

How to Create or Update a GitHub Actions Workflow with `workflow_dispatch` Using Only the GitHub Web Interface

Step 1: Open Your GitHub Repository

- Go to your repository on [GitHub.com](https://github.com).
 - Make sure you are logged in and have permissions to edit the repo.
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Step 2: Open the "Actions" Tab

- At the top of the repo, click the **Actions** tab.
- If it's your **first** GitHub Action, you will see a button "**Set up a workflow yourself**".
- Otherwise, look for "**New workflow**".
- Then click on "**Set up a workflow manually**" (usually a small link near **Choose a workflow**).

Click on that!

Step 3: Create a New Workflow File

- GitHub will open an editor for a new YAML file.
- In the editor, **replace all the default content** with your own YAML.
- Name the pipeline **test.yml**
- **Paste or copy this:**

```
name: test_pipeline

on:
  workflow_dispatch:

jobs:
  build_test:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - name: Checkout code
        uses: actions/checkout@v4

      - name: Install Java 11
        uses: actions/setup-java@v3
        with:
          java-version: '11'
          distribution: 'temurin'

      - name: Build and Test
        run: mvn -B verify
```

Step 4: Save the Workflow

- At the top of the editor, GitHub will ask you to **"Start commit"**.
- Enter a commit message like `"Add manual trigger workflow"`.
- Make sure **Commit directly to the** `main` branch is selected (or your default branch).
- Then click **"Commit new file"**.

Step 5: Run the Workflow Manually


- After committing, go back to the **Actions** tab.
- Click on the `test_pipeline` workflow name.
- On the right side, you will see a **"Run workflow"** button.
- Click **Run workflow**.

 Your workflow starts immediately!

How to Update an Existing Workflow

If you already have a workflow and want to modify it:

1. Go to the **Code** tab of your repository.

2. Navigate to the `.github/workflows/` folder.
 3. Click on the YAML file you want to edit (e.g., `test_pipeline.yml`).
 4. Click the  **pencil icon** in the top-right to edit the file in the web editor.
 5. Make your changes directly in the editor.
Example: Add a new step or update the Java version.
 6. Scroll down and click "**Commit changes**".
 - Add a clear commit message like `"Update workflow to use Java 17"` .
 - Choose whether to commit directly to `main` or open a pull request.
- ✓ Your workflow is now updated and ready to run again from the **Actions** tab.

Quick Recap

Step	Action
1	Go to Actions tab
2	Click New workflow or set up a workflow manually
3	Paste your YAML with <code>workflow_dispatch:</code>
4	Commit the workflow
5	Run it manually via the " Run workflow " button
6	<i>(To update)</i> Go to <code>.github/workflows/</code> , edit the YAML file, and commit changes