How to Learn Using GitHub Desktop

# 🔰 1. Understand the Basics (Optional but Helpful)

Even though GitHub Desktop is GUI-based, it's helpful to understand:

- What Git is (version control system)

- What GitHub is (online hosting for Git repos)

- Basic terms: commit, push, pull, branch, merge, clone, fork

Learn: https://docs.github.com/en/get-started/using-git/about-git

# 🖥 2. Install GitHub Desktop

Download from: https://desktop.github.com/

Install and sign in with your GitHub account

# 📁 3. Explore the Interface

After launching GitHub Desktop:

- Top bar: Repo name, Current branch

- Left panel: Changes & History tabs

- Right panel: Shows files changed, commit messages, etc.

# 🔄 4. Basic Workflow (Your Daily Routine)

Here’s what you'll typically do with GitHub Desktop:

A. Clone a Repository

1. Click File > Clone Repository

2. Choose a repo from GitHub or enter a URL

3. Choose where to save it locally

B. Make Changes Locally

1. Edit files in your favorite editor (e.g., VS Code)

2. GitHub Desktop will detect changes

C. Commit Your Changes

1. Review changes in the Changes tab

2. Write a meaningful commit message

3. Click Commit to main (or current branch)

D. Push to GitHub

- Click Push origin to upload your commits to GitHub

E. Pull from GitHub

- Click Fetch origin and then Pull to get new changes others made

# 🌱 5. Branching and Merging

1. Click Current Branch > New Branch

2. Make changes and commit them

3. When ready, click Branch > Merge into main to combine changes

# 👨‍💻 6. Practice with a Sample Project

Try this:

1. Create a new repository on GitHub

2. Clone it in GitHub Desktop

3. Create/edit a README.md file

4. Commit and push your changes

# 🎓 7. Resources to Learn More

- GitHub Desktop Docs: https://docs.github.com/en/desktop

- YouTube: “GitHub Desktop Tutorial for Beginners” has many walkthroughs

- Practice: Try daily commits or small demo projects

# ✅ Summary: Key Actions

| Action | Description |

|--------|-------------|

| Clone | Download repo to your computer |

| Commit | Save a snapshot of changes |

| Push | Upload changes to GitHub |

| Pull | Download latest changes |

| Branch | Create a separate version to work on |

| Merge | Combine changes from another branch |