can use the command line to directly make a pull request:

```
gh pr create
```

Follow the prompts and add the proper title and description for the pull request. Mention the id of the issue in the description following `#[id]` format so that GitHub automatically links the pull request to the issue. The following is an example description:

This pull request imports the random library in magic8.py. Once merged, this resolves #1.

To check if this actually worked, you can check that the new pull request appears under the Pull Requests tab. Also, observe the state of the issue and see that the issue is now linked to the pull request.

Fix magic8.py error #1

Open sabajamalian opened this issue 20 minutes ago · 0 comments · May be fixed by #2

sabajamalian commented 20 minutes ago

Owner 🗨️ ⋮

The code for magic8.py uses the Python random library without importing it. This causes issues during runtime.

sabajamalian linked a pull request that will close this issue 7 minutes ago

Fix magic8.py bug #2

Open

Assuming that your pull request is good to go, you can merge your pull request using the following GitHub CLI command:

```
gh pr merge
```

Once the pull request is merged, check back the status of the issues and notice

Back Next


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Apps ติดตั้ง JDK (Ja... Backtesting A... MATLAB for P... Tableau Server Coursera-Stan... Guide Ragnar... » Reading list

c_

My Home Course Menu

Get Unstuck Tools 

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Fix magic8.py error #1


Open

sabajamalian opened this issue 20 minutes ago · 0 comments · May be fixed by #2

sabajamalian commented 20 minutes ago

Owner  ...

The code for magic8.py uses the Python random library without importing it. This causes issues during runtime.

sabajamalian linked a pull request that will close this issue 7 minutes ago

Fix magic8.py bug #2

Open

Assuming that your pull request is good to go, you can merge your pull request using the following GitHub CLI command:

```
gh pr merge
```

Once the pull request is merged, check back the status of the issues and notice that the issue is now closed and no longer listed under the open issues:

```
gh issue status
```

Conclusion

Well done! You've now successfully used terminal commands to interact with GitHub APIs. GitHub terminal commands streamline code development as they enable developers to integrate a repository's pull requests and issues into terminal commands and bash scripts. GitHub CLI is a powerful and convenient tool!

Back

Next