

# Using GitHub Actions - Building the CI pipeline



Estimated time needed: 30 minutes

In this lab, you will build the Continuous Integration pipeline by setting up the steps under job in your workflow. Please ensure you complete setting up the workflow, before starting this lab.

You will add the following steps to the job in this lab:

- Check out the code
- Install dependencies
- Lint code with Flake8
- Run unit tests with nose

## Learning Objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Explain components of a job in a GitHub Actions workflow
- Use predefined GitHub actions
- Run multiline inline code in a step
- Explore action logs in the GitHub UI

## Prerequisites

- It is highly recommended that you complete the lab titled 'Using GitHub Actions - Setting up workflow'. If you have not finished the lab, please finish that before starting this lab.
- A basic understanding of YAML
- A GitHub account
- An intermediate-level knowledge of CLIs

## Pre-work

1. Generate a personal access token on [GitHub Settings](#), if you already don't have one.
2. Open a terminal window by using the menu in the editor: Terminal > New Terminal.
3. Run the following command to authenticate with GitHub in the terminal with the personal access token.

```
1. 1
1. gh auth login
```

Copied! Executed!

You will be taken through a guided experience as shown here:

```
What account do you want to log into? GitHub.com
What is your preferred protocol for Git operations? HTTPS
Authenticate Git with your GitHub credentials.
How would you like to authenticate GitHub CLI? Paste an authentication token.
Paste your authentication token: *****
You will be logged into GitHub as your account user.
```

4. Clone your copy of the forked [GitHub repository](#). This creates the wtecc-CICD\_PracticeCode subdirectory under /home/project directory.

If you already have cloned this repository under /home/project, you can skip this step.

5. If you don't have .github/workflows/workflow.yml in wtecc-CICD\_PracticeCode directory, create workflow.yml file in the /home/project/wtecc-CICD\_PracticeCode/.github/workflows directory with the following code:

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. 7
8. 8
9. 9
10. 10
11. 11
12. 12

1. name: CI workflow
2.
3. on:
4.   push:
5.     branches: [ "main" ]
6.   pull_request:
7.     branches: [ "main" ]
8.
9. jobs:
10.   build:
11.     runs-on: ubuntu-latest
12.     container: python:3.9-slim
```

Copied!

## Step 1: Add the checkout Step

You will now add your first step to the job. The first task is to check out the code from the repository. You will use the predefined actions/checkout@v3 action to do this. You can learn more about this action on the [GitHub page](#).

## Your Task

1. Add the steps: section at the end of the build job in the workflow file.

▼ Click here for a hint.

```
1. 1
1. steps:
```

Copied!

2. Add the checkout step as the first step. Give it the name: Check out and call the action `actions/checkout@v3` by using the `uses:` keyword.

▼ Click here for a hint.

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
1. steps:
2.   - name: {insert step name here}
3.     uses: {insert action name here}
```

Copied!

Double-check that your work matches the solution below.

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.  
Replace the `workflow.yml` file with the code snippet below. You can also copy relevant parts of the code. Be sure to indent properly:

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. 7
8. 8
9. 9
10. 10
11. 11
12. 12
13. 13
14. 14
15. 15

1. name: CI workflow
2.
3. on:
4.   push:
5.     branches: [ "main" ]
6.   pull_request:
7.     branches: [ "main" ]
8.
9. jobs:
10.   build:
11.     runs-on: ubuntu-latest
12.     container: python:3.9-slim
13.     steps:
14.       - name: Checkout
15.         uses: actions/checkout@v3
```

Copied!

Step 2: Install Dependencies

Now that you have checked out the code, the next step is to install the dependencies. This application uses `pip`, the Python package manager, to install all the dependencies from the PyPI package. The `pip` command refers to the `requirements.txt` file for the list of dependencies. The `python:3.9-slim` container you are using already has the `pip` package manager installed.

The commands that you will use in this step are:

```
1. 1
2. 2

1. python -m pip install --upgrade pip
2. pip install -r requirements.txt
```

Copied!

Now, look at each line to understand what it is doing:

```
1. 1

1. python -m pip install --upgrade pip
```

Copied!

This command installs `pip` if it is not found on the GitHub runner or updates it to the latest version if it is already installed. It is always a good practice to make sure that you are using the latest version of `pip` to minimize installation problems.

```
1. 1

1. pip install -r requirements.txt
```

Copied!

This command instructs `pip` to install any dependencies listed in the `requirements.txt` file. It is a best practice to place the names of dependent packages here.

*Note: If the above command gives any error, please execute the below command to install the dependencies*

```
1. 1

1. pip3 install -r requirements.txt
```

Copied!

Your Task

1. Add a new named step after the checkout step. Name this step `Install dependencies`.

▼ Click here for a hint.

```
1. 1
1.   - name: {insert step name here}
```

Copied!

2. Next, you want to run the commands to update the package manager `pip` and then install the dependencies. Since there are two commands, you can run these inline using the `run:` keyword with the pipe `|` operator.

▼ Click here for a hint.

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
1.   - name: Install dependencies
2.     run: |
3.       {insert code here}
```

Copied!

Double-check that your work matches the solution below.

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.  
Replace the workflow.yml file with the code snippet below. You can also copy relevant parts of the code. Be sure to indent properly:

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. 7
8. 8
9. 9
10. 10
11. 11
12. 12
13. 13
14. 14
15. 15
16. 16
17. 17
18. 18
19. 19
20. 20

1. name: CI workflow
2.
3. on:
4.   push:
5.     branches: [ "main" ]
6.   pull_request:
7.     branches: [ "main" ]
8.
9. jobs:
10.  build:
11.    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
12.    container: python:3.9-slim
13.    steps:
14.      - name: Checkout
15.        uses: actions/checkout@v3
16.
17.      - name: Install dependencies
18.        run: |
19.          python -m pip install --upgrade pip
20.          pip install -r requirements.txt
```

Copied!

Step 3: Lint with flake8

It is always a good idea to add quality checks to your CI pipeline. This is especially true if you are working on an open source project with many different contributors. This makes sure that everyone who contributes is following the same style guidelines.

The next step is to use flake8 to lint the source code. Linting is checking your code for syntactical and stylistic issues. Some examples are line spacing, using spaces or tabs for indentation, locating uninitialized or undefined variables, and missing parentheses. The flake8 library was installed as a dependency in the requirements.txt file.

The flake8 commands take a few parameters. Now, take a look at the command and the parameters:

```
1. 1

1. flake8 service --count --select=E9,F63,F7,F82 --show-source --statistics
```

Copied!

This command will run flake8 for the service folder of your repository. By adding the following options, you customize the linting process:

- **--count** : shows the count of all warnings and errors in the result of the command
  - **--select=E9,F63,F7,F82** : limits the checks to syntax errors
  - **--show-source** : adds the actual line number where the error/warning is found
  - **--statistics** : shows the count of each type of error and warning in the result
- ```
1. 1

1. flake8 service --count --max-complexity=10 --max-line-length=127 --statistics
```

Copied!

Unlike the first command that checks for syntax errors only, the second command will run all the available checks on the service folder of your repository.

Your Task

1. Add a new named step after the Install dependencies step. Call this step Lint with flake8.

▼ Click here for a hint.

```
1. 1
2. 2
1. steps:
2.   - name: {insert step name here}
```

Copied!

2. Next, you want to run the flake8 commands to lint your code. The commands are explained in detail above.

```
1. 1
2. 2
1. flake8 service --count --select=E9,F63,F7,F82 --show-source --statistics
2. flake8 service --count --max-complexity=10 --max-line-length=127 --statistics
```

Copied!

You can run inline commands using the run keyword with the pipe | operator.

▼ Click here for a hint.

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
1. steps:
2.   - name: Lint with flake8
3.     run: |
```

```
4.      {insert first command here}
5.      {insert second command here}
```

Copied!

Double-check that your work matches the solution below.

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.  
Replace the workflow.yml file with the code snippet below. You can also copy relevant parts of the code. Be sure to indent properly:

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. 7
8. 8
9. 9
10. 10
11. 11
12. 12
13. 13
14. 14
15. 15
16. 16
17. 17
18. 18
19. 19
20. 20
21. 21
22. 22
23. 23
24. 24
25. 25

1. name: CI workflow
2.
3. on:
4.   push:
5.     branches: main
6.   pull_request:
7.     branches: main
8.
9. jobs:
10.  build:
11.    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
12.    container: python:3.9-slim
13.    steps:
14.      - name: Checkout
15.        uses: actions/checkout@v3
16.
17.      - name: Install dependencies
18.        run: |
19.          python -m pip install --upgrade pip
20.          pip install -r requirements.txt
21.
22.      - name: Lint with flake8
23.        run: |
24.          flake8 service --count --select=E9,F63,F7,F82 --show-source --statistics
25.          flake8 service --count --max-complexity=10 --max-line-length=127 --statistics
```

Copied!

Step 4: Test Code Coverage with nosetests

You will use nose in this step to unit test the source code. Nose is configured via the included setup.cfg file to automatically include the flags --with-spec and --spec-color so that red-green-refactor is meaningful. If you are in a command shell that supports colors, passing tests will be green and failing tests will be red.

Nose is also configured to automatically run the coverage tool, and you should see a percentage of coverage report at the end of your tests.

Your Task

1. Add a new named step after the Lint with flake8 step. Call this step Run unit tests with nose.

▼ Click here for a hint.

```
1. 1
2. 2
1. steps:
2.   - name: {insert step name here}
```

Copied!

2. Next, you want to run the nosetests command to test your code and report on code coverage.

```
1. 1
1. nosetests -v --with-spec --spec-color --with-coverage --cover-package=app
```

Copied!

Since you are running a single command, you do not have to use the pipe | operator with run.

▼ Click here for a hint.

```
1. 1
2. 2
1.   - name: Run unit tests with nose
2.   run: {insert command here}
```

Copied!

Double-check that your work matches the solution below.

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.  
Replace the workflow.yml file with the code snippet below. You can also copy relevant parts of the code. Be sure to indent properly:

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. 7
8. 8
```

```

9. 9
10. 10
11. 11
12. 12
13. 13
14. 14
15. 15
16. 16
17. 17
18. 18
19. 19
20. 20
21. 21
22. 22
23. 23
24. 24
25. 25
26. 26
27. 27
28. 28

1. name: CI workflow
2.
3. on:
4.   push:
5.     branches: [ "main" ]
6.   pull_request:
7.     branches: [ "main" ]
8.
9. jobs:
10.  build:
11.    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
12.    container: python:3.9-slim
13.    steps:
14.      - name: Checkout
15.        uses: actions/checkout@v3
16.
17.      - name: Install dependencies
18.        run: |
19.          python -m pip install --upgrade pip
20.          pip install -r requirements.txt
21.
22.      - name: Lint with flake8
23.        run: |
24.          flake8 service --count --select=E9,F63,F7,F82 --show-source --statistics
25.          flake8 service --count --max-complexity=10 --max-line-length=127 --statistics
26.
27.      - name: Run unit tests with nose
28.        run: nosetests -v --with-spec --spec-color --with-coverage --cover-package=app

```

Copied!

## Step 5: Push Code to GitHub

To test the workflow and the CI pipeline, you need to commit the changes and push your branch back to the GitHub repository. As described earlier, each new push to the main branch should trigger the workflow.

### Your Task

1. Configure the Git account with your email and name using the `git config --global user.email` and `git config --global user.name` commands.

▼ Click here for a hint.

Open the terminal and configure your email:

```

1. 1
1. git config --global user.email "you@example.com"

```

Open the terminal and configure your user name

```

1. 1
1. git config --global user.name "Your Name"

```

2. The next step is to stage all the changes you made in the previous exercises and push them to your forked repo on GitHub.

▼ Click here for a hint.

You can use the following commands to commit your changes to staging and then push to your forked repository:

```

1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
1. git add -A
2. git commit -m "COMMIT MESSAGE"
3. git push

```

Copied! Executed!

Your output should look similar to the image below:

### Solution

```

theia@theia-captainfedol:/home/project/wtecc-CICD_PracticeCode$ git config --global user.email "
theia@theia-captainfedol:/home/project/wtecc-CICD_PracticeCode$ git config --global user.name "
theia@theia-captainfedol:/home/project/wtecc-CICD_PracticeCode$ git add -A
theia@theia-captainfedol:/home/project/wtecc-CICD_PracticeCode$ git commit -m "finished workflow file"
[main c362045] finished workflow file
1 file changed, 24 insertions(+)
create mode 100644 .github/workflows/workflow.yml
theia@theia-captainfedol:/home/project/wtecc-CICD_PracticeCode$ git push
Counting objects: 5, done.
Delta compression using up to 8 threads.
Compressing objects: 100% (3/3), done.
Writing objects: 100% (5/5), 746 bytes | 373.00 KiB/s, done.
Total 5 (delta 1), reused 0 (delta 0)
remote: Resolving deltas: 100% (1/1), completed with 1 local object.
To https://github.com/capfedora/wtecc-CICD_PracticeCode.git
03977e9..c362045  main -> main

```

## Step 6: Run the Workflow

You can run the workflow now. Open the **Actions** tab in the forked repository in your GitHub account. Click the *CI workflow* action. Pushing changes in the previous step should have triggered a build action and it should be visible in the Actions tab.

capfedora / wtecc-CICD\_PracticeCode Public

forked from ibm-developer-skills-network/wtecc-CICD\_PracticeCode

<> Code

Pull requests

**Actions**

Projects

Wiki

Security

Insights

Workflows

All workflows

CI workflow

New workflow

CI workflow

workflow.yml

Filter workflow runs

1 workflow run


**finished workflow file**

CI workflow #1: Commit c362045 pushed by capfedora

Click the most recent workflow run to open the details page. You should see your workflow completed successfully:


about:blank


6/10


 **capfedora / wtecc-CICD\_PracticeCode** Public


forked from [ibm-developer-skills-network/wtecc-CICD\\_PracticeCode](#)


<> Code


 Pull requests


 **Actions**


 Projects

 Wiki


 Security

 Insights



 **finished workflow file** CI workflow #1

 **Summary**

Jobs


 build

Triggered via push 5 minutes ago

 **capfedora pushed**  c362045 main


**workflow.yml**

on: push

 **build**


33s


You can now click the build job to see the logs for each step:


 **capfedora / wtecc-CICD\_PracticeCode** Public


forked from [ibm-developer-skills-network/wtecc-CICD\\_PracticeCode](#)


<> Code


 Pull requests


 **Actions**


 Projects

 Wiki


 Security

 Insights

 **finished workflow file** CI workflow #1


 Summary


Jobs


 **build**


**build**


succeeded 6 minutes ago in 33s


>  Set up job


>  Initialize containers


>  Run actions/checkout@v3


>  Install dependencies

>  Lint with flake8

>  Run unit tests with nose


>  Post Run actions/checkout@v3

>  Stop containers

>  Complete job


Spend some time here to expand each section:





 **capfedora / wtecc-CICD\_PracticeCode** Public


forked from [ibm-developer-skills-network/wtecc-CICD\\_PracticeCode](#)


<> Code


 Pull requests


 **Actions**


 Projects

 Wiki


 Security

 Insights

 **finished workflow file** CI workflow #1


 Summary


Jobs


 **build**


**build**


succeeded 8 minutes ago in 33s



>  Set up job

>  Initialize containers

>  Run actions/checkout@v3

>  Install dependencies

>  Lint with flake8

  **Run unit tests with nose**

1 ▶ Run nosetests -v --with-spec --spec-

4 nose.config: INFO: Ignoring files mat

5 nose.plugins.cover: INFO: Coverage re

6

7 REST API Server Tests

8 - It should Create a counter

9 - It should not Create a duplicate co

10 - It should Delete a counter

11 - It should be healthy

12 - It should call the index call

If the workflow completes, you will see the Complete job step at the end of the build job logs.

Jobs

✓ build

> ✓ Set up job

> ✓ Initialize containers

> ✓ Run actions/checkout@v3

> ✓ Install dependencies

> ✓ Lint with flake8

> ✓ Run unit tests with nose

> ✓ Post Run actions/checkout@v3

> ✓ Stop containers

✓ Complete job

Conclusion

Congratulations! You are now able to use GitHub Actions to create workflows for the CI pipeline.

In this lab, you added the steps to your Continuous Integration pipeline for your application. As a result, your application is automatically built and tested when you commit your code to the GitHub repository.

Next Steps

Try to set up a GitHub action for your own project that checks out the code, runs unit tests, and performs linting on every push request to the default branch.

Author(s)

Tapas Mandal

Other Contributor(s)

Captain Fedora  
John Rofrano

Change Log

| Date       | Version | Changed by         | Change Description                                    |
|------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 2022-06-19 | 0.1     | Tapas Mandal       | Created new instructions for CI/CD project            |
| 2022-06-21 | 0.2     | Tapas Mandal       | Adding few improvements as per review comments        |
| 2022-08-05 | 0.3     | Beth Larsen        | Initial QA pass                                       |
| 2022-08-11 | 0.4     | Captain Fedora     | Revised version with new instructions and fixes       |
| 2022-08-12 | 0.5     | Steve Ryan         | ID Review                                             |
| 2022-08-12 | 0.4     | Captain Fedora     | Fixes from ID Review                                  |
| 2022-08-15 | 0.6     | Beth Larsen        | Second QA pass                                        |
| 2022-08-15 | 0.7     | Steve Ryan         | Fixed all 'workflow.yml' instances                    |
| 2022-08-15 | 0.8     | Steve Ryan         | Fixed all missing periods                             |
| 2022-08-15 | 0.9     | John Rofrano       | Added minor additions for clarity                     |
| 2022-08-15 | 1.0     | Steve Ryan         | Final minor typo fixes                                |
| 2022-08-15 | 1.1     | Captain Fedora     | Renamed images                                        |
| 2022-08-15 | 1.2     | Captain Fedora     | Split the lab into part 1 and part 2                  |
| 2022-08-22 | 1.2     | Captain Fedora     | Added next steps                                      |
| 2022-08-23 | 1.3     | Beth Larsen        | Part 2 QA pass                                        |
| 2023-02-21 | 1.4     | Lavanya            | Changed the wording to make this lab more independent |
| 2023-03-15 | 1.5     | Lavanya Rajalingam | Updated SN Logo                                       |
| 2023-04-26 | 1.6     | Lavanya Rajalingam | Added note for using pip3                             |

© IBM Corporation 2023. All rights reserved.