Build Your GitHub Landing Page

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Your GitHub profile can show a custom **landing page**—a `README.md` that lives in a special repository named **exactly** like your username. No code needed; it's all point-and-click in the browser.

Chapter 1

What You'll Make

- A **public repo** named your GitHub username
- A `README.md` inside it
- A profile page that displays that README to visitors

Chapter 2

Step 1 — Confirm Your Username

1. Sign in at GitHub.com.
2. Click your avatar (top-right) → **Your profile**.
3. Note your **username** (the text after `github.com/` in the URL).

Example: `github.com/alexleith` → username is `alexleith`.

Use the username exactly as shown. Repo names are case-insensitive, but matching avoids confusion.

Chapter 3

Step 2 — Create the Special Repository

1. Click the + (top-right) → **New repository**.
2. **Repository name:** type your exact username (e.g., `alexleith`).
3. Set visibility to **Public** (required).
4. Check **Initialize this repository with a README**.
5. Click **Create repository**.

You now have a repo at:

`github.com/<username>/<username>`

This is your profile repo.

Chapter 4

Step 3 — Edit Your README

1. In the new repo, click **README.md**.
2. Click the **pencil** icon (Edit).
3. Replace the placeholder text with something short and welcoming (see template below).
4. Scroll down, add a brief commit message (e.g., "Create profile README"), and click **Commit changes**.

Visit your profile: click your avatar → **Your profile**. You should see your README content at the top.

Chapter 5

A Copy-Paste Template (Customize Freely)

```
# Hi, I'm YOUR NAME

Welcome to my GitHub profile! I'm a [your major/role] at [your university/organization].

This semester I'm working on projects in R/RStudio and documenting progress in my weekly journal.

## What I'm learning this term
- R, RStudio, and Quarto for data analysis & reporting
- Git + GitHub for version control and collaboration
- Research methods and reproducible workflows

## Find me
- Email: [your email or university email, optional]
- Website/Portfolio: [link, optional]
- LinkedIn: [link, optional]

## Current tools
- **Languages:** R, Markdown
- **Tools:** RStudio, Quarto, GitHub

>  Privacy note: keep personal info minimal; use links you're comfortable sharing publicly.
```

Tips:

- Keep it **short** and **professional**.
- Use headings (`#`, `##`) to organize.
- Add **alt text** to any images, e.g., `![Alt text](path/to/image.png)`.

Chapter 6

Optional Polish (Fast Wins)

- **Profile bio & links:** Avatar → **Settings** → **Public profile**. Add a display name, bio, location, pronouns, website, and choose a **Public email** (or keep hidden).
- **Pinned repositories:** On your profile, click **Customize your pins** to feature key projects (e.g., your journal repo).
- **Appearance:** Avatar → **Settings** → **Appearance** to pick a theme.

Chapter 7

Troubleshooting

- **README not showing?**
  - Repo **must** be named exactly your username.
  - Repo must be **Public**.
  - File name must be `README.md` at the **root** of the repo (not in a folder).
  - Refresh your profile page.
- **Can't find "New repository"?** Click the + in the top-right → **New repository**.
- **Changes not showing?** Make sure you clicked **Commit changes**, then refresh.

Chapter 8

Updating Later

You can edit `README.md` anytime:

- **In the browser:** open the file → pencil → edit → **Commit changes**.
- **From RStudio or Git:** `pull → edit → commit → push` (handy once you're using Git locally).