

How to Set Up GitHub Account

GitHub is a collaborative developer platform that enables you to manage your software projects with version tracking. GitHub provides a structured and easy to access platform with features to store code and documentation files, control access, manage change requests, and set up continuous integration workflows among others.

This guide walks you through how to set up a GitHub account.

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Create a GitHub Account

A new user must create an account on GitHub to access to the platform. There are three steps you must complete to create an account on GitHub. You must sign up with your credentials, verify your account by solving a puzzle, and lastly confirm your email. The three steps are explained below.

Signing up for GitHub

Provide identification information to sign up for GitHub. GitHub uses this information to create your credentials on the platform. You can use these credentials to log into your account and access the platform.

1. Go to <https://github.com/>.
2. Click the **Sign up** button on the right-hand side top corner.
3. Fill in the fields as described in the table.

Field	Description
Email	Enter a valid email address. This email address is used by GitHub to confirm your account.
Password	Enter a password. It must adhere to one of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 characters in length or• 8 characters in length containing a number and a lowercase letter.
Username	Enter a username. It is used as a display name for your profile. A username can contain alphanumeric characters and a single hyphen. Hyphen cannot be the first or that last character.
Your Country/Region	Select relevant country or region from the dropdown.

4. Click **Continue**. A screen to verify your account opens.

Verifying your account

Verify your account by solving a puzzle presented at random by GitHub to rule out that your account is fraudulent. There are two types of puzzles presented to you; visual puzzle and audio puzzle. You must solve one to complete verification of your account.

1. Click either **Visual puzzle** or **Audio puzzle**.
2. Follow the next step based on the puzzle you selected.

For Visual Puzzle: You must match images to solve the puzzle. For example, finding a particular image from the set of images displayed on right that contains the image displayed on the left.

- a. Click arrow icons displayed on the images on the right to navigate between them.
 - b. Click **Restart** to reset or change the image or click **Audio puzzle** if you want to change the puzzle method, skip the step otherwise.
- or

For Audio Puzzle: You must match the audio to the sound of the object mentioned in the question displayed. For example, you are presented with several audios and you must find at which audio sounds like bees.

- a. Click **Play** to listen to audio.
 - b. Click **Restart** to reset or change the image or click **Visual puzzle** if you want to change the puzzle method, skip the step otherwise.
 - c. Enter the option number of correct audio in the text field.
3. Click **Submit** when you find the correct image or have entered the correct audio number.

Once account is verified, a screen to confirm your email opens.

Confirming your email address

Confirm your email address by entering the code sent to your email address. This confirms that your email is functional and GitHub can communicate with you.

1. Retrieve the 8-digit code sent to your email sent by noreply@github.com.

Note: Check Spam folder or click **Resend the code** on the **Confirm your email address** screen, if you have not received an email containing the code.

or

Click the link provided in the email to confirm the email.

2. Enter the 8-digit code on the **Confirm your email address** screen.

Note: At this point, you can still change your identification information by clicking **Update your email address**. You will be redirected to the **Sign up to GitHub** screen where you can start the account creation process again.

3. Click **Continue**. Your GitHub account is created and you can now access the platform.

Create a GitHub Repository

A GitHub Repository (repo) is equivalent to a folder where GitHub stores your project's files, code, and version history. GitHub repos can be public or private depending. Public repos can be seen by anyone on internet. Private repos are accessible to only selected individuals. You can upload files with extensions like HTML, .pdf, .md, .yaml, and, .json.

Creating a new GitHub Repo

Sign in to your GitHub account and follow the steps below:

1. Click the **New** button on the left-hand side of the screen next to the **Top repositories**.
2. Fill in the fields as describes below to complete creating the repo.

Fields	Description
Repository Name	Enter a name for your repo. For example, <i>Payment API repo</i> .

Description	Enter a description for your repo. You can add information about what this repo hosts or the purpose of the repo.
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3. Select **Public** or **Private** depending on what accessibility you want to set for the repo.
 - **Public:** This type of repo can be accessed by any one on the internet. However, you control who can request changes the repo.
 - **Private:** This type of repo can only be accessed by individual who is granted access. You can allow viewing or editing access. Editing access allows the individual to request changes which you can accept or reject.
4. Check the **Add a README file** checkbox if you want GitHub to auto-create a readme file for the repo.
5. Click **Create repository**. The repo is created.

Set up GitHub Desktop

You can manage your GitHub repository through command line using Git or through GitHub Desktop application. GitHub Desktop enables you to manage GitHub repositories through user interface without having to write syntactical commands in a terminal.

Info: This guide will follow the GitHub Desktop for Windows as the tool to manage GitHub repos.

Installing GitHub Desktop

Follow the steps below:

1. Go to <https://desktop.github.com/download/>.
2. Click **Download for Windows(64bit)**. *GitHubDesktopSetup-x64.exe* file is downloaded.
3. Launch *GitHubDesktopSetup-x64.exe*. Welcome screen of GitHub Desktop opens.
4. Click **Sign in to GitHub.com**. Your online GitHub account on browser opens.
5. Select a GitHub account or sign in to the GitHub account if your account is not listed.
6. Click **Continue**.
7. Click **Authorize desktop** to grant GitHub Desktop authorization to access the existing repositories, personal user data, and workflows in your account. A popup is displayed.
8. Click **Open GitHub Desktop** on the popup.

Note: On the GitHub Desktop, the account details are already populated. You can use the same username and email address as your online account or provide new ones.

9. Click **Finish**

Cloning a GitHub Repository

Cloning a repo creates a working copy of the online repo or main branch on GitHub Desktop. You can make updates and changes to the working copy and send these updates to the online repo. You can

accept or reject the changes; accepted changes are merged with main branch. Follow the steps below to clone a repo.

1. Find and select the repo to clone on the **Let's get started!** screen.
2. Click the **Clone <name of repo>** button at the bottom of the page. A popup listing the online repo URL and local path to the desktop repo opens.
3. Click **Clone**.

Your repo is cloned.

This completes the setup of your GitHub account.