




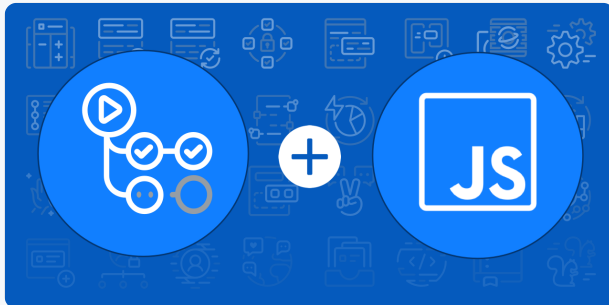
GitHub Actions: Writing JavaScript Actions

 The GitHub Training Team

Learn how to write your own GitHub JavaScript Action! This course will empower you to begin automating customized tasks unique to your workflow.

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Learn to write JavaScript Actions



[GitHub Actions](#) is a powerful platform that empowers your team to go from code to cloud all from the comfort of your own repositories.

Over the duration of this course you will learn the skills needed to begin using and customizing GitHub Actions to fit your unique workflow scenarios.

What you'll learn

In this course you will learn how to:

- Consume actions within a workflow file
- Create custom JavaScript based actions
- Publish your newly created action to the marketplace

You'll know the answers to questions like:

- What is a workflow?

- What are actions?
- What is action metadata?
- What are GitHub Actions capable of?

What you'll build

The screenshot displays a GitHub repository page for `githubschool / hectorsector-writing-javascript-actions`. At the top, a pull request is open, titled "External APIs #6", where `hectorsector` wants to merge 5 commits into `master` from `hectorsector-patch-1`. Below the pull request, the repository's navigation bar shows tabs for Code, Issues, Pull requests (1), Actions, Projects, Wiki, Security, Insights, and Settings. The main content area shows the pull request details, including a green checkmark for "Update my-workflow.yml" and a summary of repository statistics: 175,077 stars, 6 forks, and 1,726 files changed. On the left, the "JS Actions" section is expanded, showing a list of actions: "Set up job", "Run actions/checkout@v1", "hello-action", "ha-ha", and "Complete job". The "ha-ha" action is selected, and its logs are displayed on the right. The logs show a successful run of the `./github/actions/joke-action` script, which outputs a joke: "Guy told me today he did not know what cloning is. I told him, 'that makes 2 of us.'".

In this course you will build three actions that each accomplish different tasks designed to demonstrate the flexibility of creating and consuming JavaScript Based Actions.

First, you will start with the traditional "Hello World!" program which will teach you where to find the output of a workflow run. You will then modify this "Hello World!" action to accept `input` parameters which allow the action to be more dynamic.

Second, you will write an action that call upon an external API to retrieve a fact about cats and prints it to the workflows output. You will then modify this cat fact action to set the retrieved data as `output` for another action in the workflow to consume.

Lastly, you will write a third action that will open an issue in your repository making the cat fact available to everyone. You will learn how to use the `output` of previous actions as `input` for

current actions in this step.

Prerequisites

We first recommend taking the following courses:

- [Hello, GitHub Actions!](#) to learn the basics of how GitHub Actions work
- [GitHub Actions: Continuous Integration](#) to dive deeper into a workflow file

Projects used

This makes use of the following open source projects. Consider exploring these repos and maybe even making contributions!

- [GitHub Actions Toolkit](#), a multipurpose JavaScript library for writing actions

Audience

Developers, DevOps Engineers, students, teams

► Steps to complete this course 20

Tags

● JavaScript ● API ● Actions toolkit ● GitHub Secrets ● Workflows

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Average time to complete

1409 minutes

Free

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Latest release

March 7, 2020

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