

Lab: Create and run your first GitLab CI/CD pipeline

This lab shows you how to configure and run your first CI/CD pipeline in GitLab.

Prerequisites

Before you start, make sure you have:

- A project in GitLab that you would like to use CI/CD for.
- The Maintainer or Owner role for the project.

If you don't have a project, you can create a public project for free on <https://gitlab.com>.

Steps

To create and run your first pipeline:

1. Ensure you have runners available to run your jobs.

Important! Disable shared runners for all the projects that you create. Otherwise, gitlab will fail your pipeline and ask for account verification.

2. Create a `.gitlab-ci.yml` file at the root of your repository. This file is where you define the CI/CD jobs.

When you commit the file to your repository, the runner runs your jobs. The job results are displayed in a pipeline.

Ensure you have runners available

In GitLab, runners are agents that run your CI/CD jobs.

To view available runners:

- Go to **Settings > CI/CD** and expand **Runners**.

As long as you have at least one runner that's active, with a green circle next to it, you have a runner available to process your jobs.

When your CI/CD jobs run, in a later step, they will run on your local machine.

Create a `.gitlab-ci.yml` file

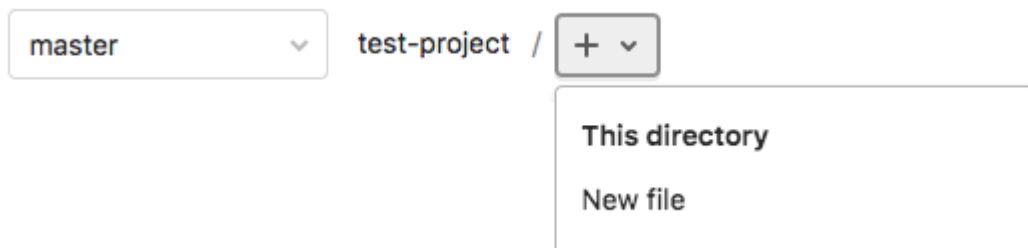
Now create a `.gitlab-ci.yml` file. It is a **YAML** file where you specify instructions for GitLab CI/CD.

In this file, you define:

- The structure and order of jobs that the runner should execute.
- The decisions the runner should make when specific conditions are encountered.

To create a `.gitlab-ci.yml` file:

1. On the left sidebar, select **Repository > Files**.
2. Above the file list, select the branch you want to commit to. If you're not sure, leave `master` or `main`. Then select the plus icon and **New file**:



3. For the **Filename**, type `.gitlab-ci.yml` and in the larger window, paste this sample code:

```
build-job:
  stage: build
  script:
    - echo "Hello, $GITLAB_USER_LOGIN!"

test-job1:
  stage: test
  script:
    - echo "This job tests something"

test-job2:
  stage: test
  script:
    - echo "This job tests something, but takes more time than test-job1."
    - echo "After the echo commands complete, it runs the sleep command for 20
seconds"
    - echo "which simulates a test that runs 20 seconds longer than test-job1"
    - sleep 20

deploy-prod:
  stage: deploy
  script:
    - echo "This job deploys something from the $CI_COMMIT_BRANCH branch."
  environment: production
```

This example shows four jobs: `build-job`, `test-job1`, `test-job2`, and `deploy-prod`. The comments listed in the `echo` commands are displayed in the UI when you view the jobs. The values for the [predefined variables] `$GITLAB_USER_LOGIN` and `$CI_COMMIT_BRANCH` are populated when the jobs run.





4. Select **Commit changes**.

The pipeline starts and runs the jobs you defined in the `.gitlab-ci.yml` file.

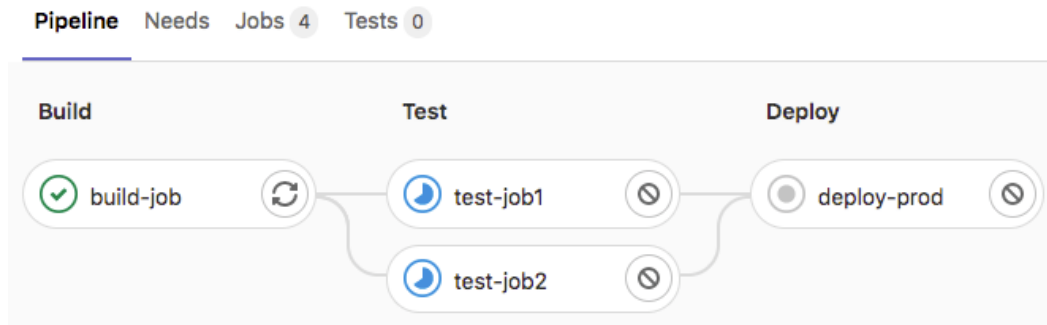
View the status of your pipeline and jobs

Now take a look at your pipeline and the jobs within.

1. Go to **CI/CD > Pipelines**. A pipeline with three stages should be displayed:

Status	Pipeline	Triggerer	Commit	Stages
 running	#217408060 latest		 master → 271ad0cd Update .gitlab-ci.yml	

- View a visual representation of your pipeline by selecting the pipeline ID:



- View details of a job by selecting the job name. For example, `deploy-prod`:



Job #855275091 triggered 23 minutes ago by Suzanne Selhorn

```
1 Running with gitlab-runner 13.6.0-rc1 (d83ac56c)
2   on docker-auto-scale ed2dce3a
3   ✓ Preparing the "docker+machine" executor
4   Using Docker executor with image ruby:2.5 ...
5   Pulling docker image ruby:2.5 ...
6   Using docker image sha256:b7280b81558d31d64ac82aa66a9540e04baf9d15abb8fff
   ed62cd60e4fb5bf4132943d6fa2688 ...
7   ✓ Preparing environment
8   Running on runner-ed2dce3a-project-16381496-concurrent-0 via runner-ed2dce3a
9   ✓ Getting source from Git repository
10  $ eval "$CI_PRE_CLONE_SCRIPT"
11  Fetching changes with git depth set to 50...
12  Initialized empty Git repository in /builds/sselhorn/test-project/.git/
13  Created fresh repository.
14  Checking out 7353da73 as master...
15  Skipping Git submodules setup
16  ✓ Executing "step_script" stage of the job script
17  $ echo "This job deploys something from the $CI_COMMIT_BRANCH branch."
18  This job deploys something from the master branch.
19  ✓ Cleaning up file based variables
20  Job succeeded
```

You have successfully created your first CI/CD pipeline in GitLab. Congratulations!

Disabling GitLab CI/CD

GitLab CI/CD is enabled by default on all new projects. If you use an external CI/CD server like Jenkins or Drone CI, you can disable GitLab CI/CD to avoid conflicts with the commits status API.

Disable CI/CD in a project

When you disable GitLab CI/CD:

- The **CI/CD** item in the left sidebar is removed.
- The `/pipelines` and `/jobs` pages are no longer available.
- Existing jobs and pipelines are hidden, not removed.

To disable GitLab CI/CD in your project:

1. On the top bar, select **Main menu > Projects** and find your project.
2. On the left sidebar, select **Settings > General**.
3. Expand **Visibility, project features, permissions**.
4. In the **Repository** section, turn off **CI/CD**.
5. Select **Save changes**.

Enable CI/CD in a project

To enable GitLab CI/CD in your project:

1. On the top bar, select **Main menu > Projects** and find your project.
2. On the left sidebar, select **Settings > General**.
3. Expand **Visibility, project features, permissions**.
4. In the **Repository** section, turn on **CI/CD**.
5. Select **Save changes**.