

Class exercise: Using GitHub

Monday 16, September

Requirements: Access to the Internet

In this class exercise, we will create our first repository, create a working branch, commit some changes in it, and merge them back to the master branch.

Git is a version control tool developed by Linus Torvalds, initially released in 2005. With *Git*, you can:

- labeling, recording and reversing any changes in the files
- managing the project in a collaborative working environment

```

† ~/Projects/Encoder  master  git commit -am "Absolutely crucial change to the website"
[master e15895a] Absolutely crucial change to the website
1 file changed, 1 insertion(+), 1 deletion(-)
† ~/Projects/Encoder  master  git push live master
Counting objects: 3, done.
Delta compression using up to 8 threads.
Compressing objects: 100% (3/3), done.
Writing objects: 100% (3/3), 300 bytes | 0 bytes/s, done.
Total 3 (delta 2), reused 0 (delta 0)
remote: Hooray, the new version is published!
To ssh://[redacted]@ma.ttias.be/~/.repo.git
38f33ee..e15895a  master -> master

```

1. git commit
2. git push
Done!

1. Online interactive git platforms and clients

For this class exercise, we will work from GitHub's website. This will make the exposition clearer, and you will not need to install any software on your machines. We will not be using Git directly from the command line either, as this is beyond the scope of this course, and not very useful for social scientists.

When you will be working on actual research projects, you may find it more convenient to use the GitHub desktop app. GitHub Desktop allows you to download a local copy of the repository directly to your machine, work from here, and pull your changes from your computer when you're done. The editing functionalities available in GitHub's website are rather limited and your needs will quickly grow beyond what the website can offer. Moreover, the desktop app offers the same communication and code comparison tools as the website, plus much more. For your future reference, we have added the installation videos below.

Usefulness of version control through the command line [TBC]

In []:

```

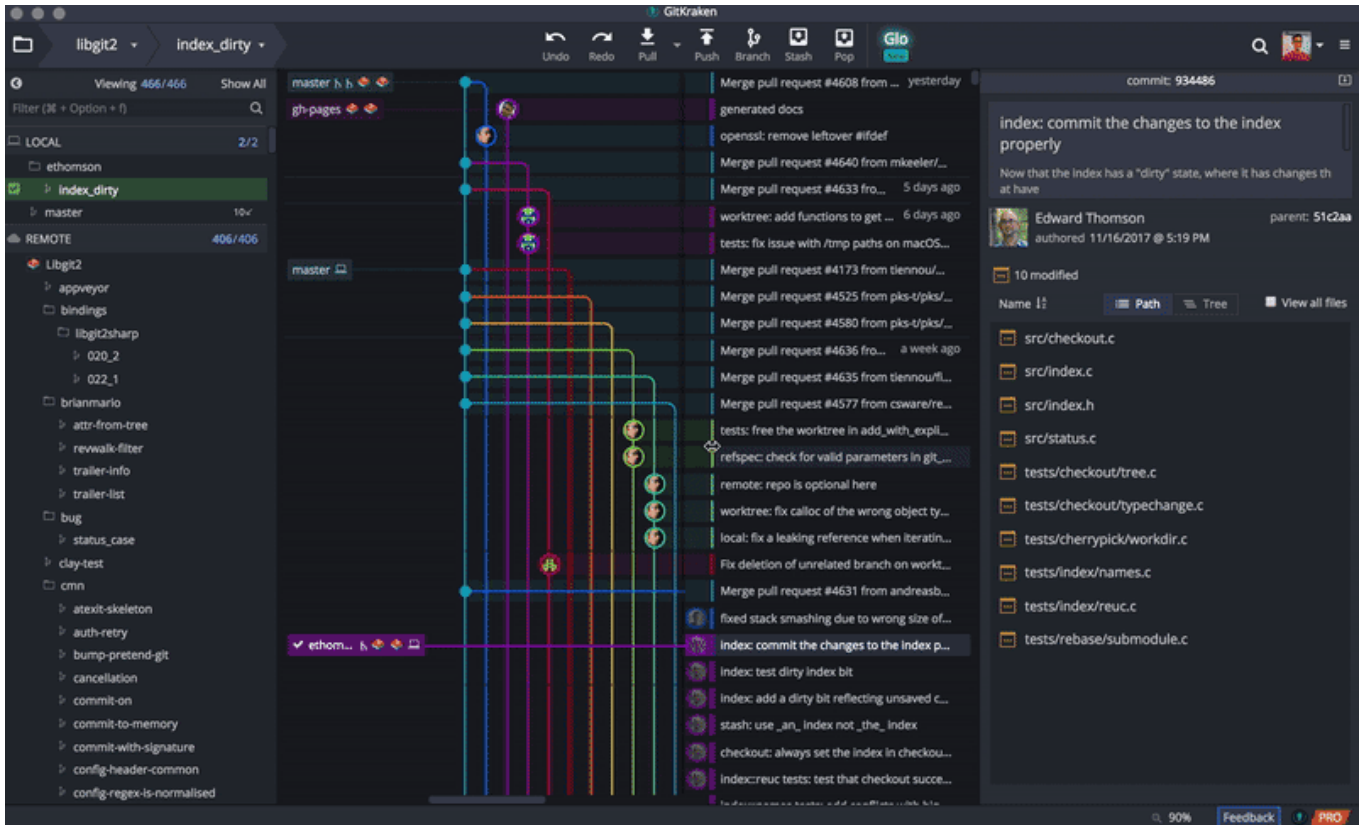
# Windows
from IPython.display import YouTubeVideo
YouTubeVideo('qtxWg3kOnd0')

```

In []:

```
# Mac OS X  
from IPython.display import YouTubeVideo  
YouTubeVideo('ci3W1T88mzw')
```

Unfortunately, Github doesn't provide official client for Linux system, a good substitute will be [Gitkraken](https://www.gitkraken.com/) (<https://www.gitkraken.com/>).



[Gitlab](https://about.gitlab.com/) (<https://about.gitlab.com/>)



[Bitbucket](https://bitbucket.org/product) (<https://bitbucket.org/product>)



1.1. Creating a GitHub student account

GitHub: our choice for this course (<https://github.com/>)



Create a github account

Link it with your university email. By doing so, you get additional benefits like


- unlimited private repos
- access to really cool text editors like Atom
- access to Cloud computing resources such as Amazon's AWS and Microsoft's Azure

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There's no substitute for hands-on experience, but for most students, real world tools can be cost prohibitive. That's why we created the GitHub Student Developer Pack with some of our partners and friends: to give students free access to the best developer tools in one place so they can learn by doing.

[Get your pack](#)

THE TOOLS

 **ATOM**

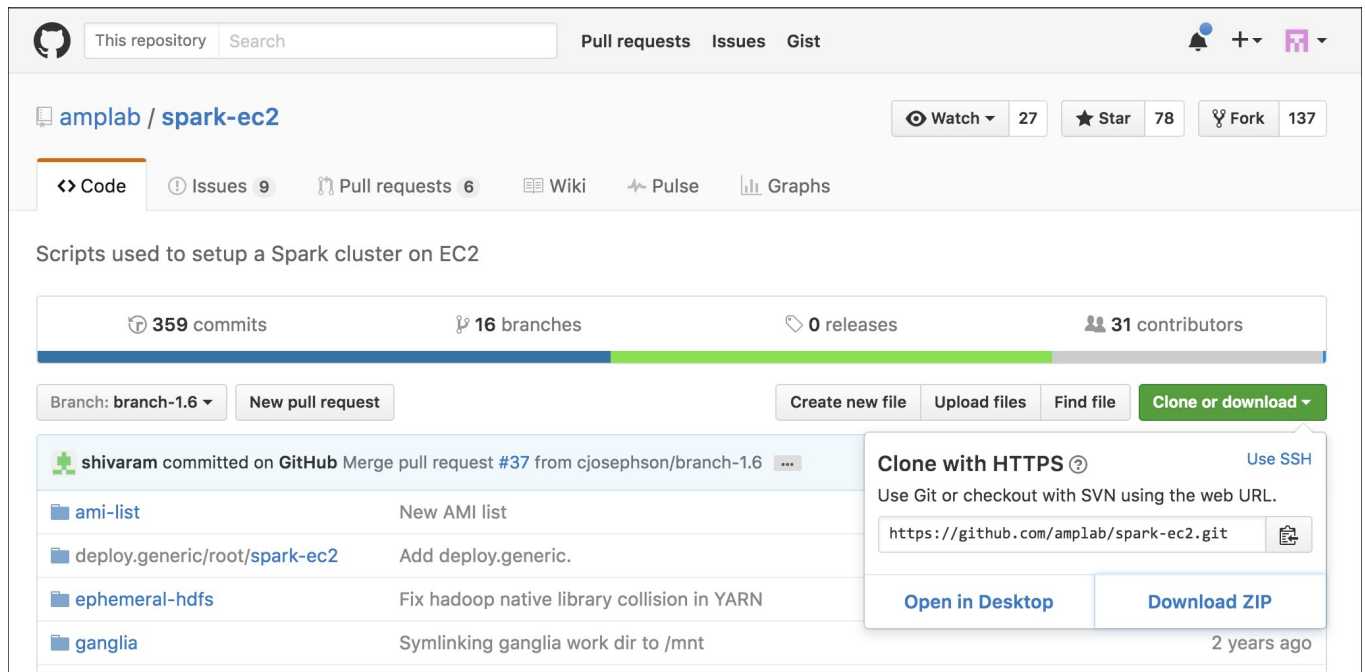
A hackable text editor for the 21st Century
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1.2. Basic concepts (review)

Repository

A repository is like a folder for your project. Your project's repository contains all of your project's files and stores each file's revision history. You can also discuss and manage your project's work within the repository.

A typical repository on the Github looks like: <https://github.com/amplab/spark-ec2>
(<https://github.com/amplab/spark-ec2>)



The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository `amplab / spark-ec2`. At the top, there are tabs for 'Pull requests', 'Issues', and 'Gist'. Below the repository name, there are statistics: 27 Watchers, 78 Stars, and 137 Forks. The 'Code' tab is selected, showing a list of commits. The most recent commit is by `shivaram`, titled 'Merge pull request #37 from cjosephson/branch-1.6'. The commit message is 'New AMI list'. Below the commit list, there are buttons for 'Create new file', 'Upload files', 'Find file', and 'Clone or download'. The 'Clone or download' button has a dropdown menu with options: 'Clone with HTTPS' (selected), 'Use SSH', and 'Download ZIP'. The 'Clone with HTTPS' option shows the URL `https://github.com/amplab/spark-ec2.git`.


Using git to manage a personal project

create a repository

<https://help.github.com/en/articles/create-a-repo> (<https://help.github.com/en/articles/create-a-repo>)

Owner

Repository name



octocat

/

hello-world

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about **potential-eureka**.

Description (optional)

My first repository on GitHub

☒

Public

Anyone can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

☐

Private

You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

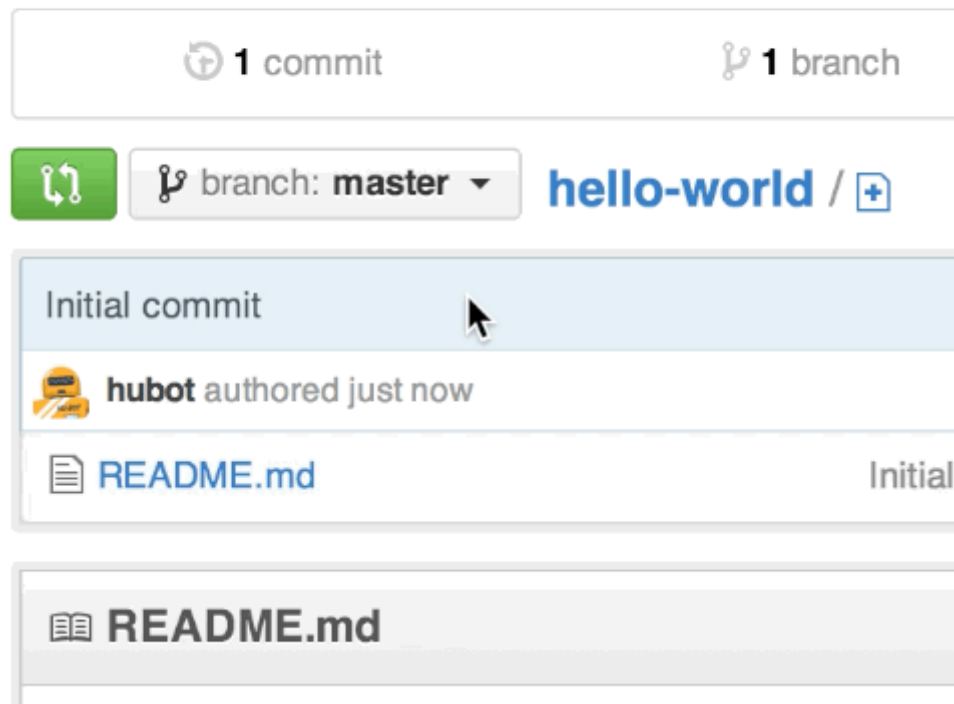
clone a repository

[https://help.github.com/en/articles/cloning-a-repository_\(https://help.github.com/en/articles/cloning-a-repository\)](https://help.github.com/en/articles/cloning-a-repository_(https://help.github.com/en/articles/cloning-a-repository))

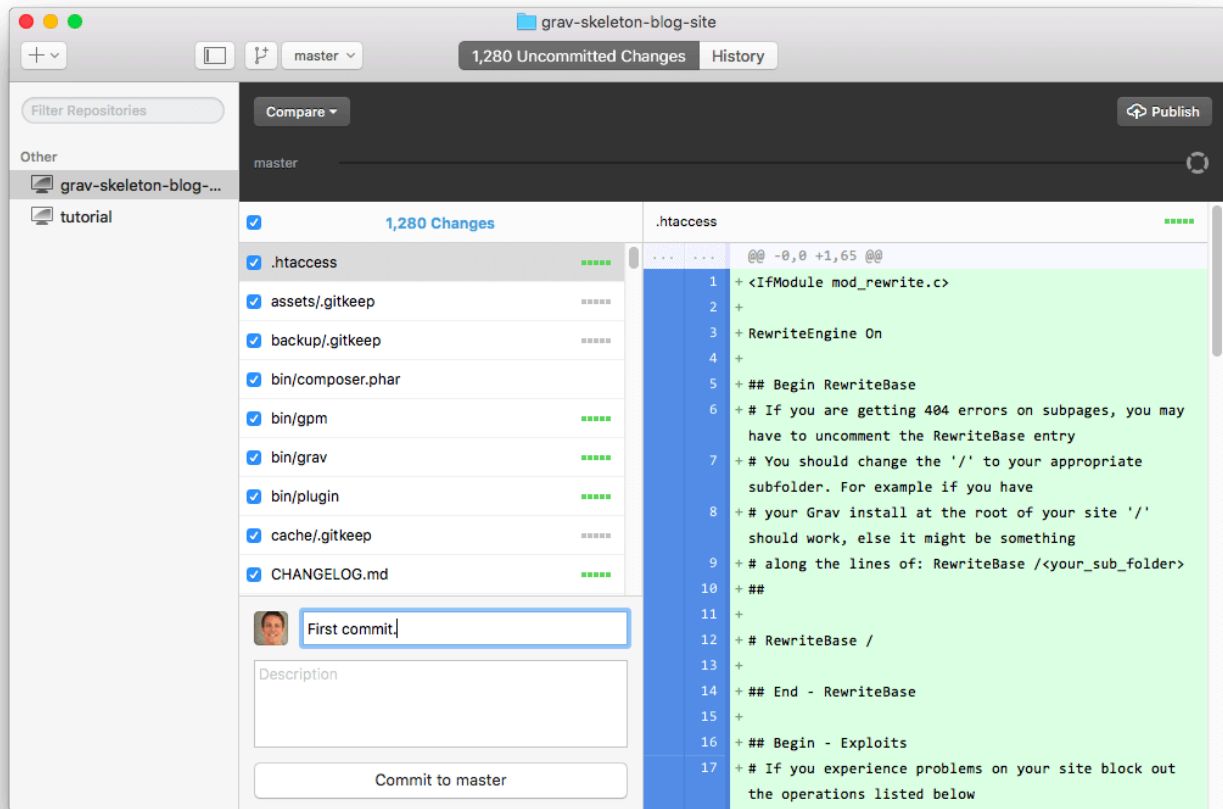


Make a branch

Just another repository — Edit



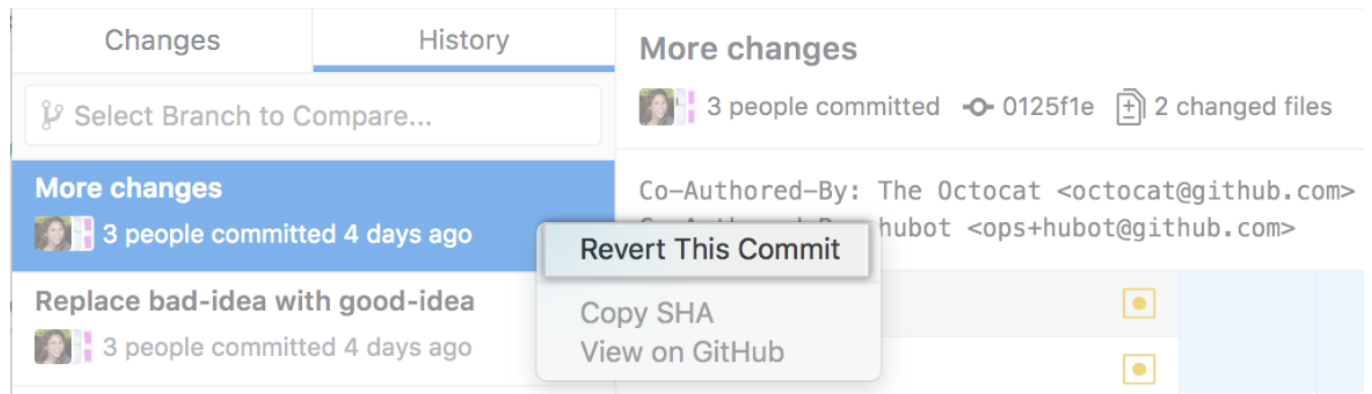
commit a change



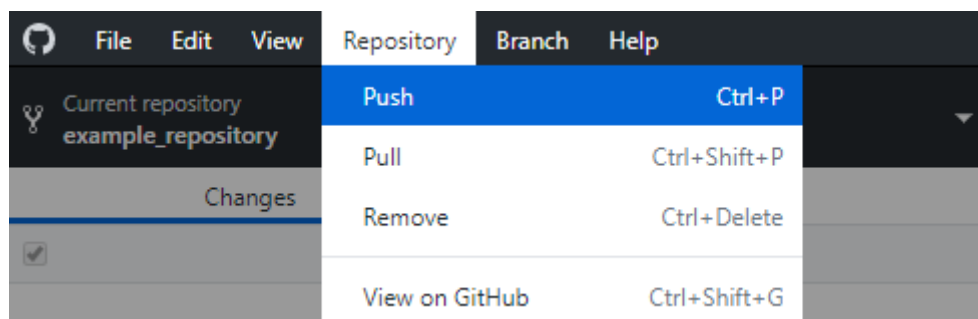
revert a change

<https://help.github.com/en/desktop/contributing-to-projects/reverting-a-commit>

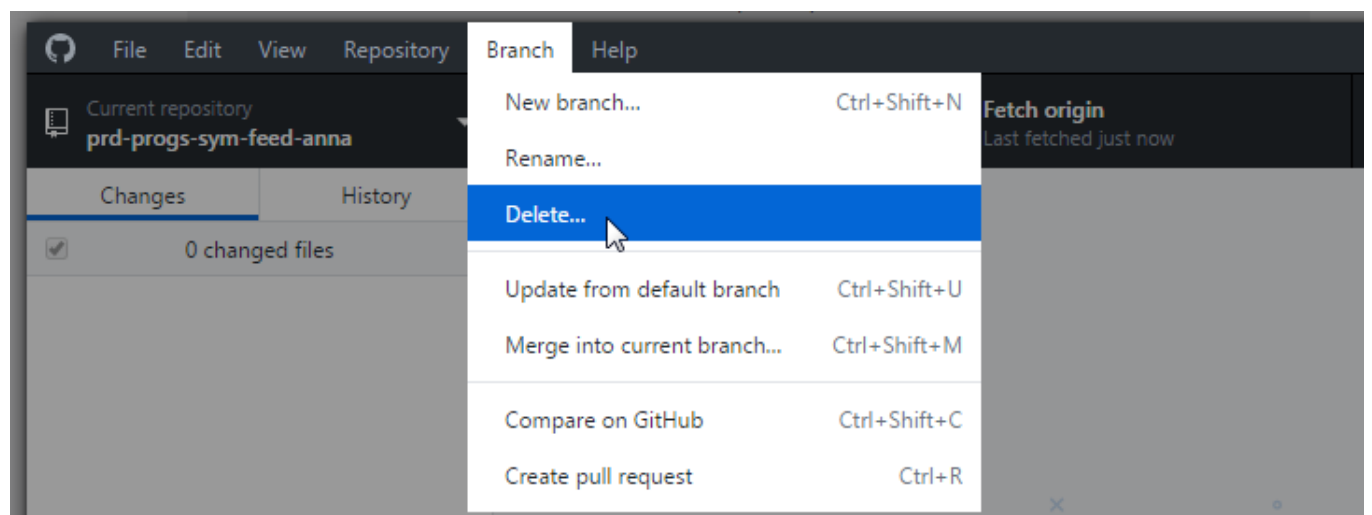
(<https://help.github.com/en/desktop/contributing-to-projects/reverting-a-commit>)



pull a request



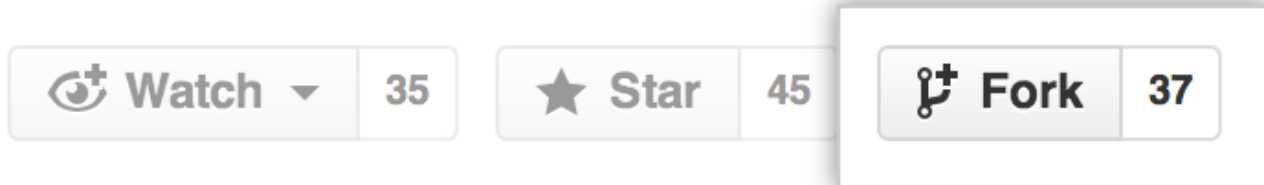
remove a repository



Using git to manage a collaborative project

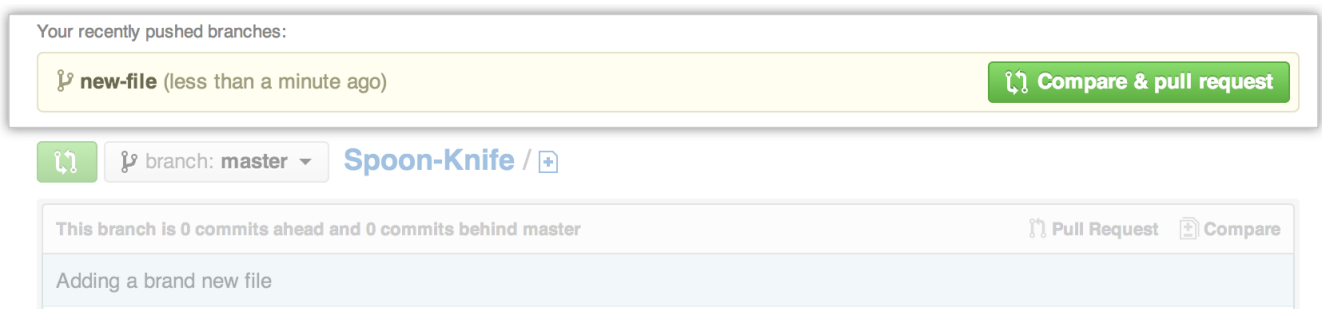
As a project contributor

fork other's repository

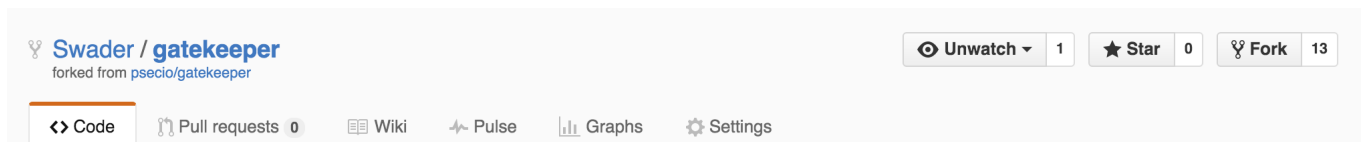


pull a request

at the homepage of the forked page:

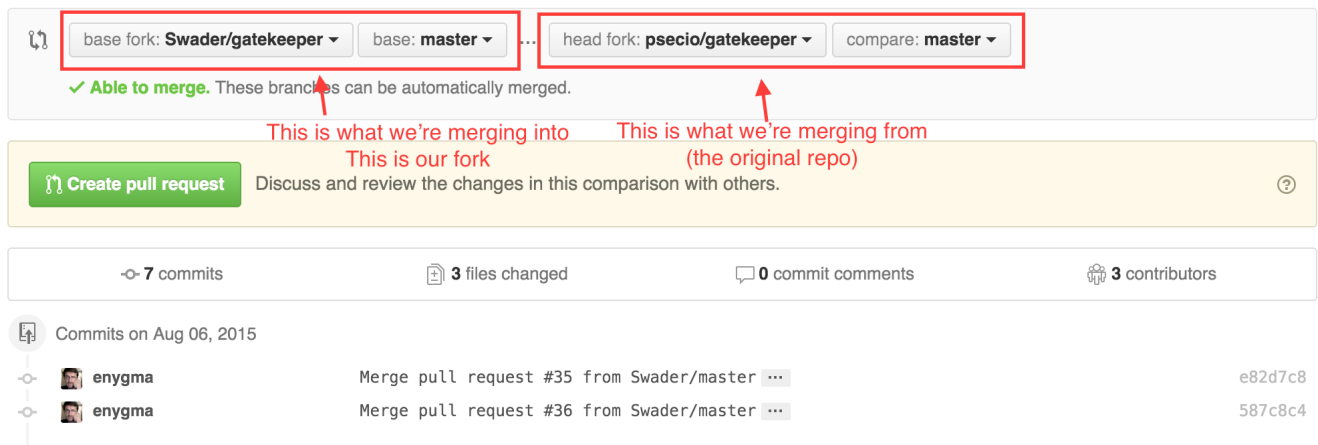


sync the fork



Comparing changes


Choose two branches to see what's changed or to start a new pull request. If you need to, you can also [compare across forks](#).



As a project leader

Invite other people



CollaboratorsPush access to the repository

**The Octocat**
Awaiting octocat's response


Copy invite linkCancel invite

Search by username, full name or email address
You'll only be able to find a GitHub user by their email address if they've chosen to list it publicly. Otherwise, use their username instead.

Add collaborator

codercat
codercat7


merge others' pull requests

**This branch has no conflicts with the base branch**
Merging can be performed automatically.

Squash and merge

You can also [open this in GitHub Desktop](#) or view [command line instructions](#).

Create a merge commit
All commits from this branch will be added to the base branch via a merge commit.

**Squash and merge**
The 4 commits from this branch will be combined into one commit in the base branch.

Rebase and merge
The 4 commits from this branch will be rebased and added to the base branch.

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m, or pasting from the clipboard.