



# Take your command line skills to the next level with GitHub **Copilot in the CLI**



Kedasha Kerr | @itsthatladydev  
Developer Advocate | GitHub

# Hey, I'm Kedasha! 🙋‍♀️

- Developer Advocate at GitHub 🌐💡
- Software Dev for ~4 years
- Technical Content Creator
- Find me online @itsthatladydev 🎥



# What we'll cover:

- What is Github Copilot in the CLI? 🤖
- How to install and use it? 🤔
- My Hot Tip 💡 for using Copilot in the CLI
- Lots and lots of live demos 🎭
- Give me a suggestion! 🕶️
- Q&A + Wrapup ?



# What is Copilot in the CLI?

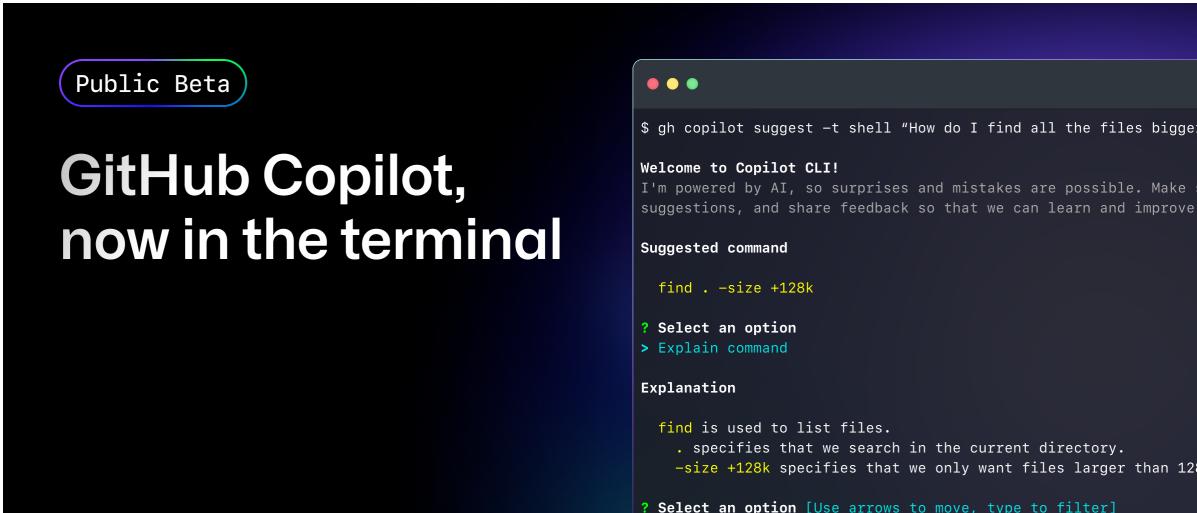
GitHub Copilot in the CLI provides a chat-like interface in the terminal that allows you to ask questions about the command line.



# What does it do?

GitHub Copilot in the CLI is designed to answer questions about:

- general shell commands
- git commands
- *gh* cli commands



# Installation



You must have an active copilot subscription

- ① install GitHub CLI with your package manager
- ② authenticate in OAuth browser window
- ③ install gh-copilot cli extension

```
1 brew install gh
2 gh auth login
3 gh extension install github/gh-copilot
```



# Tip: Create an alias

create your own alias for gh copilot commands

I'm using zsh so I ran:

```
1 alias copilot='gh copilot' ; echo 'alias copilot="gh copilot"' >> ~/.zshrc && source ~/.zshrc
2 alias gcs='gh copilot suggest' ^
3 alias gce='gh copilot explain' ^
```

# How do you use it? 🤔

To begin, run the help command `gh copilot --help`:

```
1  gh copilot
2
3  Your AI command line copilot.
4
5  Usage:
6      copilot [command]
7
8  Available Commands:
9      config      Configure options
10     explain     Explain a command
11     suggest     Suggest a command
12
13 Flags:
14     -h, --help    help for copilot
15     -v, --version version for copilot
16
17 Use "copilot [command] --help" for more information about a command.
```

# Copilot CLI Commands



there are three commands you can use with the *gh copilot cli* extension:

```
1  gh copilot explain
2  gh copilot suggest
3  gh copilot config
```

# Explain Command



this command is used to explain any shell, git or gh cli command:

```
1  gh copilot explain 'your query command in a string'  
2  
3  Example: gh copilot explain 'git lfs migrate import --everything --include="*.gz,*.png,*.jar"'
```

You can also follow the on screen prompts if you run this command:

```
1  gh copilot explain
```

 the command you want to be explained must be in a string

# Suggest Command



this command is used to get suggestions for any shell, git or gh cli inquiry:

```
1  gh copilot suggest 'what you want to do' -t <git|gh|shell>
2
3  Example: gh copilot suggest 'install and configure git lfs' -t shell
```

you can also run:

```
1  gh copilot suggest
```

and follow the on screen prompts

# Config Command



this command gives you the option to opt in or out of usage analytics

```
1 gh copilot config
```

# Why do we need usage stats? 🤔

Copilot in the CLI sends a payload to our analytics system.

You can opt out by using the `gh copilot config` command

```
1  {
2    "platform": "darwin",
3    "architecture": "arm64",
4    "version": "0.3.0-beta",
5    "custom_event": "true",
6    "event_parent_command": "explain",
7    "event_name": "Explain",
8    "sha": "089a53215fc4383179869f7f6132ce9d6e58754a",
9    "thread_id": "e61d0d08-f6ba-465b-81cf-c30fd9127d70"
10 }
```

💡 Read more in our docs: [gh.io/gh-copilot-docs](https://gh.io/gh-copilot-docs)



ok that was a lot of talking...

let's get into some demos 🎵



# Prompting Copilot to get the right output



Goal: create a new react project

Problem: I don't remember how to do this

Solution: Ask Copilot CLI

```
1   gh copilot suggest 'create a new react project named techy-trends'
```

💡 communicating effectively with copilot cli is essential to your success

# Push a local folder to a new GitHub repo



We can create a GitHub repo with the cli

```
1  gh copilot suggest 'push a local folder to a github repo'
```

# Explain a dangerous command

We can ask copilot cli to explain commands that appears simple enough, but are actually dangerous

```
1 gh copilot explain chmod -r 777 /
```

NEVER RUN THIS ONE YOUR MACHINE

# Remove a file from a commit msg and keep the original commit msg 😐

ever commit a file you didn't mean to add?

```
1 gh copilot suggest 'remove mistake.md from last commit keeping original commit message'
```

# Download a Youtube Video 🤔

Did you know that you can download youtube videos with the cli?

```
1  github copilot suggest 'download youtube video'
```



How does Copilot in the  
CLI work? 🤔



# Behind Copilot in the CLI



THREAD: CONVERSATION BETWEEN YOU AND COPILOT

TURN: A SINGLE USER MESSAGE IN A THREAD

- ① User Input Prompt
- ② LLM Analysis
- ③ Response Generation
- ④ Output Formatting

# Top Questions about using the Terminal

...answered by copilot in the CLI

# ? delete a git branch locally and remotely ?

```
1   gh copilot suggest 'delete a git branch locally and remotely'
```

# ? check if a directory exists in shell script ?

```
1 git copilot suggest 'check if dir exist in shell script'
```

# ? rename a local git branch ?

```
1 gh copilot suggest 'rename a local git branch'
```

# ? see hidden files in current directory ?

```
1   gh copilot suggest 'see hidden files in current directory'
```

# ? exit vim ?

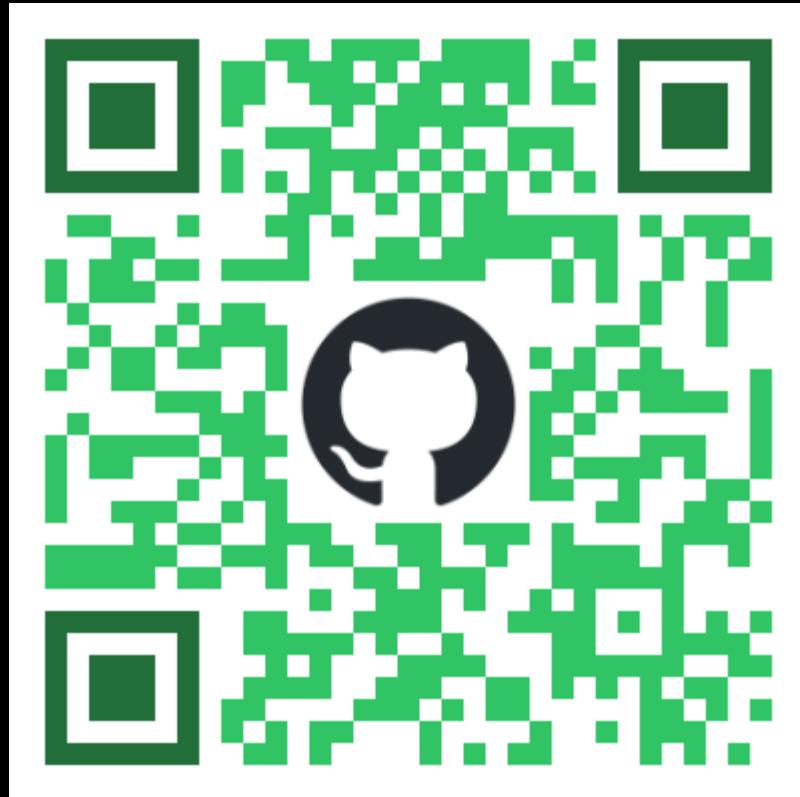
```
1 gh copilot suggest 'how to exit vim'
```

# **? give me a suggestion ?**

What would you like me to ask?

```
1 gh copilot suggest/explain ??
```

✨ Try it for yourself! ✨



Find me online:  
@itsthatladydev