A Programmer's Kick-Starter Guide

Introduction

Before you begin doing any programming, there are some things you can do to set up your environment to make your programming easier in the long run. Some of the items on this list can be omitted, if you already have an alternative to use. As an example, having a Google account is good for routing emails from the various services and as a file cloud space for storage. But, you may already have a Dropbox or iCloud account. Microsoft's OneDrive is another good cloud storage option. The point is you should have access to cloud storage but what service you pick is really up to your needs and preferences.

Services to Use

Google Account Setup - to be used for routing emails, cloud storage google.com
Gravatar - universal avatar gravatar.com
GitHub - cloud based source control github.com [1]

Purpose

By having a Gravatar your persona follows you from site to site. It allows you to be visually identified on various social networks. If you ever update your avatar, you only have to update it once and it will show up in Google, GitHub, Disqus, Twitter etc.

Most of your work will be done within GitHub. GitHub is a social network for software development that is built around the command line source control framework called "git"[2]. As a programmer, you need somewhere you can store versions of your code so it can be jointly worked on, shared or to just showcase your experience to a potential job interviewer. By using GitHub you will learn best practice skills for software development. What is a release? version? pull request? These will be answered as you work with Git and GitHub.

Cloud storage such as having a Google account allows you to store documents and to have them accessible from anywhere. You will also need an email account to registered for the other services such as GitHub and Gravatar.

Steps to Take

Optional Step - Setup your Google account (skip if using an existing account such as SFC)
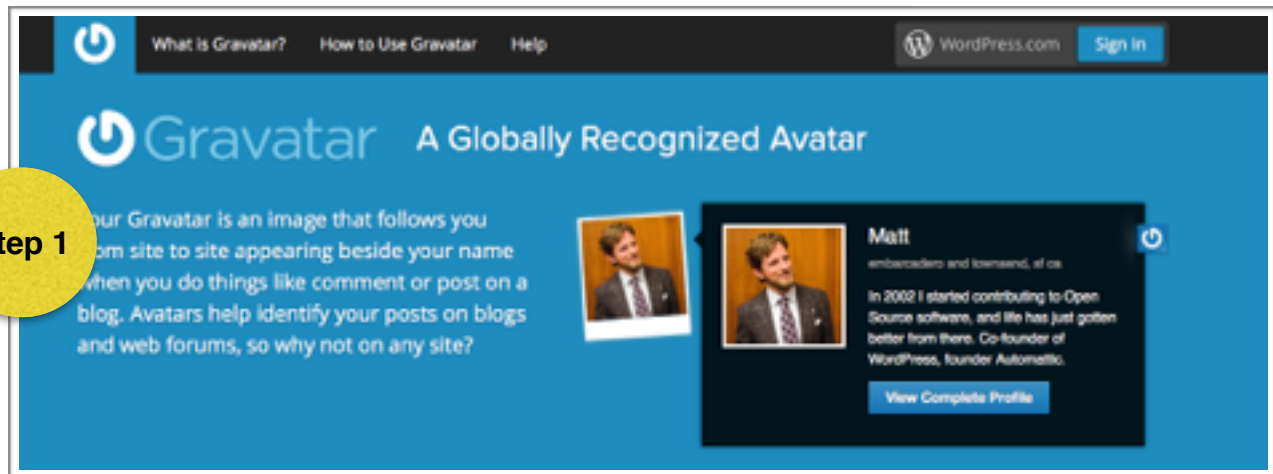**Step 1 -** Setup your Gravatar account
Step 2 - Setup your GitHub account
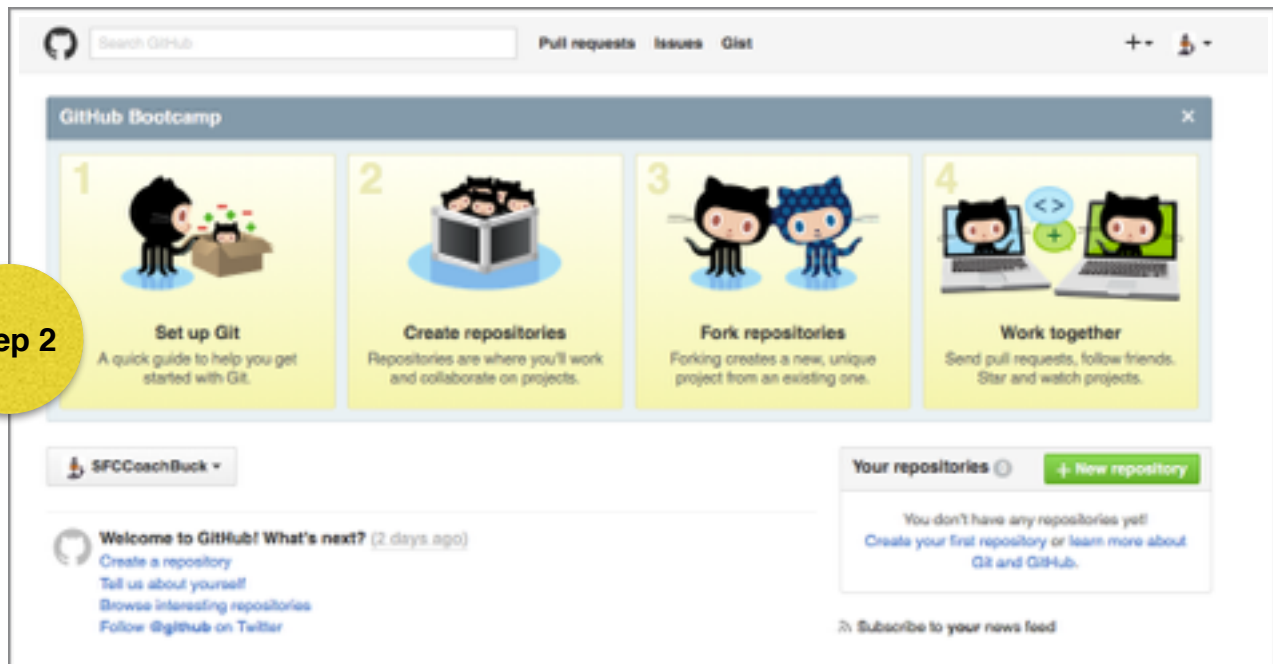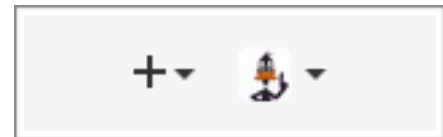**Step 3 -** Download GitHub desktop client software[3]

---

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GitHub

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Git_(software)

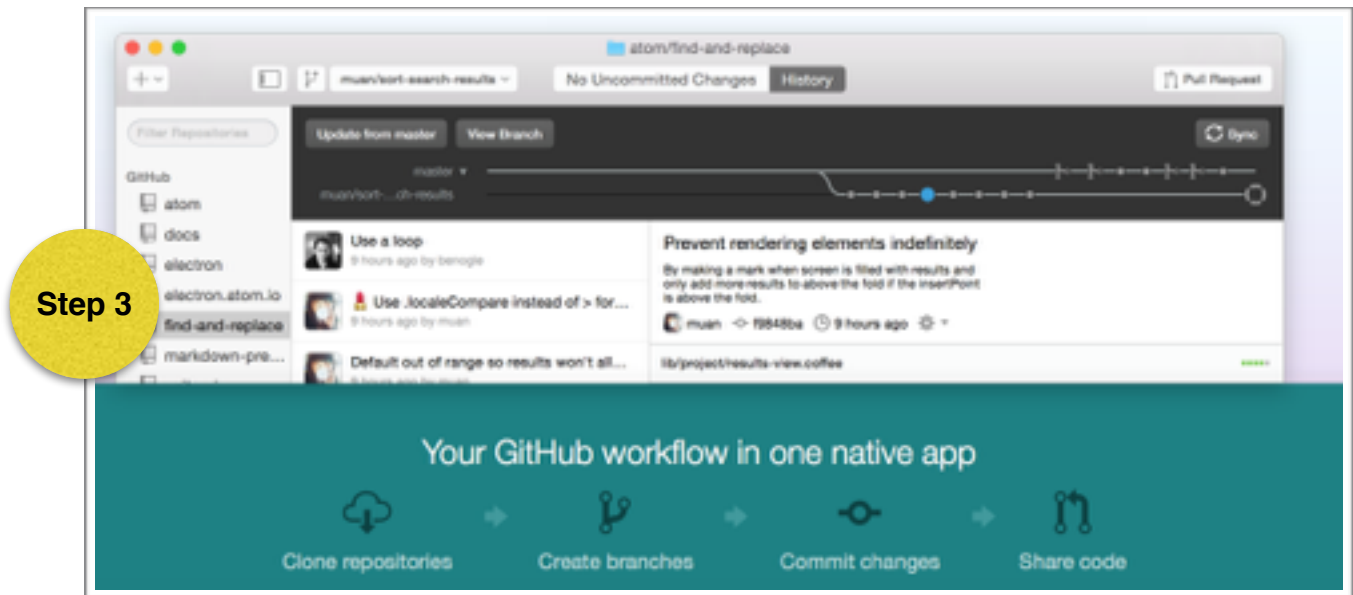[3] https://desktop.github.com
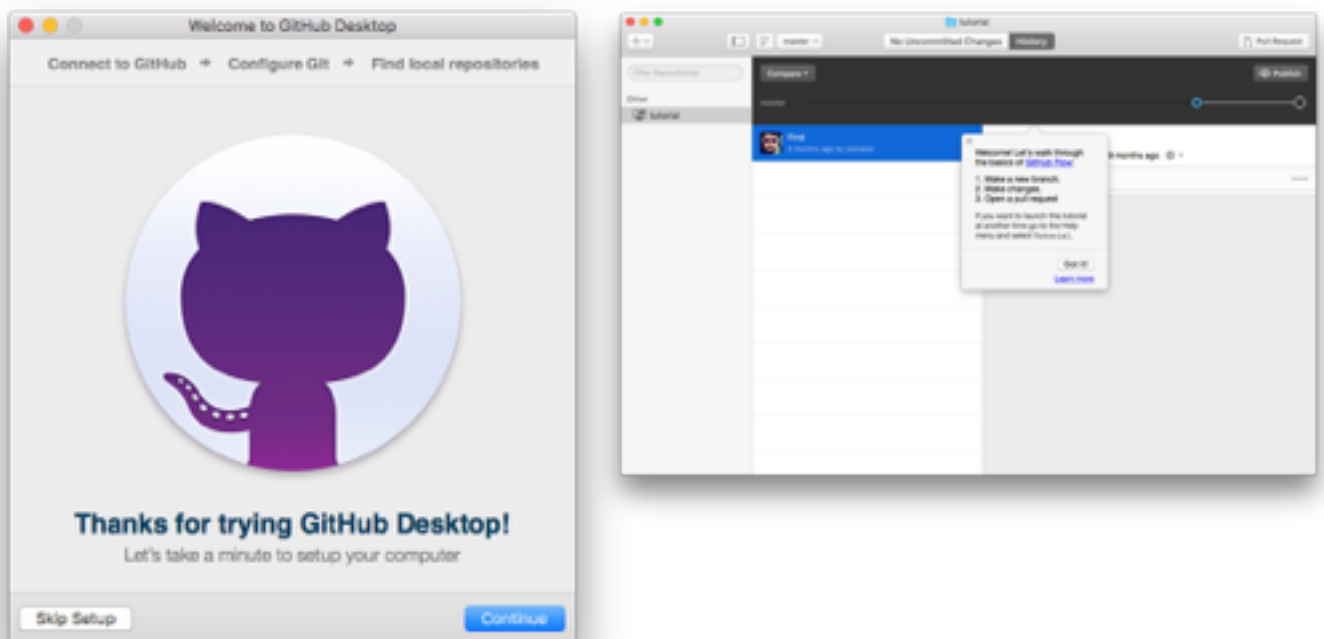
Visual Work Flow

Step 1

Once you log in, your avatar should show up.

Step 2

Once you download the client app and install it, you will need to configure it to use your GitHub account. Once you do that you should also notice your Gravatar has followed you to GitHub and the desktop app.

When you first open GitHub you should make yourself familiar by completing the included tutorial.

Getting Comfortable with GitHub for the First Time

Open GitHub. Let's do a brief review of what GitFlow is and how it is used. https://guides.github.com/introduction/flow/

When it is time to create your README and AUTHORS[4] files you will want to use MARKDOWN[5]. This will allow for easy porting of your files between systems such as GitHub. You can also convert your files to HTML if need be.

Example "Hello World" Tutorial

https://guides.github.com/activities/hello-world/

---

[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/README

[5] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markdown