GitHub Setup Instructions

Overview

This guide helps you set up GitHub for hosting your content adaptation project website. GitHub Pages provides free web hosting, making it perfect for sharing your work with broader audiences.

Required Video Tutorial

Before following this guide, watch: "Git and GitHub for Beginners - Crash Course" by freeCodeCamp - **Link:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGOj5yH7evk - **Watch Time:** First 40 minutes (covers account setup and basic concepts) - **Focus on:** Account creation, repositories, basic workflow, GitHub Pages

This professional tutorial covers the fundamentals. The guide below provides course-specific instructions and context.

Step 1: Create Your GitHub Account

1. Go to github.com
2. Click **"Sign up"** and create your account
3. **Choose a professional username** you'd be comfortable using professionally
   - Good examples: `john-smith`, `jsmith-web`, `johnsmith2025`
   - Avoid unprofessional usernames
4. Use your school email address
5. Verify your email (check inbox for verification link)

Step 2: Set Up Your Profile

1. Add a professional profile picture
2. Add your real name
3. Consider adding a brief bio about your interests or work

Step 3: Create Your First Repository

1. Click the **"+"** in the top right corner
2. Select **"New repository"**
3. Name it something like `username.github.io` (replace with your actual username)
4. Make it **Public** (required for free GitHub Pages)
5. Check **"Add a README file"**
6. Click **"Create repository"**

Step 4: Enable GitHub Pages

1. In your repository, go to **Settings**
2. Scroll to **"Pages"** in the left sidebar
3. Under **"Source"**, select **"Deploy from a branch"**
4. Choose **"main"** branch and **"/ (root)"**
5. Click **"Save"**
6. Your website will be available at: `https://yourusername.github.io/`

Step 5: Test Your Setup

1. In your repository, create a new file called `index.html`
2. Add basic HTML content:

```html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <title>My Website</title>
</head>
<body>
    <h1>Hello, World!</h1>
    <p>This is my first GitHub Pages website!</p>
</body>
</html>
```

3. Commit the file with a message like "Add index.html"
4. Wait 5-10 minutes, then visit your GitHub Pages URL to see your site

Basic Workflow for This Course

Recommended Development Workflow

1. **Create and edit files in VS Code** (your primary development environment)
2. **Upload files to GitHub** using the web interface (drag and drop)
3. **Add a commit message** describing your changes
4. **Click "Commit changes"**
5. **Changes appear on your live site** within 5-10 minutes

Why this hybrid approach works best: - **VS Code for development** - professional tools, extensions, Live Server preview - **GitHub web interface for publishing** - no command line needed, works on Mac and PC - **Simple and reliable** - visual interface with clear feedback - **Professional workflow** - mirrors how many teams work

Alternative: Direct Web Editing (Quick Changes Only)

For small text edits, you can edit files directly in GitHub's web interface: 1. Click the file name, then the pencil icon 2. Make your changes 3. Add commit message and commit changes

Best for: Fixing typos, updating text content **Not ideal for:** Creating new files, major development work

Organizing Your Project

- Create project folders on your computer for VS Code development
- Keep file names lowercase with hyphens: `my-project.html`
- Always include an `index.html` file in each folder
- Upload organized folder structures to GitHub

VS Code to GitHub Workflow

1. **Develop locally in VS Code** - use Live Server to preview your work
2. **When ready to publish** - download your repository as ZIP (if needed)
3. **Upload your files** - drag and drop into GitHub web interface
4. **Commit changes** - add descriptive messages about what you updated
5. **View your live site** - check your GitHub Pages URL

This workflow gives you professional development tools while keeping publishing simple and beginner-friendly.

Troubleshooting

Site not loading? - Ensure repository is public - Check that main file is named `index.html` - Wait 10-15 minutes for changes to appear

Can't find the "Settings" tab? - Make sure you're in your repository (not your profile) - Look for the Settings tab at the top of your repository page - Try refreshing the page

Files not uploading? - Check file size (GitHub has limits) - Ensure file names don't have spaces or special characters - Try using lowercase letters with hyphens instead

Need help? - Review the video tutorial - Check GitHub's documentation: docs.github.com - Ask questions in class or office hours - **Remember:** We're using the web interface - no command line needed!

Why GitHub for This Course

- **Free web hosting** for your content adaptation project
- **Version control** to track your progress
- **Professional portfolio** that you can share with others
- **Industry standard** tool used by web developers
- **Accessible sharing** - anyone can view your published work

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This setup creates the foundation for publishing your content adaptation project online, making your work accessible to the broader audiences we'll discuss throughout the course.