

# CSY1063 Web Development Week 4

Chris Rafferty
Chris.Rafferty@northampton.ac.uk

# **Learning Objectives**

- This week we will be covering
  - Version control with Git
  - Branches
  - Merging
  - GitHub
  - Commits

#### Workflow

- Development on a live website is a bad idea
- Although it's possible to edit the HTML/CSS live on the website, users will see your changes as you make them
- If something breaks, real people using the website will see it. This is incredibly unprofessional!

- Instead, you should run a copy of the live website on your own computer
- This has a lot of benefits:
  - Speed: You don't need to upload files to a website to see the changes, just save the file and refresh the page
  - You can break things and it doesn't matter, if a page stops working, it doesn't matter, nobody other than you will see it.
  - You can test different approaches

- Once you have made all the changes you want, you can then upload them to the real website
- Using this methodology you have copies of the code in two different places

- Each time you make a change to your local copy it needs uploading to the server
  - More on this later!

#### **Version Control**

- When developing software you need to frequently make changes to it
- Sometimes you want to completely replace functionality in the code

#### Version Control pt2

- One technique for managing this is making a backup of the original file.
- For example back up index.html by copying it to index2.html
- Work on index.html
- If needed restore index2.html

# Version Control pt3

- On larger projects this can be very difficult to manage
- Especially when multiple people want to work on the code.

#### **Versions**

- During development you'll usually have two versions of any given code:
  - The last known "good configuration" where everything works as intended and is currently running online with real visitors.
  - The "in-development" version that may contain missing code and thing that need to be fixed, this would be running on your computer only

# Versions pt2

- In real projects you end up with different scale tasks:
  - Quick updates (e.g. changing some text on the website)
  - New developments (e.g. adding new features like a shopping cart)

- In industry, clients will understand the difference between these requests
  - Some big developments can take weeks or months and will be deployed (made live) when it's ready
  - Some changes need to be done quickly

**Live Version** 

**Development Version** 

- Here the development version has some unfinished code that's not ready to go live (the new product page is not ready yet)
- However, the client might want you to urgently add a notice to the home page

#### **Client Request**

#### **Development Version**

- To make this change you need to:
  - Back up your changes to the file e.g. rename it index2.html
  - Download the original index.html
  - Make the quick change to the file
  - Upload the new file
  - Restore your changes (put index2.html back to index.html in your development version)
  - Make the same change to your development version

- This can be incredibly difficult to manage in real projects, especially when multiple people are working on the same code
  - What happens with most software!
- You end up with several versions of the file and when you're ready to "go live" with a feature you will need to manually apply the changes to the most recent version of the file
- This is both time consuming and difficult
- The more frequently things change, the bigger problem this becomes

#### **Version Control Software**

- To overcome these problems, software companies use version control software.
- There are several different tools to do this job
- Subversion (SVN) was popular in the early 2000s however it' use has heavily diminished.

#### Version Control Software pt2

- In recent years most companies now use a program called Git
- Git was developed by the developer of Linux Kernel to solve version related issues where hundreds of developers were working on the same code at any one time.
- Its more advanced features can be overkill for small projects, however it is still incredibly useful even on tiny projects.

#### GitHub

- Knowing how to use Git is increasingly more important for software developers due to GitHub
- GitHub is a code hosting platform that allows you to manage code via Git
- The popularity of GitHub has helped Git become the standard Version Control Software in use today
- Most open source projects are hosted on GitHub
- If you want to work on an open source project or release your own code on GitHub you'll need to understand how to use Git

#### Git

- Git can be confusing at first
- Git is command line driven but there are GUIs available (some are better than others!)
- It's useful to learn the command line to see what is happening behind the scenes but you can get a basic understanding through a GUI
- Visual Studio Code contains a relatively simple GUI

#### **Git Basics**

- Each project/website is placed in a git repository (or repo for short)
- This is a directory that contains all the project files
- In our case, the repo will be the folder that contains your HTML and CSS files

#### Git Basics pt2

- When you add files to a repository you must be identified as a user
- This is so when you look through a list of changes to the code, you can see
   who made the change
- Using PowerShell (in any location) you must run 2 commands before saving any files to the repository
  - git config --global user.email "your@email.com"
  - git config --global user.name "Your name"
- With your name/email inside the quotes

```
git config --global user.email "chris.rafferty@northampton.ac.uk"
git config --global user.name "Chris"
```

#### Git statuses

- There are 3 types of file in git:
  - Unstaged files that have changed, but will not be committed
  - Staged (will be added to the repository)
  - Committed (Currently stored inside the repository)

# Adding files

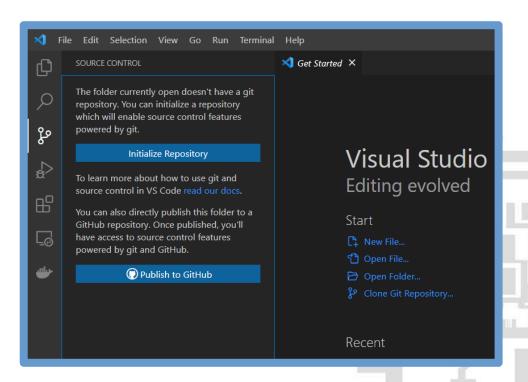
- "Committing" a file (or group of files!) saves a snapshot of those files as they are at that current point in time
- Each "commit" is a snapshot of how the project looks at a particular date/time
- You can go back to different snapshots
  - (in theory... there is actually a better way to manage this)
- It is useful to be able to see file histories

# Downloading git

• Download and install git from <a href="https://git-scm.com">https://git-scm.com</a>

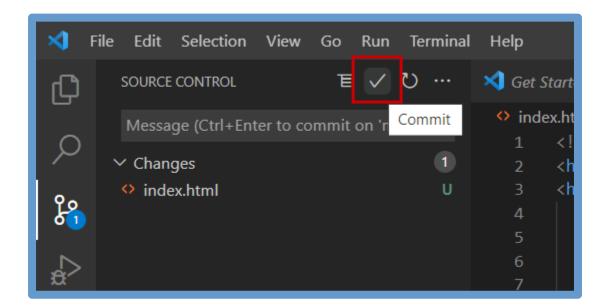
# Initializing a repository

- Firstly we need to initialize a repository
- We can achieve this by using the source control tab in Visual Studio Code
- You then need to click on Initialize
   Repository
  - You need to be in a folder for this option to be available.



# Taking a snapshot

- You need to have set your email and name in PowerShell before attempting this step (slide 23)
- You can take a snapshot of the code as it is right now by clicking the tick icon
  - This will commit that file and take a snapshot



# Taking a snapshot pt2

- You will then be asked to provide a commit message
- This needs to be a meaningful message that describes the changes that were added
- As this is the first commit a meaningful name could be "Initial commit"

```
index.html - GitHub - Visual Studio Code

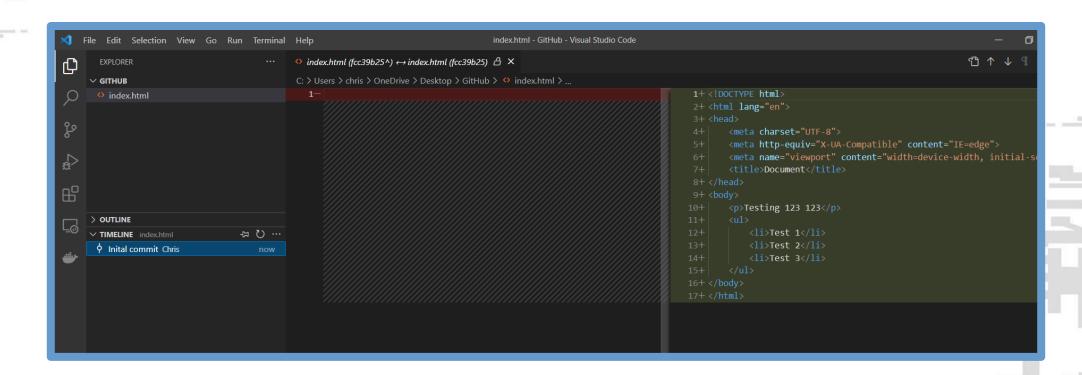
Inital commit

I > € Please provide a commit message (Press 'Enter' to confirm or 'Escape' to cancel)

OCTYPE html>
```

#### Timeline

• If you go to the Explorer tab and look at the timeline you can see what was changed in that commit, in this example we went from having no code to then adding our index file (initial commit)



#### Timeline pt2

- The timeline shows us exactly what was added in each commit
- You can see that in this new commit (Decimal Test) the new list items are highlighted in green.

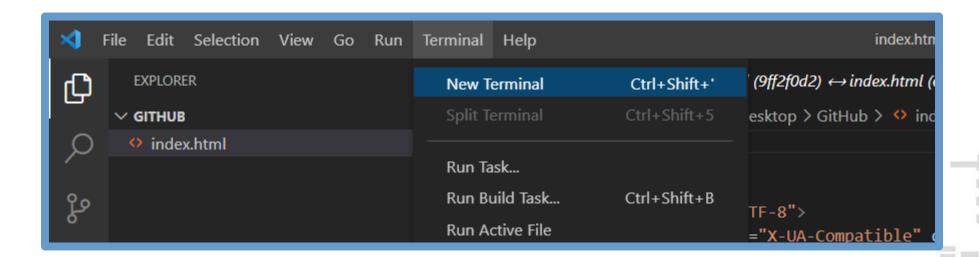
```
File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help
                                                                         index.html - GitHub - Visual Studio Code
                                                    C: > Users > chris > OneDrive > Desktop > GitHub > ♦ index.html > ♦ html > ♦ body > ♦ ul
                                                                                                             1 <!DOCTYPE html>
                                                                                                             2 <html lang="en">
                                               <meta charset="UTF-8">
                                                                                                                   <meta charset="UTF-8">
                                               <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
                                                                                                                   <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
                                               <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale</pre>
                                                                                                                   <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-se</pre>
                                               <title>Document</title>
                                                                                                                   <title>Document</title>
                                              Testing 123 123
                                                                                                                   Testing 123 123
                                                  Test 1
                                                                                                                      Test 1
                            ... ტ ₩
                                                                                                                       Test 1.5
  Decimal Test Chris
                                                                                                                      Test 2
                                                                                                                       Test 2.5
                                                  Test 3
                                                                                                                      Test 3
```

#### Timeline pt3

- With each new commit you are able to see how the files change over time and you can do this for each and every file
- Although we are able to view each of these snapshots there is not an easy way to go back to that version of the code.
- There is a better approach called branches (more on that later!)

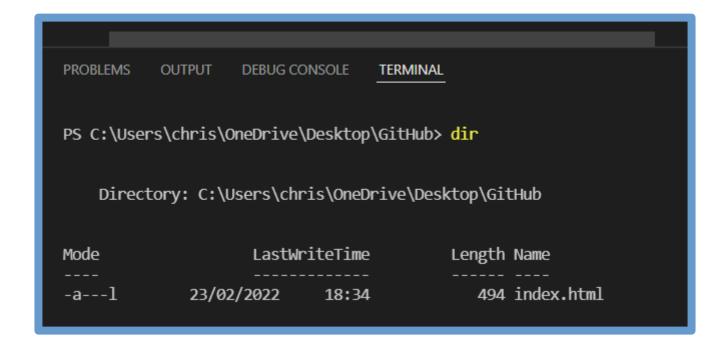
#### Revert

- If we wanted to remove code added in a commit we can use a revert
- This will remove that portion of code while leaving the rest intact (any code added in future commits will remain intact as well)
- We first need to open a terminal



#### Revert pt2

- If you type 'dir' you can see all the files in the repository
- You can do this to check your in the right directory
- In this example its just the index file



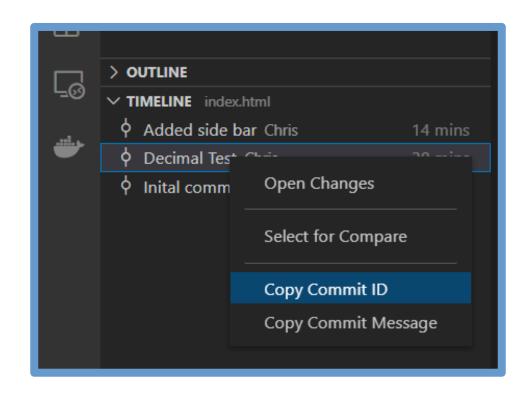
#### Revert pt3

- You can type 'git log' to see all the commits you have made
  - If you get stuck in this section press q and it will bring you back to the terminal



#### Revert pt4

 We need to get the ID of the commit we want to revert and the easiest way to do this is to right click on the commit in the timeline



## Revert pt5

- Once you have the ID of the commit you can then type in
  - git revert theID

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE <u>TERMINAL</u>

PS C:\Users\chris\OneDrive\Desktop\GitHub> git revert 9ff2f0d2c673478a0e54908271cf613a9f160c39

#### Revert pt6

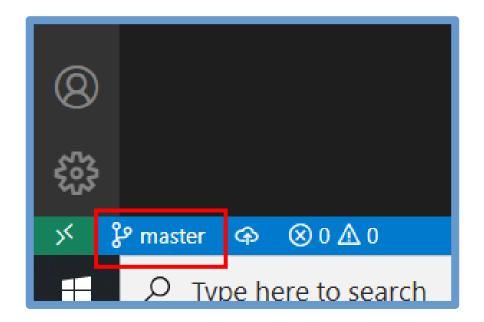
- By using revert you can see that it has removed the code
- It's important to note that the code we added after that commit has remained
- Any code added in other commits will remain unaffected

## Revert pt7

- This means we can make reversions regardless of the order of commits
- If you have 10 commits you could revert the second while leaving the rest of the code from the later commits unaffected.
- Revert is not undo

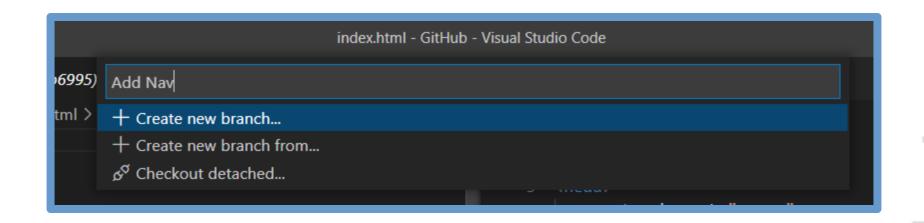
#### Branches

- Most of the time you don't want to revert and redo commits and this is why Visual Studio Code doesn't have functionality for that
- There is a much better way of solving this problem called branches
- You can manage this using the button at the bottom that says master

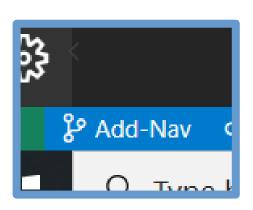


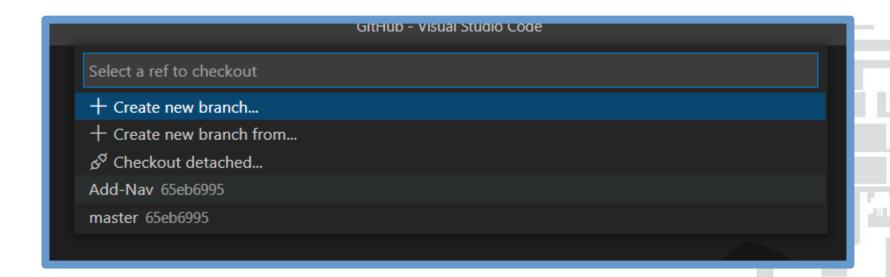
- Master is the main branch of this code
- A branch is like a different folder of the code
  - Its similar to copying all the code and then working on that copy of the code
  - The original version will remain unaffected while you work on the copied version
  - You can have as many different branches (versions of the code) as you like

- To add a new branch click on the master button
- You then need to give the new branch a meaningful name
  - In this example we will be adding navigation to our website so the branch could be called Add Nav



- If you click on the branches button again you can see all the branches in this code
  - You can see the master (main/original code) and the Add Nav (the new branch)
  - You can see which branch you are currently working on by looking at the branch button





 Using the Add Nav branch we are going to add some new lines of code and commit

```
    index.html >  html >  body

Added Navigation
                                           <!DOCTYPE html>

✓ Changes

                                           <html lang="en">
                                               <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
                                               <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
                                              Testing 123 123
                                                  Test
                                                  Test 2
                                                  Test 3
```

 Because we are working in the new branch that code hasn't been added to the master branch and we can easily go from one branch to the other to see the code that's been added

```
ያ Add-Nav
```



• If we added another branch copied from the master branch (doesn't include the nav code) we now have three different versions of the code

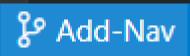
```
index.html X
index.html > 🛠 html
 1 <!DOCTYPE html>
    <html lang="en">
        <meta charset="UTF-8">
       <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
       <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
       <title>Document</title>
          Nav 1
           Nav 2
          Nav 3
          Nav 4
          Nav 5
       Testing 123 123
           Test
          Test 1
          Test 2
          Test 3
```

```
index.html X

    index.html > 
    html

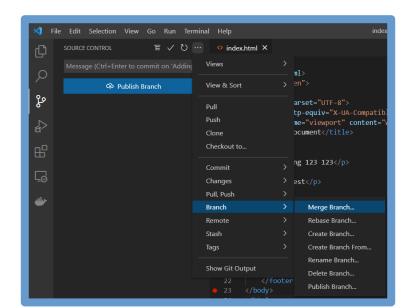
    <!DOCTYPE html>
     <html lang="en">
         <meta charset="UTF-8">
         <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=</pre>
         <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-wid")</pre>
         <title>Document</title>
         Testing 123 123
            Test
            Test 1
            Test 2
            Test 3
             Footer text
```



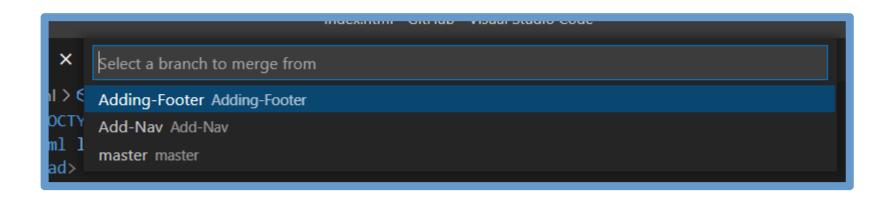




- The problem now is each branch has different changes
- If we want both of these changes (nav and footer) in the master branch (original code) we can do something called merging the branches.
- To do this we go to the source control tab



- We should first be in the master branch so we can then merge one of the other branches into master
- Once we select the merge option we then select the branch to merge with



• If you merge both branches into master you can see that both the changes have been added

```
index.html > ♦ html > ♦ body > ♦ nav > ♦ ul
      <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
      <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
          Nav 5
      Testing 123 123
          Test 3
```

```
k!DOCTYPE html>
                                                           1 <!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
                                                           2 <html lang="en">
   <meta charset="UTF-8">
                                                                 <meta charset="UTF-8">
   <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
                                                                 <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
   <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale</pre>
                                                                 <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale</pre>
   <title>Document</title>
                                                                 <title>Document</title>
</head>
                                                           8 </head>
                                                           10+
                                                                    Nav 1
                                                                    Nav 2
                                                                    Nav 3
                                                                    Nav 4
                                                                    Nav 5
   Testing 123 123
                                                                 Testing 123 123
       Test
                                                                    Test
   </aside>
                                                                 </aside>
   <l
                                                                 <l
      Test 1
                                                                    Test 1
      Test 2
                                                                    Test 2
       Test 3
                                                                    Test 3
   Footer text
</body>
                                                           35 </body>
</html>
                                                           36 </html>
```

- It takes some time to get used but this is the industry standard for working on projects
- It is recommended you use this approach in your assignment
- When you need to add a new page/feature create a new branch and then merge with the master once it has been completed
- This is a good way of keeping track of all the changes to that code

#### **Exercises**

- Install git ( <a href="https://git-scm.com">https://git-scm.com</a> )
- See slide 23. Open a terminal and run the two commands to set your name and email address
  - → git config --global user.email "YOUR EMAIL"
  - ➤git config --global user.name "YOUR NAME"
- Initialise a git repository in your website folder
- Commit your initial project
- Add some new HTML (like a p tag or a h1 tag)

#### Exercise pt2

- From the master branch create a new branch called "changes"
- Add something new to the HTML like a p tag or a h1 tag
- Commit the change
- Switch between the master and "changes" branches so you can see the different versions
- Switch to the master branch and create another new branch called "more-changes"
  - You should now have the master branch and 2 branches you have created yourself

#### Exercise pt3

- Add another change to the HTML in your new more-changes branch
- Commit your changes
- Switch between all three branches so you can see how it works
  - All three branches should have different bits of code
- Switch back to master
- Merge the changes from the other two branches into the master branch

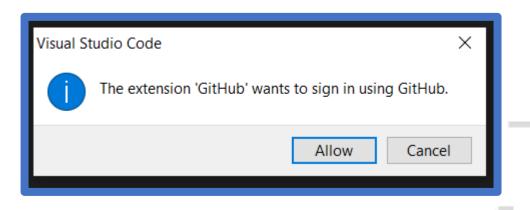
#### GitHub introduction

- GitHub allows you to host the code you create online including all the changes (branches & commits)
- https://github.com/
- You will need to create an account
- If you already have an account just sign in

# Connecting to GitHub

- Open Visual Studio Code and create a new folder
- You will need to have a file (index.html)
- We then need to go to the Source Control tab and select the Publish to GitHub option







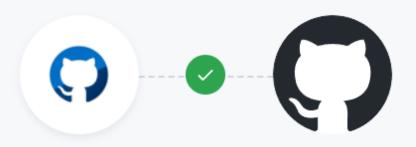
#### **Authorize Visual Studio Code to access GitHub**

If you initiated this authorization from Visual Studio Code, click 'Continue' to authorize access to GitHub

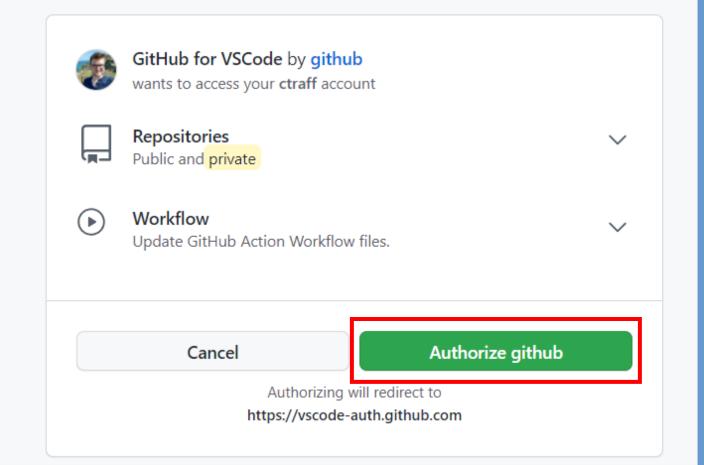


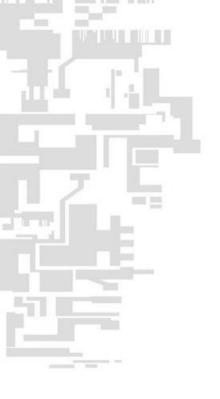
Do not authorize

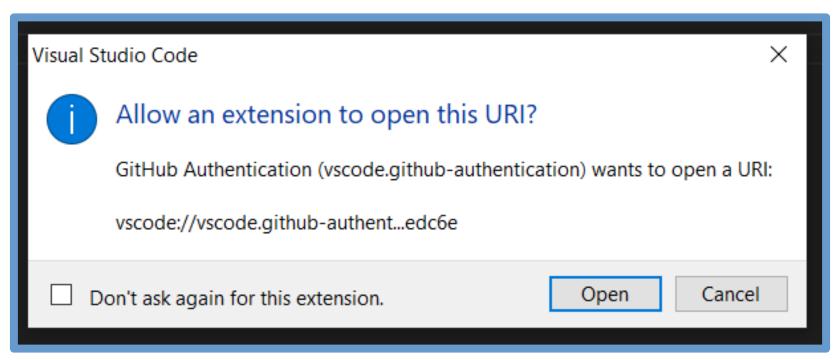




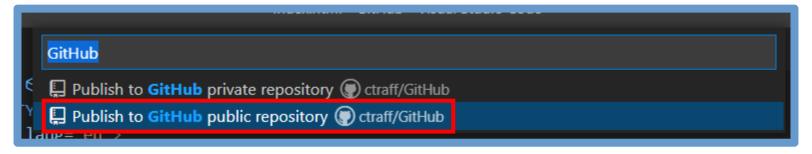
#### Authorize GitHub for VSCode



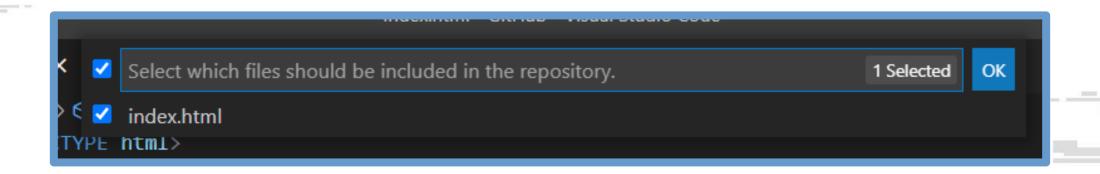




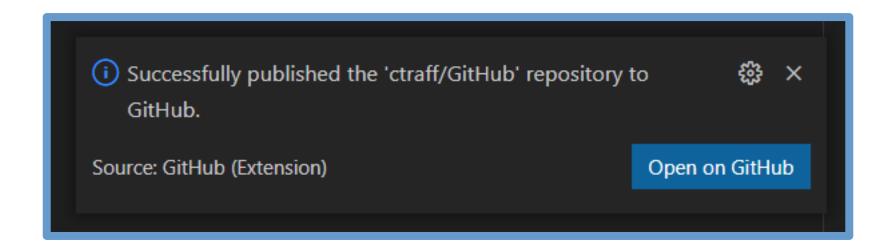
- You will then have two options
  - Private: Only accessible to you and those you share access with
  - Public: Anyone in the world can see your repository (your code)
    - Good if you wanted to share your code with a colleague (group project year 2)
- We are going to set our repository to public
- You can see the name of the repository is USERNAME/FOLDER
  - In this example its my username / (the folder name which is GitHub)



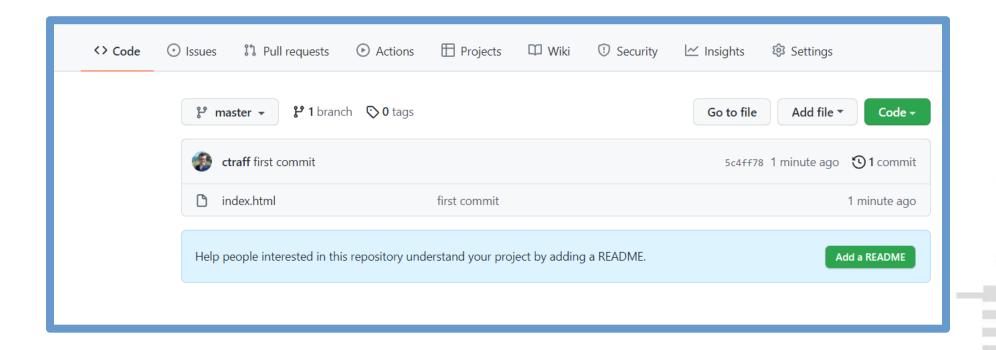
- You then need to select which files to upload
- In our case we only have the index.html file



We can then view the repository on GitHub



You can see that the files we selected are now in our GitHub repository



 This is useful because if we take the URL and give it to some one else they can view the code in that repository

#### Commit

- If we now create a new piece of code and save it
- We can commit that change
  - In this example we are adding a header and calling the commit "Added Header"

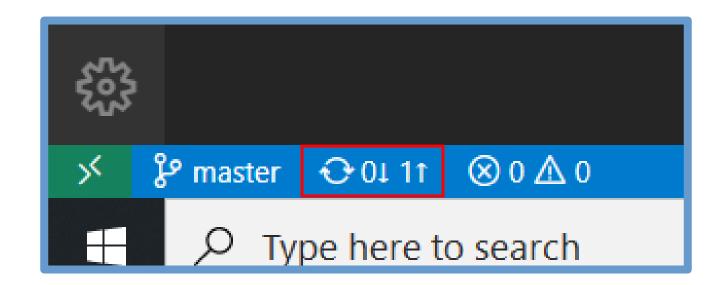
```
File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help
                                                                                        index.html - GitHub - Visual Studio Code
       SOURCE CONTROL
                                               Get Started
                                                                index.html M X
                                                index.html > 😭 html
       Added Header
                                                       <!DOCTYPE html>

∨ Changes

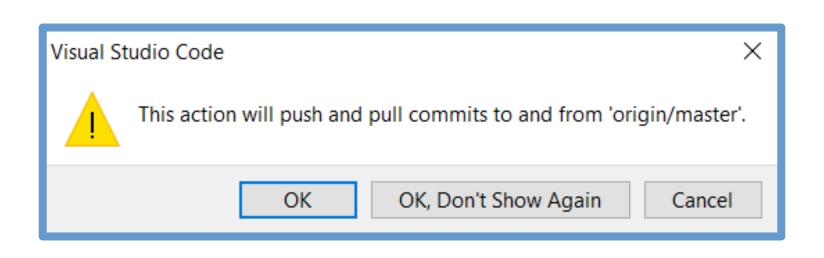
                                                       <html lang="en">
       index.html
                                                           <meta charset="UTF-8">
                                                          <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
                                                           <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0";</pre>
                                                           <title>Document</title>
G
                                                               <h1>Heading</h1>
                                                          Hello World
```

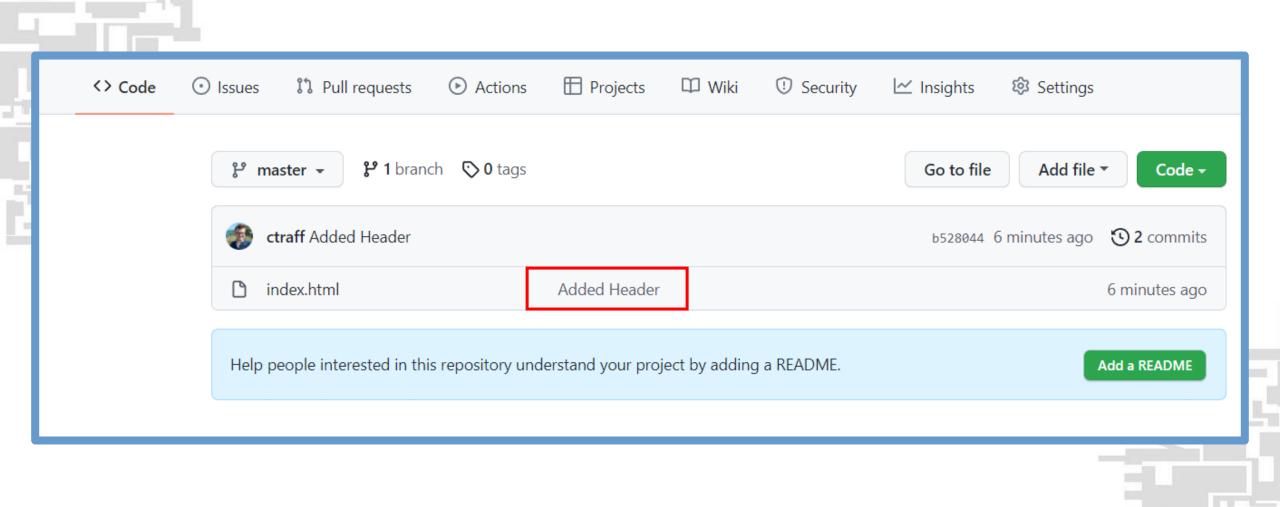
#### Commit pt2

- Before this commit can be seen on GitHub we need to do what is called Push
- Git has saved that commit locally on your machine to save it to GitHub we need to Push the commit
  - To do this we need to press this button at the bottom









==





ctraff Added Header

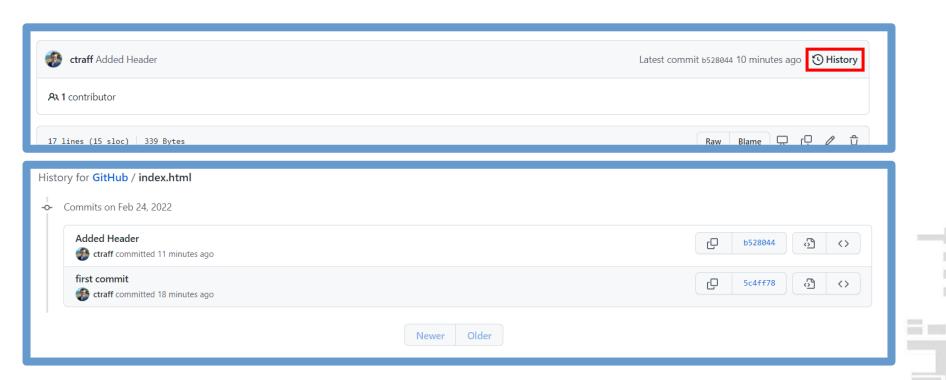
**८३ 1** contributor

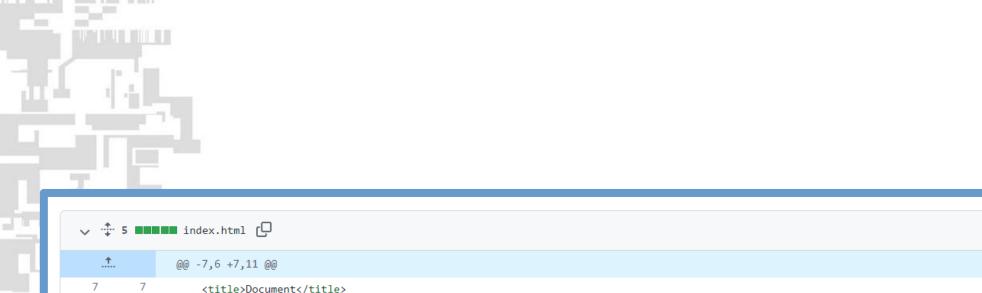
```
17 lines (15 sloc) 339 Bytes
      <!DOCTYPE html>
      <html lang="en">
      <head>
          <meta charset="UTF-8">
          <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
          <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
          <title>Document</title>
      </head>
      <body>
  9
 10
          <header>
 11
 12
              <h1>Heading</h1>
 13
          </header>
 14
          Hello World
 15
 16
      </body>
      </html>
```

==

# History

- If you click on the History button
- You can see all the commits that have been made to that file
  - It's a lot nicer to use than the timeline in Visual Studio Code

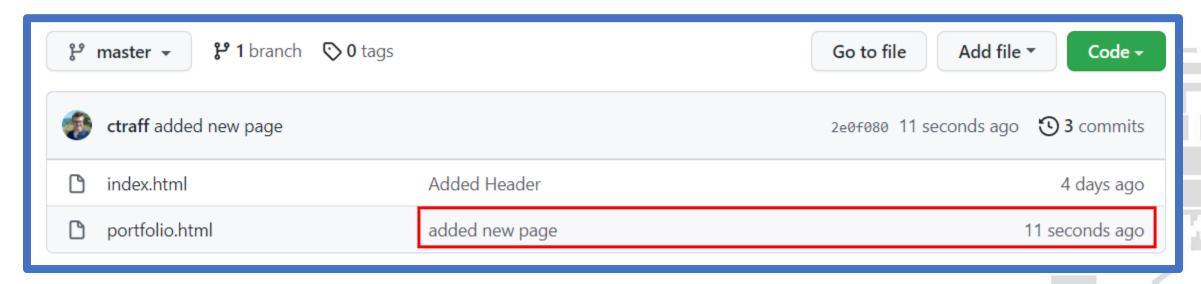




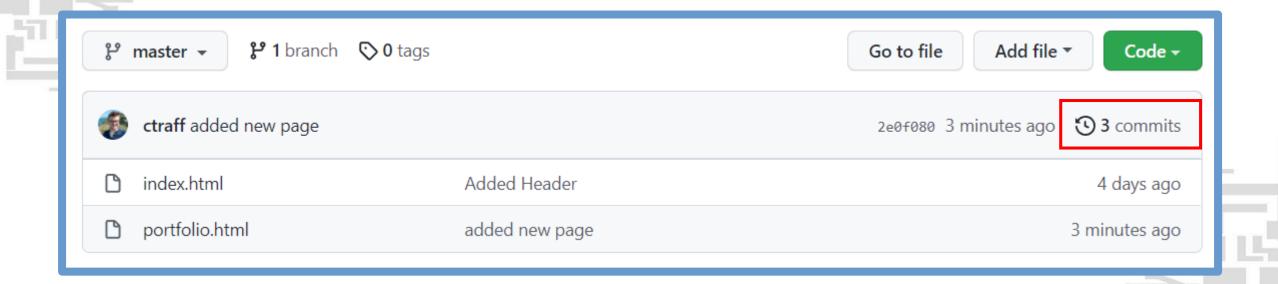
`	√ ·‡· 5		index.html (人	• • •
			@@ -7,6 +7,11 @@	
	7	7	<title>Document</title>	
	8	8		
	9	9	<body></body>	
		10	+	
		11	+ <header></header>	
		12	+ <h1>Heading</h1>	
		13	+	
		14	+	
	10	15	Hello World	
	11	16		
	12	17	()	

==

- You can see the history of every commit in all the files in your project
  - This is useful because you can see the exact point when a piece of code was added
  - For example, if we added a new page to our website you can see the exact commit along with the time it was added



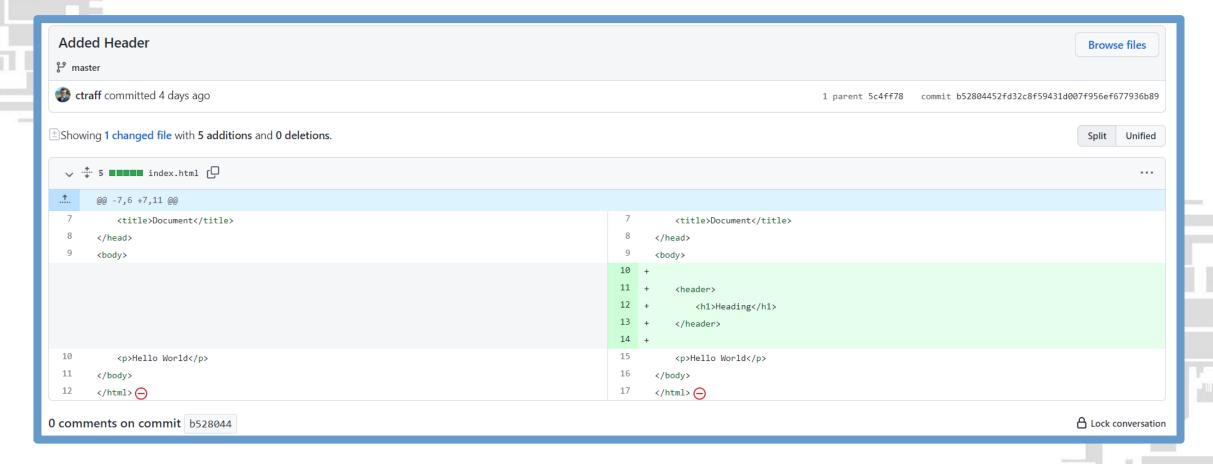
You can see all the commits in the project



You can view all the snapshots of the code at that point in time



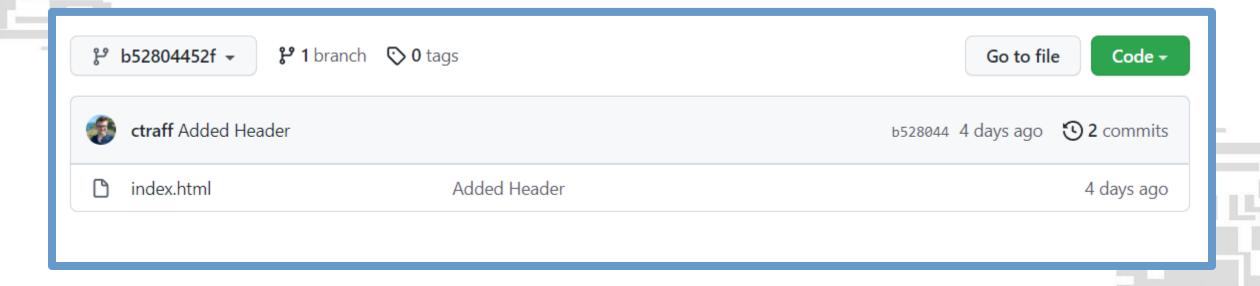
We can view what was changed in our code



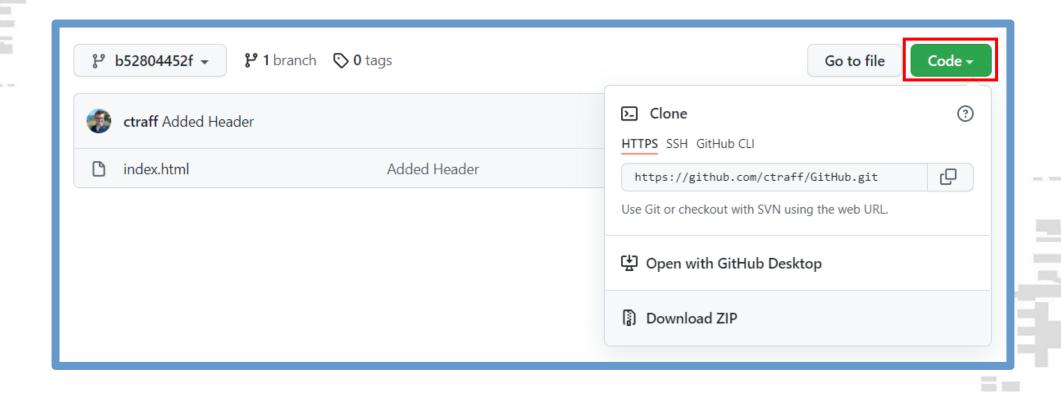
You can browse the repository at that point in the history



- The portfolio.html page didn't exist in this commit
- We can view how the repository looked at this point in time



• We can even download the repository or clone it to a folder on our computer



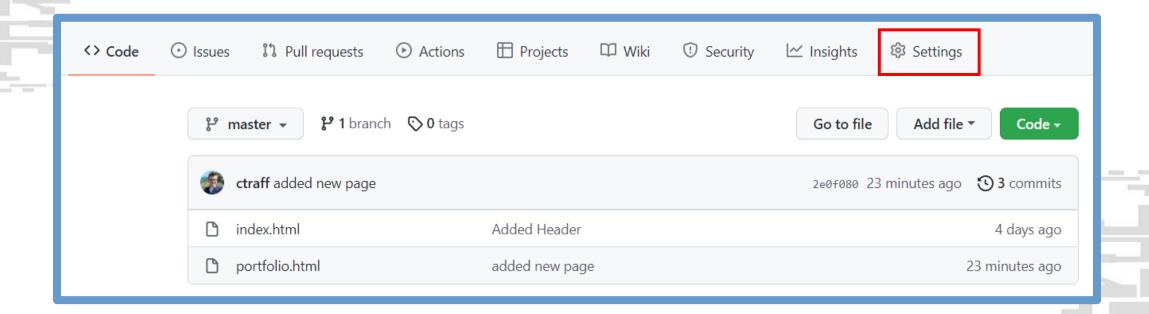
- This acts as a backup of our website taking snapshots throughout development
  - If we ever had an issue with the website we can easily see the commit it was added and revert to a previous snapshot
  - This is most popular form of version control used in industry today

 It might look a bit complicated at first but after using it a few times you can never go back

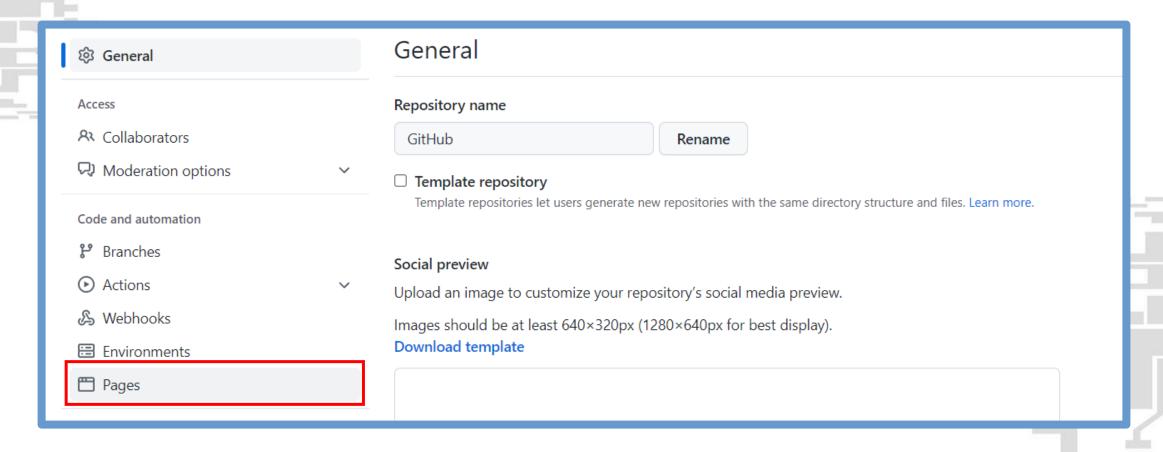
#### GitHub Pages

- If you want to make your pages live on the web (viewable using a URL) you can do that through GitHub
- When you normally create a page its only viewable to you on your computer
  - You can only access it by having physical access to your computer
- One of the really useful features of GitHub is making your pages live on the web so you can test them

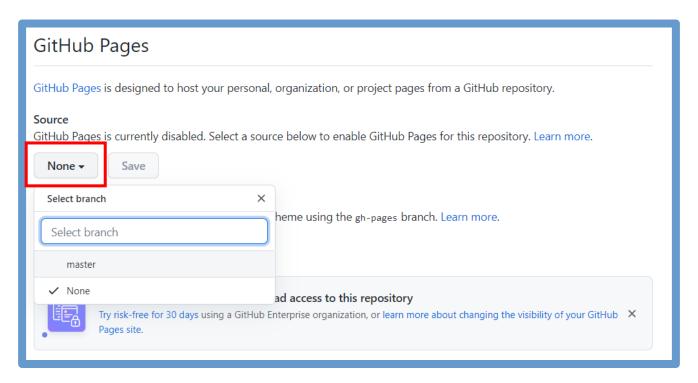
To do this you will need to got to settings



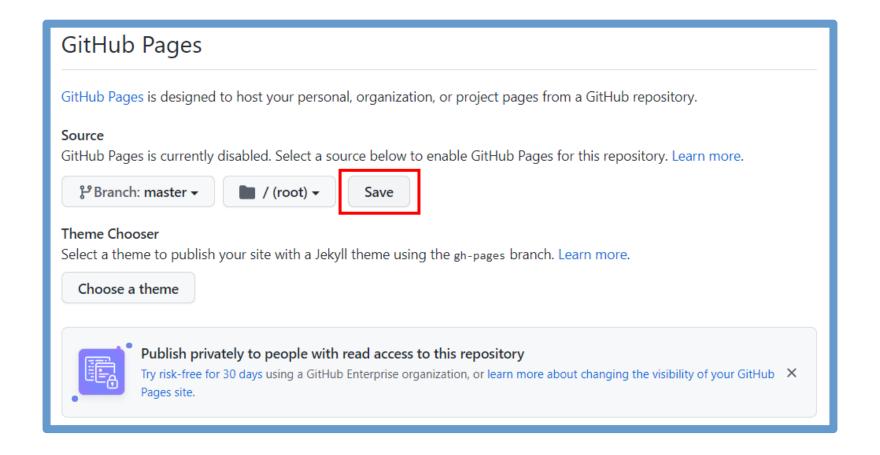
Using the side bar navigate to Pages



- You then need to select the source button (None)
  - At this point you will only have the master branch however when you start using multiple branches you can select which branch you want to publish



Then all we need to do is click save



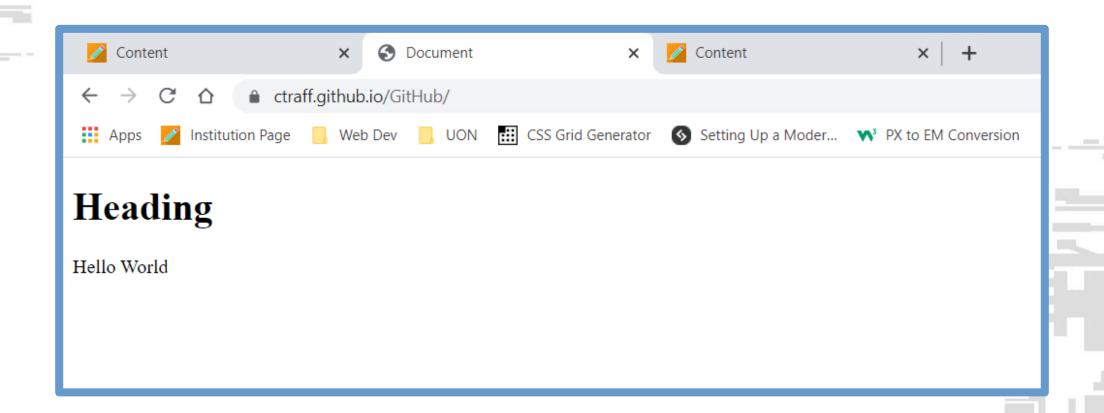
 The page will refresh and you will see this message saying your site is ready to be published

#### GitHub Pages

GitHub Pages is designed to host your personal, organization, or project pages from a GitHub repository.

(i) Your site is ready to be published at https://ctraff.github.io/GitHub/

- Click the link and you will then be taken to the live version of your site
  - You can send the URL to anyone and they will now be able to view your website

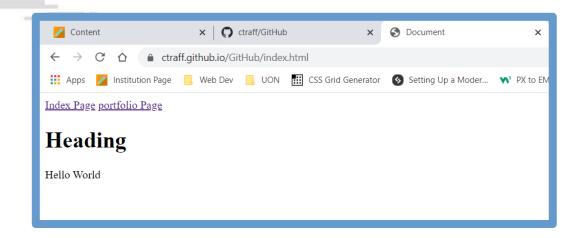


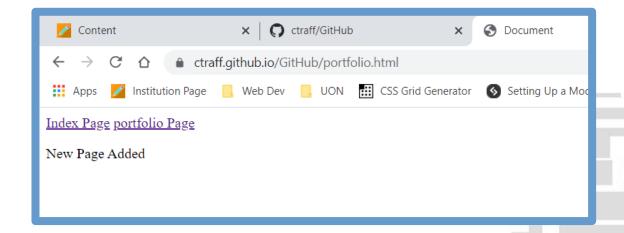
- The first page you are taken too is index.html
  - This is why it is important to have your homepage called index
  - It's the first page the website will look for
- If your website is not displaying correctly make sure do the following
  - Wait a few minutes (sometimes it can take up to 20)
  - Make sure your index file is in your repository
  - See if you can view it locally on your computer
- The URL is broken down into
  - https://USERNAME.github.io/FOLDER\_NAME/FILE\_NAME.html

- If we add some anchor tags (<a>) to act as the navigation to our pages
  - Remember to commit the changes and push to GitHub



- If you refresh the page on your live site you will see that the code has been update
  - This can take a few minutes to sync up (up to 20 minutes)

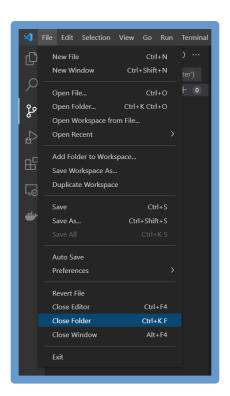




- You can have multiple website live
- There is a size limit of 1GB per website
  - You shouldn't run into this issue but if you do it will most likely be image size based (try optimizing the images to be a smaller size <a href="https://imagecompressor.com/">https://imagecompressor.com/</a>)
- Only HTML, CSS & JavaScript work with GitHub Pages (PhP that you learn in the second year will not)

# Forking

- If you want to use a repository you have found online and edit the code (on GitHub)
- First thing you need to do is go to File -> Close Folder



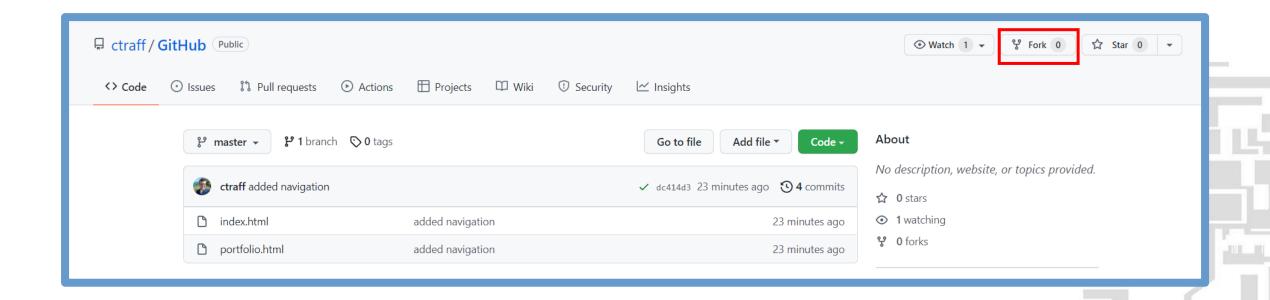
• The bar at the bottom should now be purple instead of blue



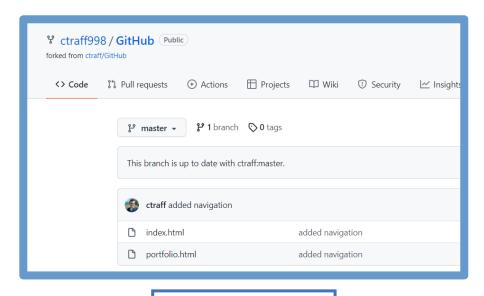
- I have signed into a different GitHub account
- This is to demonstrate how you can access and edit someone else's repository
  - Using a different account we are going to change the repository we just created

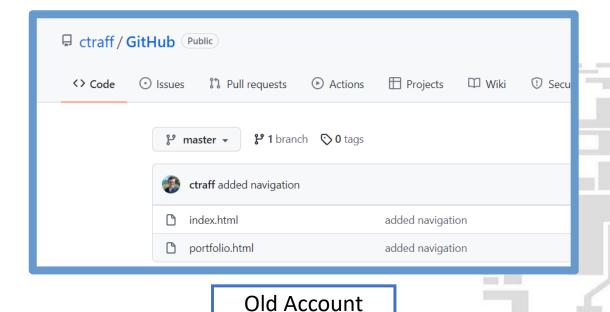


- Using the alternative account we can view the repository (needs to be public)
- We need to get access to these files and to do that we click on the Fork button.



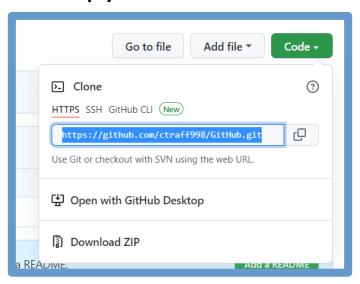
- This will copy all the code from that repository to your account
  - There are now two repositories for this code
    - The original account (the one we created the repository with)
    - The new account we have just used to copy the code



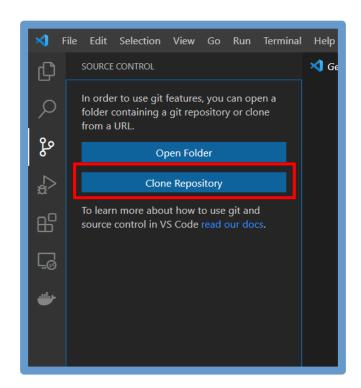


**New Account** 

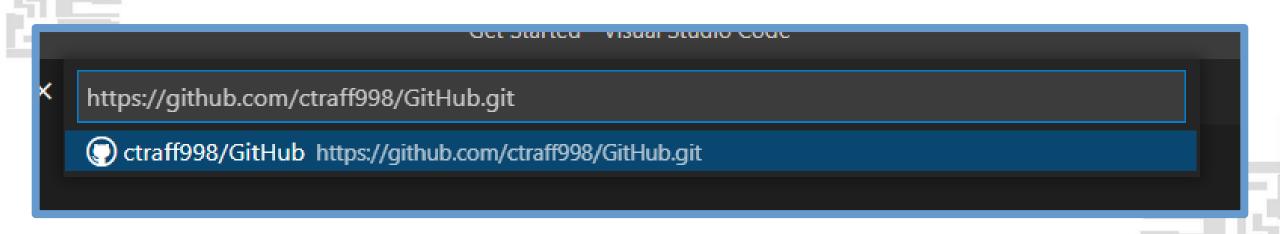
- A fork is a separate version of the code in a different GitHub account
- You can have as many forks as you like in many different accounts
  - In big scale projects each person can have a different fork of the code
- To download the fork onto our account and use it in Visual Studio Code we click on the code button and copy the link



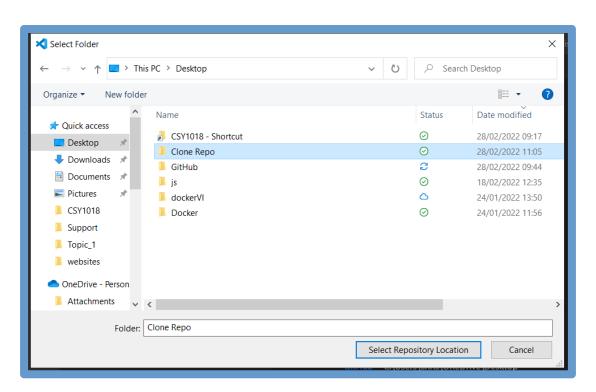
- Go back to Visual Studio Code and click the Source Control tab
- There are two options the one we want is Clone Repository



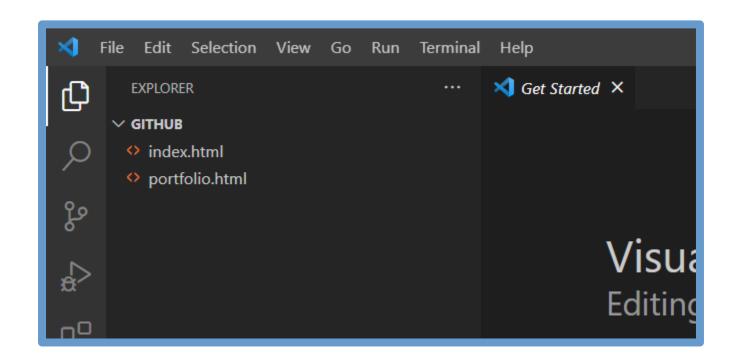
You will then need to paste in the link you copied from the repository



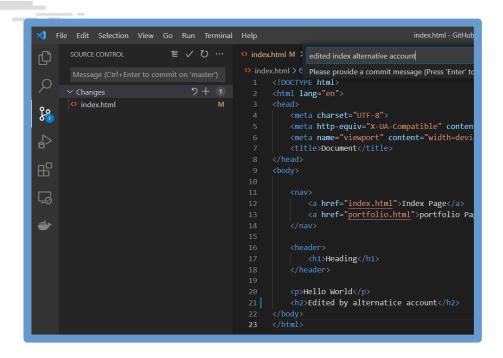
- You will then be asked where you want to save the files
- In this example I have created a new folder on my Desktop called Cloned Repobut you can save this anywhere

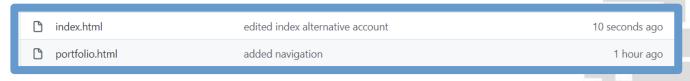


• We can now see the files from the repository in Visual Studio Code



- If we make a change to our code (then commit and push)
- We can see that the change has appeared in our repository (still on the forked repository)





#### Exercises pt2

- Create an account on GitHub (<a href="https://github.com/">https://github.com/</a>)
- Create a new project in Visual Studio Code
- Initialize it on GitHub (set to public)
- Add a new file and commit it
- Sync it to GitHub
- Check the repository on GitHub to see if the new file has been added
- Set up GitHub pages and make your website live (check you can access it using the URL)