



Getting Started with Git and GitHub

What you'll need



This is a *lunchtime computing seminar*! As we proceed, you can follow along with the instructions and get some hands-on experience with using Git.

To start - go to <http://github.com/> and create an account if you don't have one already. Fill out the information about yourself in the profile.

You will also need to download Git.

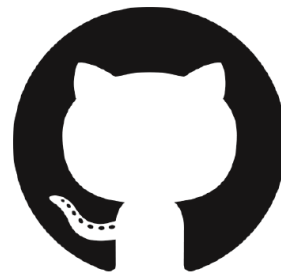
Installing Git



Git is software accessed through the **command line / terminal / console / shell**

- For MacOS: open terminal and run **git --version**
- For Linux: Visit <https://git-scm.com/download/linux>
- For Windows: Visit <https://gitforwindows.org/>
 - Contains download, as well as *GitBash*, a special terminal making it easier to use Git

What is GitHub?

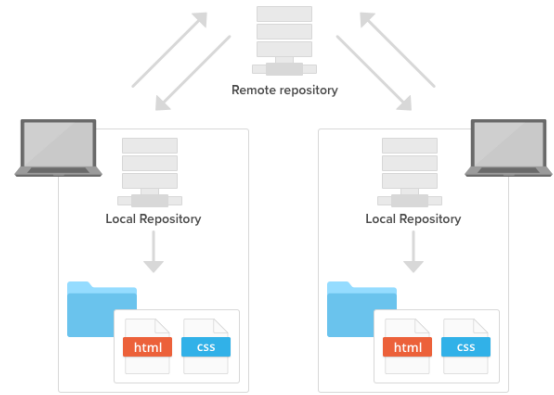


GitHub is a software development platform

Three major aspects of GitHub:

1. Project organization and version control
2. Collaboration between programmers
3. Self-promotion

How does GitHub improve project organization?



GitHub organizes project files in a **repository**

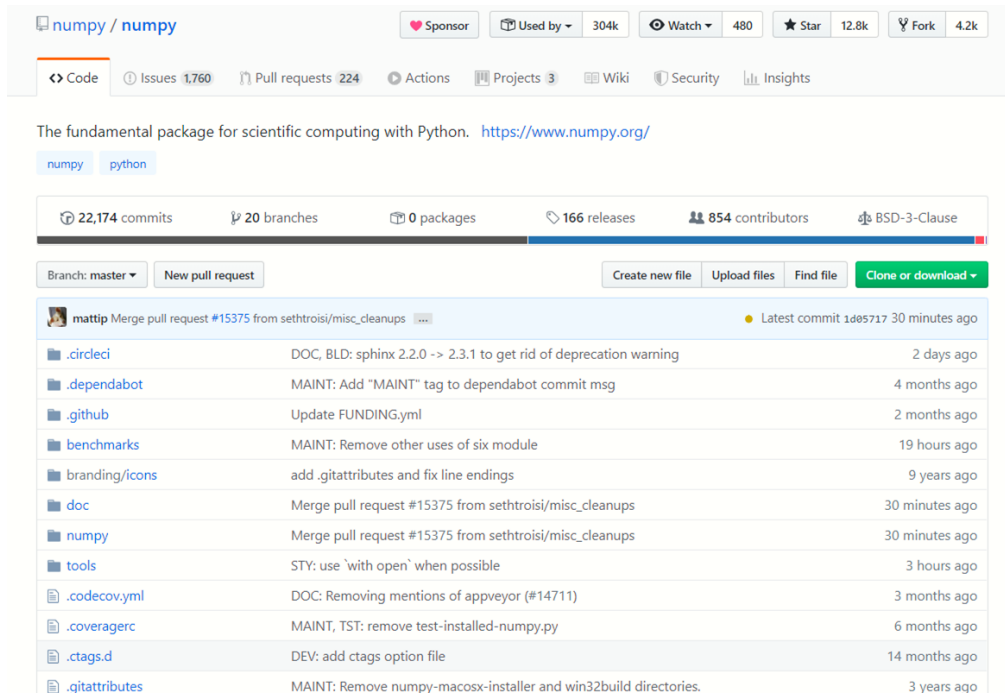
- Stores all files and folders related to project (.py, README.md, etc.)
- Repository is typically stored *remotely*
- As you program, you periodically update the repository with your progress (“push” changes)

Example of a repository

Numpy:
<https://github.com/numpy/numpy>

GitHub provides many tools for managing repositories

Repositories are created and managed using **Git**.



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for Numpy. At the top, it displays the repository name 'numpy / numpy' with various statistics: 304k uses, 480 watches, 12.8k stars, and 4.2k forks. Below this, there are tabs for Code, Issues (1,760), Pull requests (224), Actions, Projects (3), Wiki, Security, and Insights. The main description states: 'The fundamental package for scientific computing with Python. <https://www.numpy.org/>'. Below the description, there are tags for 'numpy' and 'python'. A progress bar shows 22,174 commits, 20 branches, 0 packages, 166 releases, 854 contributors, and a BSD-3-Clause license. The 'Branch: master' dropdown and 'New pull request' button are visible. The 'Clone or download' button is also present. The commit history table shows the following entries:

Commit	Message	Time ago
mattip	Merge pull request #15375 from sethroisi/misc_cleanups	30 minutes ago
.circlearc	DOC, BLD: sphinx 2.2.0 -> 2.3.1 to get rid of deprecation warning	2 days ago
.dependabot	MAINT: Add "MAINT" tag to dependabot commit msg	4 months ago
.github	Update FUNDING.yml	2 months ago
benchmarks	MAINT: Remove other uses of six module	19 hours ago
branding/icons	add .gitattributes and fix line endings	9 years ago
doc	Merge pull request #15375 from sethroisi/misc_cleanups	30 minutes ago
numpy	Merge pull request #15375 from sethroisi/misc_cleanups	30 minutes ago
tools	STY: use `with open` when possible	3 hours ago
.codecov.yml	DOC: Removing mentions of appveyor (#14711)	3 months ago
.coveragerc	MAINT, TST: remove test-installed-numpy.py	6 months ago
.ctags.d	DEV: add ctags option file	14 months ago
.gitattributes	MAINT: Remove numpy-macosx-installer and win32build directories.	3 years ago

What is Git?

Git is the most commonly used *Version Control System* (VCS)

- Tracks changes made to a repository
- Create branches to work on different features
- Allows collaboration between developers
- Manage project using **command line**

How do I set up my own repository on GitHub?

Create from GitHub (Recommended Method)

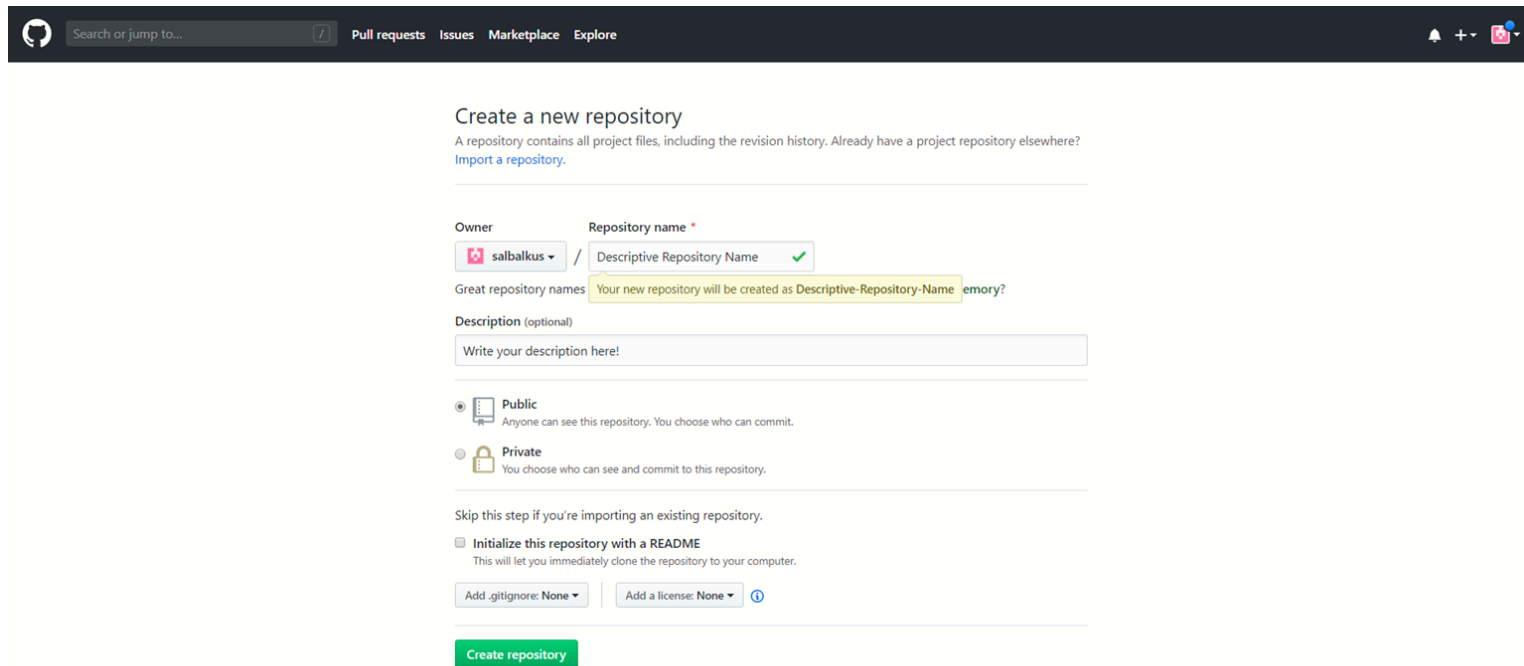
First, go to your dashboard and select “new”

The screenshot shows the GitHub dashboard for user 'salbalkus'. The top navigation bar includes 'Pull requests', 'Issues', 'Marketplace', and 'Explore'. On the left sidebar, under 'Repositories', the 'New' button is highlighted with a red circle and a red arrow pointing to it. Below this, there are links to 'UMDBigDataClub/Challenges', 'salbalkus/Git-Test-1', and 'salbalkus/directory-sorter'. The main content area displays a feed of repository creation events, including 'JacobZuliani created a repository JacobZuliani/Stastical-Analysis-Dr.Jenkins' and 'JacobZuliani created a repository JacobZuliani/Stastical-Analysis-Dr.Fugate'. On the right, the 'Explore repositories' section lists 'Loopring/protocols', 'symfony/symfony-docs', and 'NG-ZORRO/ng-zorro-antd'.

How do I set up my own repository on GitHub?

Create from GitHub

Next, fill out the required details



The screenshot shows the GitHub 'Create a new repository' page. At the top is a dark navigation bar with the GitHub logo, a search bar, and links for 'Pull requests', 'Issues', 'Marketplace', and 'Explore'. On the right side of the bar are notification, user, and organization icons. The main content area has a heading 'Create a new repository' followed by a subtext: 'A repository contains all project files, including the revision history. Already have a project repository elsewhere? [Import a repository.](#)'. Below this is a form with two columns: 'Owner' and 'Repository name *'. The 'Owner' dropdown is set to 'salbalkus'. The 'Repository name' text input contains 'Descriptive Repository Name' with a green checkmark. A yellow tooltip points to the text input with the message: 'Your new repository will be created as Descriptive-Repository-Name .emory?'. Below the repository name is a text input for 'Description (optional)' with the placeholder 'Write your description here!'. Underneath is a section for visibility with two radio buttons: 'Public' (selected) and 'Private'. The 'Public' option has a subtext: 'Anyone can see this repository. You choose who can commit.' The 'Private' option has a subtext: 'You choose who can see and commit to this repository.' Below this is a section titled 'Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.' with a checkbox 'Initialize this repository with a README' and a subtext: 'This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer.' At the bottom of this section are two dropdown menus: 'Add .gitignore: None' and 'Add a license: None', followed by a help icon. At the very bottom is a green 'Create repository' button.

Search or jump to... Pull requests Issues Marketplace Explore

Create a new repository

A repository contains all project files, including the revision history. Already have a project repository elsewhere? [Import a repository.](#)

Owner Repository name *

salbalkus / Descriptive Repository Name ✓

Great repository names Your new repository will be created as Descriptive-Repository-Name .emory?

Description (optional)

Write your description here!

☒ Public
Anyone can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

☐ Private
You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.

☐ Initialize this repository with a README
This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer.

Add .gitignore: None Add a license: None ⓘ

Create repository

How do I set up my own repository on GitHub?

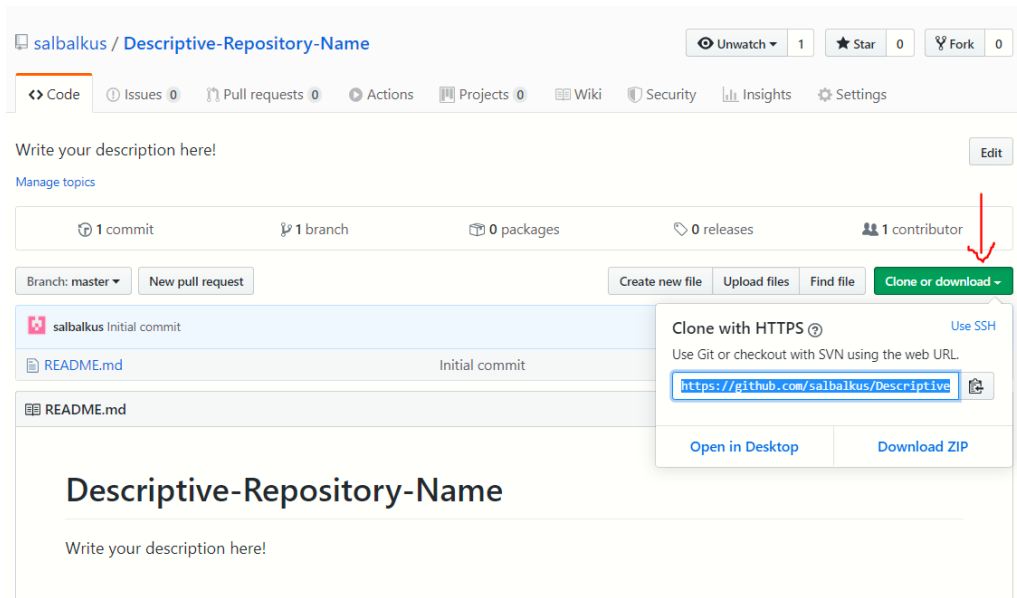
Create from GitHub

Click “clone or download” to obtain URL

Navigate to where you want
the repository to be stored
locally and run the command

```
git clone "url"
```

Can also clone a team's
repository

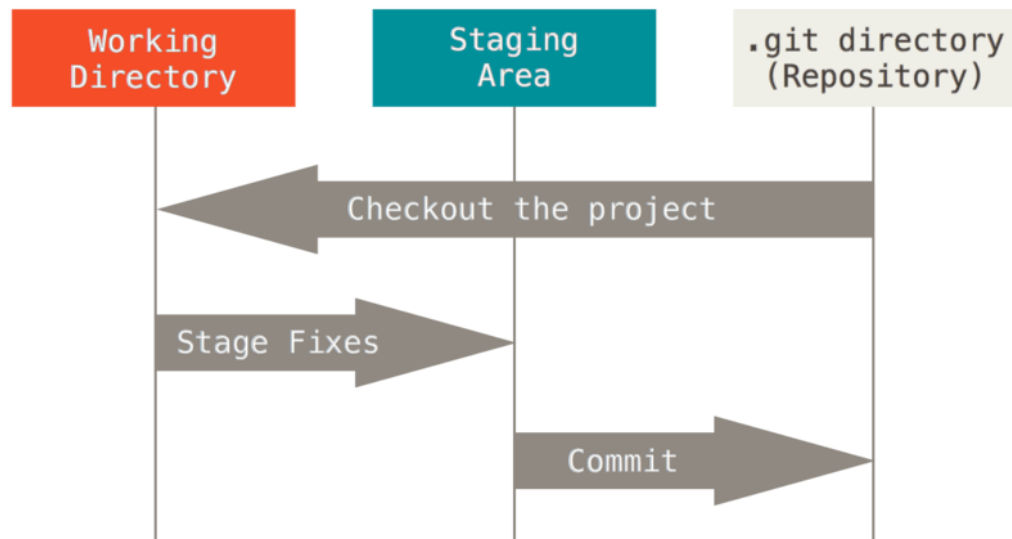


How does Git track changes?

Git stores changes to a repository as *snapshots*

- serves as a “mini filesystem”
- entire project stored locally in .git directory
- Adding to repository called “**committing**”

Git File Stages (Three Types):



The Git Workflow

When you make changes to your project locally, you update your remote repository with three commands:

`git add "filename" OR git add "foldername"` → tells Git that this is the part of your local work that you want to update (staging)

`git commit -m "commit message"` → commits the changes you have staged

`git push` → push the local commits to the remote repository

Obtaining remote changes

If others add changes to the remote repository, you will need to update your own.

`git pull` → commit remote changes after your own (do not use if you have uncommitted changes)

`git pull --rebase` → takes remote changes and commits BEFORE your own; ensures your changes are committed after

`git fetch` → only updates repository, not working files; use to avoid overwriting your changes

Diagnostic Commands

Useful commands for tracking repository

`git status` → provides some information about the changes currently staged

`git diff` → shows difference between remote and your own

`git --help` → lists all available git commands in case you forget

Git provides a vast array of tools to manage repositories and track changes; if there is something specific you want to do, search the documentation.

Accessing Past Changes

```
commit e43b68c85327f4aa98697335277a2559a14481bf (HEAD -> master, origin/master, origin/HEAD)
Author: Sal Balkus <45985925+salbalkus@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Jan 21 21:50:06 2020 -0500

    renamed readme

commit 178fd8c38abd1589027b6f2b2fbf75fd566d3873
Author: Sal Balkus <45985925+salbalkus@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Jan 21 21:49:27 2020 -0500

    deleted readme

commit c5e8d00caa33c9f16a86fe98c762fa78c4b5783e
Author: Salvador Balkus <salbalkus@gmail.com>
Date: Tue Jan 21 21:48:22 2020 -0500

    shifted over to new repository

commit fa8190b16354d8b3c09d081327e95454307373b4
Author: Sal Balkus <45985925+salbalkus@users.noreply.github.com>
Date: Tue Jan 21 21:42:20 2020 -0500
```

Using Git, you can examine commits that have been made and work with them.

`git log` → displays commits

`git checkout "commit"` → access files from a previous commit

`git checkout -- "file name"` → obtain old version of a specific file

`git tag "tag name"` → labels a commit so you can access it more easily

Resetting Changes

Git provides many options for resetting changes:

`git rm "file name" -f` → remove a file from both working directory and repo

`git rm "file name" --cached` → remove a file from just repo

`git reset --hard "commit"` → roll back repository to the given commit

`git revert "commit" -m "message"` → re-commit a previous commit; use to target a specific commit to reset

Git: Branching

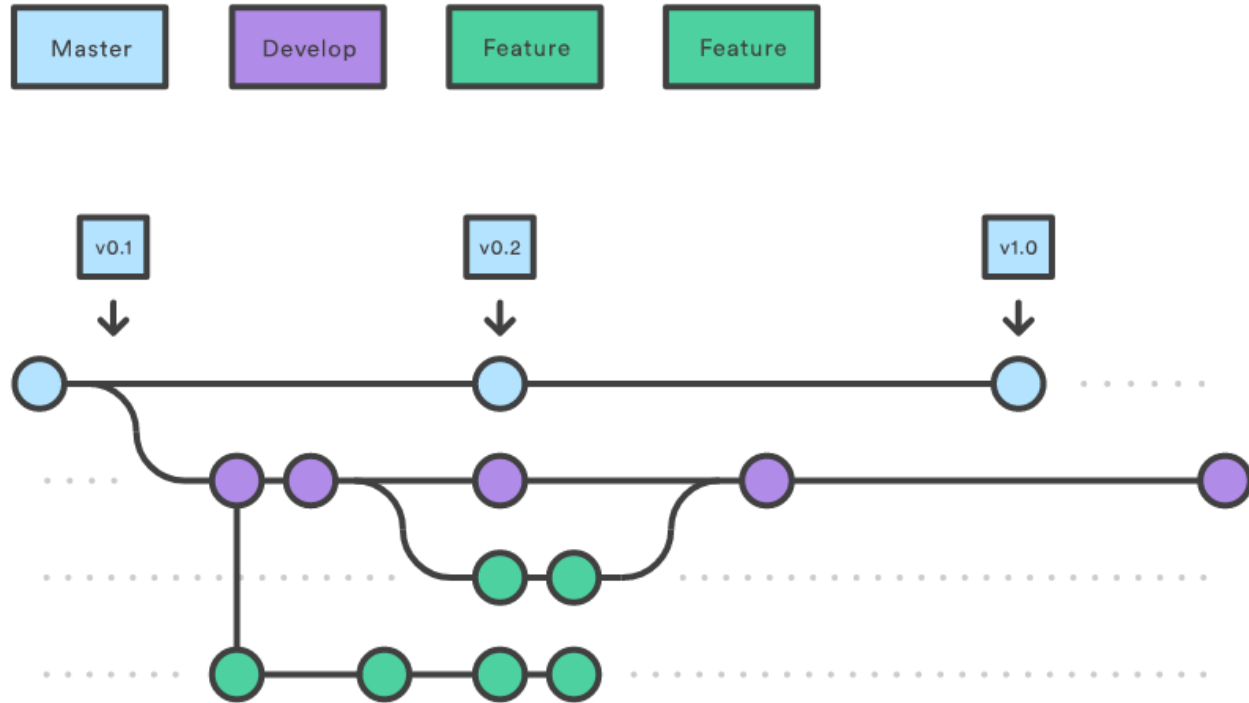
Suppose you want to develop or test a part of code separately and not have to worry about breaking existing code. This requires the use of **branching**.

`git checkout -b "branch name"` → creates a new "branch" where changes will not affect the master branch

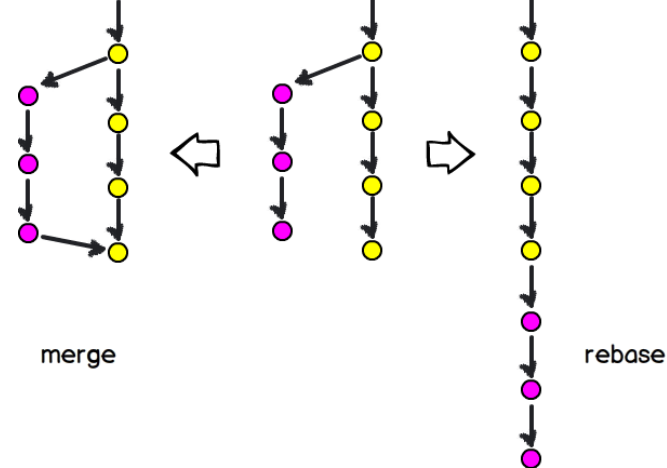
`git checkout "branch name"` → switch to an existing branch

`git branch` → lists current branches

Git: Branching



Git: Branching



Once you've finalized the code you are working on, you will want to combine the branch with master.

`git merge "branch name"` → merges the specified branch with the branch you are currently on.

`git rebase "branch name"` → moves the specified branch to the end of another branch.

Other Notes About Git



In addition to the commands discussed, Git offers a variety of tools for managing repositories and branches. Please see the documentation:

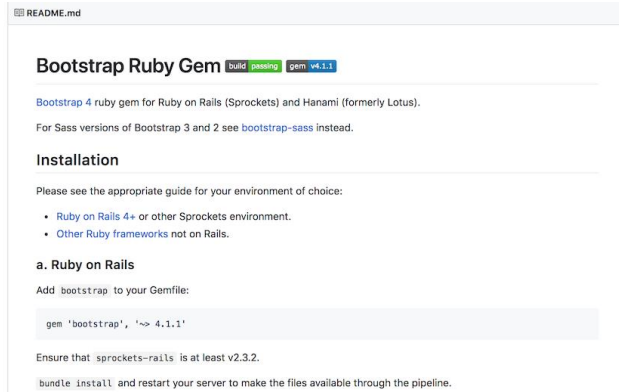
<https://git-scm.com/doc>

Most of your work will consist of *add*, *commit*, *push*

- branches used for large projects with different features OR collaboration
- **do not push directly to master!** (in general)

Some good practices

- Include a README and other text files
 - explain purpose of project, contributors, how to use, etc.
- Consider including a license (see repo settings)
 - MIT license - allows reuse with citation, but retains your copyright
- Avoid pushing private data, changing files, or “auxiliary” files to repo
 - Data generally not pushed; excessive storage, may change
 - Do not want files specific to your machine (ex: .pynb checkpoints)
 - use **.gitignore** file



.gitignore File



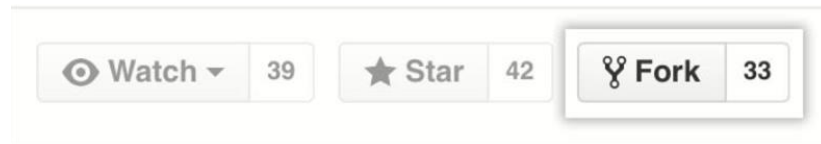
Defines what will NOT be pushed to the git repository:

- byproduct/auxiliary files; these are specific to your machine
- Data files that you do not want to push
- LaTeX intermediates

Uses patterns to define what files NOT to add; see how to define: <https://git-scm.com/docs/gitignore>

Or copy one from a compilation: <https://github.com/github/gitignore>

Open Source Project Models



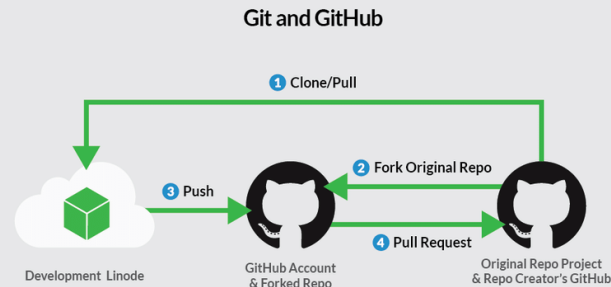
Shared Repository: Administrators explicitly designate certain individuals or teams as contributors

- Can give different individuals different access (read, write, admin)

Fork and Pull: allows anyone to contribute to a project

- Individuals “fork” a copy of the project and work in their individual fork
 - Puts the repository on your account
- Suggest additions via pull request
- Allows you to contribute to open-source projects!

How to make a pull request



Pull request: used to recommend and discuss changes

- Request merging a side branch with “upstream” branch such as master
 - Shows differences between branches
- Administrators can require pull requests to be reviewed

GitHub “pull requests” menu provides options for managing pull requests

- Gives users space to discuss changes
 - Once discussion complete, branches merged by admin

Organizations

Example: UMD Big Data Club

<https://github.com/UMDBigDataClub>

Organizations facilitate collaboration on GitHub

- Set up teams and projects to assign tasks
- Can create repos under the organization

The screenshot shows the GitHub organization page for the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Big Data Club. The organization's profile includes a logo, name, and email address. Below the profile, there are tabs for Repositories (2), Packages, People (5), Teams (3), Projects (1), and Settings. A search bar and filters for repository type and language are visible. The main content area lists two repositories: 'UMDBigDataClub.github.io' (a website) and 'Challenges' (short data analysis problems). Both repositories show their language (HTML or Jupyter Notebook), statistics (forks, stars, issues, pull requests), and update dates. On the right side, there are sections for 'Top languages' (HTML and Jupyter Notebook) and 'People' (a list of organization members with an 'Invite someone' button).

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Big Data Club
umassdbigdataclub@gmail.com

Repositories 2 Packages People 5 Teams 3 Projects 1 Settings

Find a repository... Type: All Language: All Customize pins New

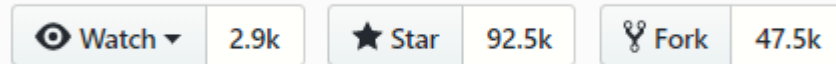
UMDBigDataClub.github.io
UMass Dartmouth Big Data Club Website
HTML 0 forks 0 stars 0 issues 0 pull requests Updated 7 hours ago

Challenges
Short data analysis problems for UMD Big Data Club members
Jupyter Notebook 1 fork 1 star 1 issue 0 pull requests Updated on Dec 16, 2019

Top languages
HTML Jupyter Notebook

People 5 >
Invite someone

The Social Media Aspect



GitHub provides a variety of ways to interact with other users

- **Watch** repositories to be notified of updates
- **Star** repositories you find useful
- **Follow** other users to be notified of their activities
- Create static **websites** using [GitHub Pages](#)

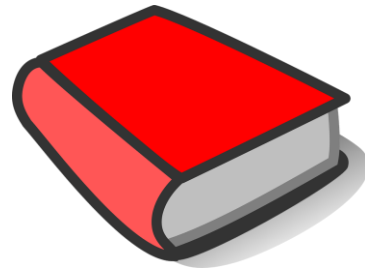
Your profile tracks where you are contributing, how often, and the statistics for your repositories you have created or forked

Other GitHub Features



GitHub offers many additional tools to manage repositories, including...

- **Automation** - set up “Actions” to manage repository and contributors automatically
- **Webhooks** - notify services when events occur
- **Issue Tracking** - allow others to report bugs
- **Wikis** - provide additional documentation



Any questions?