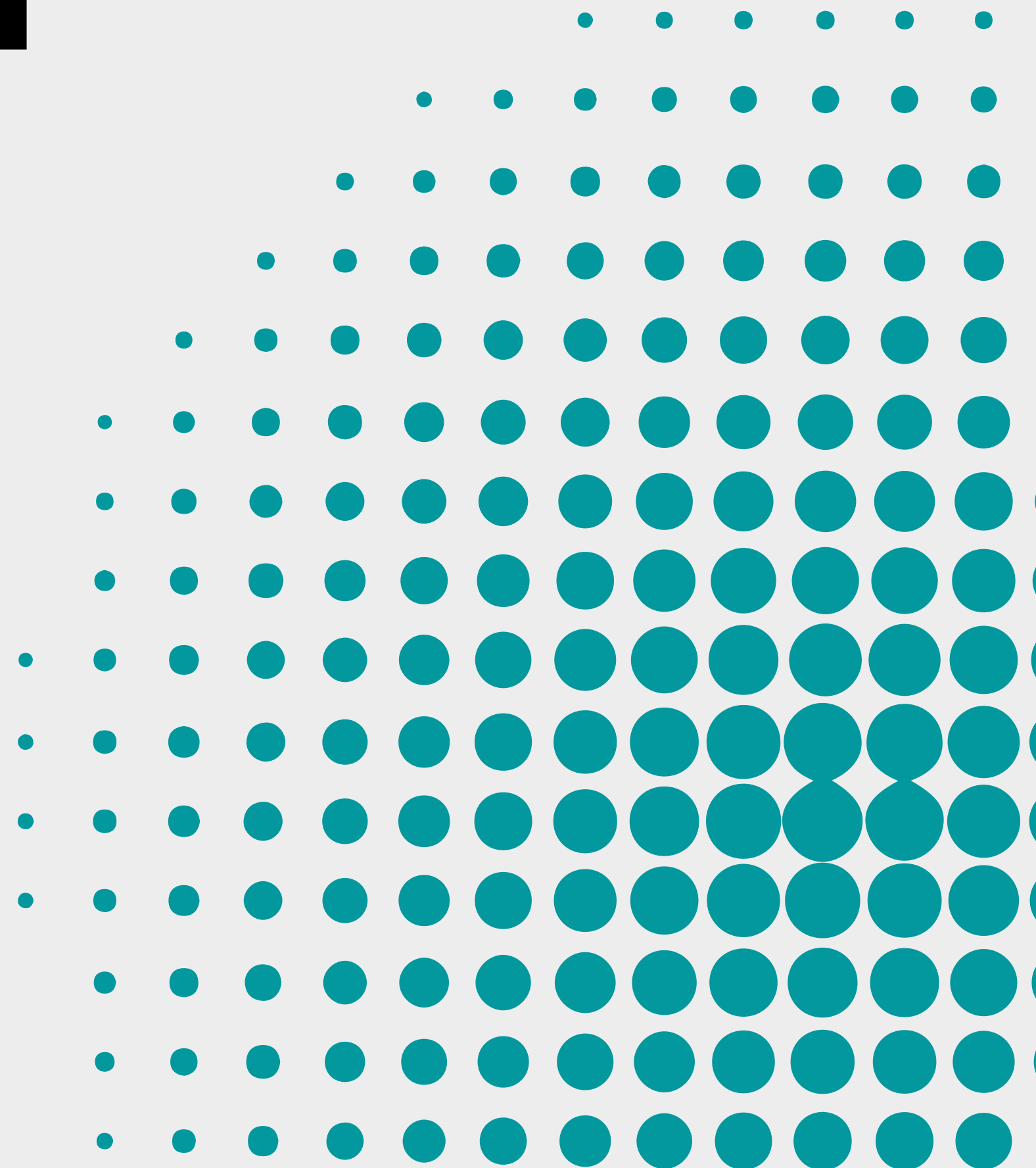


Project-based workflows with GitHub

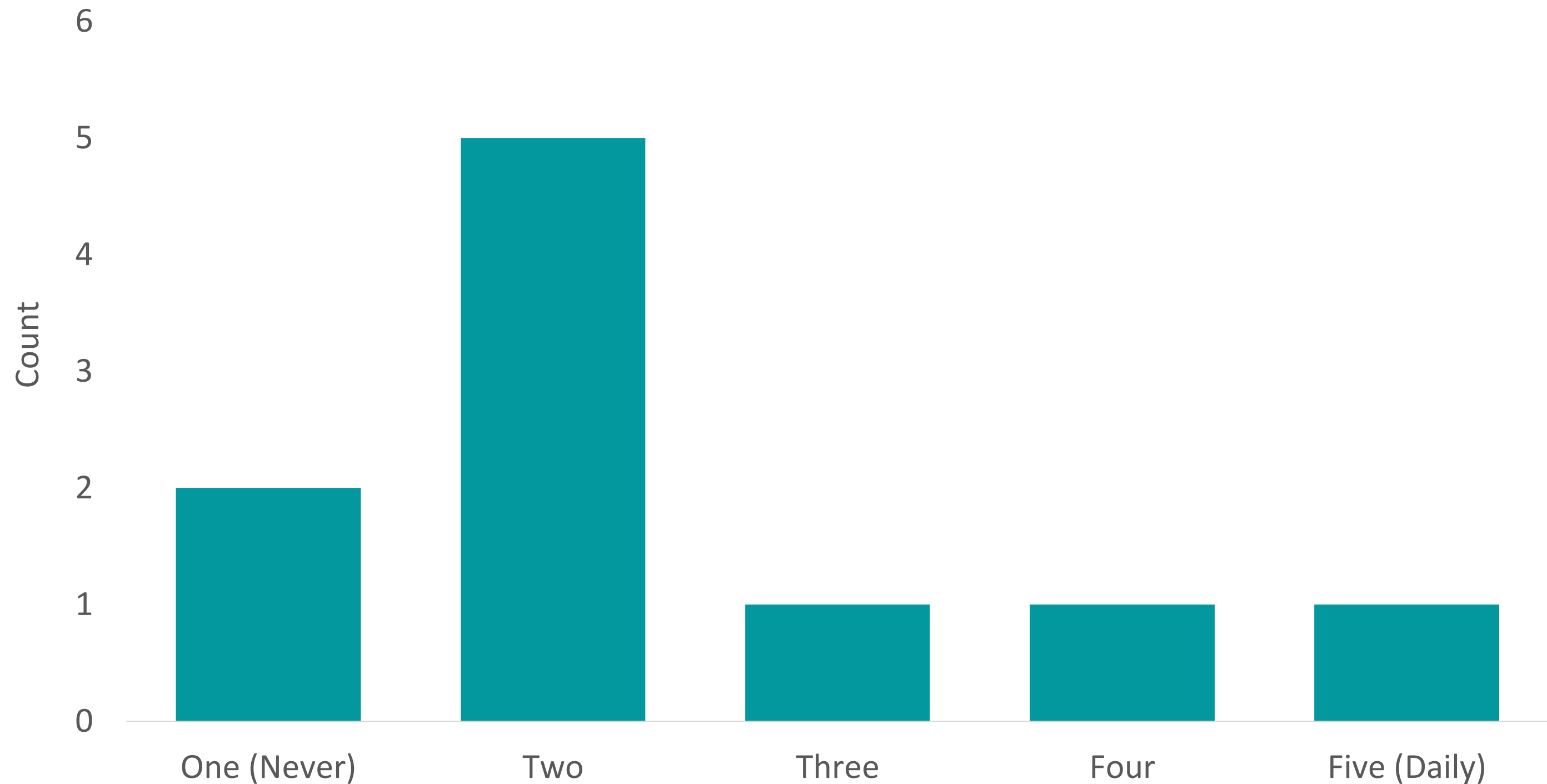
Courtney Robichaud & Emma Hudgins

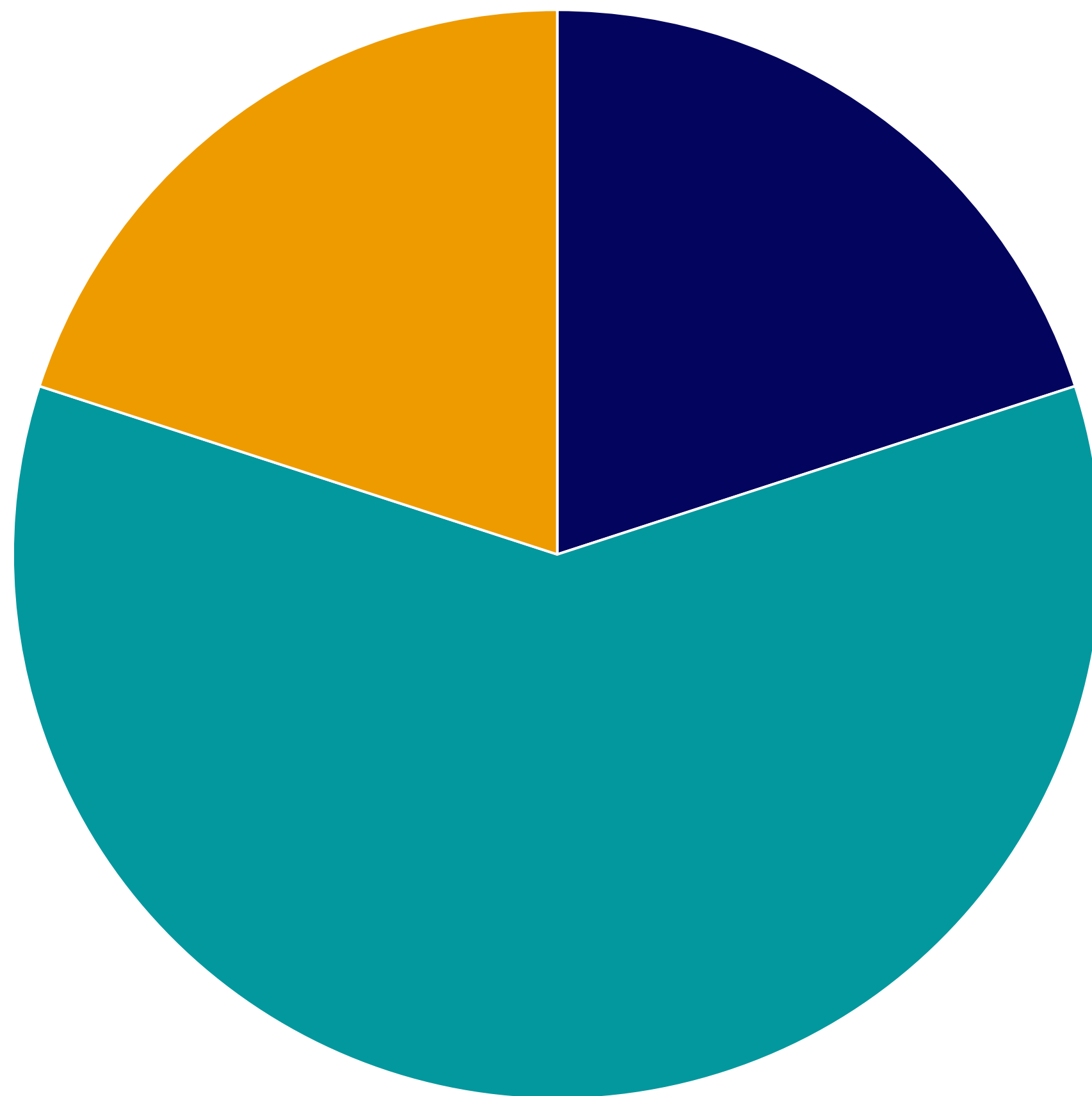


Goal

You walk away confident using
Git/GitHub for version control with
your (R-based) projects

What is your level of familiarity with GitHub?



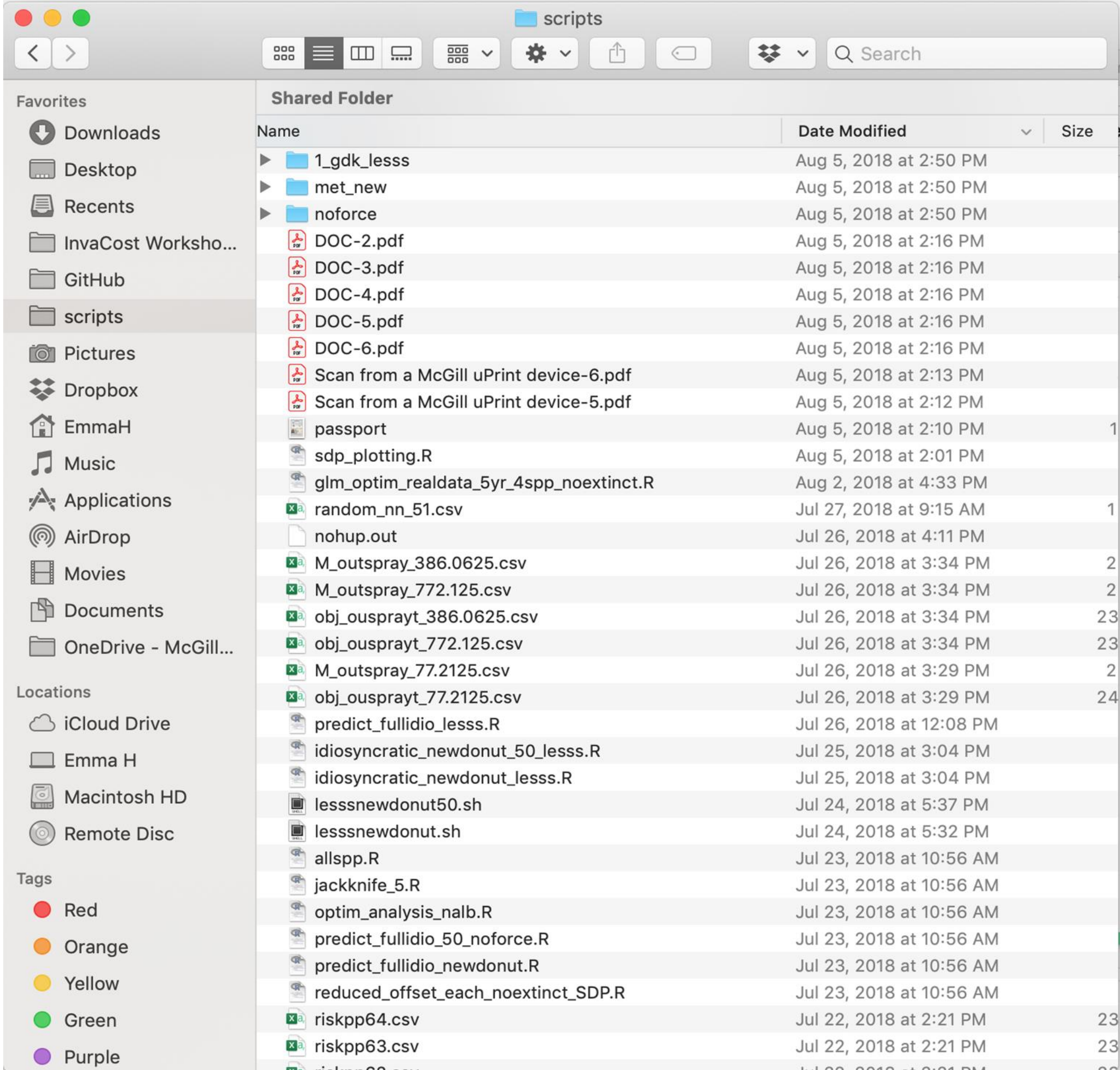


■ Organizing projects for lab members in one location

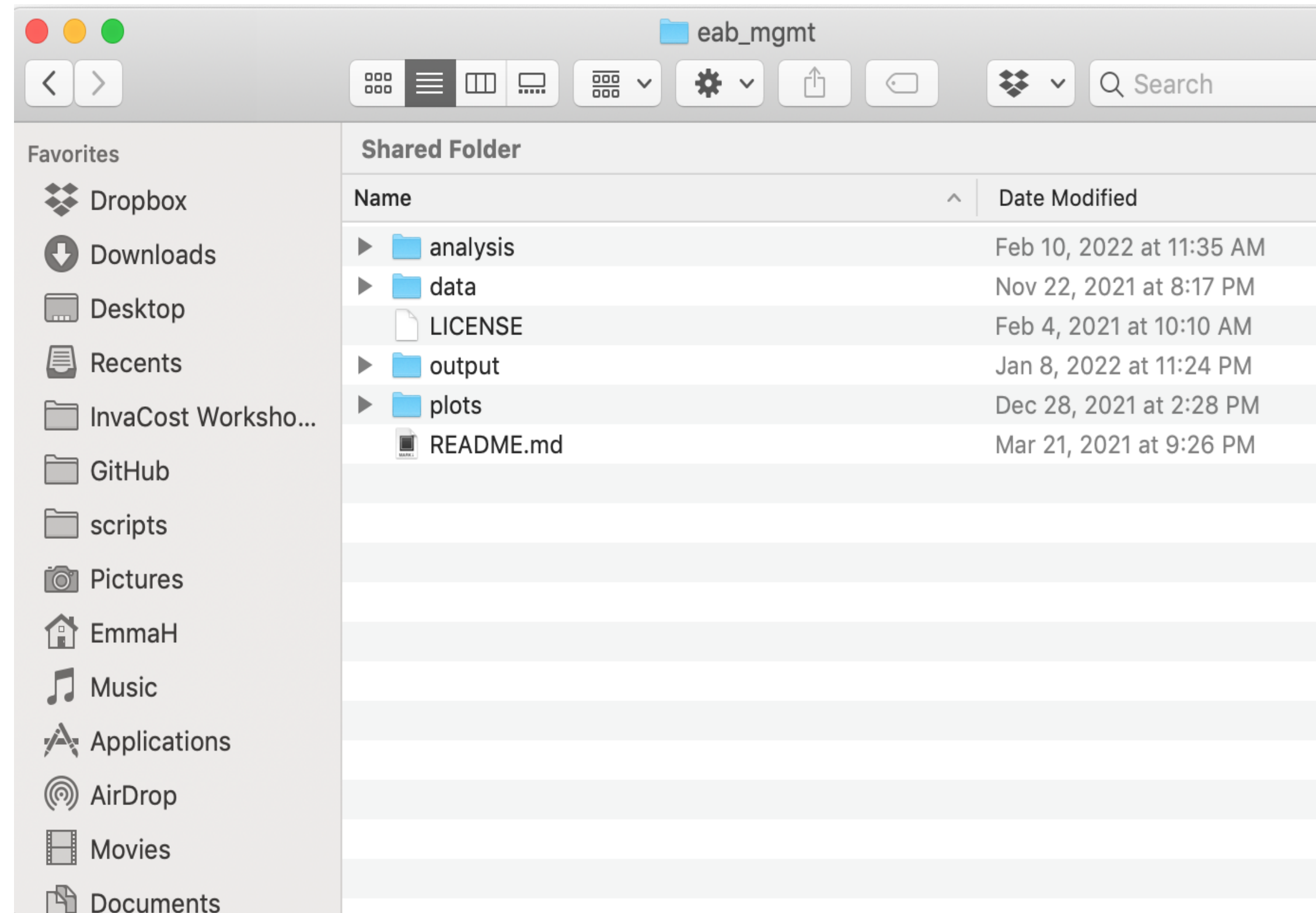
■ Creating an organized system for reproducible analyses

■ All of the above

Your current organization



Your **ideal** organization



Why use R projects?

1. Keep all your associated files for each research project together in one place
2. Never `setwd()` again
3. Make it easy to work across machines, return to work after long absences, and share your work

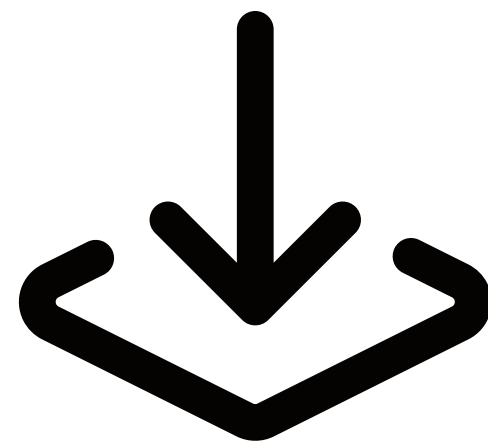
Why use Git & GitHub?

1. Tracks changes made to a project
2. GitHub provides cloud storage/backup for your projects and files
3. Makes working across different machines easy (individual or with collaborators)
4. Can easily share your work (however you are comfortable)

Git **vs** GitHub

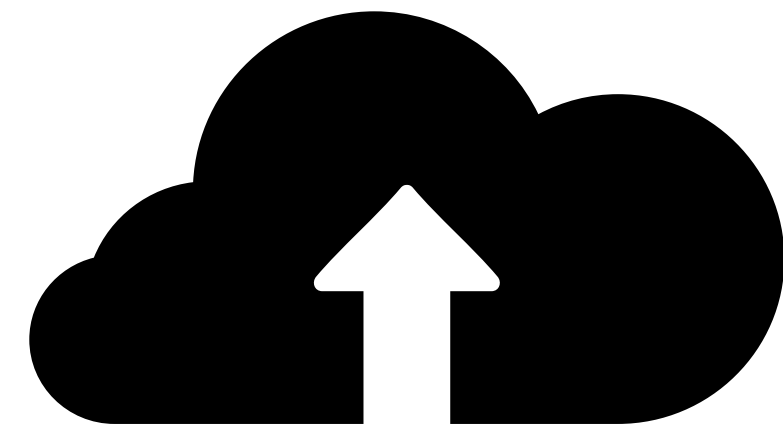
Git

- Installed locally on your computer
- Version control of code
- Minimal additional features



GitHub

- Cloud-based source code repository
- Built around Git technology
- Services for collaboration, editing, tracking etc.

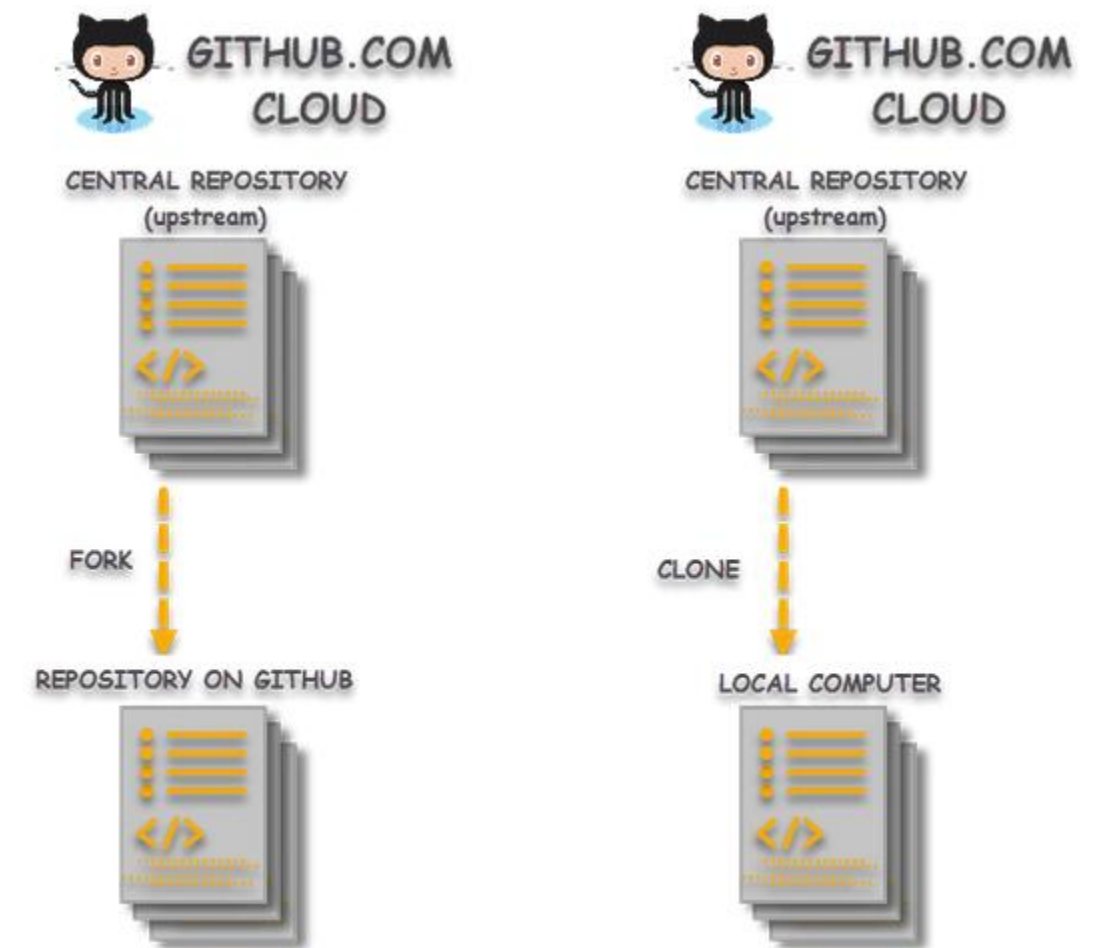


Quick glossary

Repository: contains all your project files and version history

Clone: Copy an existing repo onto your local machine

Fork: Freeze an existing repo and create an independent copy on your GitHub account



<https://www.toolsqa.com/git/difference-between-git-clone-and-git-fork/>

Preferred Sequence

“GitHub first, then RStudio”

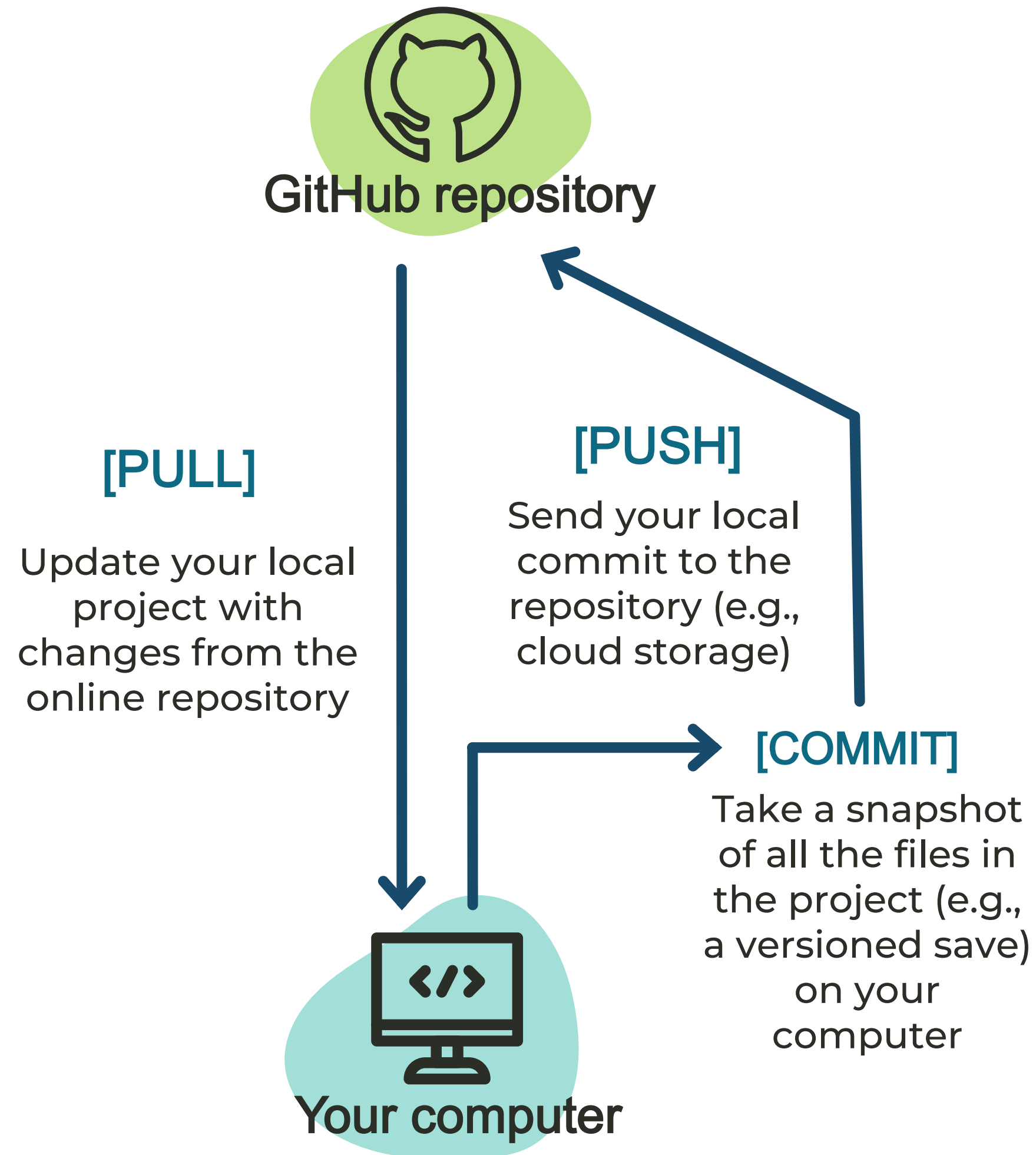
1. We will set up the project in GitHub first by making a repository
2. Then we will make a project in Rstudio, and clone the repository to our local computer

Your moves

Commit: Capture a 'snapshot' of the project (repository). Commits shape the project history.

Push: Upload local repository content (commits) to the remote repository (on GitHub)

Pull: Download content from the remote repository and update the repository on your computer



Large Files

50MB: Git warns you that this is a big file

100MB: hard limit on pushes

GitHub Large File Storage: Alternative storage for files up to 2GB (free)

Releases: Can store large compressed files (.tar.gz)

Common Issues/Tricks

Push > Pull conflicts: If you are not up to date with the repo, your push will be rejected. Try pulling, then push your work

Don't push intermediate work – what is in your repo should always “work”

Fork vs Clone

Forking:

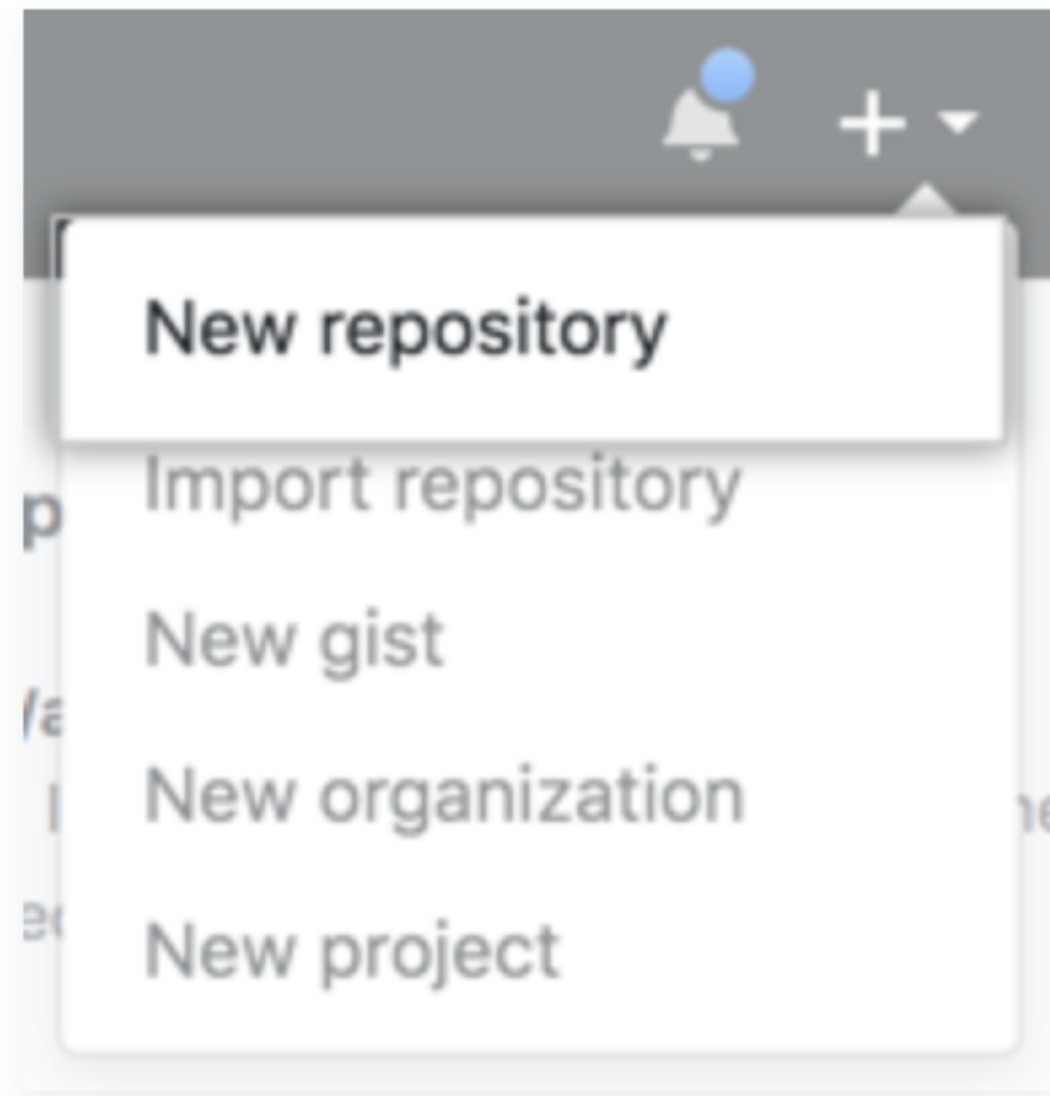
- never alters the original repo (without a Pull Request)
- great for: using a repo as a template, refining someone else's approach, safe collaboration

Cloning:

- Depending on collaborator permissions, you may be able to alter the main repo
- Can be used for collaboration (most often by working in a branch and submitting Pull Requests)
- Can also just be a way to download code

Screenshots of the steps

- 1 In the upper-right corner of any page, use the + drop-down menu, and select **New repository**.



OR click the green button in the left pane




Recent Repositories



- 2 Type a short, memorable name for your repository. For example, "hello-world".

Create a new repository

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

Owner
 octocat ▾

Repository name
hello-world ✓

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about **potential-eureka**.

Description (optional)

- 3 Optionally, add a description of your repository. For example, "My first repository on GitHub."

Create a new repository

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

Owner

 octocat ▾

Repository name

/ hello-world ✓




Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about **potential-eureka**.

Description (optional)

My first repository on GitHub



- 4 Choose a repository visibility. For more information, see "[About repositories](#)."

Description (optional)

- ☒  **Public**
Anyone can see this repository. You choose who can commit.
- ☐  **Internal**
Octo Corp [enterprise members](#) can see this repository. You choose who can commit.
- ☐  **Private**
You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.

5 Select **Initialize this repository with a README.**

-
- ☒  **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.
-

Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.

☒ **Initialize this repository with a README**
This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer.

Add .gitignore: None ▼

Add a license: None ▼



Create repository

- 6 Click **Create repository**.

This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer.

Add .gitignore: None ▼

Add a license: None ▼



Create repository

Structure of a repo

emmajhudgins / WEN_github

Private

Unwatch1

Fork0

Star0

<> Code

Issues

Pull requests1

Actions

Projects

Security

Insights

Settings

main


2 branches

0 tags


Go to file

Add file

Code


 emmajhudgins more ideas

6ea5a28 22 minutes ago 6 commits

 .gitignore


Initial commit

4 days ago

 LICENSE

Initial commit


4 days ago

 README.md

more ideas

22 minutes ago

README.md



Project-based workflows with GitHub

Created by Drs. Courtney Robichaud and Emma Hudgins


see survey link [here](#) slides [here](#)


Ideas of what to cover:


where to put the Gitignore so it always works [link](#)


About


repo to accompany the WEN Project-based workflows with GitHub workshop

 Readme

 MIT License

 0 stars

 1 watching

 0 forks

Releases

No releases published

[Create a new release](#)

Packages

No packages published

[Publish your first package](#)

Go to file

Add file ▼

Code ▼

Create new file

Upload files

7 commits

WEN_github / data / README.md in main

Commit new file

Create README.md

Add an optional extended description...

☒ Commit directly to the `main` branch.

☐ Create a **new branch** for this commit and start a pull request. [Learn more about pull requests.](#)

Commit new file

Cancel



Go to file

Create new file

Upload files

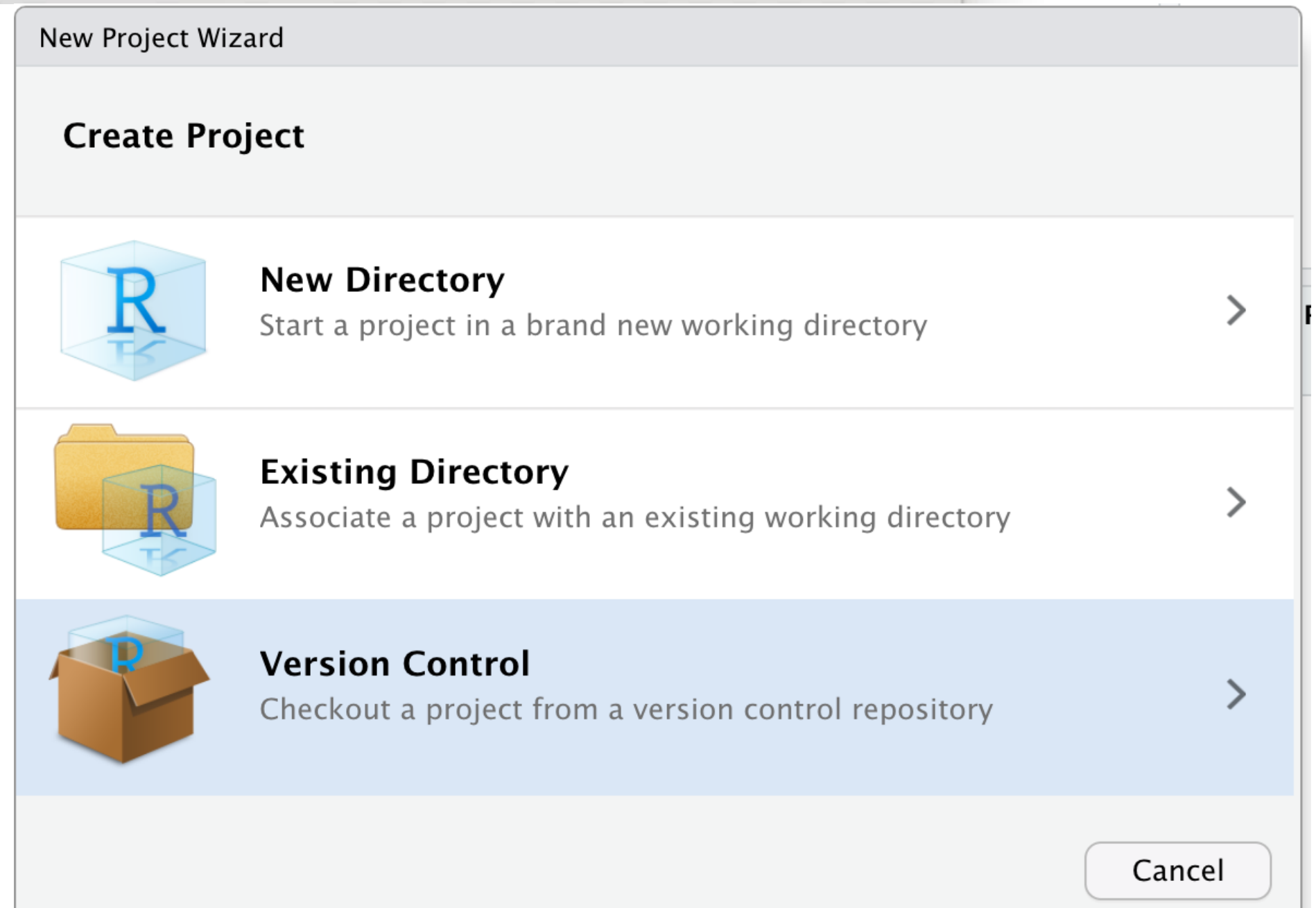
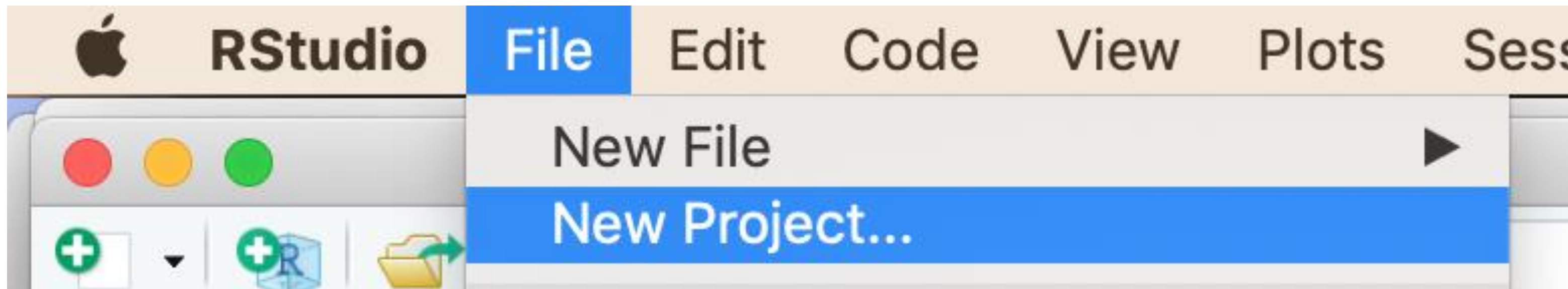


WEN_github /



Drag files here to add them to your repository

Or [choose your files](#)



New Project Wizard

Back

Create Project from Version Control



Git

Clone a project from a Git repository



Subversion

Checkout a project from a Subversion repository



https://github.com/emmajhudgins/WEN_github



Cancel

New Project Wizard

Back

Clone Git Repository



Repository URL:

https://github.com/emmajhudgins/WEN_github

Project directory name:

WEN_github

Create project as subdirectory of:

~/Desktop/OneDrive – McGill University/GitHub

Brow

☐ Open in new session

Create Project

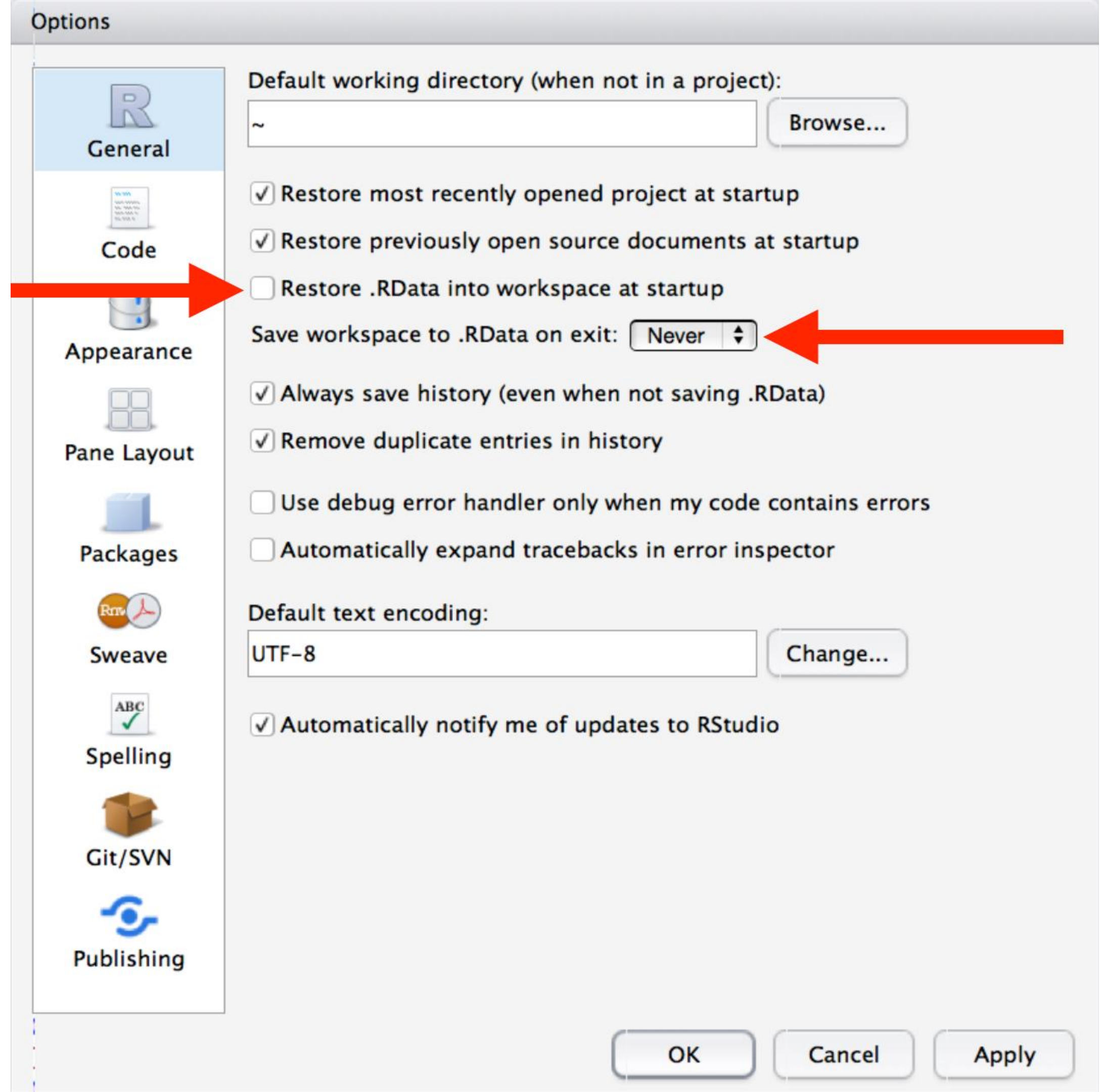
Ca

The screenshot shows the RStudio File Explorer pane. The breadcrumb path is 'OneDrive - McGill University > GitHub > WEN_github'. The file list is as follows:

	Name	Size
	..	
<input type="checkbox"/>	.gitignore	570 B
<input type="checkbox"/>	Data	
<input type="checkbox"/>	LICENSE	1 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Output	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raw data	
<input type="checkbox"/>	README.md	2.7 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scripts	
<input type="checkbox"/>	WEN_github.Rproj	205 B

Additional Information

Check/change
your settings in
R:



Git Ignore (.gitignore)

Choose a template based on your main programming language (R template ignores files like .RHistory)

Some examples of files you probably want to ignore:

- Sensitive information (e.g. passwords)
- Binary files such as .Rdata.
- **Files > 50MB**. Git is specifically made for **code** (e.g. .R) and does not intend to track all changes in large data files (these can be uploaded in 'releases' with DOIs through Zenodo).
- *temporary files/folders* with 'disposable' content

Licenses



I need to work in a community.

Use the **license preferred by the community** you're contributing to or depending on. Your project will fit right in.

If you have a dependency that doesn't have a license, ask its maintainers to **add a license**.



I want it simple and permissive.

The **MIT License** is short and to the point. It lets people do almost anything they want with your project, like making and distributing closed source versions.

Babel, **.NET Core**, and **Rails** use the MIT License.



I care about sharing improvements.

The **GNU GPLv3** also lets people do almost anything they want with your project, *except* distributing closed source versions.

Ansible, **Bash**, and **GIMP** use the GNU GPLv3.

Ideal Project Structure

Raw Data: Data imported into your project. Metadata includes date of download or collection, original source and re-use info

(Derived) Data: Data you have altered e.g., merging databases, cleaning up data, subsets, etc.

Scripts: Code (can separate by language)

Output: Figures, tables, results

Every folder should contain a README to explain what it contains

Meta-data/ReadMe best practices

- Include package **version** information and any external **software** used
- Describe files in a **logical order**
- Describe any **column/variable names** (especially units)
- Include which scripts **outputs** come from (helpful for new users and future you)

File Naming

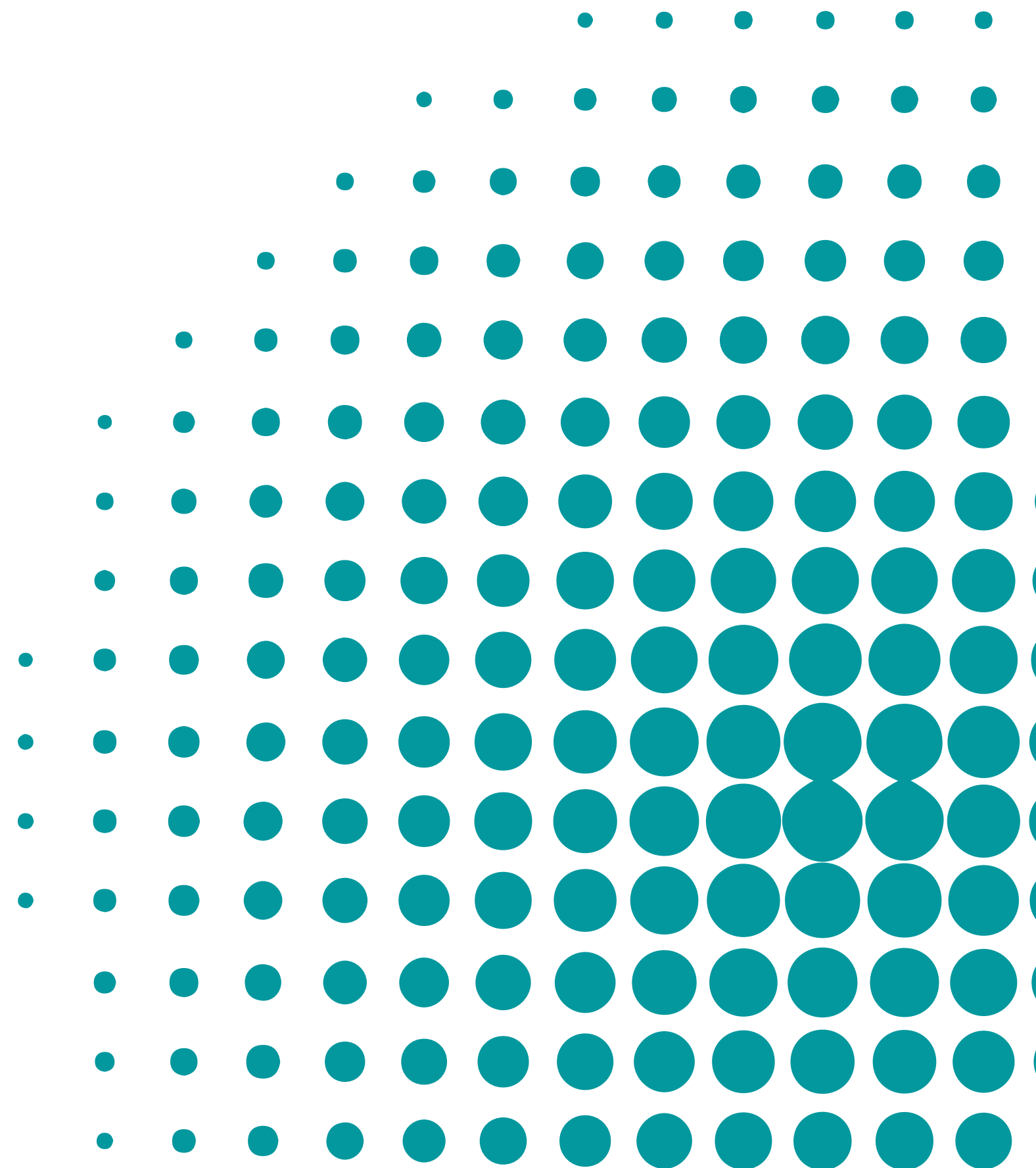
- Be as **descriptive** as possible
- Can add **leading numbers** to scripts that indicate order they should be run e.g.
 - 01-data_processing.R
 - 02-model_fitting.R
- Avoid dates/overly **generic** names
- Name output similarly to script that **generated** it
- Use hyphens and underscores, **not spaces**

Clean Coding

Be proactive

- Use ##### or ctrl + shift + r to **separate sections** within scripts
- Describe each major step and **why** it's done
- Put yourself in the shoes of the **person reading** the code for the first time
- Include code **author** names, software **versions**

**More
advanced
GitHub**



Collaboration

Branch - one set of version histories for a repo, including the 'main' original branch, and additional branches used to suggest changes, test out new ideas that may not work etc.

Pull request - a suggested commit (created in another branch or from a fork) that must be approved by the owner of the main branch

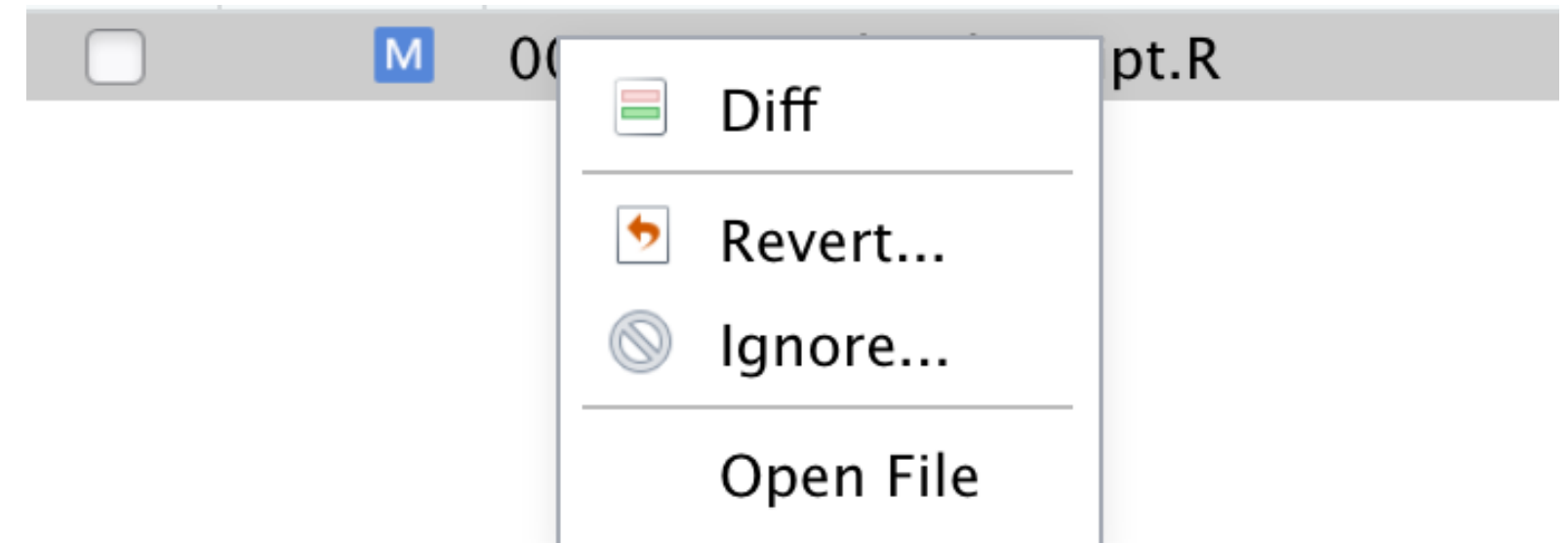
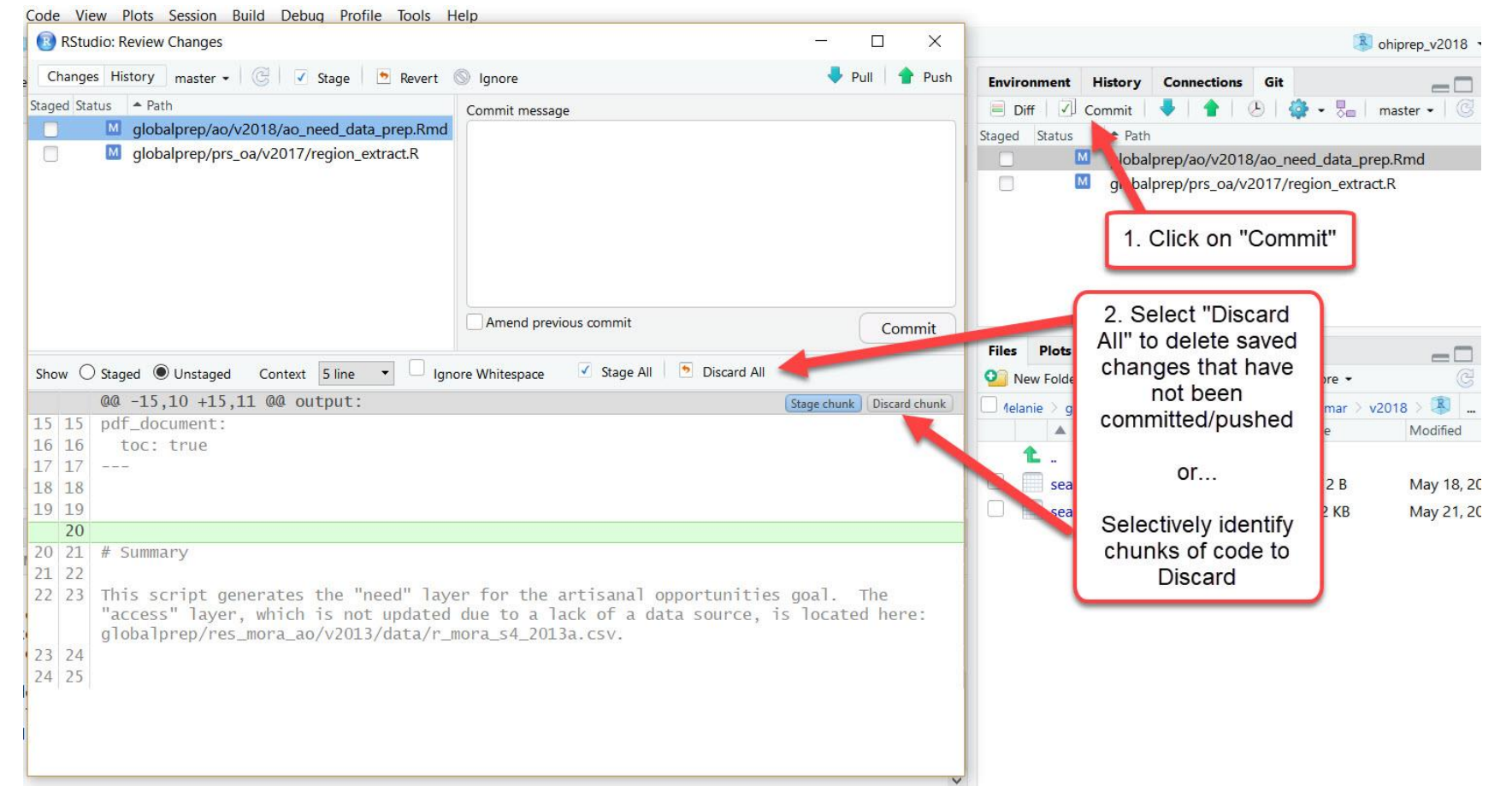
Pull often, commit after each change

Revert changes

Easier pre-commit, but possible post-commit too.

Pre-commit:

In RStudio, right click on a file and select 'revert'



Releases, Zenodo & DOI creation

Releases

No releases published

Create a new release

The screenshot displays the Zenodo user interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the Zenodo logo, a search bar, and buttons for 'Upload' and 'Communities'. A user profile dropdown shows the email 'emma.hudgins@mail.mcgill.ca'. Below the header, a secondary search bar and a green 'New Upload' button are visible. The main content area shows a list of releases. The first release is selected, indicated by a green checkmark. It is titled 'emmajhudgins/GDK_vs_customized: Publication release - Ecological Applications' and was created on July 19, 2019. It is categorized as 'Software' and is 'Open Access'. The interface also shows filters for 'Drafts 0', 'Published 1', and 'All versions', along with sorting options set to 'Most recent' and 'asc.'. A pagination bar at the bottom shows the current page is 1 of 1.

zenodo

Search

Upload

Communities

emma.hudgins@mail.mcgill.ca

Search uploads...

New Upload

Drafts 0 Published 1 All versions

Sort Most recent asc.

July 19, 2019 (v1.0) Software Open Access

emmajhudgins/GDK_vs_customized: Publication release - Ecological Applications

Created Jul 19, 2019 3:32:07 PM, modified Jul 19, 2019 3:36:14 PM

< 1 >

[Upload](#)[Communities](#)

emma.hudgins@mail.mcgill.ca

[Home](#) / [Account](#) / [Linked accounts](#)

Settings

[Profile](#)[Change password](#)[Security](#)[Linked accounts](#)[Applications](#)[Shared links](#)[GitHub](#)

Linked accounts

Tired of entering password for Zenodo every time you sign in? Set up single sign-on with one or more of the services below:

GitHub

Software collaboration platform, with one-click software preservation in Zenodo.

Disconnect

ORCID

Connecting Research and Researchers.

Repositories

If your organization's repositories do not show up in the list, please ensure you have enabled [third-party access](#) to the Zenodo application. Private repositories are not supported.

[_emmajhudgins/Activity_sectors](#)

☐ OFF

Other helpful resources

<https://datacarpentry.org/rr-version-control>

<https://carpentries-incubator.github.io/git-Rstudio-course/>

<https://www.markdownguide.org/basic-syntax/>