
Host a Site on GitHub

For free

Demo and Slides by Alanna Risse
December 6, 2018

@alannarisse

What are we doing today?

Today we are hosting a static website
(html, css, javascript, and images)
on [GitHub.com](https://github.com)

How are we doing it?

GitHub uses **git**, an open source version control software. We can use git software on our local machines (laptops, etc) to save our files into a local git repository of files and then push (upload) those files to GitHub. Then (if we want) we can point a domain name at it so it has a pretty url like `myfancywebsite.com` instead of `alannarisse.github.io`.

I'll explain more as we go. First....

Shhhhh. No questions right now.
We have to do this part fast.



First things first.

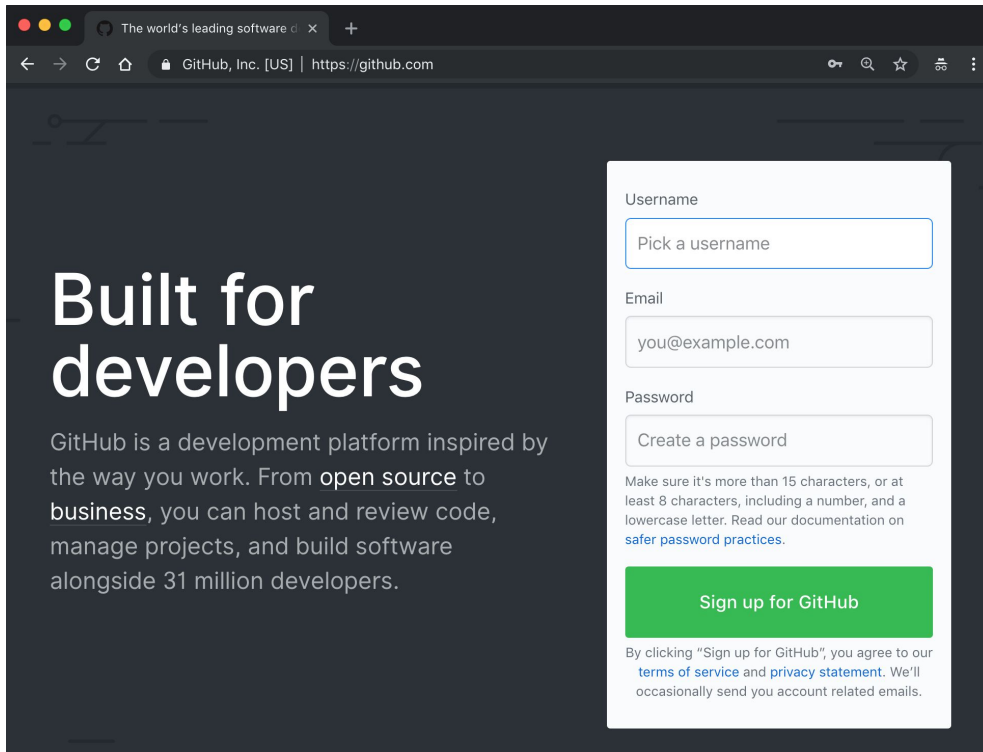
1. Create a new GitHub Account.
 2. Create a repository called **your-github-username.github.io**
 3. Change settings for HTTPS
-

Create a GitHub Account on github.com

Go here:

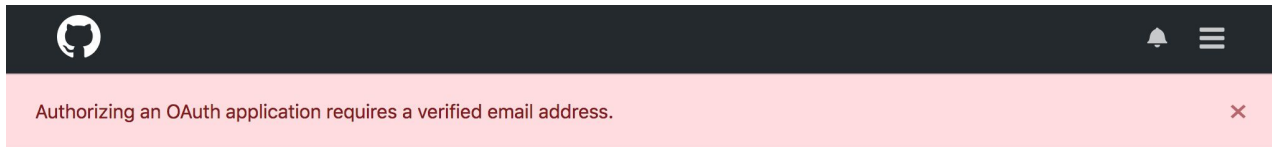
<https://github.com/join>

Create a username. You'll need to have access to the email you use during sign up to verify it.

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the GitHub sign-up page. The browser's address bar shows 'https://github.com'. The page has a dark background with white text. On the left, it says 'Built for developers' and describes GitHub as a development platform. On the right, there is a white sign-up form with fields for 'Username', 'Email', and 'Password'. The 'Username' field has a placeholder 'Pick a username'. The 'Email' field has a placeholder 'you@example.com'. The 'Password' field has a placeholder 'Create a password'. Below the password field, there is a note about password requirements and a link to 'safer password practices'. At the bottom of the form is a green button labeled 'Sign up for GitHub'. Below the button, there is a line of text stating that by clicking 'Sign up for GitHub', the user agrees to the 'terms of service' and 'privacy statement'.

Create a GitHub Account on github.com

Go verify your email
address



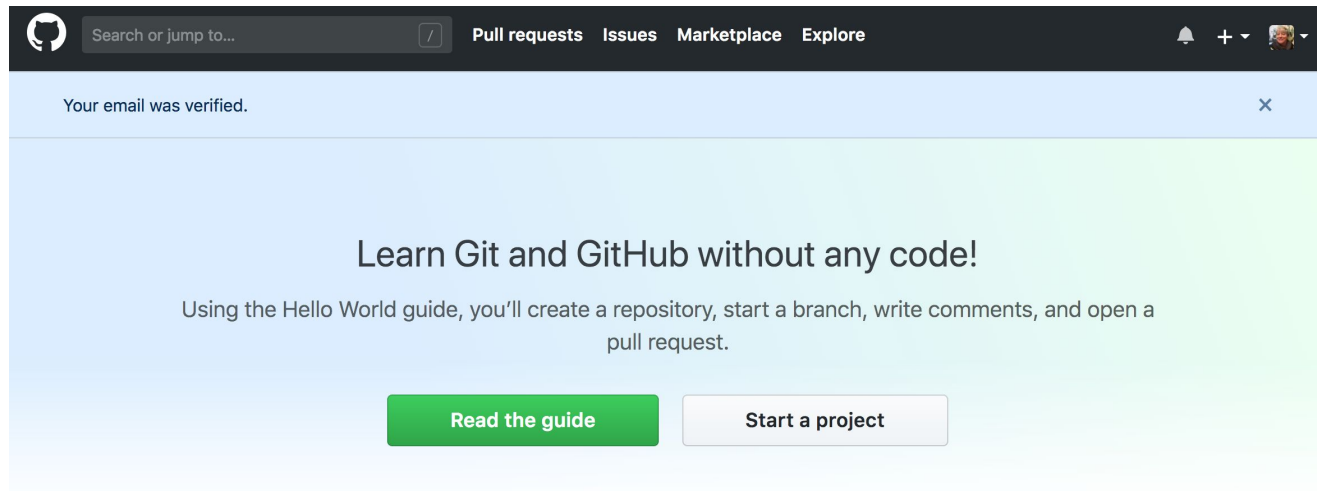
Please verify your email address

Before you can contribute on GitHub, we need you to verify your email address.

An email containing verification instructions was sent to **arisse@pdx.edu**.

Didn't get the email? [Resend verification email](#) or [change your email settings](#).

Create a New Repository



Click the green “New Repository” button.

Our new Terms of Service and Privacy Statement are in effect. X

Repositories

New repository

You don't have any repositories yet!

Browse activity

[Discover repositories](#)

Discover interesting projects and people to populate your personal news feed.

Your news feed helps you keep up with recent activity on repositories you [watch](#)

Create a New Repository

Create a new repository

A repository contains all the files for your project, including the revision history.

Owner



Repository name

alannacodes.github.io



Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about **refactored-dollop**.

Description (optional)



Public

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



Private

You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

☐ **Initialize this repository with a README**

This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer. Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.

Add .gitignore: **None**

Add a license: **None**



Create repository

IMPORTANT! It must be named:

your-github-username.github.io

(except with your actual username)

Make it public.

DO NOT initialize with a README

Change GitHub Pages Settings

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `alannarisse/alannarisse.github.io`. The repository is a public GitHub Pages site. The 'Settings' tab is highlighted with a red circle and a red arrow pointing to it from the text 'Go to the Settings page of your repository'.

Repository details:

- Repository: `alannarisse / alannarisse.github.io`
- Watch: 0
- Star: 0
- Fork: 1

Navigation tabs:

- Code
- Issues (0)
- Pull requests (0)
- Projects (0)
- Wiki
- Insights
- Settings** (highlighted)

Repository content:

my github page [Edit](#)

[Manage topics](#)

Repository statistics:

- 48 commits
- 1 branch
- 0 releases
- 1 environment
- 2 contributors

Branch: master [New pull request](#)

[Create new file](#) [Upload files](#) [Find file](#) [Clone or download](#)

Recent commits:

Commit	Message	Time
<code>a2b3e0a</code>	Changed text on the code samples section of the homepage.	14 hours ago
<code>blog</code>	a jekyll blog	3 months ago
<code>cheatsheets</code>	added cheat sheets	5 days ago
<code>docs</code>	adding new homepage and updates on a bunch of links	12 days ago
<code>images</code>	adding useful links	12 days ago
<code>js</code>	adding useful links	12 days ago

Go to the Settings page of your repository

Change GitHub Pages Settings

GitHub Pages

GitHub Pages is designed to host your personal, organization, or project pages from a GitHub repository.

✓ Your site is published at <http://alannarisse.tech/>

Source

Your GitHub Pages site is currently being built from the master branch. [Learn more.](#)

master branch ▾

Save

User pages must be built from the master branch.

Theme Chooser

Select a theme to publish your site with a Jekyll theme. [Learn more.](#)

Choose a theme

Custom domain

Custom domains allow you to serve your site from a domain other than alannarisse.github.io. [Learn more.](#)

alannarisse.tech

Save

☒ Enforce HTTPS ✓

HTTPS provides a layer of encryption that prevents others from snooping on or tampering with traffic to your site. When HTTPS is enforced, your site will only be served over HTTPS. [Learn more.](#)

In the settings for your new repository, scroll down to the GitHub Pages section.

Add your custom domain if you've purchased one.

Select the Enforce HTTPS checkbox.

What are we using?

A **GitHub account** (free) to host our files

SourceTree software to easily use Git without having to use any command line code.

Our local version of a **website** with html, css, images, and javascript

A **custom domain name**. I'm using alannarisse.tech which I bought from NameCheap.com

How it works

Step 1

Create an account on github and add a repository

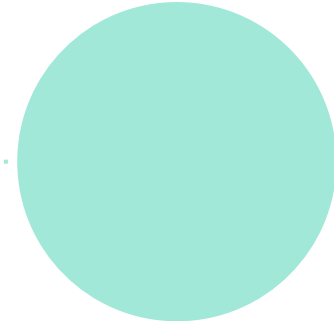
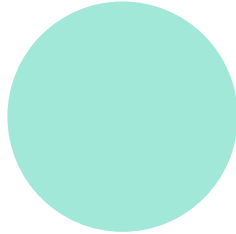


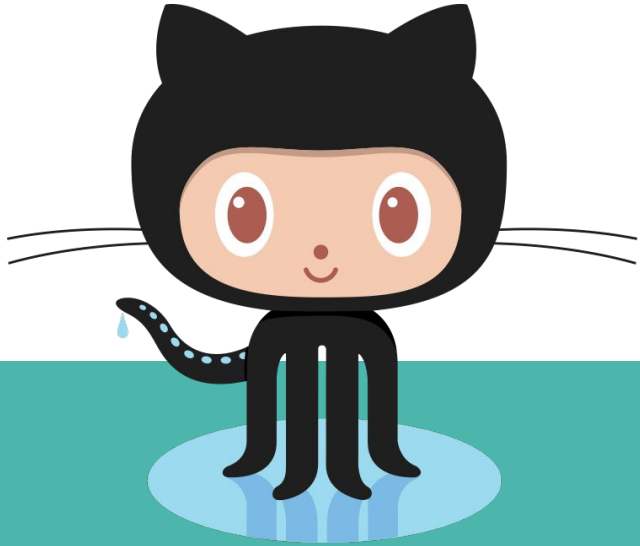
Step 2

Download SourceTree and connect your local files to github

Step 3

Connect your custom domain to your github repository





What are Git, GitHub.com, and SourceTree?

Git is source control software. It keeps versions of files.

SourceTree is an application that lets us check files in without having to write unix commands.

GitHub is cloud-based storage that allows us to store our files remotely. Kinda like the FTP server we've been using.

Let's get Source Tree working

Source Tree allows us to check things into git and up to GitHub without having to type any unix commands in the terminal. It's a GUI app that lets us push buttons to achieve the same things.

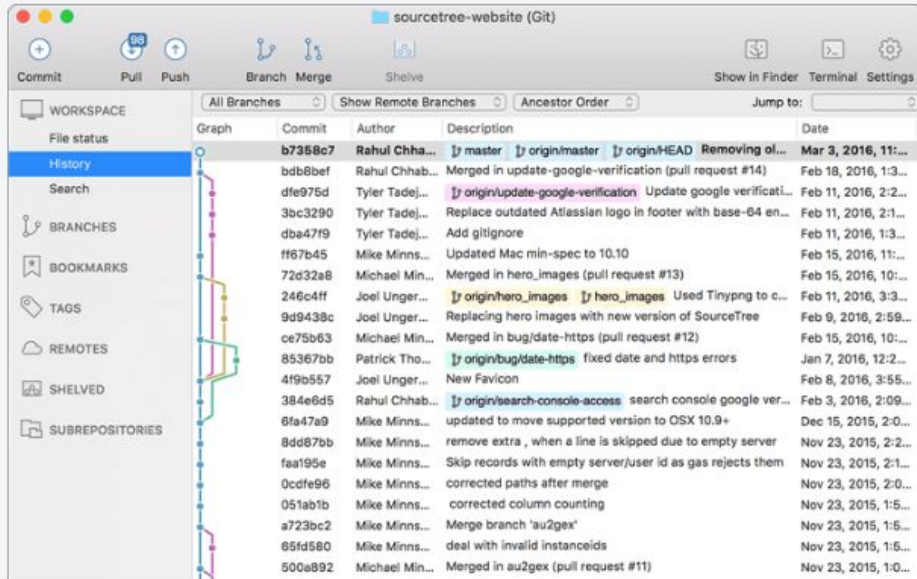
Download Sourcetree - sourcetreeapp.com

[Download free](#)

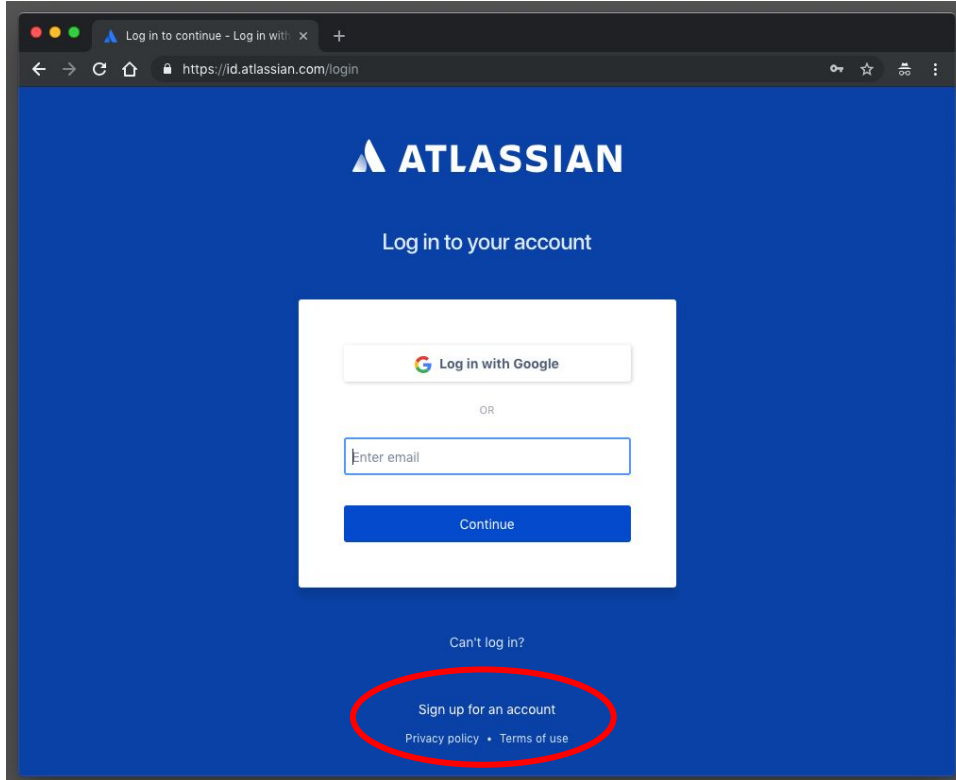
Simplicity and
power in a
beautiful Git GUI

[Download for Mac OS X](#)

Also available for Windows

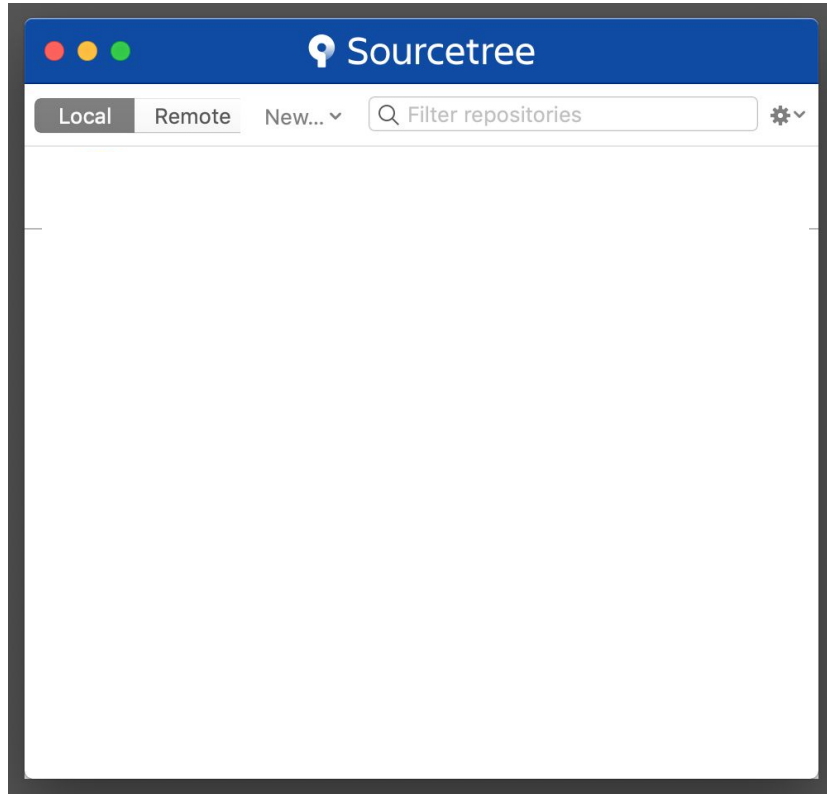


Download Sourcetree - sourcetreeapp.com



You'll need to create

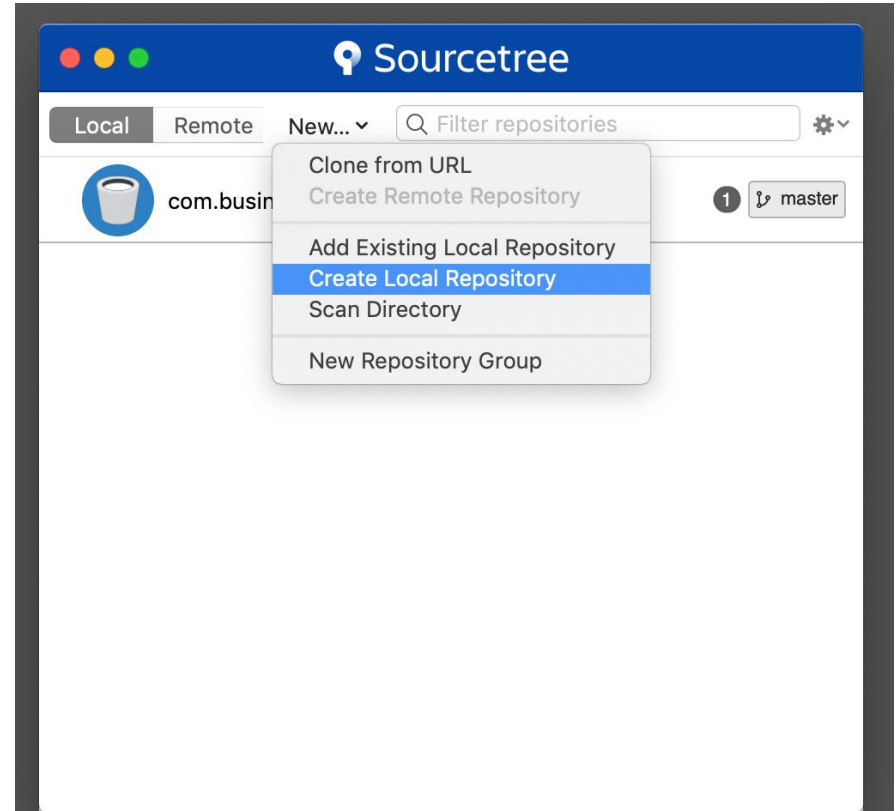
Let's add our Local Git setup



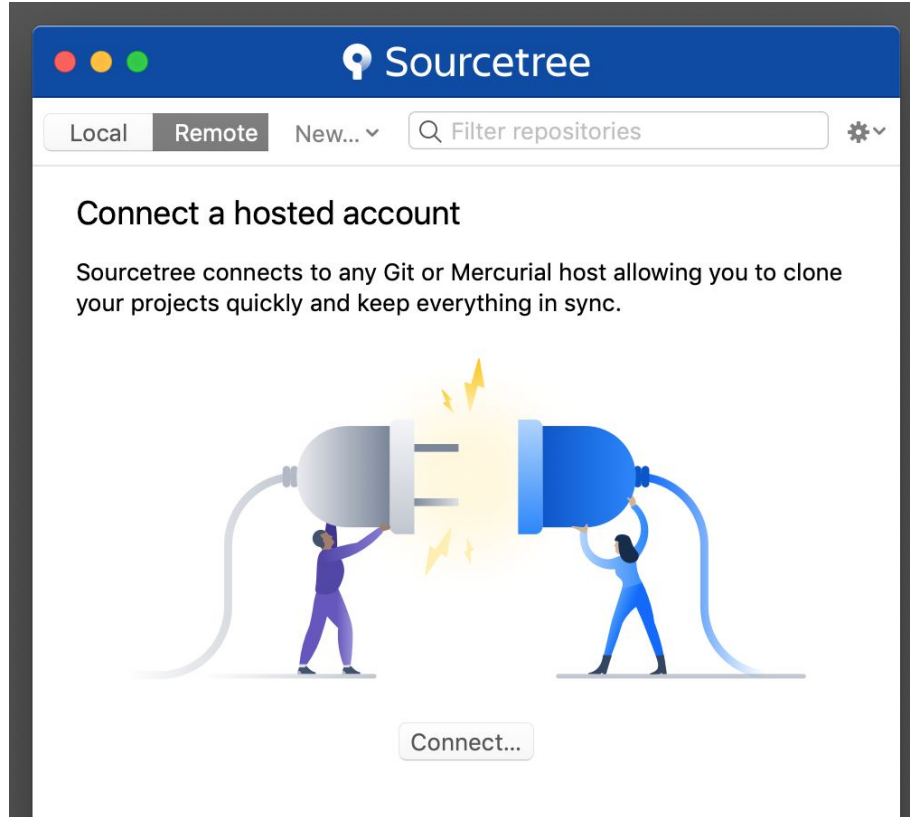
You should see this window when you start Sourcetree.

Create a Local Repository

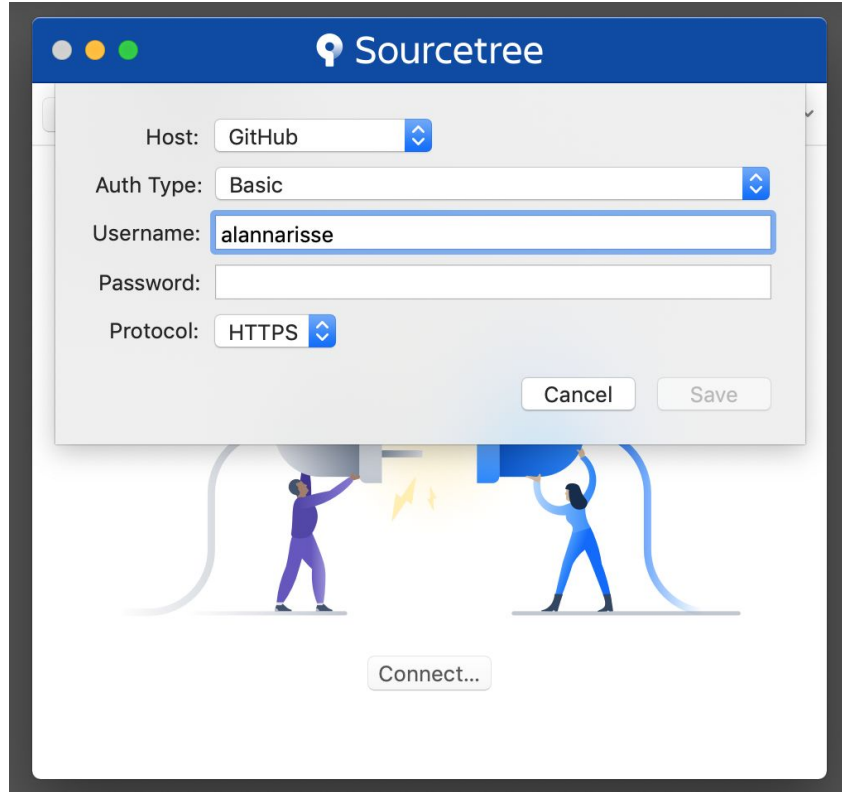
Click on the New... menu and choose "Create Local Repository"



Click on the Remote tab to connect to Github



Choose These settings and log in to GitHub



Host: GitHub

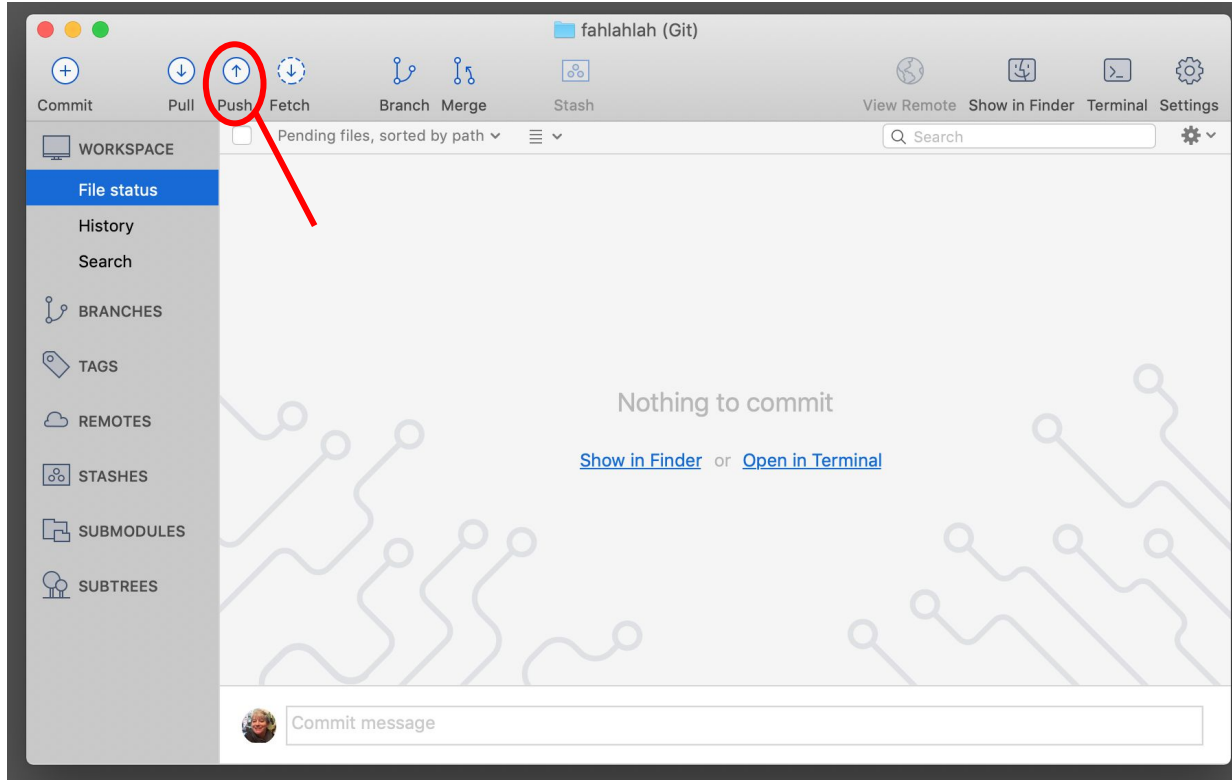
Auth Type: Basic

Username: Your Username

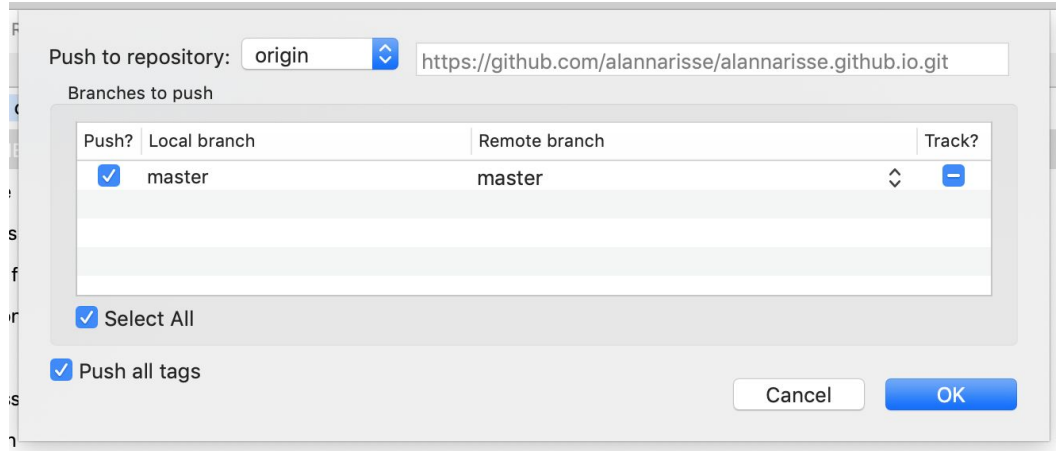
Password: Your Password

Protocol: HTTPS

Let's push your files up to GitHub



Push to repository: origin

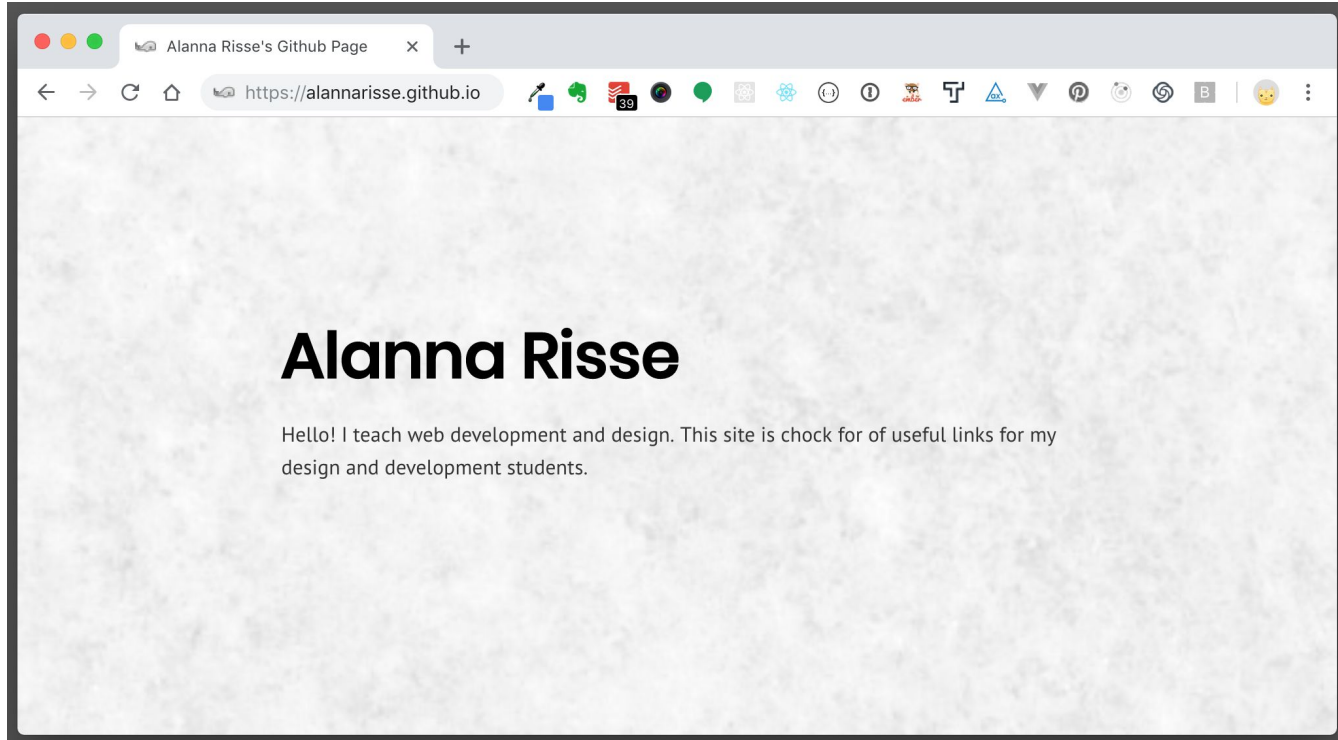


You should see this dialog box.
Click ok.

Let's try it out

Go to `your-user-name.github.io`

To go `yourusername.github.io`




Yay! It worked!

Let's get your domain name hooked up

In NameCheap (or wherever you bought your domain name)

We need to add some **A records** and a **CNAME record**






Add CNAME and A Records



 alannarisse.tech

Domain Products Sharing & Transfer **Advanced DNS**

HOST RECORDS ?

Actions Filters Search

<input type="checkbox"/>	Type	Host	Value	TTL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Record	@	185.199.108.153	Automatic	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Record	@	185.199.109.153	Automatic	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Record	@	185.199.110.153	Automatic	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Record	@	185.199.111.153	Automatic	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CNAME Record	www	alannarisse.github.io.	Automatic	

 ADD NEW RECORD  SHOW LESS

Add 4 A Records. These should all have a host of @

- 185.199.108.153
- 185.199.109.153
- 185.199.110.153
- 185.199.111.153

Add CNAME record with host of www
YOUR-GITHUB-USERNAME.github.io

Get rid of the URL Redirect Record and the
CNAME Record for
parkingpage.namecheap.com

What the What? CNAME and A Records

What's a CNAME Record?

A Canonical Name or **CNAME** record is a type of DNS (Domain Name Server) record that maps an alias name to a true or canonical domain name.

CNAME records are typically used to map a subdomain such as `www` or `mail` to the domain hosting that subdomain's content. In our case we are mapping your custom url to `YOUR-GITHUB-USERNAME.github.io`

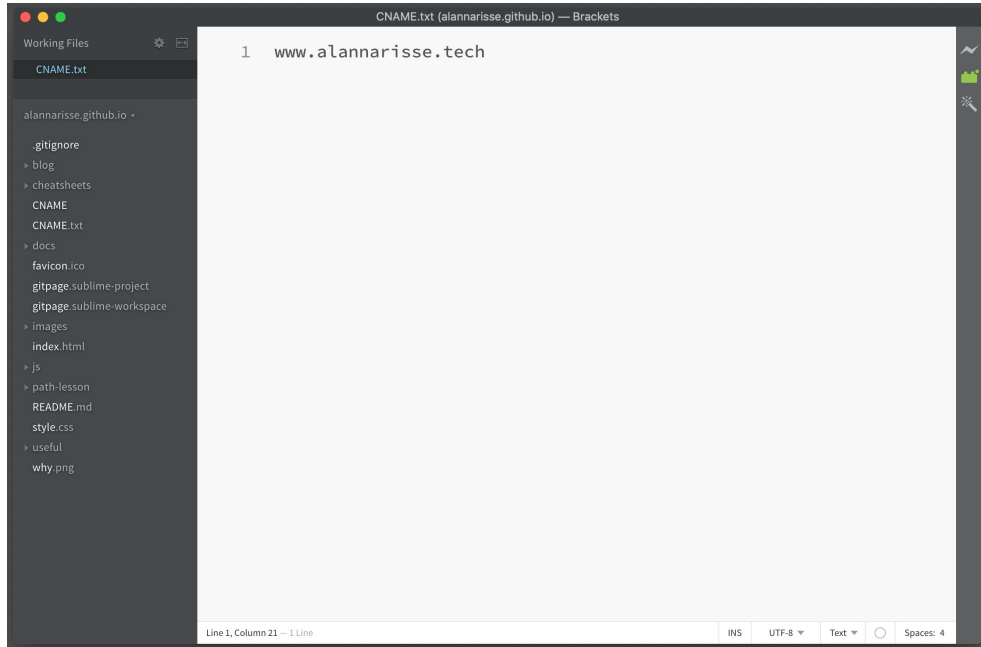
What's an A Record?

An A (Address) record is another type of DNS record that links a domain name to an IP(Internet protocol) address. Everything on the web can be accessed by a unique IP address.

Add a file to your project

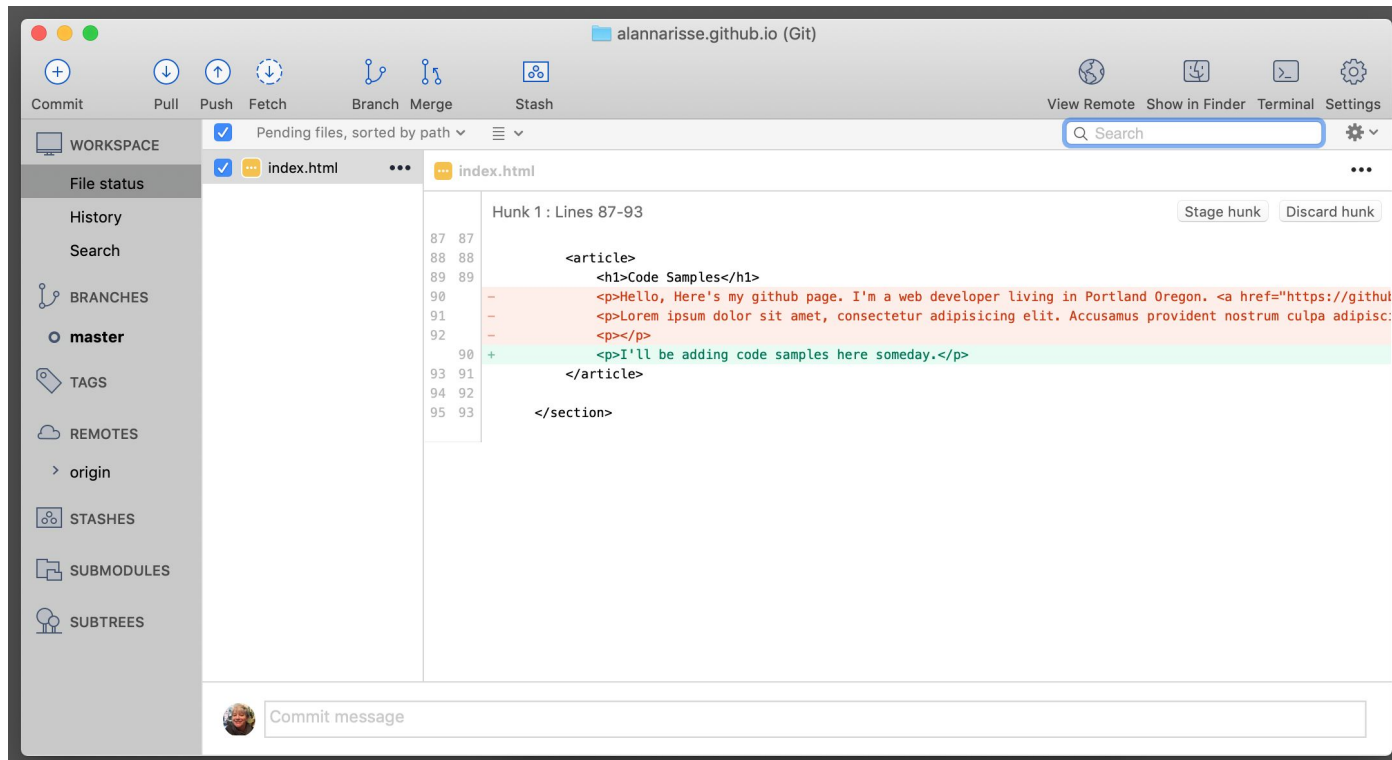
We're going to add a file to our project so GitHub knows what our custom url is.

Create a file called CNAME.txt in a text editor

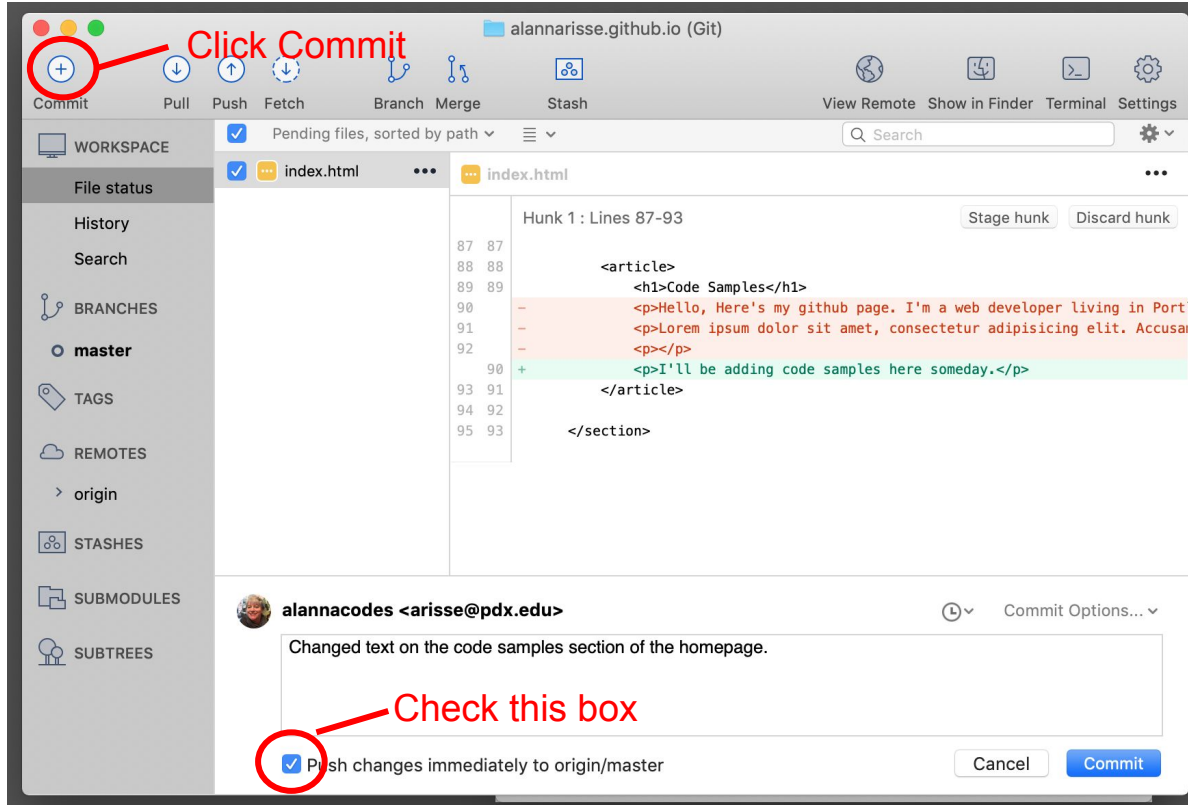


Add your custom domain name and save the file.

You'll see some changes in Source Tree



Commit your file



Click the Commit button on the top left.

Check the box on the bottom: Push changes immediately to origin/master.

Your custom domain should now work

Sometimes it takes a couple hours. If you aren't seeing it by the end of the day today, email me and I'll help you troubleshoot. arisse@pdx.edu

What else?

Let's revisit how to make changes and publish them.

1. Open your files in Brackets (or your text editor of choice)
2. Make your changes
3. Go back to Source Tree to see your changes. You may have to click on the settings icon, sometimes it's hard to get it to refresh quickly.
4. Click on the commit button
5. Write a commit message and click the automatically push to origin/master

Thank you!



Resources

- [Github for poets](#)