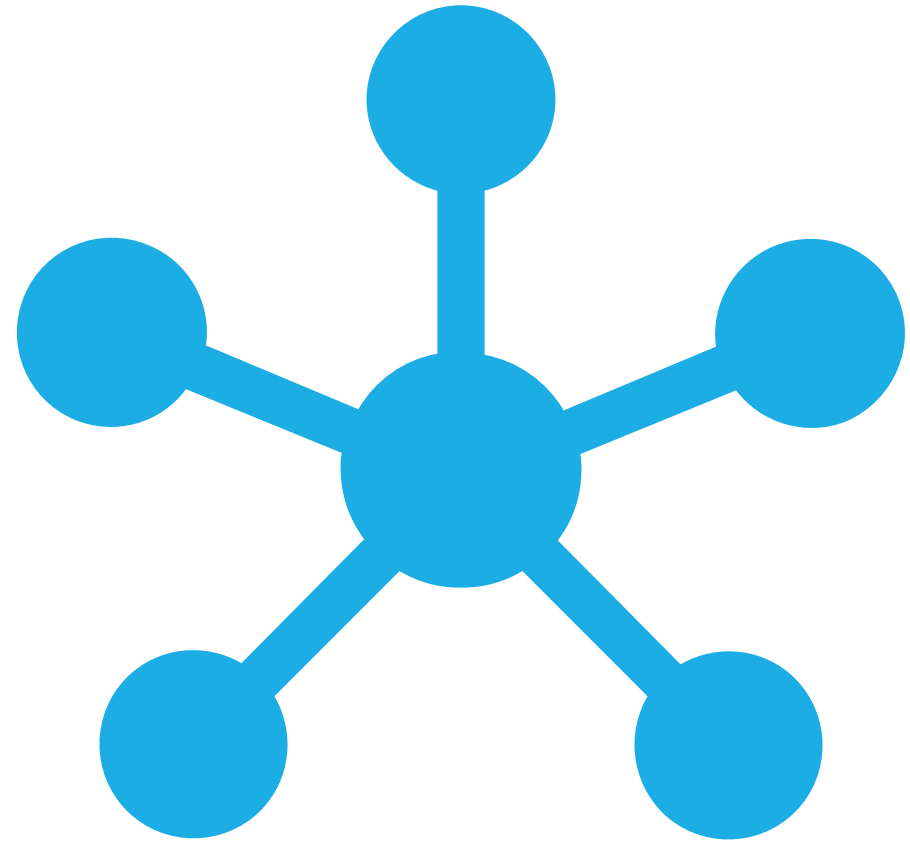


CLONING REPOSITORIES



INTRODUCTION

One of the main points of using GitHub is sharing your code! If you write something awesome and think other developers might want to use it, it would be nice if git came with a very simple tool to “download” other people’s code.

Luckily, there is. It is called **cloning**. Cloning is the process of grabbing a remote repository and bringing down to your computer to be a local repository.

This has some interesting effects. The first being that a repository that is cloned is automatically linked to the remote that it was cloned from. Meaning that we don’t need to run any of the initialization steps when working with a cloned repository.

CLONING

If there is a project on GitHub you want to clone (let's say for an assignment) the process is very simple. Cloning will get an exact copy of the repository onto your local machine for you to branch and make changes to.

To clone, run the following:

```
git clone <github_url>
```

Example: **git clone** <https://github.com/nodejs/node.git>

(don't actually run this specific one, node is a very large project)

Make sure you run this from the directory you wanted the project to be clone to. This command will create a **new directory** that matches the name of the GitHub project.

If you want to clone the repository to a specifically named folder, you can specify it as a second argument.

I.e. **git clone** <https://github.com/nodejs/node.git> myDir

CLONING VS DISTRIBUTING

Many times when people build something awesome it isn't the pure source code they want to share. Maybe they built an awesome command line utility that they think everyone should have, but they don't want everyone to clone the source code and compile it themselves.

This is where the distinction between cloning and distributing comes in. Cloning is how we can get source code, distributing is how we can grab actual executables.

GitHub can also be used to host your executables! In fact, many repositories will give instructions that say "If you want the source code clone the repository, if you want the executable download this link"

Cloning is a very simple process that allows you take advantage of work other people have made free!