Introduction to Git and GitHub

Managing your code: introducing Git - a friend for life

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Contents

- What is version control?
- What are Git & GitHub?
- Nice features of GitHub
- What you need to know the basic workflow





Foreword

Git is easy to use but will take a bit of practice to get comfortable with. With that in mind:

- You only need to understand the basics
- Use the Cheatsheet: https://education.github.com/git-cheat-sheet-education.pdf
- The exercise following this presentation will get you set up to use Git and GitGub
- (We will encourage you to commit your work at then end of every exercise)
- Give it a try you'll learn by doing





What is a version control system (VCS)?

- Version control software keeps track of your changes
- Allows you to revert back to a previous points in history
- Uses freeze points which won't change
- Can manage contributions from multiple people
- Stores the full history of the things under version control including who did what, when?





Why might you need VCS?

- Scientists are typically required to publish data and code (by their funders/institutions).
- Collaboration between scientists requires data-sharing; this implicitly relies upon code-sharing.
- There are tools that make it easy to record our changes, document our workflow and create "fixed" releases of our code at important steps along the way.
- Reduce errors and admin burden ("latest", "new2"...)
- Allows you test ideas with confidence, you can always go back.





Why use Git and GitHub?

- There are a number of tools and web services that can do some, or all, of the tasks managed by Git/GitHub.
- They are as good, if not better, than alternatives.
- In your daily life as a scientist, we think that you will encounter these two tools most frequently.
- If you learn how to use them, then the principles will be transferrable to other tools (if needed).



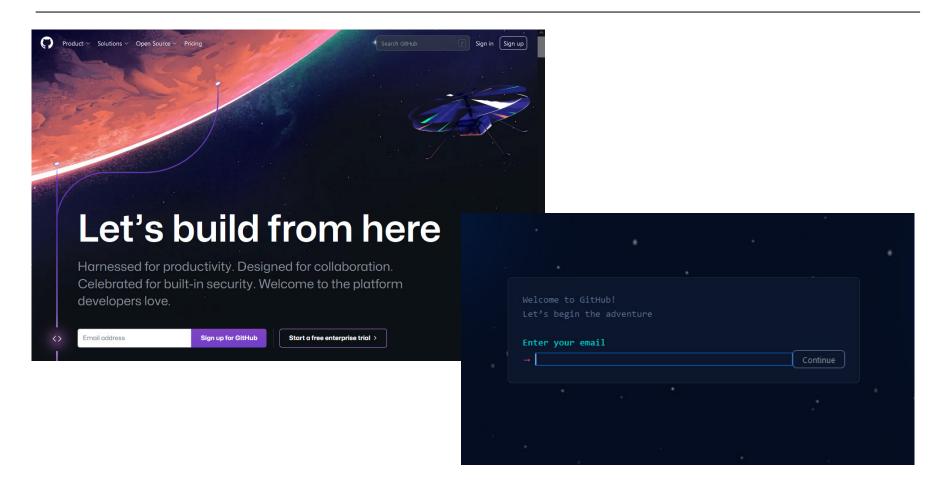


So, working on the premise that we accept that we need to know about, and use, version control...



We will use Git and GitHub

Introducing GitHub



https://github.com/





What is GitHub?

"A web-based Git repository hosting service"

GitHub allows you to:

- Share your repositories with others
- Access other users' repositories
- Store remote copies as a backup of your local repositories
- Add bug tracking, feature requests, wikis, ...

GitHub is free for most use cases





Git vs GitHub

Git is a *revision control system*, a tool to manage your source code history.

GitHub is a hosting service for Git repositories.

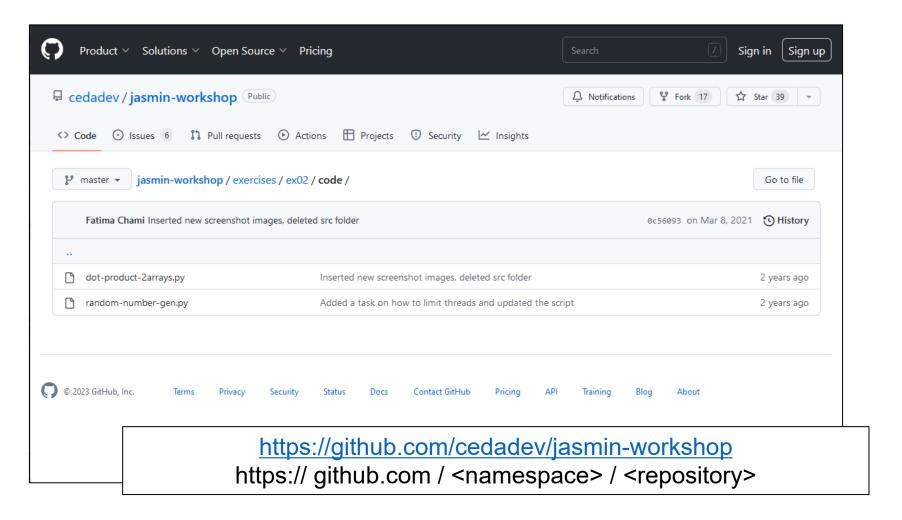
They are not the same thing. Git is the tool, GitHub is a web service.

You do not need GitHub to use Git, but GitHub adds useful functionality.





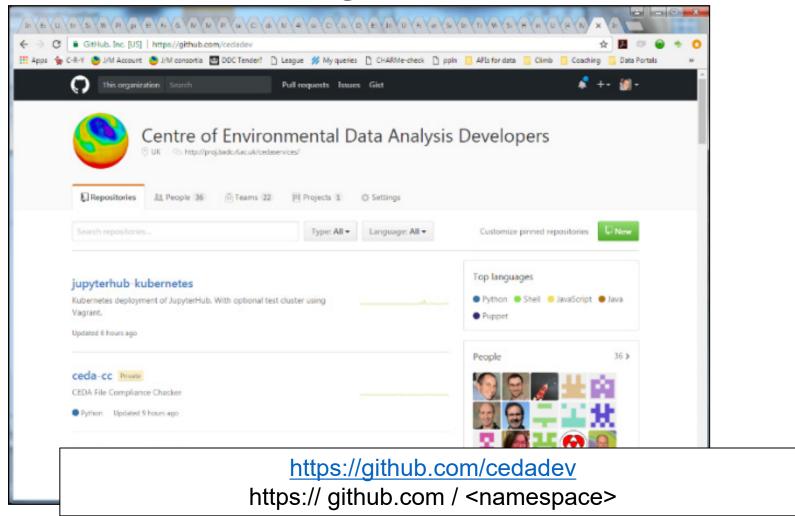
GitHub: repositories (public or private)







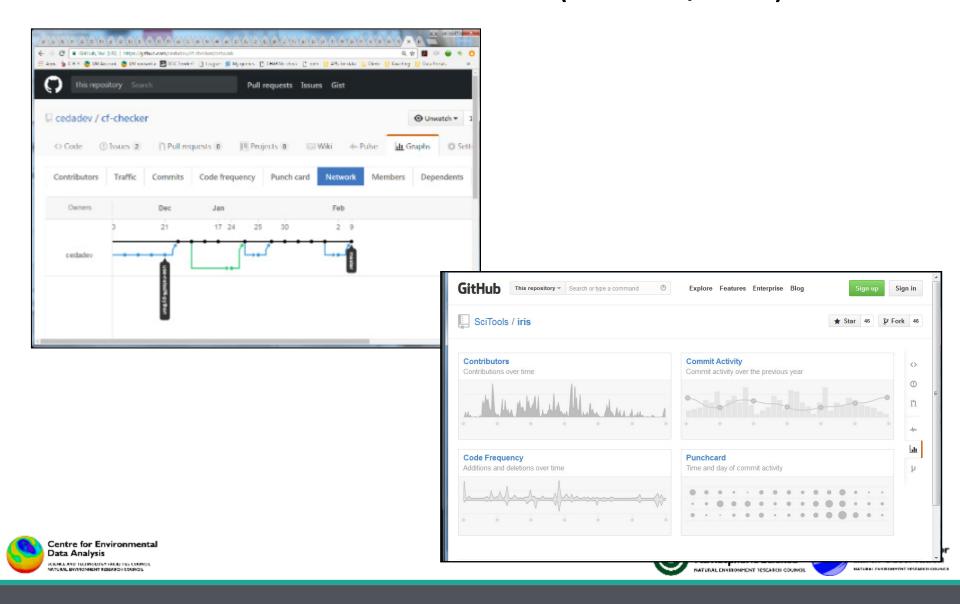
GitHub: organisations



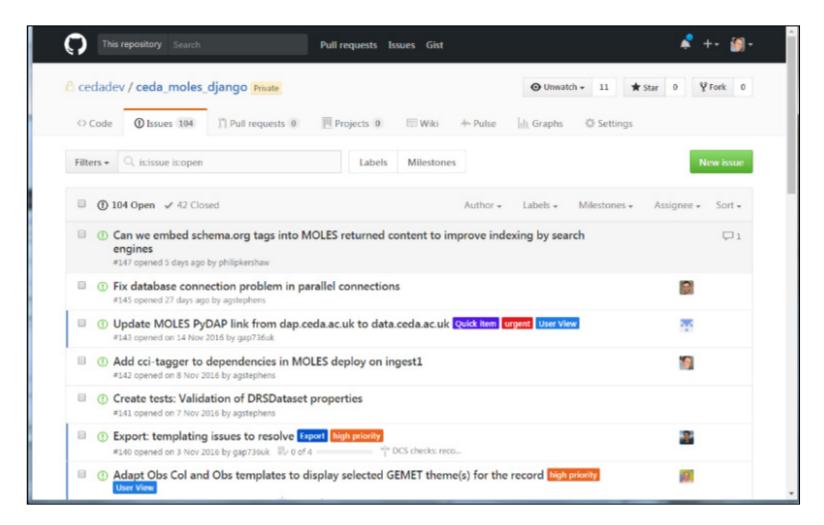




GitHub: collaboration (branch/fork)



GitHub: Issue tracking







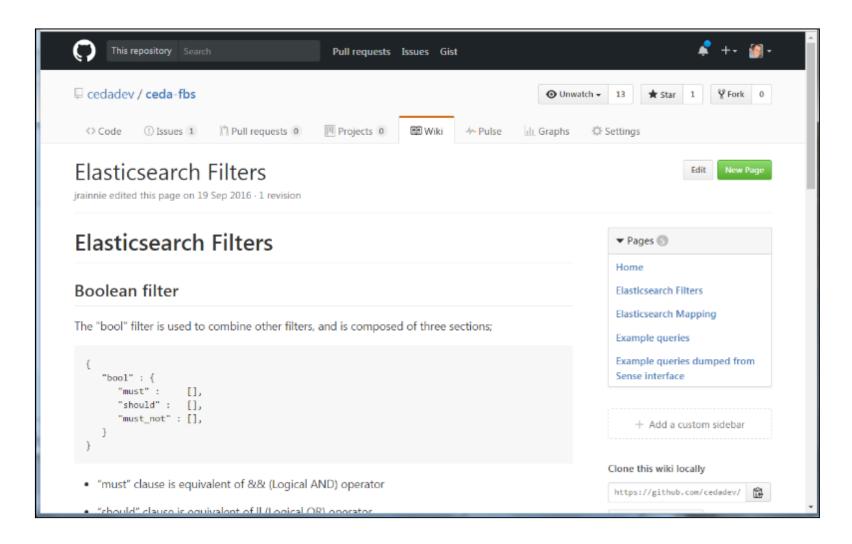
GitHub: history and change

```
6 Cedamoles app/admin tools/integrity/routine checks.py
    串
              @@ -41,10 +41,10 @@ def run checks(self):
  41
          41
          42
               class ResultChecks(ChecksBase):
          43
  43
                   def check internalPath(self):
  44
                   def check dataPath(self):
          45
                       found = Counter()
  46
          46
                       for result in Result.objects.all():
  47
                           path = result.internalPath
          47
                           path = result.dataPath
  48
          48
                           found.update([path])
  49
          49
                       dupes = [(path, count) for (path, count) in found.items() if count > 1]
              @@ -53,7 +53,7 @@ def check_internalPath(self):
          53
                       for path, count in dupes:
  54
          54
                           print path, count
```





GitHub: wikis







GitHub does lots of funky things, but...

- To start with, we want to learn how to use it as a remote repository.
- We are going to concentrate on simply using Git.





Where to start?

There are three different start points when using Git:

- 1. Clone an existing repository from GitHub
- 2. Create a new, empty repo and clone it from GitHub
- 3. Turn an existing **local directory** into a Git repo; it can contain files or be empty

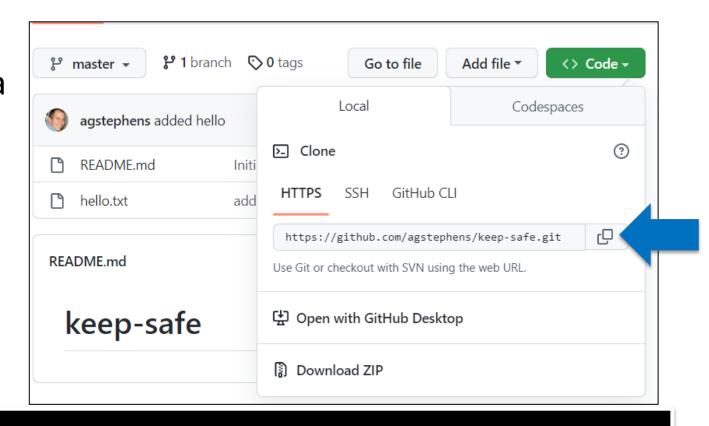






Option 1: Clone Existing Repo

This makes a copy of a repository locally.

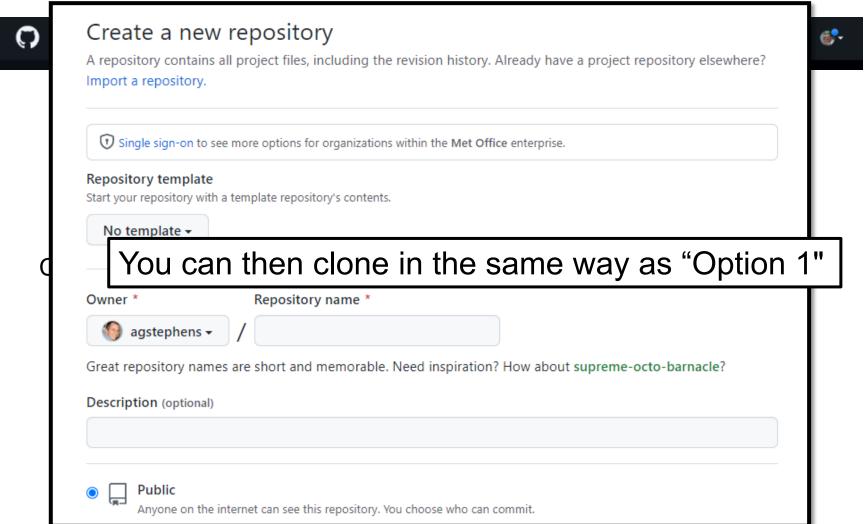


\$ git clone https://github.com/agstephens/keep-safe





Option 2: Create a repository on GitHub







Option 3: repository from an existing local directory

```
$ 1s
$ git init
Initialized empty Git repository in:
 /users/someone/test-package/.git/
$ git add .
$ git commit -m 'Initial commit from existing files'
[master (root-commit) 71ecfcf] Initial commit from existing files
 3 files changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
create mode 100644 x
 create mode 100644 y
 create mode 100644 z
```





The basic workflow: Adding a file

1. Enter the repository directory:

```
$ cd keep-safe/
```

2. Create a new file:

```
$ echo "hello world" > hello.txt
```

3. Tell Git about the file:

```
$ git add hello.txt
```

4. Commit the file to the **local** Git repository:

```
$ git commit -m "added hello"
```

5. Push any updates to the **remote** GitHub repo:

```
$ git push
```

ADD

COMMIT

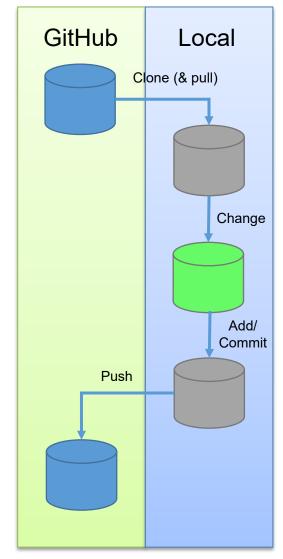
PUSH





So, what just happened?

- We *cloned* the remote repository to our file system (using Option 1).
 - Now there are two identical copies of one repo.
- We created a new text file.
- We *added* and *committed* that new file to the local version of the repo.
- We used push to update the remote repo.

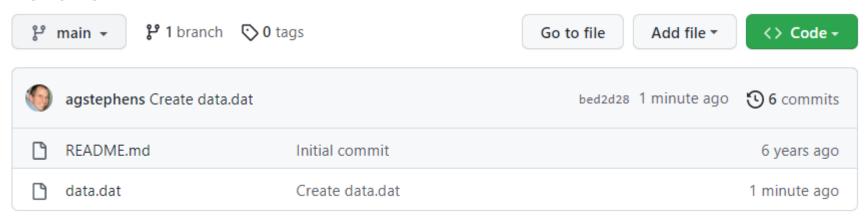




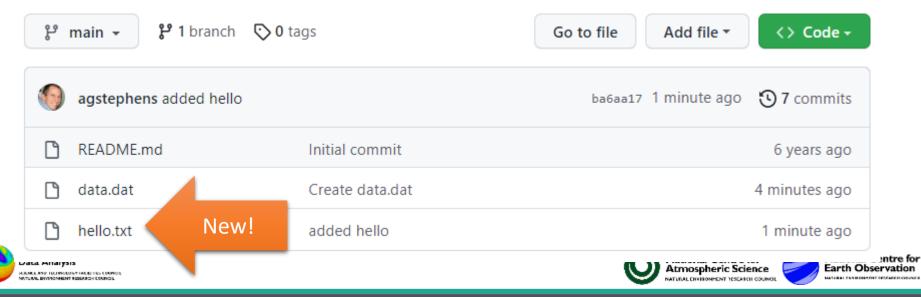


Let's look on GitHub

Before...



After...



Learn by doing

- This stuff is hard to learn we know that from experience.
- A presentation is quickly forgotten.
- So, we propose that you use Git/GitHub every day.
- We encourage you to create and update your own GitHub repository with files from exercises throughout our courses, and in your daily work!



