

# How to Access Git Via Your Desktop Computer

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## 1 Accessing Git

Marco covered how to use GitHub with the terminal, but you can also use GitHub's repository features with **GitHub Desktop** (<https://desktop.github.com/>). Once you have downloaded the program and installed it you should be able to access all the features of the terminal and a nice GUI. Once you have a GitHub account you can access all of our private repositories. By default you will not be able to see any repositories. The first thing you want to do is to "Clone repository". You can select one of your own repositories from a list or any other repository you have access to via its URL. Now you will be able to select a branch! I will go over some of the GitHub lingo. You have several tabs.

- File
  - *New repository:* You can add a new repository to publish onto GitHub .
  - *Clone repository:* Use this for repositories that are shared and on GitHub .
- Edit

This is mostly for the cases where you make a mistake and wanted to undo some fatal error.
- Repository

This is where you will make contributions to the repository, so this menu will see most of the use.<sup>1</sup>

  - *Push:* Used to push current uncommitted commits onto GitHub .
  - *Pull:* Used to pull/Fetch from the repository on GitHub .
  - *Remove...:* this will delete the repository on the local machine (and on GitHub ).
  - *View on Github:* This will open your browser to GitHub .

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<sup>1</sup>Note the shortcuts which can save a significant amount of time.

- Branch  
This is used to make new branches and other commands like to remove all recent changes from that branch.

## 2 Making a Contribution

GitHub shines when used to collaborate on code development. I will go through the *workflow* of making a contribution.

### 2.1 Branches

The directory of GitHub is the branch. By default every repository has a *master branch*. Usually if you are in collaboration, you would rarely make minor changes to this branch. When in GitHub Desktop you can create a new branch via the *Branch*. Be sure you are on the correct *Current Branch* before you start to make changes (Commits).

### 2.2 Commits

### 2.3 Pull Request

### 2.4 Merging Branches