Guide to Git and Github

By Em Lim

If you want to start using github, here’s how to get started!

This link walks you through the process of installing git and using it with RStudio, there’s a lot of extra stuff in there so I have also provided a bare bones guide below!

<https://jennybc.github.io/2014-05-12-ubc/ubc-r/session03_git.html#learngit>

**Step 1: Install Git**

Here’s a link to download Git for different operating systems: <https://git-scm.com/downloads>

Quick and easy how to for Mac users:

1. Open a terminal (go to the launch pad and search “terminal” it should pop up)
2. Install homebrew if you don’t already have it by entering this code into the terminal:

/bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/master/install.sh)"

1. Install git by entering this code into the terminal

brew install git

Quick and easy how to for Windows users:

1. Click this link, the download will start automatically: <https://git-scm.com/download/win>

**Step 2: Configure RStudio to use git**

1. Open RStudio
2. Click *Tools -> Global Options -> Git/SVN*
3. If *Git executable* shows *(none)*, click *Browse* and select the git executable installed on your system
   1. On a Mac, this will likely be one of
   2. /usr/bin/git
   3. /usr/local/bin/git
   4. /usr/local/git/bin/git
   5. On Windows, git.exe will likely be somewhere in Program Files
4. Click *OK*

**Step 3: Create a Github account**

1. Click <https://github.com/>

Ta Da!

Next, if you want to pull Projects from github to your computer, here’s how to do that!

1. Open a project in Github (eg, Em’s REM-611 project)
2. Click on the green Code button
3. Copy the link that pops up (eg. <https://github.com/em-lim13/REM-611.git>
4. Open RStudio
5. File > New Project > Version Control > Git
6. Paste the URL into the Repository URL
7. Name this project
8. Choose where you want the project to live on your computer
9. Click the “open in new session” box
10. Create project!!!!

This will clone my project from github and make a copy on your computer!

Please don’t commit any changes to avoid changing my original files.

Thanks!!

Please feel free to contact me with questions [em\_lim@sfu.ca](mailto:em_lim@sfu.ca)

Happy coding!!!!  
Em

While Github is a great way to share and collaborate on code, I want to be transparent about some of its flaws. Specifically, GitHub has a contract with ICE, and you can read about it here: <https://techcrunch.com/2019/11/13/github-faces-more-resignations-in-light-of-ice-contract/>