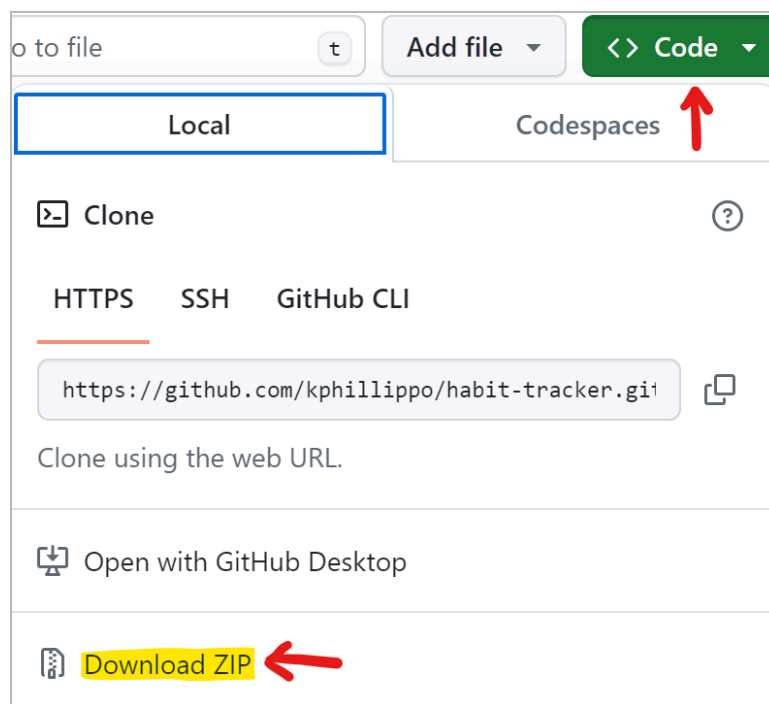# HabitConnect Installation Guide

Last Updated: April 12th 2024, 2:25pm

HabitConnect is not currently publicly hosted. This installation guide was created to lead the user through the collection of the source code from GitHub, installation of all required dependencies, and our recommended method of running the website locally from the user's local system.

Downloading Source Code from GitHub

Link to the GitHub Repository: https://github.com/kphillippo/habit-tracker

Head to the above link to view our GitHub repository. On GitHub, click the downwards arrow on the green "Code" button near the top of the screen, and select "Download ZIP". This will download the file "habit-tracker-main.zip" to your Downloads folder.

Find this .zip file in your Downloads folder and "Extract all" to a location of your choice on your local system. We recommend extracting it to a location in your C: drive.

Required Dependencies

Node.js

HabitConnect's implementation relies on Node.js. You can download this open-source JavaScript runtime environment at the following link: https://nodejs.org/en/download. Follow the instructions on that page to download the appropriate version for your system: HabitConnect runs on the most current version (at the time of writing this document) of Node.js, **v20.12.2 (LTS)**. You will have to run the downloaded .msi file to open the Node.js installer. All options should be left to their default values.

Once this is created, open a new terminal in the code editor or IDE of your choice, where you are planning on running the site from. Run the following two lines in the terminal:

```
node --version
```

```
npm --version
```

These should provide the version of Node.js and the npm package manager, which is installed at the same time. If running these lines of code generates an error, then there was an issue with your installation. You may need to restart your IDE.

Running the Website

Open the "habit-connect-main" folder in the code editor or IDE of your choice. We recommend Visual Studio Code (download link here: https://code.visualstudio.com/download).

Navigate to the back-end folder, and create a new file called ".env". Once created, you will need to insert the following lines of code:

```
SECRET = jdsalkdjklfgjaslfgjoasijfjoinmveiodsajdliasjwbejfksd
NODE_ENV = production
DBUSER = <username>
PASSWORD = <password>
```

Above, <username> and <password> should be replaced by a valid username and password to log in to HabitConnect's MongoDB database. Those who should have access will be sent their username and password separately.

Open a new terminal, and change your directory to the "back-end" folder:

```
cd back-end
```

You will then have to run the following three lines of code, one after the other:

```
npm init

npm install

npm start
```

You will be provided with many options asking you to provide information when you run npm init - it is safe to hit enter until it stops giving you options. Please note that the npm install command may take some time. Then, run npm start. If it is successfully running, it should give you some feedback like "listening at port ####".

Open a second terminal, and change your directory to the "front-end" folder:

```
cd front-end
```

You will have to run the same three lines of code, as you did for the back-end. Once this is complete, an instance of the site should open in your default browser.

Viewing the Database

HabitConnect runs on a MongoDB database. Instructions to download and install the MongoDB compass, MongoDB's GUI, can be viewed through the following link: https://www.mongodb.com/docs/compass/current/install/. Follow the instructions on that page to download the appropriate version for your system: HabitConnect runs on the most current version (at the time of writing this document) of MongoDB, **1.42.5 (Stable)**.

Once you have followed all installation instructions, open the MongoDB Compass. The main page will prompt you to input a New Connection. Enter the following string into the text field:

mongodb+srv://<username>:<password>@cluster.rbzvfkr.mongodb.net/

Above, <username> and <password> should be replaced by a valid username and password to log in to HabitConnect's MongoDB database. Those who should have access will be sent their username and password separately.

Hit Save & Connect (or just Connect), and the database will prompt you to insert a name for the connection. Once done, the MongoDB Compass will open HabitConnect's database for you to view. The database will be added to your list of Saved connections in the Compass.