

Creating a GitHub Project Using Templates

Author: Alex Zama



How to Set Up Templates On GitHub: A Guide by Alex Z.

This guide explains how to set up templates on GitHub, allowing users to quickly create new projects with predefined structures. It provides step-by-step instructions on creating a GitHub repository, setting it up as a template, and using that template to create new repositories. By following this guide, users can efficiently manage their projects using the predefined structure and features provided by the template.



GitHub is a website and cloud-based service that allows developers to store and manage their code in addition to tracking and controlling changes to their code.

GitHub offers users convenience with a feature called "Templates." This feature allows you to quickly set up a new repository with a predefined structure, including issue types, labels, and a board layout. This technical document will aim to guide you through the process of creating a GitHub repository, activating templates, and then showcasing how to create a repository from the newly created template.

Note: Project templates are specific to the repository in which they are created. If you want to reuse a project template in multiple repositories, you need to set it up individually in each repository. Templates can be used in both repositories and projects, with only slight differences in setup.



Familiarize yourself with the GitHub terminology we will be using:

"Repository" / "Repo" - A repository is a directory that contains all of the user's project files and each file's revision history. Repositories can be owned individually or have shared ownership.

"Template Repositories" - A starting point that uses a pre-made base for other repositories.



Prerequisites

To create a GitHub repository using a template, you will need:

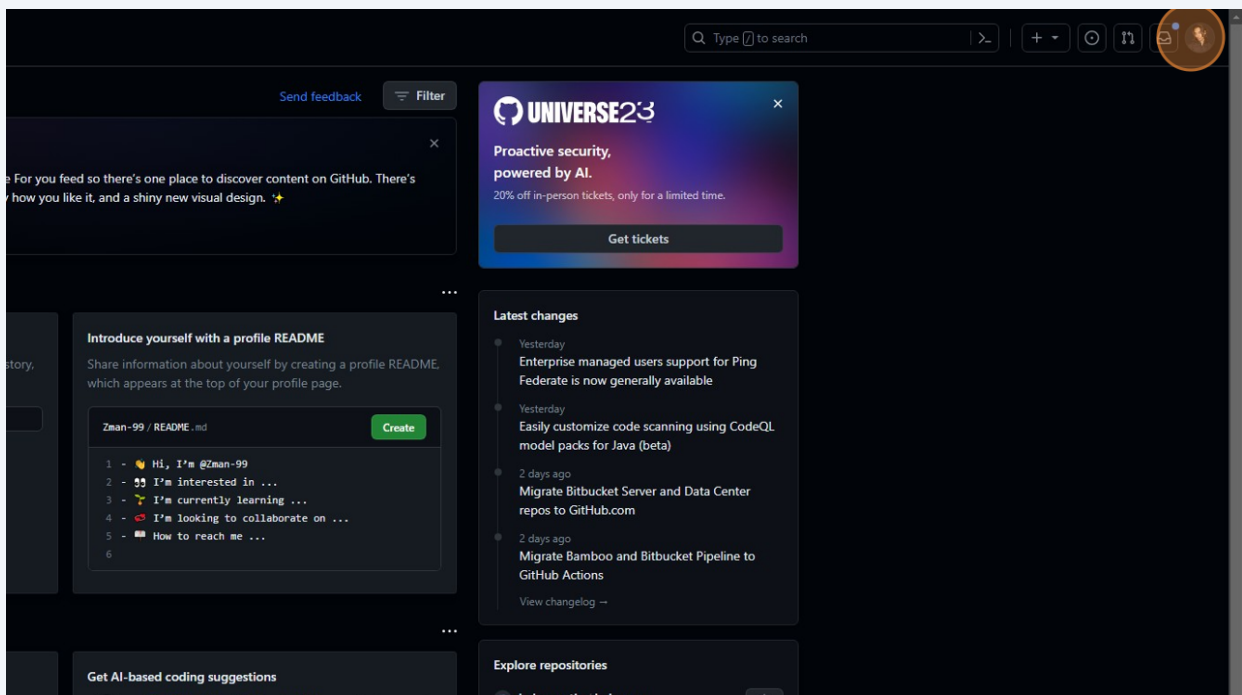
1\ Access to a computer with a stable internet connection.

[[2\ A GitHub account: If you don't have one, go to '[<https://github.com>']](<https://github.com>) and sign up for a free account.

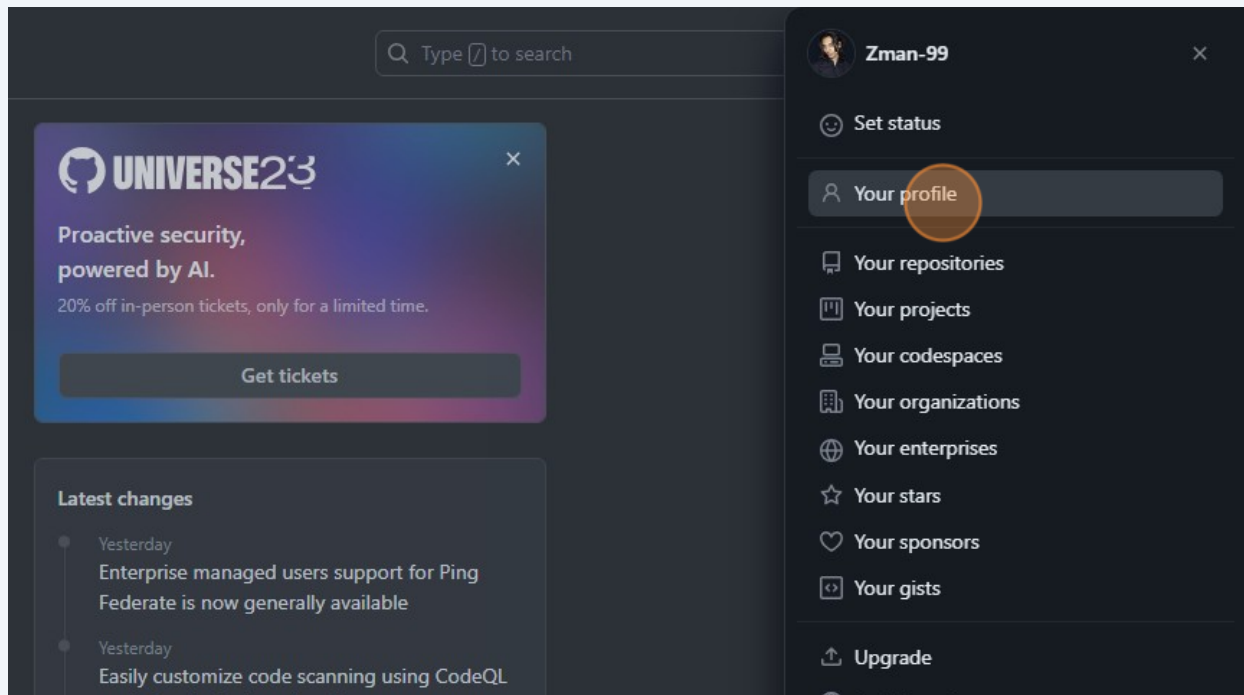
Directions

- 1 Navigate to your GitHub account dashboard using the link: <https://github.com/dashboard>

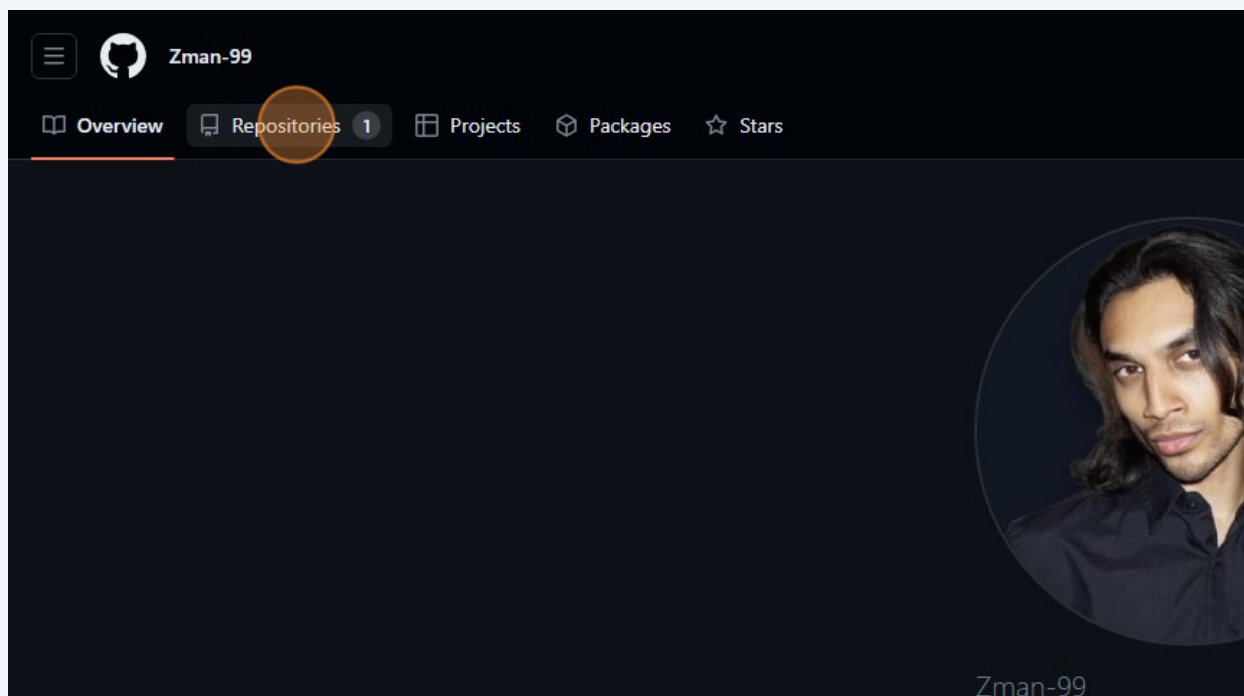
- 2 Once on your dashboard, click your profile icon on the top right of the page



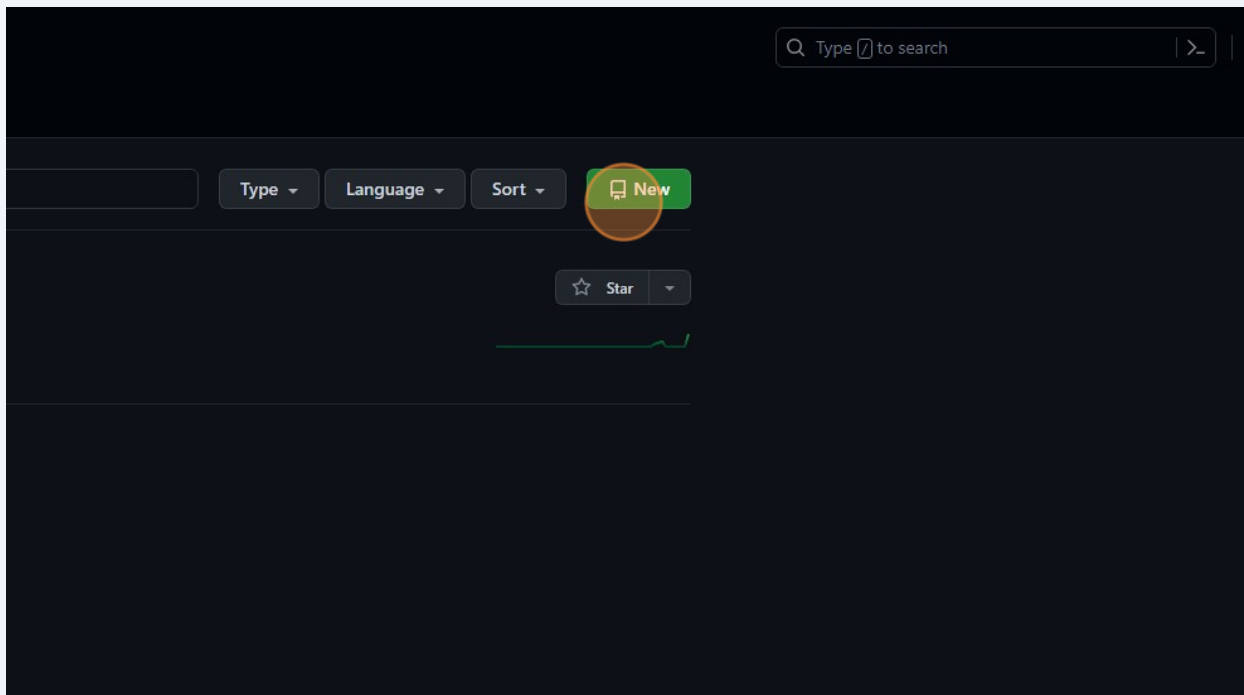
3 Click "Your profile"



4 Once on your GitHub profile, click "Repositories"



- 5 On the top right of the page, click the green "New" button



- 6 Click the "Repository name*" field and give your new repository a name

A screenshot of the "Create a new repository" form on GitHub. The title "Create a new repository" is in bold. Below it, there is a subtitle: "A repository contains all project files, including the revision history. Already have a project repository elsewhere? [Import a repository.](#)". A note says "Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*)". The form has two main fields: "Owner *" with a dropdown menu showing "Zman-99" and "Repository name *" with an empty text input field. The "Repository name" field is circled in orange. Below these fields, there is a suggestion: "Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about [glowing-dollop](#) ?". There is also a "Description (optional)" text area. At the bottom, there are two radio buttons: "Public" (selected) and "Private". The "Public" option has a description: "Anyone on the internet can see this repository. You choose who can commit." The "Private" option has a description: "You choose who can see and commit to this repository." The background is dark gray.


7

Click the "Description (optional)" field and give your repository a description if necessary

[Import a repository.](#)

Required fields are marked with an asterisk ().*


Owner * Repository name *


 Zman-99 /

✔ Test is available.

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about [glowing-dollop](#) ?

Description (optional)

☒  **Public**
Anyone on the internet can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

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

Initialize this repository with:

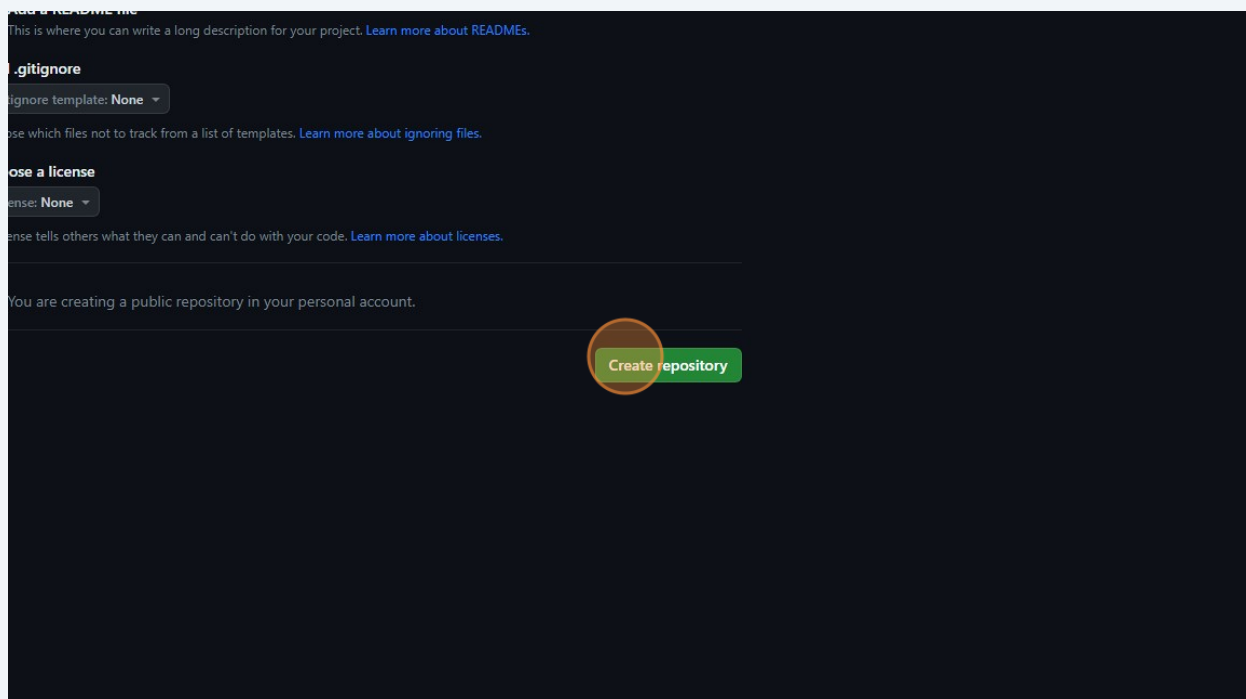
☐ **Add a README file**
This is where you can write a long description for your project. [Learn more about READMEs.](#)



You can make your new repository Public or Private. Additionally, you can initialize your new repository with a "README file".

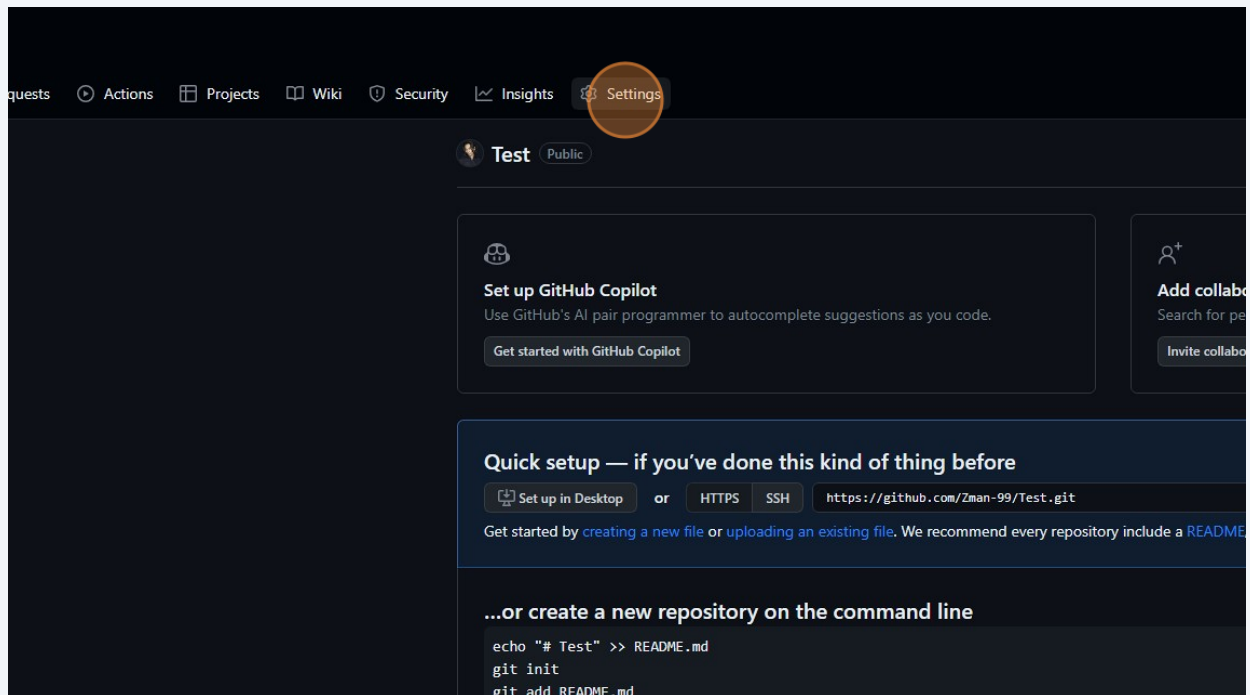
8

Click the green "Create repository" button on the bottom right of the screen

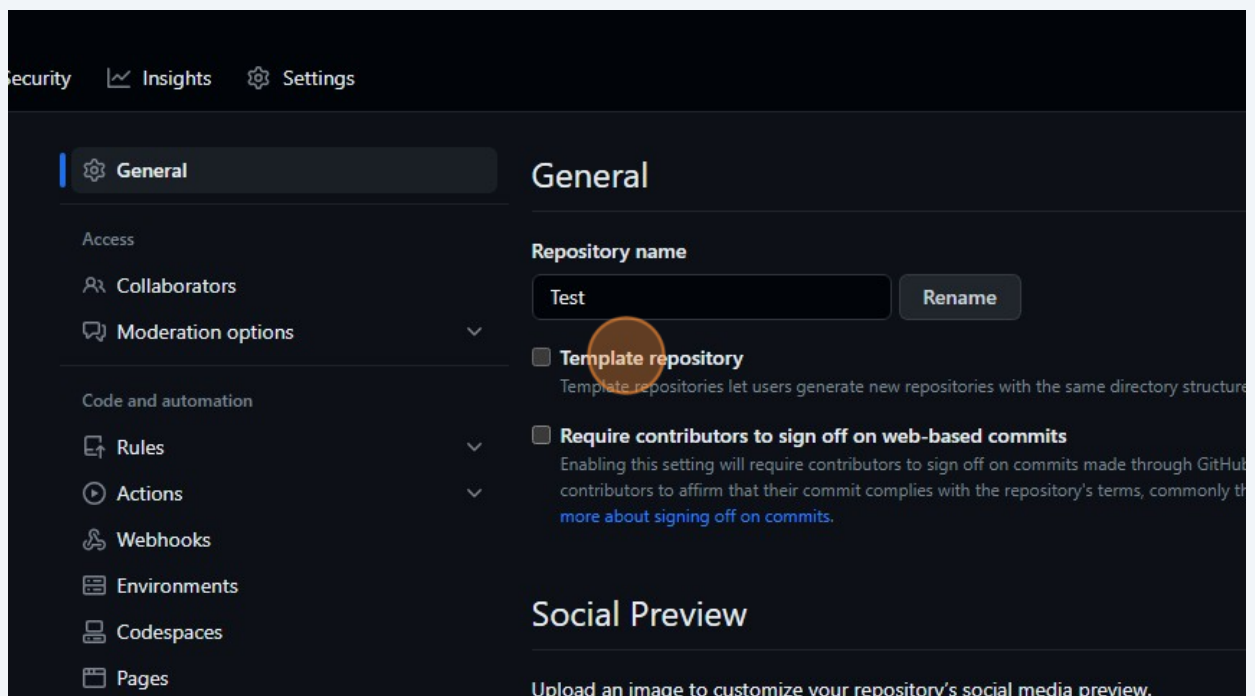


Your new repository is now created and you can proceed to customize the repository. However, in this case, we will now proceed to set it up as a template for future repositories, meaning we will not be customizing the repository.

- 9 On your new repository page, click the gear icon that reads "Settings"



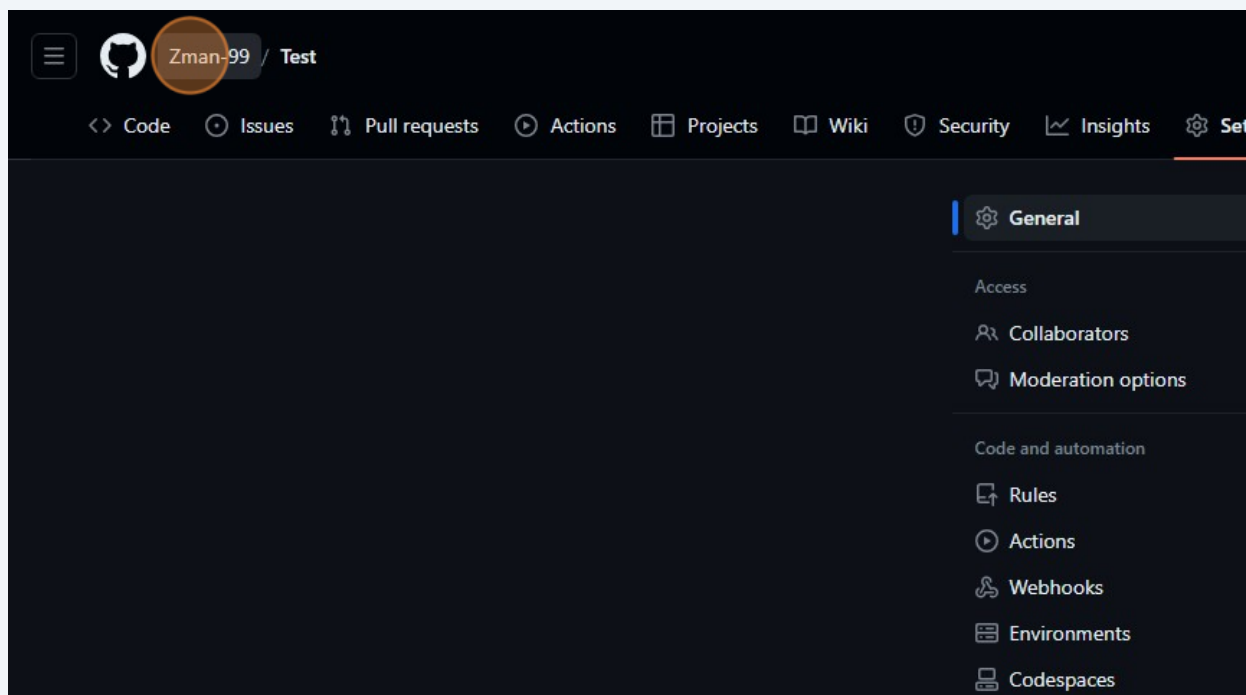
- 10 In the "General" tab, click the "Template repository" under the "Repository name"



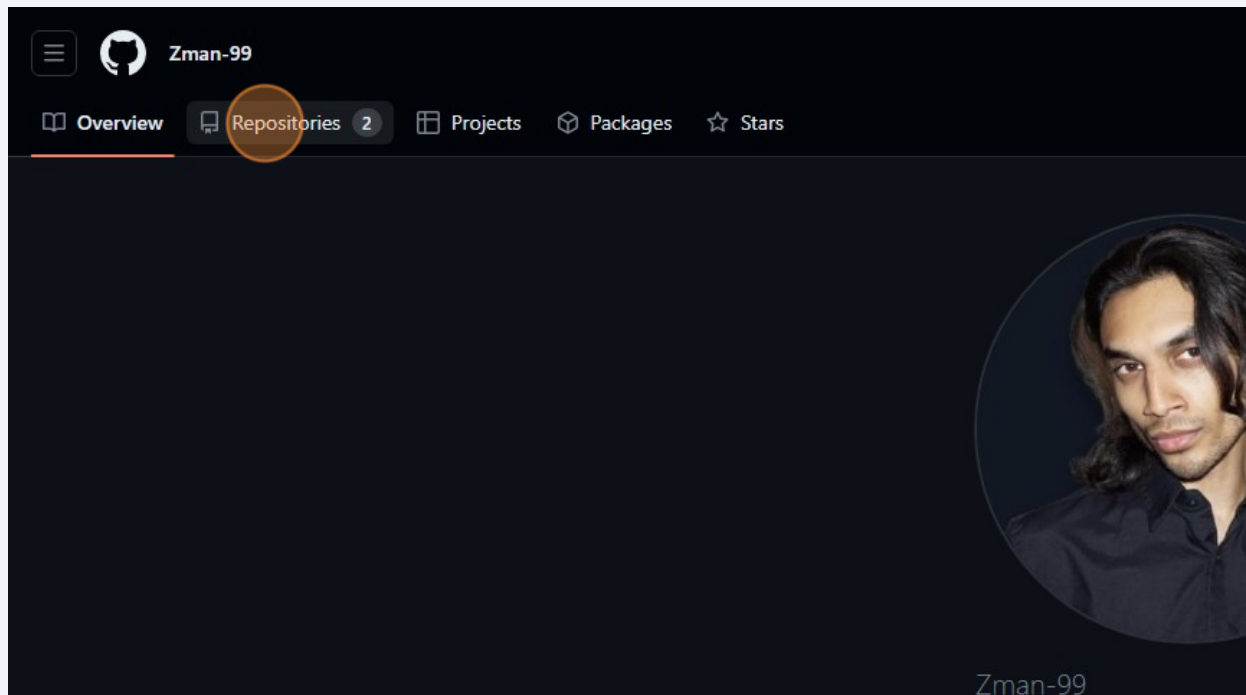
Now that your repository has been set up as a potential template, it is now time to show you how to use it as a template for other repositories.

11

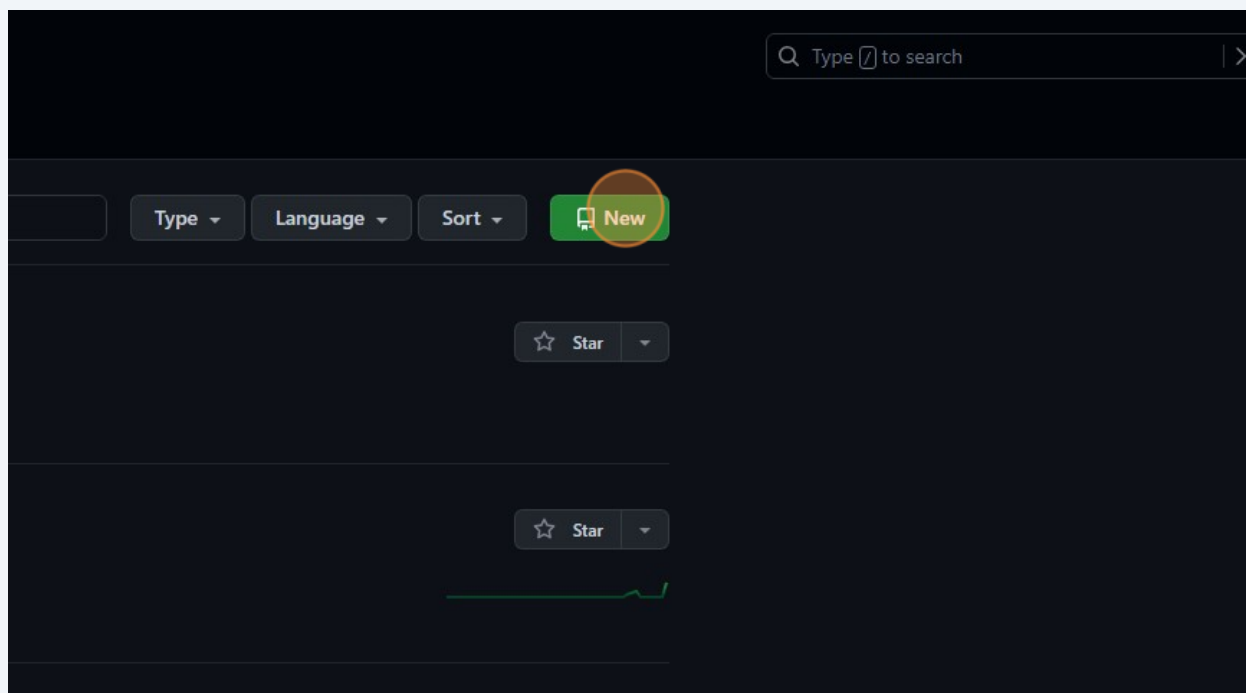
Click your username on the top left next to the Git icon to head to your profile page



- 12 Once on your profile page, click the "Repositories" button

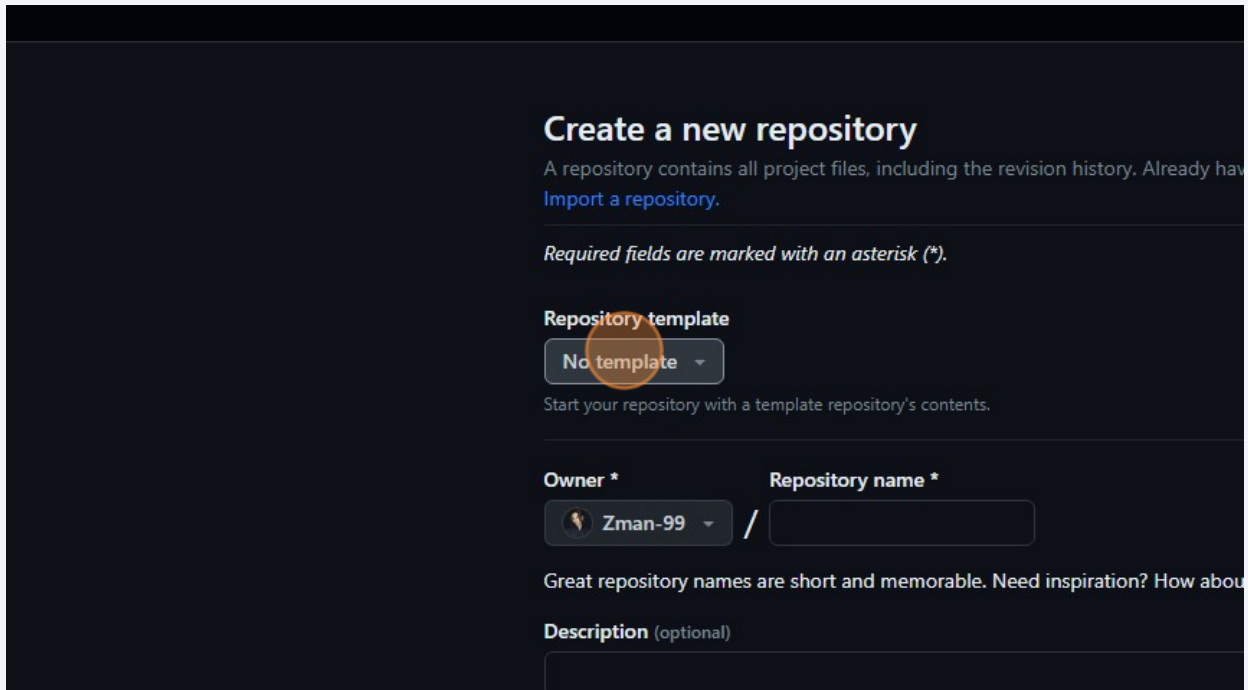


- 13 Once again, click the green "New" button to create a new repository



14

On the new repository page, you will see an option for "Repository template", click the dropdown that reads "No template" to reveal the template you created for your previous repository



Create a new repository

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

Required fields are marked with an asterisk ().*

Repository template

No template ▾

Start your repository with a template repository's contents.

Owner * **Repository name ***

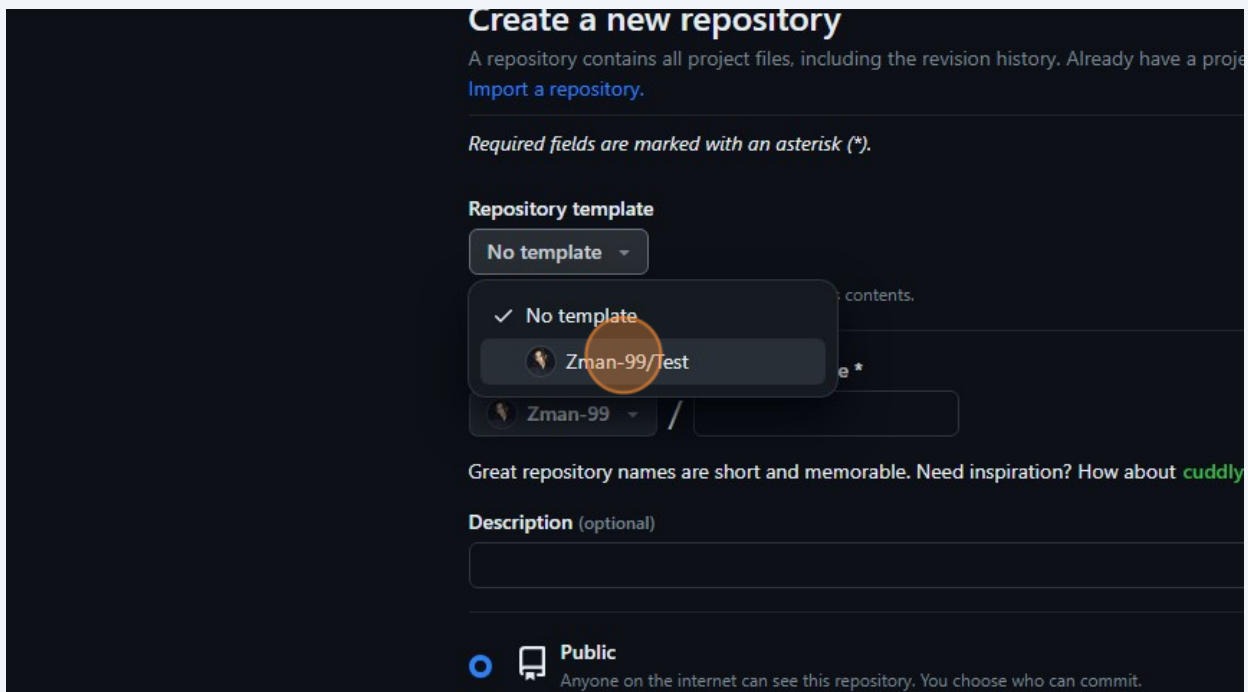
Zman-99 ▾ /

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? [How about...](#)

Description (optional)

15

Under the "No template" option, you will see the name of the repository you previously made to use as a template. Click that repository name to use it



Create a new repository

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

Required fields are marked with an asterisk ().*

Repository template

No template ▾

✓ No template

Zman-99/Test

Zman-99 ▾ /

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? [How about cuddly...](#)

Description (optional)

☐ **Public**
Anyone on the internet can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

16 Name this new repository

Repository template

Zman-99/Test

Start your repository with a template repository's contents.

☐ **Include all branches**
Copy all branches from Zman-99/Test and not just the default branch.

Owner * **Repository name ***

Zman-99 /

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about [cuddly-octo-guide](#) ?

Description (optional)

☒ **Public**
Anyone on the internet can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

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

17 Click the "Description (optional)" field and once again give it a description, if necessary

☐ **Include all branches**
Copy all branches from Zman-99/Test and not just the default branch.

Owner * **Repository name ***

Zman-99 /

✔ Test1 is available.

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about [cuddly-octo-guide](#) ?

Description (optional)

☒ **Public**
Anyone on the internet can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

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

You are creating a public repository in your personal account.

[Create repository](#)



You can make your new repository Public or Private, however, you cannot create a new "README file" because you are basing this repository on a template.

18

Click the green "Create repository" button to finish setting up your new repository that is based on a template

Owner * Zman-99 / Repository name * Test1

Test1 is available.

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about [cuddly-octo-guide](#) ?

Description (optional)

Test Description1

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

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

ⓘ You are creating a public repository in your personal account.

Create repository



Users can find and use templates from already existing repositories that they themselves have created or that other users have created and made public.

Congratulations! You have successfully created a GitHub project using templates. Now you can adequately use the predefined structure and features provided by the template to manage your project efficiently.