

Week 2: Your Digital Workshop Notebook

Mastering Documentation with GitHub

"The palest ink is better than the best memory." - Chinese Proverb

Documentation is a Superpower.

Why It Matters:



For Yourself

Remember what you did and why you did it when you return
you return to a project in 6 months.



For Collaboration

Lets others understand, use, and build upon your work.
work.



For Your Career

A well-maintained GitHub profile is your modern engineering
portfolio. It's proof of your skills.



For the Program

It's how you submit and get graded on your work!

The Tools We'll Install & Configure

The Tools:

Git

The version control software that tracks changes.

Git Bash (Windows)

A terminal to run Git commands.

[GitHub.com](https://github.com)

The cloud platform to host your repositories.

VS Code

A powerful code editor to write your documentation.

SSH Keys

A secure password-less way to connect your computer to GitHub.

Getting the Command Line Power.

Step 1: Install Git & Git Bash

Instructions:

1. Go to git-scm.com
2. Download for Windows.
3. Run the installer. **Important:** Accept all default settings.

What is Git Bash?

- It's a terminal for Windows that lets you use Git commands and other Linux-style commands.
- Mac/Linux users can use their native Terminal app.

Your New Favorite Text Editor.

Step 2: Install VS Code

Instructions:

1. Go to code.visualstudio.com
2. Download the stable build.
3. Run the installer.

Why VS Code?

- Free, powerful, and has amazing extensions for every language.
- Built-in terminal and Git integration!

ALTERNATIVE: Sublime Text Notepad++, ...



usernameNIH ✓

Email address *

CITCloudServices@nih.gov ✓

Password *

..... ✓

Your Cloud Portfolio.

Step 3: Create a GitHub Account (If you haven't)

Instructions:

1. Go to github.com
2. Sign up for a free account.
3. Choose a professional username (e.g., jean-manzi or jmanzi).

REMEMBER: Creating GitHub accounts was week 1 Mission



Your computer or server



Github server

Private Key susans-macbook

```
-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
MIIEowIBAAKCAQEAtGubau6iZQKZV1n1eH5QKRREu8lWABeGfP6EAo5f+T+uhB0
JZNQiJhFXuHhJQFN7NADT/uFlrNeuaSSW4zVuXoQljoBXAD8wpKPHFE7uq8ITSa5
jeOU+MALhi8+1KhMQVglvQy9l1SEatfCGMtPFSieIQ/C1G4xsWeDe7tnJXh6CPZP
aeT3MHHGbdX2gkurx3rw4smwtkFa8o16YbFuQs+GXCfE29MrbIqt4OWmsfqJ+oxf
v8+8v1tscP96EKK10b507paaa9CR6NifCH6zb+YAE6Oqo1yynMoKDX6DK1H8C2p
Us44ZkdsWMSE18uKXGRX14M2Aj117BPJtRDhwIDAQABaoIBAQCi/mYDhz31Dc0S
30/2r0t79Qyr1E0YS/YE+J0TnUBIBAofaKoRZdnYp8e2VZzR9P6QhQLkojK5YEDZ
AVNn233cgYyhZKIdYhN9JNySaC7UmXPfip8+mh84HPC/jNArQbLxZPeWI04LZg4o
dB6SPmFSky5N0CP6m7jAMnQ6Ydd6VAHVA6k7ECnMMW2Rj+9Tg7w3LzteRexa4GUN
3C8SLXk+GIokd9sVoC2KpDsBpaJb0hd11EIzAT2/tYja3QNo9xr0NnAkuJdW00z2
8dc4gOKjZe5X6opJZrE+Euk73FZe9XFJGsP+o8w2/U/DAIwTyv/RmhWBgDi6B042
kGyrbNNhAoGBA09LegfId6pUFlxiTD8Ww7P10PeTAEVcMdJI6Y4f66L4fbxTMpB0
-----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
```

SSH Keys



Public Key susans-macbook.pub

```
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDAIa5tq7qJlAp1XWfV4f1-
ApFES7yVYAF4Z8/oQCj1/5P66EHQ1k1CImeVe4eE1AU3s0ANP+4Wws165p-
JJbjNW5ehCW0gFcAPzCko8d8Tu6rwhNjrmN45T4wAuGLz7UqExBW-
CW9DL2WIRq18IYy08VKJ4hD8KUbJGxZ4N7u2cleHoI9k9p5PcwccZt1faC-
S6vHevDiybC2QVryiXphsW5Cz4ZcIUTb0ytsiq3g5aax+on6jF+/z7y/W2xw/
3oQorU5vnTulppr0JHo2J8IfrNv5gATo6qjXLKcygoPFfoMrUfwLalSzhm-
R2xYxITXy4pcZFeXgzYCPXXsE8m1E0Fb susanbuck@fas.harvard.edu
```

No More Passwords! Setting up SSH Keys.

Step 4: The Secure Handshake (SSH Keys)

Analogy: Instead of a password, you create a unique, matched lock (public key) and key (private key). You give GitHub the lock, and you keep the lock, and you keep the key.

Let's Make Your Keys.

Step 4a: Generate Your SSH Key Pair

Live Demo in Git Bash/Terminal:

```
ssh-keygen -t ed25519 -C "your_email@example.com"
```

- When asked "Enter file in which to save the key," just press **Enter** for the default location.
- When asked for a passphrase, you can press **Enter** twice for none (for simplicity) or create a secure one.

What this did: Created two files in C:\Users\[YourUserName]\.ssh\ (or ~/.ssh/ on Mac/Linux): id_ed25519 (your PRIVATE key) and id_[ed25519.pub](#) (your PUBLIC key).

Giving GitHub Your "Lock".

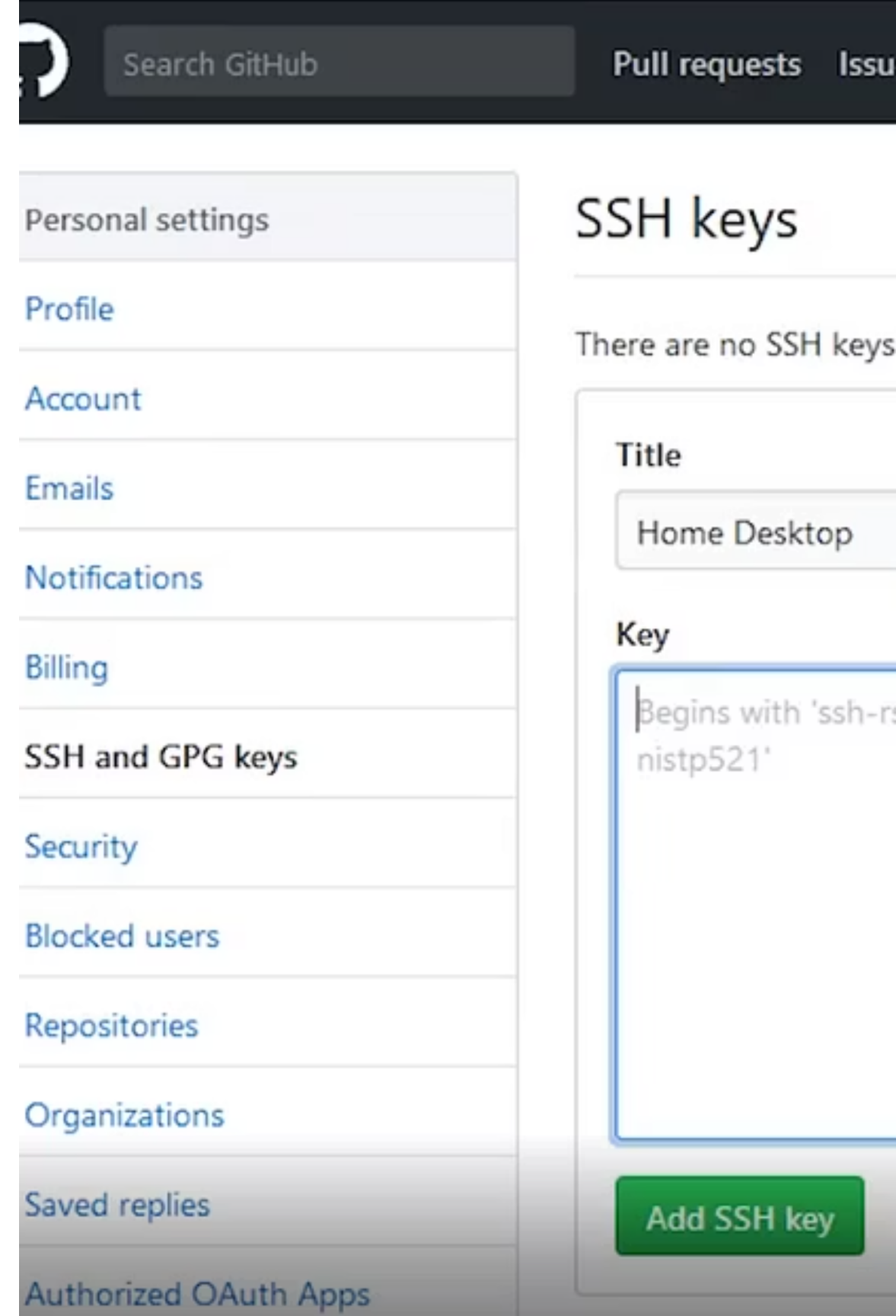
Step 4b: Add Your Public Key to GitHub

Instructions:

1. In Git Bash, print your public key to the screen:

```
cat ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub
```

1. **Highlight and copy** the entire output (it starts with ssh-ed25519 ...).
2. Go to [GitHub.com](https://github.com) -> Settings -> **SSH and GPG keys** -> **New SSH Key**.
3. Give it a title (e.g., "My Laptop"), paste the key, and click **Add SSH Key**.



Repository × +

com/new

ietube Spotify Web Player Passive Income BYU-I Seminary Zoom Li... NoValidate

Create a new repository

A repository contains all project files, including the revision history. Already elsewhere? [Import a repository.](#)

Owner * Repository name *

ammonshepherd / my-awesome-website ✓

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How a

Description (optional)

This is my really cool website that I built

☒ **Public**
Anyone on the internet can see this repository. You choose who can commi

☐ **Private**
You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

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

☐ **Add a README file**
This is where you can write a long description for your project. [Learn more.](#)

☐ **Add .gitignore**
Choose which files not to track from a list of templates. [Learn more.](#)

☐ **Choose a license**
A license tells others what they can and can't do with your code. [Learn more.](#)

Create repository

Your Project's Home on GitHub.

Step 5: Create Your First Repository


Sample Repo [Ghttps://github.com/Fablab-Rwanda/documentation-page](https://github.com/Fablab-Rwanda/documentation-page)

1. Click the "+" icon in the top right -> "New repository".
2. **Repository name:** yourname-UniPod_Name
3. **Description:** "My portfolio for the UniPod Digital Fabrication Program."
4. **Visibility: Public** (So the world can see your awesome work!).
5. **Check:** "Add a README file".
6. Click **Create repository**.

Fork an Existing Repository on GitHub.


Here’s a sample page to get you started

Forking is GitHub's way of copying a repository from one account to another. It allows you to freely experiment with changes without affecting the original project. This is crucial for contributing to open-source projects or making personal versions.




Go to the Repository

Navigate to the project's GitHub page you wish to fork, for example: <https://github.com/Fablab-Rwanda/documentation-page> (Sample Page)




Click "Fork"

On the top-right of the repository page, find and click the **Fork** button to start the process.




Choose Your Account

If prompted, select your personal GitHub account where you want the new copy to reside.



Fork Complete

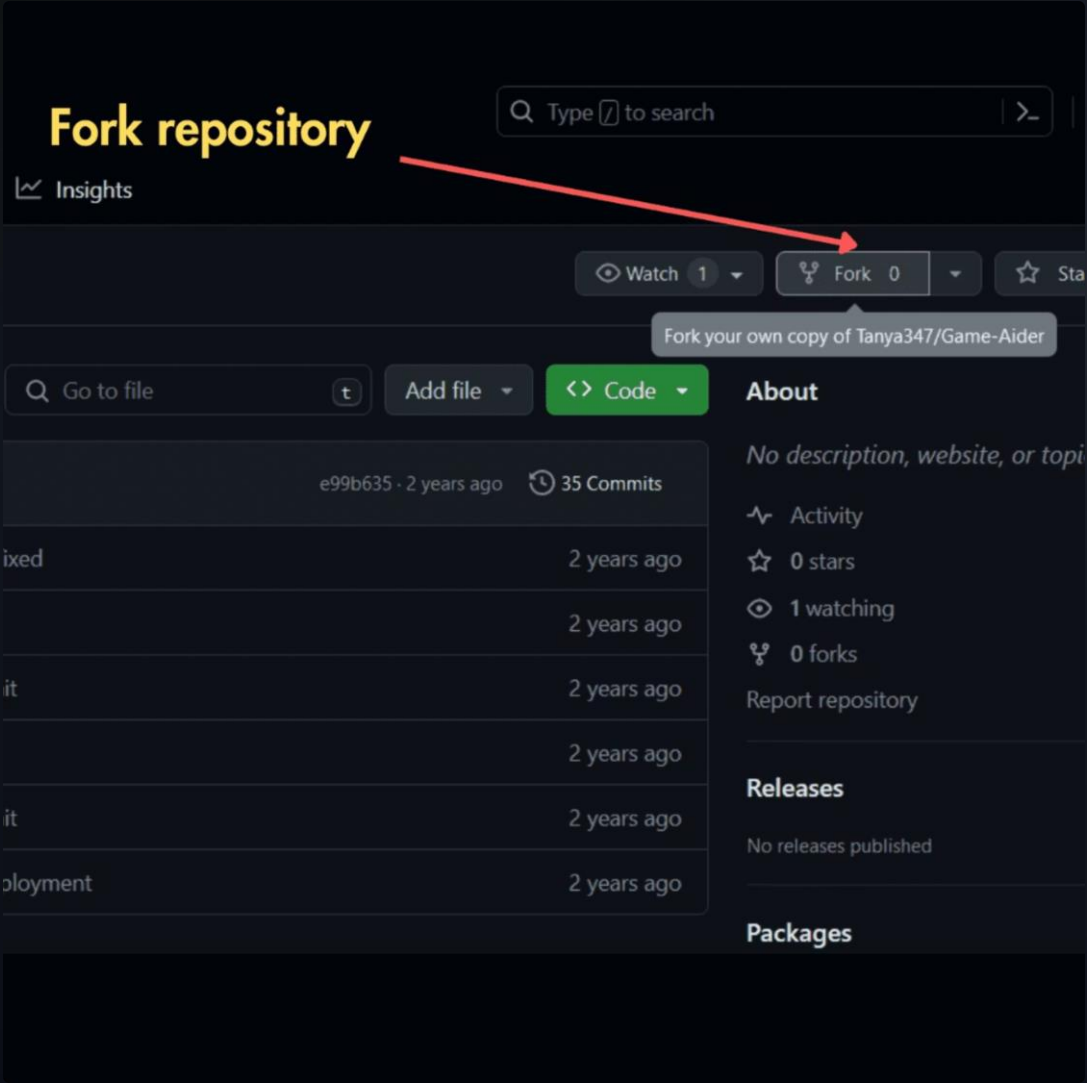
GitHub will create a full copy under your profile. You'll then be redirected to your new, personal version of the repository.



Rename the Forked Repo

- Go to the repository’s **Settings** tab.
- Under the **"Repository Name"** section, enter a new name for your forked repository.
- Click **"Rename"** to apply the new name.

Rename them as your_name-unipodName



Bringing the Cloud to Your Computer. Computer.

Step 6: Clone Your Repository

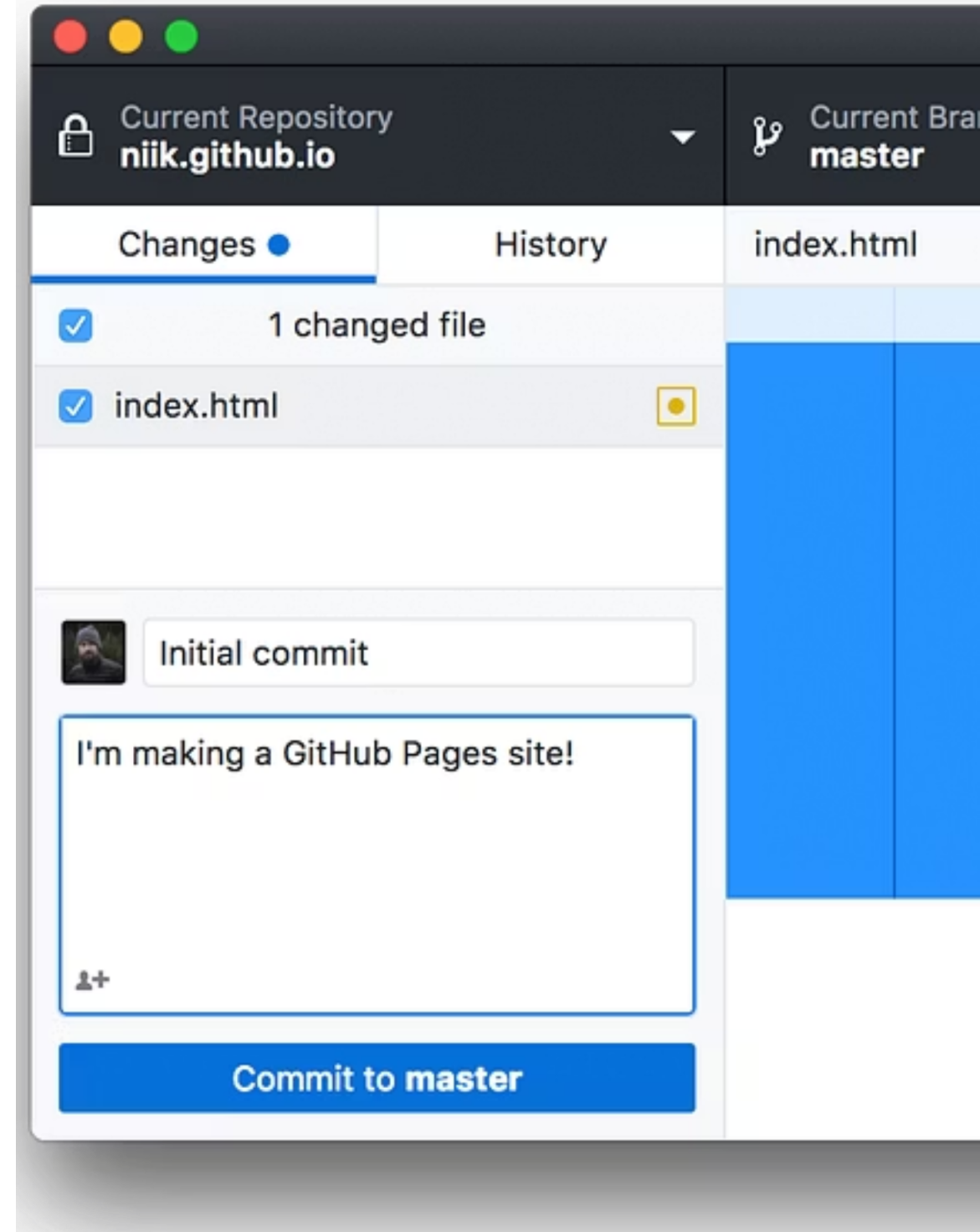
Cloning creates a local folder on your computer that is linked to your remote GitHub repository. This synchronized local copy allows you to work offline and push changes seamlessly back to the cloud.

Clone using Git Bash:

1. Navigate to your GitHub repository's main page and click the green **"Code"** button.
2. Select the **SSH** tab and copy the provided URL.
3. In Git Bash, use `cd` to go to your desired project directory (e.g., `cd ~/Documents`).
4. Type `git clone`, paste the URL, and press **Enter**. For example:

```
git clone git@github.com:your-username/repository-name.git
```

1. A new `unipod-portfolio` folder containing your project will now appear locally!

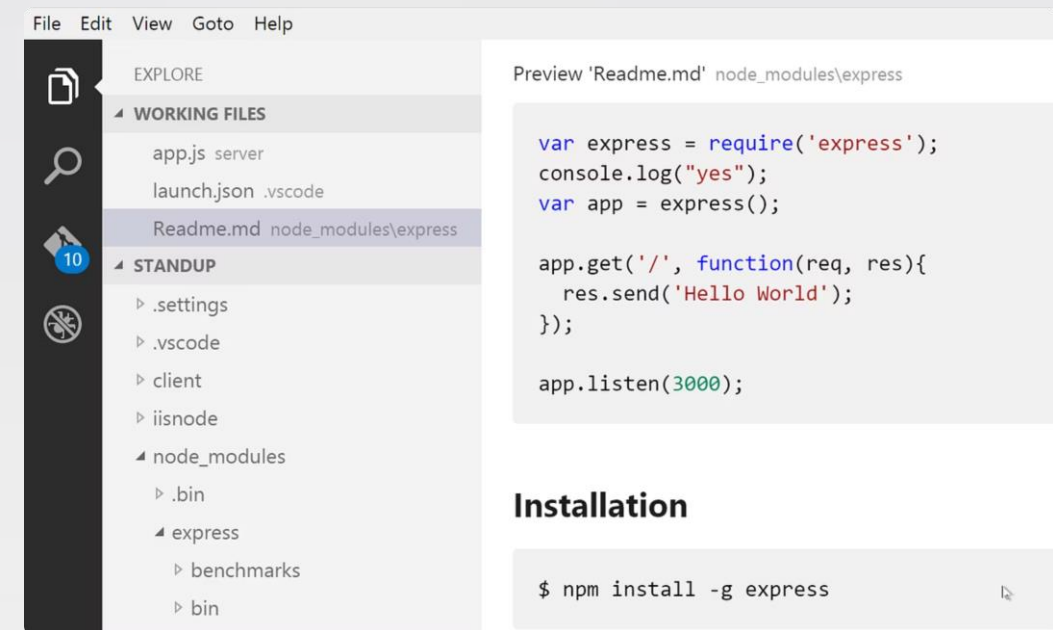


Making and Saving Your Changes.

Step 7: Your First Edit & Commit

Now that your repository is cloned, let's make your first edit and save the changes within VS Code.

1. Open **VS Code**.
2. Go to **File -> Open Folder...** and select the `repository-name` folder you just cloned.
3. In the file explorer, click on the `README.md` file to open it.
4. Add this new line to the file: `## Welcome to My UniPod Journey!`
5. Save the file (**Ctrl+S** or **Cmd+S**).



The Three-Step Dance.

Understanding the Git Workflow: Add, Commit, Push

Before your changes make it to GitHub, they go through a precise three-step process on your local machine. Think of it like preparing a package for delivery:

git add: Staging Your Changes

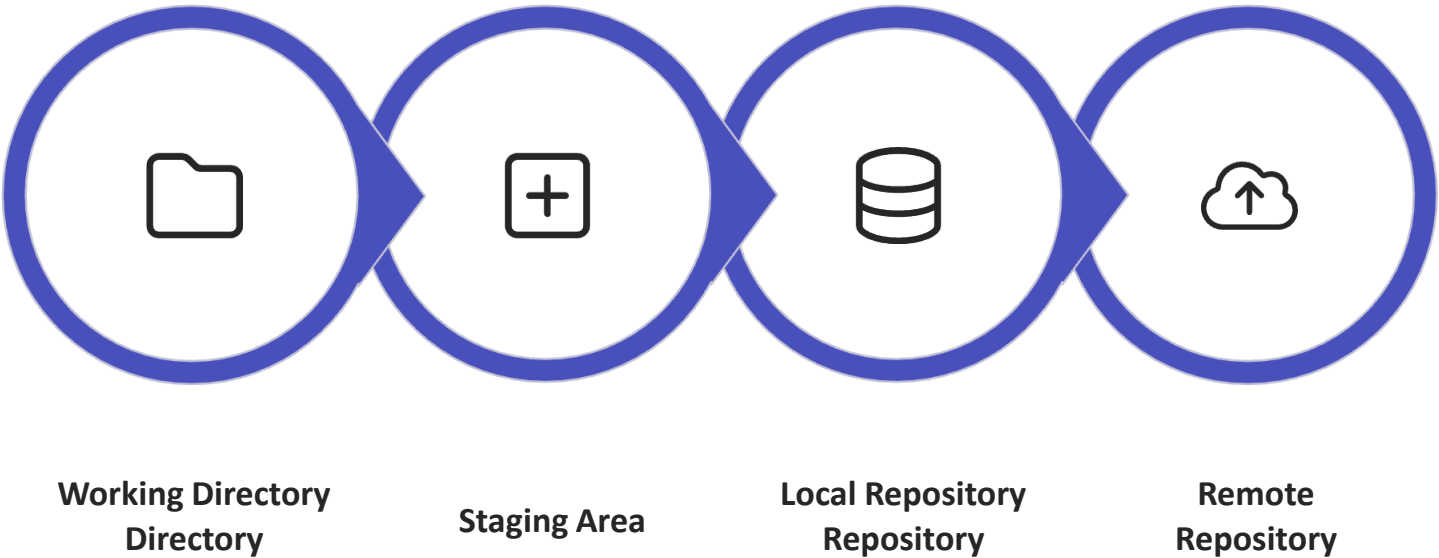
You put specific items (your edited files) into a box, ready to be prepared for shipping. This is called "staging" your changes.

git commit: Sealing the Package

You seal the box and write a detailed label describing exactly what's inside and why it's there. This "saves" your changes locally with a descriptive message.

git push: Shipping to GitHub

Finally, you ship the sealed box to the warehouse (GitHub). This "uploads" your saved changes from your local repository to the remote repository.



Pushing Your README Change.

Step 7a: Let's Do the Dance!

Now that you've made your first change in VS Code, let's apply the Git workflow to save these changes and synchronize them with your GitHub repository.

In Git Bash/Terminal:

Ensure you are in your `unipod-portfolio` directory in the terminal:

```
cd unipod-portfolio
```

Check the status of your changes. You should see `README.md` listed as modified:

```
git status
```

Add the modified file to the staging area, preparing it for the commit:

```
git add README.md
```

Commit your staged changes with a clear, concise message describing what you did:

```
git commit -m "Update README with a welcome message"
```

Finally, push your committed changes from your local repository to your remote repository on GitHub:

```
git push origin main
```


Success! Refresh your GitHub repository page in your browser. Your updated `README.md` file, including the new welcome message, is now live for everyone to see.

Turning Your Repo into a Website.

Step 8: Deploy Your Portfolio with GitHub Pages

UniPod class page:

1. Go to your repository on GitHub.
2. Click the **Settings** tab.
3. In the left sidebar, click **Pages**.
4. Under "Source," select **Deploy from a branch**.
5. Under "Branch," select the **main** branch and the **/ (root)** folder.
6. Click **Save**.
7. Your site is live at: `https://your-username.github.io/unipod-portfolio/`

 **NOTE:** It can take a few minutes for the site to become available for the first time.

GitHub Pages

[GitHub Pages](#) is designed to host your personal, organization, or company website from a GitHub repository.

Build and deployment

Source

Deploy from a branch ▾

Branch

GitHub Pages is currently disabled. Select a source below to enable it. [Learn more about configuring the publishing source for your repository.](#)

None ▾

Save

Visibility GitHub Enterprise

With a GitHub Enterprise account, you can restrict access to your repository and website privately. You can use privately published sites to share your work with members of your enterprise. You can try GitHub Enterprise. [Learn more about the visibility of your GitHub Pages site.](#)

Start free for 30 days

This Week Mission: Build Your Portfolio Foundation

This Week's Hands-On Activity Checklist



Install Essential Tools

Set up `Git`, `Bash` and `VS Code` on your machine.



Secure Your Connection

Generate `SSH` keys and add your public key to GitHub.



Clone to Local

Bring your new repository down to your local machine.



Enable GitHub Pages

Turn your repo into a live website from settings.



Create GitHub Account

If new, sign up for a professional [GitHub.com](https://github.com) profile.



Create Your Repository

Make the `unipod-portfolio` repo on GitHub (public!).



Make & Push Changes

Edit `README.md` in VS Code, then `add`, `commit`, and `push`.



Reflect & Document

Add `week1-2-reflection.md` summarizing your learning journey.



Submission:

Provide the link to your live GitHub Pages site (e.g, `https://your-username.github.io/unipod-portfolio/`).

You are now a documentarian!

We've reached a pivotal moment in your journey. You've acquired a powerful skill, and the adventure continues.



Recap: Foundational Skills

You've mastered a core practice that professional developers and engineers worldwide use daily to manage their projects and collaborate effectively.



Next Week: Design Thinking

We'll explore **Design Thinking**, a hands-on, user-centered approach to solving real-world problems. From understanding users to brainstorming and rapid prototyping, you'll learn how to turn ideas into impactful solutions through an iterative process.

Get ready to think creatively!



New Habit: Documentation

Every future project will now live and be documented in this repository. This isn't just a task, it's your new professional habit.

HAPPY Documenting!

Q & A

Don't hesitate to ask — no question is too small or too technical!