

Git & GitHub Notes

SSH Key Setup

Follow the instructions here:

👉 [Adding a new SSH key to your GitHub account](#)

📌 **Note:** Before generating a new SSH key, check for existing keys and prerequisites.

Basic Git Commands

- `git status` – See the current state of your working directory and staging area
- `git pull` – Fetch and merge changes from the remote repository

To post (push) your changes:

1. `git add <file_path>` – Add a specific file
or
`git add .` – Add all modified files
 2. `git commit -m "your message"` – Commit changes with a descriptive message
 3. `git push` – Push changes to the remote repository
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Working with Branches

- `git checkout <branch_name>` – Switch to an existing branch

Create a New Branch:

You can create a branch either on GitHub or locally. If locally:

1. `git checkout -b <new-branch-name>` – Create and switch to a new local branch
2. `git push -u origin <new-branch-name>` – Push the new branch to GitHub and set the upstream

💡 *Tip: If you create a branch on GitHub first (simpler- as just one step), run `git pull` before switching to it locally.*

Merge Requests (a.k.a. Pull Requests)

- Go to GitHub and open a pull request from your feature branch into the main branch (or another target branch)
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Basic Git Workflow

1. Pull the latest changes: `git pull`
 2. Create and switch to a new branch: `git checkout -b <branch>`
 3. Make your changes
 4. Stage and commit changes regularly: `git add` , `git commit`
 5. Push to GitHub: `git push`
 6. Open a pull request on GitHub to merge your branch
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💡 Tips

- Use a `.gitignore` file to exclude files/folders from version control
 - Managing your profile README: <https://docs.github.com/en/account-and-profile/setting-up-and-managing-your-github-profile/customizing-your-profile/managing-your-profile-readme>
 - Managing your repository README (just create and edit the `README.md` file)
 - Explore **GitHub Pages** to create a project site or a user site:
<https://pages.github.com/>
 - Example project site: <https://laurauguc.github.io/cross-voting/>
 - Example user site (from a friend): <https://ksenia.io/>
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