

Introduction to Github

1 hour 30 minutes Free ★★★☆

Introduction

In this lab, you'll practice the basics of interacting with GitHub. You'll practice setting up an account, logging in, creating a repository, making changes on the local machine, and pushing changes back to the remote repository. We use these git operations to share changes from the remote repository to the local repository and vice-versa.

What you'll do

- · Create a Github account
- · Create a git repository
- · Git clone to create a local copy on your local machine
- · Add a file to this repository
- · Create snapshot/snapshots of the local repository
- · Push the snapshots to the main branch

You'll have 90 minutes to complete this lab.

Start the lab

You'll need to start the lab before you can access the materials in the virtual machine OS. To do this, click the green "Start Lab" button at the top of the screen.

Note: For this lab you are going to access the Linux VM through your local SSH Client, and not use the Google Console (Open GCP Console button is not available for this lab).

Start Lab

After you click the "Start Lab" button, you will see all the SSH connection details on the left-hand side of your screen. You should have a screen that looks like this:







Please find one of the three relevant options below based on your device's operating system.



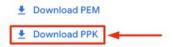
Note: Working with Qwiklabs may be similar to the work you'd perform as an IT Support Specialist; you'll be interfacing with a cutting-edge technology that requires multiple steps to access, and perhaps healthy doses of patience and persistence(!). You'll also be using SSH to enter the labs — a critical skill in IT Support that you'll be able to practice through the labs.

Option 1: Windows Users: Connecting to your VM

In this section, you will use the PuTTY Secure Shell (SSH) client and your VM's External IP address to connect.

Download your PPK key file

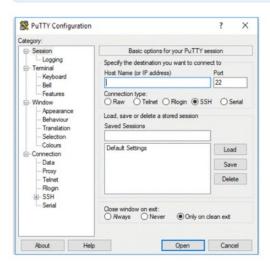
You can download the VM's private key file in the PuTTY-compatible **PPK** format from the Qwiklabs Start Lab page. Click on **Download PPK**.



Connect to your VM using SSH and PuTTY

- 1. You can download Putty from here
- 2. In the Host Name (or IP address) box, enter username@external_ip_address.

Note: Replace username and external_ip_address with values provided in the lab.



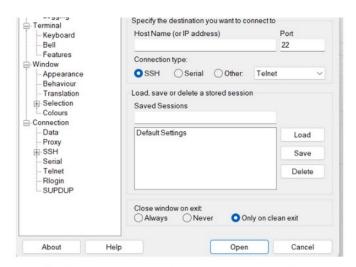
- 3. In the Connection list, expand SSH.
- 4. Then expand Auth by clicking on + icon.
- 5. Now, select the Credentials from the Auth list.
- In the Private key file for authentication box, browse to the PPK file that you downloaded and double-click it.
- 7. Click on the Open button.

Note: PPK file is to be imported into PuTTY tool using the Browse option available in it. It should not be opened directly but only to be used in PuTTY.









Click Yes when prompted to allow a first connection to this remote SSH server.
 Because you are using a key pair for authentication, you will not be prompted for a password.

Common issues

If PuTTY fails to connect to your Linux VM, verify that:

- · You entered <username>@<external ip address> in PuTTY.
- · You downloaded the fresh new PPK file for this lab from Qwiklabs.
- · You are using the downloaded PPK file in PuTTY.

Option 2: OSX and Linux users: Connecting to your VM via SSH

Download your VM's private key file.

You can download the private key file in PEM format from the Qwiklabs Start Lab page. Click on **Download PEM**.



Connect to the VM using the local Terminal application

A **terminal** is a program which provides a **text-based interface for typing commands**. Here you will use your terminal as an SSH client to connect with lab provided Linux VM.

- 1. Open the Terminal application.
 - . To open the terminal in Linux use the shortcut key Ctrl+Alt+t.
 - To open terminal in Mac (OSX) enter cmd + space and search for terminal.
- 2. Enter the following commands.

Note: Substitute the path/filename for the PEM file you downloaded, username and External IP Address.

You will most likely find the PEM file in **Downloads**. If you have not changed the download settings of your system, then the path of the PEM key will be ~/Downloads/qwikLABS-XXXXX.pem







Option 3: Chrome OS users: Connecting to your VM via SSH

Note: Make sure you are not in Incognito/Private mode while launching the application.

Download your VM's private key file.

You can download the private key file in PEM format from the Qwiklabs Start Lab page. Click on **Download PEM**.



Connect to your VM

- 1. Add Secure Shell from here to your Chrome browser.
- 2. Open the Secure Shell app and click on [New Connection].



3. In the username section, enter the username given in the Connection Details Panel of the lab. And for the hostname section, enter the external IP of your VM instance that is mentioned in the Connection Details Panel of the lab.



In the Identity section, import the downloaded PEM key by clicking on the Import... button beside the field. Choose your PEM key and click on the OPEN button.

Note: If the key is still not available after importing it, refresh the application, and select it from the **Identity** drop-down menu.

5. Once your key is uploaded, click on the [ENTER] Connect button below.









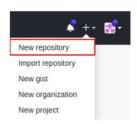
- 6. For any prompts, type yes to continue.
- 7. You have now successfully connected to your Linux VM.

You're now ready to continue with the lab!

Create a git repository

To create a git repository, you need to have a Github account. Follow the steps below to create a github account and a git repository:

- Open <u>Github</u>. If you don't already have a Github account, create one by entering a
 username, email, and password. If you already have a Github account proceed to the
 next step.
- · Log in to your account from the Github login page.
- · Click the + sign in the top-right corner of the page and click then on New repository.



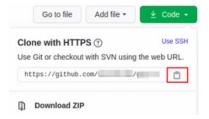
- Enter your repository name in the field Repository name and add a project description in the Description field.
- You can either select public or private to restrict repository accessibility. If public, anyone can see the repository but you still choose who can commit to it. If private, you choose who can see and commit to the repository.
- Check the option Initialize this repository with a README to initialize the repository
 with a README file. Leave all the other values to their default.
- · Click the Create repository button.

Git operations

You now need to create a local copy of this remote repository on your machine. We'll do this by cloning the repository. The syntax for this is:



For the URL, you can either choose an **SSH** or an **HTTPS** link as a URL. We will use HTTPS to clone the Git repository. Click on **Clone or download** and select HTTPS. Copy the **HTTPS** link by clicking on the Copy button beside the link.







Next, go to your **linux-instance** terminal and replace [URL] from the above syntax with the link you copied. The command should now look similar to:

git clone https://github.com/[username]/[git-repo].git

Here, **username** is the Git username and **git-repo** is the name of the remote repository you created.

Note: If you are using a **private** repo, then you will need to use your Github username and personal access token to clone the repo via HTTPS method as password authentication method is currently not supported by Github.

It requires the use of personal access tokens rather than traditional passwords so it is necessary for you to create a personal access token to complete the lab (in case you don't have one). Also this token will be used in further steps for the lab.

Generating a Personal Access Token

Personal Access Token can be created by moving the application settings of your Github account. Proceed to the Settings menu and choose Developer settings, where you will locate the option for Personal Access Token. By utilizing this token, you will be enabled to clone and push to your remote repository using HTTPS. For more help to generate a personal access token, click here.

This creates a directory with the same name as your repository, initializes a .git directory inside it, pulls down all the data for that repository, and creates a working copy of the latest version.

You can now list the files using the **Is** command and find your new repository. Move into your repository using **cd** command. There, you'll see the project files, which are ready to be worked on or used.

cd directory_name

Replace the ${\bf directory_name}$ with your repository's name that you just initialized.

If you want to clone the repository into another directory of your choice, you can do that by passing the name of the directory. This automatically creates a new directory with the specified name and initializes the repository inside it.

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Syntax:

git clone [URL] directory_name

Configure Git

Git uses a username to associate commits with an identity. It does this by using the git config command. Set Git username with the following command:

git config --global user.name "Name"

Replace **Name** with your name. Any future commits you push to GitHub from the command line will now be represented by this name. You can use **git config** to even change the name associated with your Git commits. This will only affect future commits and won't change the name used for past commits.

Let's set your email address to associate them with your Git commits.

git config --global user.email "user@example.com"

Replace user@example.com with your email-id. Any future commits you now push to GitHub will be associated with this email address. You can also use git config to even change the user email associated with your Git commits.

Edit the file and add it to the repository

Now, edit the README file by using nano editor:



Add any text within the file, or you can use the following text:

```
I am editing the README file. Adding some more details about the project description. 
 \hfill \Box
```

Save the file by pressing Ctrl-o, Enter key, and Ctrl-x.

We can check the status using the following command:

```
git status
```

The git status command shows the different states of files in your working directory and staging area, like files that are modified but unstaged and files that are staged but not yet committed.

You can now see that the README.md file shows that it's been modified.

Now, let's add the file to the staging area using the following command:

```
git add README.md
```

Use the **git add** command to add content from the working directory into the staging area for the next commit. When the git commit command is run, it looks at this staging area. So you can use git add to craft what you'd like your next commit snapshot to look like. To check the files in staging area use **git** status.

```
student-01-80cc852cdf10@linux-instance:~/my-git-repo$ git status
On branch main
Your branch is up-to-date with 'origin/main'.
Changes to be committed:
(use "git reset HEAD <file>..." to unstage)
modified: README.md
```

Let's now commit the changes. A Git commit is like "saving" your work.

Commit the changes using the following command:

```
git commit
```

This now opens an editor that asks you to type a commit message. Every commit has an associated commit message. A commit message is a log message from the user describing the changes.





Enter the commit message of your choice or you can use the following text:

I am editing the README file. $\hfill \Box$

Once you've entered the commit message, save it by clicking Ctrl-o and the Enter key. To exit click Ctrl-x.

The **git commit** command captures a snapshot of the project's currently staged changes. It stores the current contents of the index in a new commit along with the commit message.

You've successfully committed your file!

Now, push the committed changes from your local repository to a remote repository on the **main** branch by using:

git push origin main

Next, enter your Github username/email ID and personal access token on password prompt to push the changes on the associated remote repository.

Note: If you have cloned a private repository, you would have already generated a personal access token. Therefore, utilize that token to push the changes. In case you are using public repo, please refer to the steps for **Generating a Personal Access Token** provided earlier in the section **Git operations**.

Click Check my progress to verify the objective.

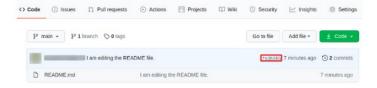
Edit the file and add it to repository



Assessment completed! You have successfully pushed a file to the repository.

You can check the changes made to the local README.md file on the remote repository on Github. You can see the last time when the README.md file was added/updated.

You can also see the commit ID just above the list of files in the repository. Click on the Commit ID to get more details related to the commit.



Create a new file and commit it to the repository

You now need to create a new file **example.py** on the local git repository in the working directory. To do this, use the following command:

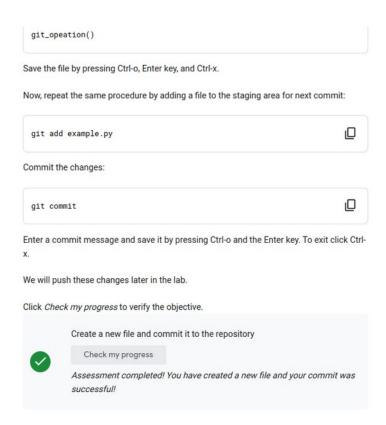
nano example.py

Add the following Python script to the example.py file:

def git_opeation():
 print("I am adding example.py file to the remote repository.")







Add an empty file to the repository through web UI

Now, let's create an empty file on the remote repository using the Github website.

 Go to your repository on the Github website and click on the Add file button, then click on Create new file. This will open a new page.



- Enter the file's name in the box beside your repository's name. Leave the contents of the file empty.
- Scroll down and enter a commit message in the first box under Commit new file section.
- 4. Leave the rest on its default value and click the Commit new file button.

You've successfully committed a new file through the website.

Now, let's push the changes made on the local repository that weren't pushed. Switch back to your terminal and enter the following command:



```
student-01-80cc852cdf108linux-instance:-/my-git-repo$ git push origin main
Username for 'https://github.com':
Password for 'https:// @github.com':
To https://github.com/ /my-git-repo.git
! [rejected] main -> main (fetch first)
error: falled to push some refs to 'https://github.com/ /my-git-repo.git'
hint: Updates were rejected because the remote contains work that you do
hint: not have locally. This is usually caused by another repository pushing
hint: to the same ref. You may want to first integrate the remote changes
hint: (e.g., 'git pull ...') before pushing again.
hint: See the 'Note about fast-forwards' in 'git push --help' for details.
```

The last command throws an **error**. This is because the files added or change done on a remote repository (the Github website) isn't present yet on your local repository, but we're trying to push something from the local repository to the remote repository. To push changes from the local repository, we need to first update the local repository from the remote repository.

Let's now pull the current snapshot/commit in the remote repository to the local repository:

```
git pull origin main
```

This opens an editor that asks you to enter a commit message for the merge operation (remote repository to local repository).

You can simply accept the default message or type your own message. To continue, save the file by pressing Ctrl-o, Enter key, and Ctrl-x.

The git pull command is used to fetch and download content from a remote repository and update the local repository to match that content.

Output:

```
student-01-80cc852cdf10glinux-instance:~/my-git-repo$ git pull origin main remote: Enumerating objects: 4, done. remote: Counting objects: 100% (4/4), done. remote: Counting objects: 100% (2/2), done. remote: Total 3 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0 Unpacking objects: 100% (3/3), done.

From https://github.com///my-git-repo

* branch main -> FETCH_HEAD
fe3b385.9afc635 main -> origin/main
Merge made by the 'recursive' strategy.

[data.txt | 1 +
1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
create mode 100644 data.txt
```

Now try pushing the changes again.

```
git push origin main
```

Output:

```
student-01-80cc852cdf10@linux-instance:~/my-git-repo$ git push origin main
Username for 'https://github.com':
Password for 'https:// @github.com':
Counting objects: 5, done.
Compressing objects: 100% (5/5), done.
Writing objects: 100% (5/5), 704 bytes | 0 bytes/s, done.
Total 5 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0)
To https://github.com/ /my-git-repo.git
9afc635..79c9314 main -> main
```

This shows that your local repository is now up-to-date with your remote repository and you successfully pushed the changes to the remote repository.

Click Check my progress to verify the objective.



Congratulations!

Great job! You've successfully set up a Github account, logged in, created a repository, made changes on the local machine, and pushed changes back to the remote repository. You've learned how to share local changes from a local to remote repository and viceversa. These skills will help you as an IT specialist to work with a remote user on the same repository.





End your lab

When you have completed your lab, click **End Lab**. Qwiklabs removes the resources you've used and cleans the account for you.

You will be given an opportunity to rate the lab experience. Select the applicable number of stars, type a comment, and then click **Submit**.

The number of stars indicates the following:

- 1 star = Very dissatisfied
- 2 stars = Dissatisfied
- 3 stars = Neutral
- · 4 stars = Satisfied
- 5 stars = Very satisfied

You can close the dialog box if you don't want to provide feedback.

For feedback, suggestions, or corrections, please use the Support tab.

