

Repository Setup Guide

GitHub Pages, Community Health, Sponsorship, and Metadata

Version 1.0 | November 2, 2025

Purpose. This document turns your repository setup notes into a ready-to-run, repeatable playbook. It covers GitHub Pages (CNAME and docs//), community health files (CONTRIBUTING.md, CODE_OF_CONDUCT.md, SECURITY.md, SUPPORT.md), sponsorship via .github/FUNDING.yml, licensing, citation metadata (CITATION.cff), and contribution templates (PR and Issues).

Contents

1 Quick Start Checklist	2
2 Repository Layout (Starter Pack)	2
3 GitHub Pages & Custom Domain (CNAME)	3
3.1 Basics	3
3.2 Custom Domain	3
3.3 Minimal docs// Site	3
4 Community Health Files	4
4.1 CONTRIBUTING.md	4
4.2 CODE_OF_CONDUCT.md	4
4.3 .github/SECURITY.md	5
4.4 .github/SUPPORT.md	5
5 Sponsorship: .github/FUNDING.yml	5
6 Citation Metadata: CITATION.cff	5
7 License: LICENSE.md (MIT example)	6
8 Contribution Templates	6
8.1 Pull Request Template: .github/PULL_REQUEST_TEMPLATE.md	6
8.2 Issue Templates: .github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE//	7
9 README Basics	7
10 Org-wide vs Repo-local Files	8
11 Next Steps	8

1 Quick Start Checklist

1. Create community files: `CONTRIBUTING.md`, `CODE_OF_CONDUCT.md`, `.github/SECURITY.md`, `.github/SUPPORT.md`.
2. Enable sponsorship with `.github/FUNDING.yml`.
3. Add `CITATION.cff` for citation metadata.
4. Choose and add a license (MIT shown here) as `LICENSE.md`.
5. For GitHub Pages: add `docs/` and optional root-level `CNAME`, then enable Pages in **Settings** → **Pages**.
6. Add PR template and issue templates in `.github/`.
7. Optional: centralize org-wide versions in a dedicated `.github` repository. Repo-local files override org defaults.

Compile note (LaTeX). This guide uses the `minted` package. Compile with: `latexmk -pdf -shell-escape repository-setup.tex`

2 Repository Layout (Starter Pack)

Recommended minimal structure:

```
.
|-- .github/
|   |-- FUNDING.yml
|   |-- ISSUE_TEMPLATE/
|   |   |-- bug_report.yml
|   |   |-- feature_request.yml
|   |-- PULL_REQUEST_TEMPLATE.md
|   |-- SECURITY.md
|   |-- SUPPORT.md
|-- CITATION.cff
|-- CNAME                      (optional; for custom domain)
|-- CODE_OF_CONDUCT.md
|-- CONTRIBUTING.md
|-- LICENSE.md
|-- README.md
`-- docs/
    |-- index.html
```

3 GitHub Pages & Custom Domain (CNAME)

3.1 Basics

GitHub Pages can serve static sites from the repository. Common setups:

- Serve from `docs//` on your main branch (recommended for app repos).
- Serve from the root if the repository is dedicated to a site.

3.2 Custom Domain

Add a root-level CNAME file containing your custom domain:

```
your.custom.domain
```

Then:

1. In your DNS registrar, create a CNAME record pointing `your.custom.domain` to `<user-or-org>.github.io`.
2. In the repository: **Settings** → **Pages**, choose the branch/folder and set the custom domain.

3.3 Minimal `docs//` Site

```
<!doctype html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,initial-scale=1">
    <title>Your GitHub Pages Site</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>It works!</h1>
    <p>Configure GitHub Pages to serve from <code>/docs</code> on the main branch.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

4 Community Health Files

These files clarify expectations, collaboration norms, and support boundaries.

4.1 CONTRIBUTING.md

`# Contributing`

Thanks for considering a contribution!

1. Propose first: open an Issue describing the change and approach.
2. Fork & branch: use feature branches (feat/xyz, fix/abc).
3. Coding standards: include tests, run linters/formatters, update docs.
4. PR: link the Issue, describe change & risks, add screenshots if UI.
5. Review: respond to feedback; squash on merge if requested.

`## Development setup`

`- Document prereqs and `make test` or `npm test`.`

`## Code of Conduct`

By participating, you agree to the `[Code of Conduct](CODE_OF_CONDUCT.md)`.

4.2 CODE_OF_CONDUCT.md

`# Code of Conduct`

We are committed to a welcoming, harassment-free experience for everyone.

- Be respectful and inclusive.
- No harassment, discrimination, or trolling.
- Follow maintainer guidance during reviews.

For serious concerns, contact `conduct@example.com` (private).

Consider adopting the Contributor Covenant.

4.3 .github/SECURITY.md

Security Policy

We appreciate responsible disclosures.

Reporting

Email `security@example.com` with details. Do not open public issues.

Include:

- Affected versions/commit SHA
- Reproduction steps or PoC (if available)
- Impact assessment

We'll acknowledge within 3 business days.

4.4 .github/SUPPORT.md

Support

- How to ask: open an Issue with a minimal repro (steps, versions, logs).
- Where: repository Issues. Use Discussions for Q&A if enabled.
- Before filing: search existing issues and docs/FAQ.

5 Sponsorship: .github/FUNDING.yml

This file enables the Sponsors button and links funding platforms.

```
# .github/FUNDING.yml
github: ["YOUR_GITHUB_USERNAME_OR_ORG"]
patreon: YOUR_PATREON
ko-fi: YOUR_KOFI
custom: "https://example.com/sponsor"
# tidelift: "npm/your-package-name"
```

6 Citation Metadata: CITATION.cff

GitHub renders this file to provide citation formats (APA, BibTeX, etc.).

```
cff-version: 1.2.0
message: "If you use this software, please cite it as below."
title: "PROJECT_TITLE"
version: "0.1.0"
date-released: "2025-11-02"
authors:
  - family-names: "Suber"
    given-names: "Jordan"
# identifiers:
#   - type: doi
#     value: "10.1234/your-doi"
```

7 License: LICENSE.md (MIT example)

MIT License

Copyright (c) 2025 YOUR NAME

Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy of this software and associated documentation files (the "Software"), to deal in the Software without restriction...

THE SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND...

Choose a license suitable for your project or organization as needed.

8 Contribution Templates

8.1 Pull Request Template: .github/PULL_REQUEST_TEMPLATE.md

Summary

Explain the motivation and context.

Changes

- [] Item 1
- [] Item 2

Testing

- [] Unit tests
- [] Manual QA notes

Screenshots

(if UI)

Checklist

- [] Linked to issue
- [] Added/updated tests
- [] Updated docs

8.2 Issue Templates: .github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE//

Bug report (bug_report.yml)

```
name: Bug report
description: File a bug report
title: "[Bug]: "
labels: [bug]
body:
  - type: textarea
    attributes:
      label: Description
      description: What happened? What did you expect?
  - type: textarea
    attributes:
      label: Steps to Reproduce
  - type: input
    attributes:
      label: Version/Commit
  - type: textarea
    attributes:
      label: Logs
```

Feature request (feature_request.yml)

```
name: Feature request
description: Suggest an idea
title: "[Feature]: "
labels: [enhancement]
body:
  - type: textarea
    attributes:
      label: Problem
  - type: textarea
    attributes:
      label: Proposed solution
  - type: textarea
    attributes:
      label: Alternatives
```

9 README Basics

Keep the root `README.md` crisp and actionable:

- What the project does and who it is for.
- Quickstart commands and prerequisites.
- How to contribute and where to get help.
- License and citation pointers.

```
# Project Name
```

Short description of purpose and scope.

```
## Quickstart
```

```
- Prereqs...
- Install...
- Run...
```

```
## Contributing
```

See `CONTRIBUTING.md` and `CODE_OF_CONDUCT.md`.

```
## Security
```

See `.github/SECURITY.md`.

```
## License
```

MIT (see `LICENSE.md`).

```
## Citation
```

See `CITATION.cff`.

10 Org-wide vs Repo-local Files

You can host org-wide defaults in a special `.github` repository:

- Org defaults apply to repositories across the org.
- Any repo-local file overrides the org-wide default.

11 Next Steps

- Add a minimal CI workflow (e.g., lint, test) in `.github/workflows//`.
- Gate PRs with required checks and branch protection rules.
- Document release process in `CONTRIBUTING.md`.
- If using GitHub Pages: add more content to `docs//` and configure a theme.

Appendix: Copy-and-Paste Snippets

All in one place

For convenience, here are the main snippets again:

CNAME

```
your.custom.domain
```

```
docs/index.html
```

```
<!doctype html>
<html>
  <head><meta charset="utf-8"><meta name="viewport"
    ↪ content="width=device-width,initial-scale=1">
    <title>Your GitHub Pages Site</title></head>
  <body>
    <h1>It works!</h1>
    <p>Serve from /docs on the main branch.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
.github/FUNDING.yml
```

```
github: ["YOUR_GITHUB_USERNAME_OR_ORG"]
patreon: YOUR_PATREON
ko-fi: YOUR_KOFI
custom: "https://example.com/sponsor"
```

CITATION.cff

```
cff-version: 1.2.0
message: "If you use this software, please cite it as below."
title: "PROJECT_TITLE"
version: "0.1.0"
date-released: "2025-11-02"
authors:
  - family-names: "Suber"
    given-names: "Jordan"
```

LICENSE.md (MIT excerpt)

MIT License

Copyright (c) 2025 YOUR NAME

Permission is hereby granted, free of charge...

```
.github/PULL_REQUEST_TEMPLATE.md
```

```
## Summary
```

```
...
```

Issue templates

```
# bug_report.yml and feature_request.yml (see sections above)
```