

How to Deploy HTML Files Using GitHub Pages

Step-by-Step Guide for Students

□ What You Need Before Starting

- ✓ A GitHub account (free - sign up at github.com)
- ✓ Your HTML file ready (can include CSS and JavaScript files too)
- ✓ Your main HTML file MUST be named index.html

□ **IMPORTANT:** Your main HTML file must be named **index.html** for GitHub Pages to work properly!

Step 1: Create a New Repository

- 1. Go to GitHub.com and log in to your account
- 2. Click the green 'New' button (or the '+' icon at top right)
- 3. Give your repository a name
Example: my-first-website, portfolio, project-name
- 4. Make sure it's set to 'Public' (free hosting only works for public repos)
- 5. Check the box 'Add a README file' (optional but recommended)
- 6. Click 'Create repository' button

Step 2: Upload Your HTML File

- 1. You'll now be on your repository page
- 2. Click 'Add file' button, then select 'Upload files'
- 3. Drag and drop your files OR click 'choose your files'
- 4. **Make sure you upload:**
 - **index.html** (your main HTML file - REQUIRED)
 - Any CSS files (like style.css)
 - Any JavaScript files (like script.js)
 - Any images you use in your website
- 5. Scroll down and click the green 'Commit changes' button

Step 3: Enable GitHub Pages

- 1. Click on 'Settings' tab (at the top of your repository)
- 2. Scroll down and find 'Pages' in the left sidebar menu
- 3. Under 'Source', click the dropdown that says 'None'
- 4. Select 'main' (or 'master') branch
- 5. Keep the folder as '/' (root)
- 6. Click 'Save' button
- 7. **Wait 1-2 minutes for deployment**

Step 4: Get Your Website Link

- 1. Stay on the 'Pages' settings page (or refresh it)
- 2. At the top, you'll see a green box with your website link
- 3. Your link will look like:
https://your-username.github.io/repository-name/
- 4. Click the link to view your live website! ☐
- 5. Share this link with anyone - your website is now live on the internet!

☐ Quick Visual Guide

Your Files → Upload to GitHub → Enable Pages → Get Live Link

☐ Example File Structure

Your repository should look like this:

```
my-website/
├── index.html    (REQUIRED - your main page)
├── style.css     (optional - your styles)
├── script.js    (optional - your JavaScript)
├── images/      (optional - folder for images)
│   ├── logo.png
│   └── photo.jpg
```

☐ How to Update Your Website

- 1. Go to your repository on GitHub
- 2. Click on the file you want to edit (like index.html)
- 3. Click the pencil icon (☐) to edit
- 4. Make your changes
- 5. Scroll down and click 'Commit changes'
- 6. Wait 1-2 minutes, then refresh your website to see updates

☐ Common Problems & Solutions

Problem: Page shows 404 error

Solution: Make sure your main file is named **index.html** (not Index.html or home.html)

Problem: Changes don't appear on website

Solution: Wait 1-2 minutes after making changes. Clear your browser cache (Ctrl + F5)

Problem: Images don't show up

Solution: Check your image paths. Use relative paths like 'images/photo.jpg' not 'C:/Users/...'

Problem: CSS not loading

Solution: Check the link in your HTML: <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">

☐ Pro Tips

- ✓ Always name your main page index.html
- ✓ Use lowercase for all file names (avoid spaces)

- ✓ Test your website locally before uploading
- ✓ Keep your repository public for free hosting
- ✓ Organize files in folders (images/, css/, js/)
- ✓ Write clear commit messages when updating files

□ Practice Exercise

Create a simple HTML page with:

- • Your name as a heading
- • A paragraph about yourself
- • A list of your hobbies
- • A link to your favorite website

Then follow the steps above to deploy it on GitHub Pages!

□ Quick Summary

- 1 □ Create repository on GitHub
- 2 □ Upload index.html and other files
- 3 □ Go to Settings → Pages
- 4 □ Select 'main' branch and save
- 5 □ Get your live website link!

Congratulations! Your website is now live! □
You are now a web developer!