CLONING THE CEPH SOURCE CODE REPOSITORY

You may clone a Ceph branch of the Ceph source code by going to github Ceph Repository, selecting a branch (master by default), and clicking the **Download ZIP** button.

To clone the entire git repository, install and configure git.

INSTALL GIT

To install git on Debian/Ubuntu, execute:

```
sudo apt-get install git
```

To install git on CentOS/RHEL, execute:

```
sudo yum install git
```

You must also have a github account. If you do not have a github account, go to github.com and register. Follow the directions for setting up git at Set Up Git.

ADD SSH KEYS (OPTIONAL)

If you intend to commit code to Ceph or to clone using SSH (git@github.com:ceph/ceph.git), you must generate SSH keys for github.

> **Tip:** If you only intend to clone the repository, you may use git clone --recursive https://github.com/ceph/ceph.git without generating SSH keys.

To generate SSH keys for github, execute:

```
ssh-keygen
```

Get the key to add to your github account (the following example assumes you used the default file path):

```
cat .ssh/id_rsa.pub
```

Copy the public key.

Go to your github account, click on "Account Settings" (i.e., the 'tools' icon); then, click "SSH Keys" on the left side navbar.

Click "Add SSH key" in the "SSH Keys" list, enter a name for the key, paste the key you generated, and press the "Add key" button.

CLONE THE SOURCE

To clone the Ceph source code repository, execute:

```
git clone --recursive https://github.com/ceph/ceph.git
```

Once git clone executes, you should have a full copy of the Ceph repository.

> **Tip:** Make sure you maintain the latest copies of the submodules included in the repository. Running git status will tell you if the submodules are out of date.

```
cd ceph
git status
```

If your submodules are out of date, run:

```
git submodule update --force --init --recursive
```

CHOOSE A BRANCH

Once you clone the source code and submodules, your Ceph repository will be on the `master` branch by default, which is the unstable development branch. You may choose other branches too.

- `master`: The unstable development branch.
- `stable`: The bugfix branch.
- `next`: The release candidate branch.

```
git checkout master
```